

signs of the times, claiming that all things were as they had been from the beginning of time. According to the predictions of the Savior, very few would be looking for, and therefore not in the least prepared for these events. Joseph Smith declared that these things were at our doors, and that one pestilence would desolate after another, and that we should soon have war and bloodshed, etc. Enoch, Noah, Moses, the Prophets and Jesus Himself dealt largely in predicting calamity, desolation, and woe to the people unless they would repent. In fact, the principal business of God's servants in the various ages of the world's history has been to reprove the world of sin and to declare, like Enoch did, that judgment was about to be executed upon the ungodly for their ungodly deeds, or as the Apostle Paul puts it, "That the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." And because these men of God have been declared against wickedness and predicted the downfall of nations, and the destruction of the people their liberties have been abridged, their lives have been jeopardized, and in many instances have been sacrificed. There is only one instance quoted in the Jewish record where an entire people heeded the warning voice of the Prophet and thereby escaped the threatened calamity, and that was the people of Nineveh. Generally the warning has been unheeded and the destruction as prophesied has been visited upon the unrepenting and wicked nations.

The Prophet Amos said, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the Prophets," and, singular as it may appear, no nation has ever perished without having first been visited by Prophets, warning them of their danger and asking them to repent and turn to the Lord.

The Latter-day Saints are accused of being enemies to this government, because they continue to predict its downfall, whereas they should be considered the nation's greatest friends in giving the people timely warning thereof; for among the many things that have been revealed to this people there is none more often repeated than

THE DOWNFALL OF THIS NATION

and the destruction of the people unless they repent and turn to the Lord. And not only this nation, but every nation under heaven that will not heed the warning of God's servants will likewise be destroyed.

Among the first things made known to the Prophet Joseph was the destruction of the nations of the earth. I will give the exact language:

"Prepare ye, prepare ye, for that which is to come; for the Lord is nigh. And the anger of the Lord is kindled and His sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth."

The hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand, when peace shall be taken from the earth. * * * Wherefore, I, the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments, and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world, and all this that it might be fulfilled which was written by the prophets."

In the revelation given December 25th, 1832, predicting the war that was to commence in South Carolina, and to be finally poured out upon all nations, the Lord says:

"And thus with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn, and with famine and plague and earthquake and the thunder of heaven and the fierce and vivid lightning also shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath and indignation and chastening hand of an offended God, until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations. That the cry of the Saints and the blood of the Saints shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth from the earth to be avenged on their enemies. Wherefore, stand ye in holy places and be not moved until the day of the Lord come for behold it cometh quickly, saith the Lord, Amen."

Joseph Smith asks: "with a view of these things shall I cry peace?" And answers: "No, I will lift up my voice and testify of them," etc.

The Prophet Joseph dare not forbear to proclaim these things, no matter how unpleasant they might be to the ears of the people; neither dare the servants of the Lord to-day cease to give warning to the inhabitants of the earth wherever they go to proclaim the Gospel, for this is a very essential part of their mission and they have not spoken in vain for already are these predictions

BEGINNING TO BE FULFILLED.

Recitals of calamities that would have appalled us a few years ago, receive only a slight mention to-day because of their frequent occurrence. Nearly 200,000 cases of cholera in Spain since its outbreak a short time ago, resulting in 75,000 deaths, is treated very indifferently, and is looked upon merely as one of those periodical visitations that may be expected and may be traced to very natural causes. The terrific storms and tempests that are constantly occurring in our own country and are every year increasing in magnitude and in the destruction of life and property are mentioned merely as "the daily hurricane." "The usual tornado," etc. A fire to-day must be a

very holocaust to attract more than a passing notice, so used are we to their hourly occurrence. To attribute any of these things to the visitations of the Almighty, would call forth from the skeptical world expressions similar to that used by a local writer, who said that "God is a very bad God if He would suffer such things to come upon His children."

I will now ask a question: With all the advance made in science, medical and otherwise, that has been attained during the past fifty years, are we any better prepared to-day to effectually resist any scourge that may come upon us in the shape of a pestilence? I answer, no, we are not, and that portion of the medical fraternity who have made humanity a close study would speak truthfully, they would tell us that we are

POORLY PREPARED

to resist any epidemic scourge, because of physical weakness, the result of excesses of every kind in which the people are daily indulging.

Instead of clamoring so loudly for stringent sanitary measures to be adopted about our dwellings and in our streets, imagining this to be the sole preventive of disease (all of which I grant is very essential and should be strictly observed), we should go further and insist upon a radical cleansing from the filthy habits and practices in which humanity is constantly indulging that render them such an easy prey to disease of every kind. We have become so very scientific that we actually sin by rule, our medical advisers guaging our indulgences and our excesses, and when we overstep the bounds set for us we are dosed with patent drugs, mostly deadly poisons, which give only temporary relief. Very few medical men are to be found to-day who are sufficiently honest and frank to tell their patients the truth, especially those who have money to pay for advice, not daring to say to such, Stop your excesses or I will cease to prescribe for you. This the doctor is not expected to do, but to patch up their diseased bodies and not to forbid indulgences that are in direct opposition to the laws of life and health.

The great question of capital and labor that governments seem powerless to regulate or decide, must result in the most serious disasters. Organized capital and organized labor, cherishing as they do the most deadly hatred towards each other, are preparing like two contending armies for the bloody conflict, which no human power can prevent, and thus will be inaugurated a civil strife of such magnitude that will

SHAKE THE CIVILIZED WORLD

from centre to circumference; many nations will be torn to pieces and their governments entirely destroyed by this means. Add to this the horrors of national warfare, that is imminent and cannot be avoided, in the wake of which must follow famine and pestilence of every kind. Then tell me if prophets and apostles have made any mistake in predicting the calamities that should befall the people in the last days? The result of natural causes 'tis true, but also the result of refusing to accept the warnings of the servants of God.

Ample opportunity has been given the people to humble themselves before the Lord and to repent of their sins, that they might in a measure at least escape the calamities that will follow each other in quick succession like tidal waves, sweeping everything before them and leaving naught but desolation in their track.

The agonizing throes of mother earth in her endeavors to relieve herself of the burden of sin and pollution with which she is afflicted will far surpass anything that has heretofore transpired; so that all former upheavals of nature and terrible earthquakes will be forgotten in the magnitude of those which will shortly occur. Medical science will stand appalled before the desolating scourges that will sweep the earth as with a besom of destruction. The freed slave will be marshalled and disciplined for war by the enemies of our own government and their former masters will find in them a most formidable foe. The remnants of the almost extinct Indian tribes will organize themselves without aid from any quarter and wreak such a vengeance upon the white man for real and imaginary wrongs which they have suffered that the people will flee like sheep before a roaring lion.

In this manner will be fulfilled the revelation which reads:

"And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of His servants neither give heed unto the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people." "For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand. And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea, heaving themselves beyond their bounds. And all things shall be in commotion, for surely men's hearts shall fail them, for fear shall come upon all people. And angels shall go through the midst of heaven crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God saying, Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth, for the judgment of our God is come." **PROPHETIC.**

[From the Millennial Star.]

THE IRISH MISSION AND MR. BARRON.

There are some interesting features connected with the progress of the work of the Lord in Ireland, since its recent revival under the presidency of Apostle John Henry Smith. For a number of years no missionary work was attempted in that country until Elder George Wilson was sent there last year, and it was frequently said that the Latter-day Saints would never accomplish anything in Ireland. However, he and Elder Robert Marshall, who followed and assisted him in the ministry, were successful in baptizing a number of converts, and a few Irish Saints emigrated to Utah this summer. These Elders were assisted, and have been succeeded by a few active young missionaries who are continuing the work of proselyting with fair success notwithstanding some bitter opposition they occasionally meet with. The conversions have mostly been made in the city of Belfast and vicinity, but arrangements are being made to enlarge the missionary field, and extend the preaching of the gospel to as many of the inhabitants of Ireland as possible.

The recent visit of President Wells and party was attended by some incidents of a noteworthy character, one of which was the large, open-air meeting in Belfast. Notwithstanding the disturbance which abruptly terminated the meeting, Elder Penrose was enabled to speak about forty minutes, a period of time quite sufficient for the presentation of the first principles of the Gospel, and the bearing of a strong testimony to the restoration of the Priesthood and authority to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel.

It must not be supposed that because Elder Penrose's preaching aroused the ire and noisy opposition of a few hypocrites and their turbulent followers, that the sermon was distasteful to the majority of the immense audience. The opposite seems to have been the fact, for when the police, instead of attending to the noisy disturbers of the meeting, hustled the brethren away, a great number of the people protested against the injustice, and cried out to the brethren that the police were depriving them of their rights, and demanded that Elder Penrose be allowed to proceed with his discourse. But we all know with what ease a few ruffians can break up a meeting, especially if the police are derelict in their duty, which was plainly the case in this instance.

The letter of Elder Penrose to the editor of the Belfast Evening Telegraph, which we publish in this issue, called forth a rejoinder from one of the "Christian" gentlemen who disturbed the meeting, and in the Telegraph of July 24th, he attempts to excuse himself and his pious friends for their disorderly conduct by asserting that the "real disturbers of the peace are the Mormon priests themselves, who insist on forcing the people to hear their pernicious doctrine." The *modus operandi* by which two or three "Mormon" preachers compelled an audience of two or three thousand persons to listen to them, and that in the open air, is not explained by this "Christian" street brawler.

The conclusive manner in which Elder Penrose proves that the Bible teaches "the rightfulness of some men having more than one wife at the same time," appears to be highly distasteful to this "Christian" gentleman, who by the way, calls himself Mr. Barron. He sees that it is necessary to say something to counteract the strong Scriptural evidences brought forward in favor of plural marriage, and he does it in true *la Beecher* style, by seeking to impeach the authority of the Scriptures themselves, which every one must acknowledge is a very suicidal course for a "Christian" gentleman to take. Here is how he puts it:

"In endeavoring to counteract any baneful influence they may have already exerted upon the minds of my countrymen, I call attention to the fact that those Salt Lake City missionaries quote only from the Old Testament Scriptures, well knowing that they cannot find the least sanction to their conduct in the New. The Patriarchal dispensation gave place to the Jewish, and both to the Christian dispensation under which we now live in these last days." Hence Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, vii, 2, says, "Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." Also in First Timothy, iii, 2, wherein he describes the qualifications of Elders or overseers thus: "A bishop, then, must be blameless, the husband of one wife."

The coolness and ease with which some of our modern Christians throw aside the Old Testament is surprising. If the early Christians had done it, they would have had no Scriptures at all! Jesus expounded the Scriptures and taught the people to search them, and continually sustained their authority by quoting from them, and yet those Scriptures were restricted to the Old Testament which some of His professed followers now discard. What a waste of time and talent, that so many years have recently been spent by learned men in revising it!

Mr. Barron, however, is unfortunate, even in his New Testament quotations. If he will examine 1st Corinthians, vii, 2, again, and read the whole verse, he will see that it has not the slightest reference to plural marriage, but was written against the crime of fornication, which is also very strongly denounced in the Old Testament. Paul's object was to restrict men and women

to their own wives and husbands, and keep them from interfering with those of other people, and this advice would not be at all out of place if given now to the inhabitants of these islands, as the "Christian" gentleman very well knows. The practice of a man having more than one wife was a common one among the people with whom our Savior and his Apostles associated, and that form of marriage is nowhere condemned by them in the New Testament. The reference to the qualifications of a bishop, in requiring him to be the husband of one wife, does not necessarily prohibit him from having more, and even if we strain the meaning and make it imply that, it by no means follows that the prohibition extends to others, but the very reverse, from the fact that the bishops are exceptionally referred to. Mr. Barron also finds fault with the doctrine of laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and says: "As to their unwarrantable idea of 'laying on of hands' as being essential to salvation, it is forever set aside by the fact that three thousand believers were added to be saved on the Day of Pentecost, on complying with the inspired Peter's directions to 'repent and be baptized every one in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins!' and this without 'laying on of hands.'" See Acts ii, 38."

Again we must ask Mr. Barron to read the whole verse he quotes. Peter told them that after they were baptized they should receive the Holy Ghost. Now this is exactly what the laying on of hands is for. Peter and John "laid their hands" on those who had been baptized in Samaria, and they received the Holy Ghost. See Acts viii, 14-17. Paul laid his hands on those who were baptized in Ephesus, and the Holy Ghost came on them. See Acts xix, 1-6. Paul, in Heb. vi, 2, speaks of the doctrine of the laying on of hands. And yet this "Christian" gentleman calls it an unwarrantable doctrine!

There is not the slightest proof that the three thousand who were baptized on the Day of Pentecost did not have hands laid upon them, but the proof is all the other way, for they certainly received the Holy Ghost according to the promise of Peter, and we have shown, by our quotations, that it was the practice of the Apostles to confer the Holy Ghost by laying their hands upon believers who had been baptized. Paul said there was but one body, and one spirit, one Lord, one faith and one baptism, so it is likely there would be but one way of imparting the Holy Ghost, for the Apostles did not have such a variety of ways of doing things as prevail in modern Christendom.

Mr. Barron presumes too much, when he asserts that hands were not laid upon the three thousand who were baptized, even if it is not positively thus recorded. If he read the *Millennial Star*, he would frequently see the reports of our Elders, as to so many being added to the Church by baptism, without the slightest reference to the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. The latter ordinance follows the former as a matter of course.

The "Christian gentleman" justifies the high-handed proceedings of the police, by saying, "I consider that the thoughtful guardians of the peace acted very wisely in removing such objectionable, unscriptural and unlawful speakers from our midst." Now we can believe that Elder Penrose and his party were objectionable to Mr. Barron and his ruffianly friends, but that they were not objectionable to the majority of the audience, was shown by their attempts to have Elder Penrose proceed with his remarks. The latter also based his discourse upon the Scriptures, quoting freely from them, hence the charge of being unscriptural falls to the ground, as does the charge of being unlawful, for the Elders had just as much right to preach there as the "Christian gentleman."

We are glad that the opposition of such men as Mr. Barron is aroused. He is of that class who will not enter the kingdom of heaven themselves and seek to prevent others from entering. We have no doubt that it is through seeing others willing to receive the Gospel, that his opposition has been aroused, and we shall look for good results from the big meeting in Belfast, and the spirit of enquiry that it has awakened in the minds of the people. **G. O.**

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