



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday,.....May 3, 1865.

UNRELIABILITY OF UNINSPIRED PREDICTIONS.

There is a marked propensity manifested by many persons to indulge in speculations concerning, and make predictions with regard to the future. Some will gather together all the floating statements having reference to the alleged diplomacy of governments, and, carefully putting them together, will declare what the results must inevitably be—according to their opinions; and if one-twentieth part of their predictions are fulfilled, they obtain a wonderful amount of credit as political prophets. Others, deeply read in biblical history and prophecies, make calculations, and, with a gravity commensurate with the importance of the subject, will foretell the year in which the millennium will commence, declare the time when certain predicted events will transpire, and point to prominent persons among the nations as the individuals alluded to by the prophets destined to play important parts in the great drama of the last days. There are some who studiously note the courses of the starry orbs, and from their positions profess to tell the month, the day and the hour when almost every event of importance will take place. Year after year are these speculations indulged in, and predictions hazarded, which in their non-fulfillment bring partial disappointment. Yet an occasional fulfillment of some statements made by these political, biblical and astrological prophets, is sufficient to satisfy them; calculations are continued, predictions again hazarded, only to result in renewed disappointments.

Some who believe in the revelations given by the Lord in this dispensation are inclined to pursue a similar course. They seem to think that because certain definite points are indicated, and prominent way-marks pointed out, they ought to be able to mark before-hand, with all the certainty of a well traveled road, every turning of the way and every object that would be passed in journeying to the destination declared. Every difficulty to be encountered, every obstacle in the way, every move to be made, they foretell, and detail the minutiae of events with all imaginable gravity and confidence. What will be the result of movements made throughout the nations seems easy of comprehending to them. There is little left for faith to be exercised on, everything is so plainly stated. And when these calculations and conjectures prove erroneous, they are apt to think they have been deceived as to the truthfulness of the revelations given, and not, as is the truth, in their own imaginings.

We have not much faith in the predictions of these small prophets. "God's ways are not as man's ways." His purposes fail not. He has revealed to us certain things; declared through His servants that certain events shall surely transpire; foretold the destiny of His kingdom upon the earth, and the fate of the nations that would continue in iniquity; but He has not revealed to us all the details of the way in which His purposes will unfold themselves. Men, with the recorded past before their eyes, may reason that, as in the past the Almighty has accomplished His designs on perfectly natural principles so in the

future He will do the same, and conclude that a certain course, which to them appears in accordance with reason and revelation, is the only one by which His purposes can be consummated. In this they deceive themselves; for while every event will be brought to pass so naturally that the ungodly and unbelieving, who reject the truth, will remain in their unbelief, the faith of those who have embraced the truth will be called into continual requisition.

The path on which we travel may wind round, to avoid ground dangerous to pass over, and be hidden for a short time from our view; but they who journey steadily on, will find it safe and secure, while they who have jotted down way-marks for themselves may be deceived and disappointed. Faith must be exercised, hope cultivated and a continual reliance on the promises of the Lord entertained. Because men may conjecture that thus and so shall take place at a certain time, and their conjectures and imaginings prove foolish and vain, are the purposes of God any the less surely moving on to consummation? Our whole history as a people, recorded and personal, gives us the strongest grounds for the exercise of a living and active faith in the promises of the Lord and in His overruling providences.

With nearly three hundred millions of human beings on the earth who profess to believe in God, with myriads of men appointed and paid to teach and inculcate faith in Him, and with hosts of buildings erected and set apart professedly for His worship, but few of all the inhabitants of this globe really believe that the Almighty controls the destinies of nations and overrules the affairs of the children of men. The Latter-day Saints, of all the peoples on the earth, are the only ones who do so; and if the purposes of the Lord unfold themselves different from what men in their short-sightedness have calculated on, it only proves, in the end, how weak and vain are all human conjectures, and how much men require to enjoy continually the Spirit of truth. There will be times and seasons when the faith of all will be tested; there may arise circumstances that will cause our pathway to be so darkened that none but those who possess that Spirit will be able to see the bright future beyond; but that future will be none the less brilliant and glorious.

When the Almighty speaks through His servants, however much their predictions may appear to be improbable, they will most certainly be fulfilled; and though the Lord may not reveal to us in detail every event that shall take place, He will bestow upon all His Saints who will live faithfully and humbly, a confidence and unshaken assurance that will enable them to stand fast in the truth, under every circumstance, and await the ultimate unfolding of His purposes.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—The forenoon of Sunday was occupied by several missionaries who were called upon to express their feelings relative to the fulfillment of their missions.

In the afternoon Elder Alfred Randall gave an interesting account of his early connection with the Church and his acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph.

President Brigham Young followed with some terse remarks on liquor stores and groceries generally, at the close of which the congregation voted that there should be none countenanced in the city.

BALMY SPRING days have come at last, the snow is rapidly diminishing, asparagus graces the table, apricot trees are blooming, peach, plum, apple, etc., will soon follow suit, with flattering prospects for abundant fruit and other crops.

DISTRICT COURT.—The special adjourned term of the Third District Court commenced its session on Monday at 10 a.m., Hon. John Titus presiding.

Venues for Grand and Pettit juries were re-

turned, and when the names of the grand jurors were called twenty answered, as follows:

Wm. F. Cahoon, Phares Wells, Thomas Miller, Evan P. Thomas, James Hagne, James Bourne, Edmund T. Browning, George C. Riser, William Jennings, John Booth, Job Smith, Charles S. Cram, Richard D. Treseder, Mifflin Palmer, Moses Thurston, Wm. B. Wilkinson, William Paul, John Bowman and Henry Woodmansee.

Four were not citizens of the United States, and were excused from further attendance.

The petit jury was called, thirteen of whom answered to their names.

Wm. Henry Foster and Henry Tribe were admitted citizens of the United States.

The Judge charged the grand jury in a clear and comprehensive manner, and they retired to their room in charge of an officer.

In consideration of Monday's being May day, and a general Holiday, the Court, on the suggestion of the members of the Bar, adjourned till Tuesday at 10 a.m.

PROBATE COURT.—On Saturday, 29th, the day appointed for ruling on the motion in arrest of judgment, in the case of the people vs. Rosenbaum, the Court, without ruling upon the question, gave permission to the acting prosecutor, Hon. Z. Snow, to stay proceedings in the case by entering a *nolle prosequi*.

ON A VISIT.—Prest. Brigham Young, accompanied by Elders John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Franklin D. Richards and George Q. Cannon, of the Quorum of the Twelve, and other brethren, left the city this morning on a visit to the settlements in Cache valley. They expect to be absent about a week.

BALL IN THE THEATRE.—The Deseret Dramatic Association and attaches of the Theatre met in that building on Wednesday evening last, and enjoyed themselves in a complimentary ball given by President Young. The extensive stage was divested of its usual garniture; tastefully decorated and illuminated by oil-lamps in elegant pendant chandeliers, forming a splendid place for cotillion exercise.

President Young and President Kimball, the Hons. John Taylor, Geo. A. Smith, W. Woodruff, A. M. Lyman, Geo. Q. Cannon, and other gentlemen visitors formed part of the company. Dancing was kept up with spirit till a late hour, and "all went merry as a marriage bell" till the "wee sma' hours" began to enlarge, when the company separated after having had a "good time" together.

THEATRICAL.—Macbeth was played on Saturday night for the benefit of the Orchestra. Other duties prevented us from witnessing the performance, except for a few minutes, but we have been given to understand it was quite successful, though in parts a little dull. Mr. McKenzie's Macbeth, we are informed, fully reached the expectations of his friends, and Mr. Lindsay's Macduff we have heard highly commended.

The choruses and witch music was finely rendered.

On Monday, Bonabastas and the Forty Thieves crowded the house from orchestra to ceiling, and the applause from the crowd of little people was "immense." A great many were unable to obtain admission, and we have heard more than one citizen say, they would like another Matinee, with the bill repeated. It was one of the most interesting sights we have seen, for a long time, to look upon the vast sea of little faces, eager with expectancy or lighted up with pleasure and gratification, and witness the good order and decorum which was observed throughout the house. In these respects assemblies of older heads might sometimes take a lesson from the juveniles on Monday. All were joyous, happy-looking and lively, without boisterous noise or rough behavior. We enjoyed the sight and could do so again.

CITY CREEK and other streams are rising rapidly, caused by the snow's melting. Ogden river, we are told, swept Prest. Lorin Farr's mill dam away on the 30th, and was threatening the bridge with like treatment.

A PHILOSOPHIC DARKEY.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing from the Cumberland River, gives the following humorous account of a colloquy with a philosophic darkey:

I noticed upon the hurricane deck today an elderly darkey with a very philosophical and retrospective cast of countenance, squatted upon his bundle toasting his shins against the chimney, and apparently plunged into a state of profound meditation. Finding upon inquiry that he belonged to the Ninth Illinois, one of the most gallantly behaved and heavy losing regiments at the Fort Donelson battle, and part of which was aboard, I began to interrogate him upon the subject. His philosophy was so much in the Falstaffian vein that I will give his views in his own words, as near as my memory serves me:

"Were you in the fight?"
"Had a little taste of it, sa."
"Stood your ground, did you?"
"No, sa, I runs."
"Run at the first fire, did you?"
"Yes, sa, and would hab run soona, had I knowd it war coming."

"Why, that wasn't very creditable to your courage."

"Dat isn't in my line, sa—cookin's my pertenshun."

"Well, but have you no regard for your reputation?"

"Reputation's nuffin to me by the side ob life."

"Do you consider your life worth more than other people's?"

"It's worth more to me, sa."

"Then you must value it very highly?"

"Yes, sa, I does—more dan all dis world—more dan a million ob dollars, sa, for what would dat be wuth to a man with bref out of him? Self-preserbashum am de fust law wid me."

"But why should you act upon a different rule from other men?"

"Because different men set different values upon dar lives—mine is not in the market."

"But if you lost it, you would have the satisfaction of knowing that you died for your country."

"What satisfaction would dat be to me when de power of feelin' was gone?"

"Then patriotism and honor are nothing to you?"

"Nuffin, whatever, sa—I regard dem as among de vanities."

"If our soldiers were like you, traitors might have broken up the government without resistance."

"Yes, sa, dar would hab been no help for it. I would't put my life in de scale 'gainst no government dat eber existed, for no government could replace de loss to me."

"Do you think any of your company would have missed you if you had been killed?"

"May be not, sa—a dead white man aint much to dese sogers, let alone a dead nigga—but I'd a missed myself, and dat was de pint wid me."

It is safe to say that the dusky corpse of that African will never darken the field of carnage.

CURIOSITIES IN LUNACY.—The last report of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum gives the occupations of all persons admitted in twenty-six years. In dividing the number of each occupation by the number of the insane it has furnished in that time, we have the following:

Speculators	1 to 24
Artists	58
Clergymen	84
Students	97
Tailors	163
Merchants	154
Lawyers	169
Physicians	184
Farmers	195
Butchers	215
Blacksmiths	315
Laborers	431

In this it will be seen that speculators, artists, clergymen and students are badly exposed. It is seen also that the further we penetrate into the working classes the less insanity there is. The report also gives twenty-two crazy oafers—[*Golden Era*.]

Correspondence.

COVE CREEK, MILLARD CO.,
April 20, 1865.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

DEAR SIR:—We have had a very hard winter. The deepest snow was 22 inches, on the morning of November 17, 1864.

The following are the amounts of snow that fell during the months named:

October 24, 1 inch.	January 20, 2 "
25, 1 1/2 "	21, 10 "
30, 1 "	31, 8 "
31, 6 "	—
Total, 9 1/2 inches.	Total, 27 inches.
November 6, 7 inches.	February 2, 5 inches.
8, 2 "	11, 1 "
15, 8 "	12, 5 "
16, 10 "	16, 1 "
17, 4 "	18, 3 "
Raining 26th and 27th.	20, 6 1/2 "
28, 1 1/2 "	24, 1 "
30, 4 "	25, 1 "
Total, 39 1/2 inches.	Total, 27 1/2 inches.
December 6, 1 inch.	March 7, 1 inch.
7, 2 "	14, 3 "
13, 2 "	14, 6 "
14, 8 "	25, 8 "
18, 3 "	Total, 18 inches.
20, 2 "	April 9, 3 inches.
26, 1 "	18, 1 "
Total, 19 inches.	Total, 4 inches.
January 7, 6 inches.	
17, 3 "	
19, 3 "	

A little rain on the 16th of April. Whole Total, 12 feet and 1/2 an inch.

Quite a number of cows and calves have died here this year, also a great many sheep and a number of goats.

Yours in the bonds of truth,
FEARGUS O'CONNOR WILDEN.

We are much obliged to br. Wilden for his minute and carefully observed table.