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WAR-CLOUDS GATHERING IN EUROPE.

For some time past the political horizon of Europe has indicated anything but a lengthy continuation of peace. By recent telegrams it seems as if the war-clouds are about to burst upon that continent, with all the accompanying horrors of armed strife between powerful and hostile nations.

The long threatened conflict between Austria and Italy seems impending, the former determined to hold her possessions in Italy, the latter apparently bent on making an effort to have one united Italian kingdom embracing all the territory from the Alps to the Adriatic. Prussia and Austria, too, are on those terms of handshaking which precede the combat. They have never been able to get along comfortably since they compelled the little power of Denmark to bow before their united forces and the fearful odds thus brought against it, in the Schleswig-Holstein affair. A short time since there were hopes that this Austro-Prussian matter would be amicably settled, but those hopes appear now to have been based upon information derived from very unreliable sources. Both have their military armaments on a war footing, and Italy has a large force of men ready for the field.

If Austria should get into a quarrel with both Prussia and Italy it would go hard with her, although she is a colossal power, unless Russia or France would render her material aid. Should a Prussia-Italian alliance be formed, there might be a chance for Denmark to strike a blow at the most powerful of her late adversaries, both in revenge and for the purpose of gaining back one of the Duchies if possible. This combination of powers would seriously threaten to reduce Austria from a first rate to at least a second rate power.

The growth of Italy, a constitutional kingdom, with a bold, ambitious monarch at its head, must necessarily be looked upon by despotic and imperial Russia, and France too, with suspicion. And one or both might possibly interfere to maintain "the balance of power." Britain, by monarchical ties, is closely allied to both Prussia and Denmark, the Crown Princess of Prussia being Victoria's eldest daughter, and the Princess of Wales being a daughter to the King of Denmark. Jaunty old Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston, who steered England through so many turbulent waters, is no more, and the present Premier, Earl Russell, is not remarkable for extraordinary wisdom and caution in managing with knotty questions of foreign politics.

These things combined throw a gloomy shade over Europe, and show that the elements of a fearful war exist there—a war in which all the principal nations of Europe may speedily be involved. It is the beginning, but who can see the end? But one thing is certain, the sword of war is unsheathed, and never will be sheathed till He reigns whose right it is to rule. This matter may be apparently adjusted for a time, or the dispatches may any day announce the commencement of actual hostilities; but that war will ere long break forth in

Europe, and of a violent character, seems as plain as anything can well do. The elements of discord are so numerous and of so combustible a nature, that the most trifling thing may set the whole continent in a blaze.

THEN AND NOW.

There are certain facts connected with our history as a Church and people that are anything but pleasant to refer to or look back upon. But few can calmly contemplate the tragedy of their brethren and friends murdered in cold blood; their homes destroyed; their property taken; themselves imprisoned, expatriated and bitterly persecuted; their weary pathway, as they fled from that persecution, marked with the blood of the innocent and the graves of the aged, infirm and helpless, who sank down by the way-side the victims of mobocratic violence. Yet all this and much more we cannot help at times but think of, and think of vividly, for all has been borne and suffered by this people as a Church; and though many of us have not been exposed to such envenomed and bitter persecution, all or nearly all, have had to suffer for the truth's sake.

The discourses delivered by Elder Geo. A. Smith, for a few Sunday mornings past, in the Tabernacle, have induced thought and reflection, and involuntarily excite a comparison between the course pursued by the Missouri mobs of twenty-eight years ago, and the feeling which animates those who would destroy us now. General Clark, commanding an armed mob, called militia, after some of the principal men of the Church had been taken prisoners by them though innocent of any crime and refused even the ordinary course of law in venal courts, addressed the citizens of Far West in a speech, which is worthy of record being as it is illustrative of the spirit manifested then and now by our enemies. He had no fault to find with the "Mormons" as citizens; they were industrious, energetic and persevering; they had settled the worst land in Missouri and in a remarkably short time they had made it the most productive, best cultivated and most inviting part of the State; and they were peaceable, quiet and orderly.

Does not this sound very like the encomiums passed upon us to-day? Was it not something like this that Speaker Colfax and party said in the front of Salt Lake House, one Monday evening last June? Transpose the dates and names, and the sentiments uttered might be taken for the same.

But, said Clark, you must never expect again to organize with Presidents and Bishops, in a Church organization, or the people will totally destroy you. You must not even meet in twos or threes for the purpose of prayer or for any other purpose. You must give up your faith, your religion, your Church organization, your God! Why? Because we will not suffer it, said Missouri, through this doughty General. If you do, we will destroy you. We will suffer you (wonderful condescension!) to reside among us and occupy your farms and the property which your indomitable perseverance and industry have gathered around you, but you must renounce your religion, apostatize from your faith and deny your Prophet. And then turning pious, he invoked the spirit of the Unknown God, like the Athenians of old, to rest upon the "Mormons," and remove from their minds their fanaticism.

This Clark, who thus trampled on every principle of civil and religious liberty, and who utterly disregarded our Constitutional rights, like others who then and since have sought to ride over the Constitution that they might accomplish their designs on the "Mormons," was at heart a traitor. Subsequent years developed in him, as in

others, and as it will do in still more, the rank treason which animated him, his name figuring on the roll of the rebel Congress as a member. He was at the time referred to, sustained and aided by men calling themselves ministers of the gospel of Christ, who were active participators in the atrocious deeds which marked the scenes to which we are alluding.

Now, so determined was the Missouri mob, urged on by politicians, bad whisky and the spirit of wickedness, to carry out the programme they had arranged, break up the "Mormon" Church, destroy its leaders, and appropriate their property, that they proceeded in a series of acts the most damnable and bloody that have ever been recorded in the annals of any nation or people making the least pretensions to civil and religious liberty; eventually driving the "Mormons" from the State for no other cause but that they chose to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. There were infants, children, men and women, and revolutionary fathers murdered in cold blood. Men who had fought for that liberty thus ruthlessly and fiendishly abused, were killed by the very men for whose liberty they had struggled. One old gentleman, who had fought with Washington, was hewn to pieces with a corn cutter, at Haun's mill, while proclaiming himself one of the body-guard of the Father of his country.

But recapitulation is needless. These things and many more have been before the public from then till now. Civil and religious liberty were trampled under foot, the Constitution spit upon and defied, its provisions derided, and an unoffending people subjected to the most horrible barbarities, which have been continued, with more or less violence as opportunity offered, until to-day.

There was no polygamie bug-bear then at which people could pelt and raise a cry of hate. Plurality of wives was unknown and undreamed of. But we believed in a Prophet of God, concerning whose Divine calling and mission we had the most indubitable testimony. We appealed to the State government for redress and protection, but received neither. They said, "Guilty or innocent, we must execute some of their leaders or the character of the State is irretrievably damned." The General Government was applied to, with no better success. We were referred back to the State where the outrage occurred, and the offenders were shielded. For all the enormities committed on the "Mormons" then, not an arrest was made nor an individual punished, no matter how black his turpitude.

Now we are told that the only objectionable feature in our social, religious or moral polity is polygamy. That there is no enmity manifested against us as a people, but only against this single article of our faith and practice. Gentlemen, you mock our past miseries, insult our past sufferings, by such a declaration. We know, and you are well aware that we cannot help knowing, how utterly baseless it is when we look at the past, or else you must be ignorant of the history of a people concerning whom you pretend so much knowledge. You insult our manhood by asking that we shall sacrifice our faith to-day, when for years we clung to it with our lives hourly in peril. But God, and He alone, sustained us then; and is our help now.

It is a mistake to suppose that plurality of wives is the cause of the opposition that acts against us. It is the hostility of error to truth, of darkness to light, of corruption to wickedness. It is simply because God has bestowed the Priesthood upon man on the earth, and restored the everlasting gospel; and re-

cause those who have embraced that gospel have confidence in the men who hold that Priesthood, that we are hated and persecuted. We know it. We are aware that we are hated, cordially hated, by many; but we are used to it, and it neither robs us of our sleep, nor destroys our appetite. We can read the slanders perpetrated against us without being much annoyed.

We read in the telegraphic dispatches lately that it was stated in Washington that a brigade of soldiers would be required in Utah to keep the people in subjection. Subjection to what? We knew then and know now that the slander was as base as it was false. We know, as our enemies know, that there is not a more law-abiding, quiet, orderly people in the nation than the inhabitants of Utah. But we object to being led by the nose by every self-conceited, silly ass, who thinks he is capable of playing the grand mogul among us; and we have sense and knowledge enough to know that the Constitution has given us the rights and liberties of free American citizens, however much some people may strive to rob us of them.

We have, with the help of God, opened up this wilderness, and placed one of the brightest jewels in the nation's diadem; we have done this in privation, suffering and untold dangers. We have clung to our country and the Constitution through trials and persecutions the most bitter and virulent. But we would sooner again meet the unknown dangers of an untried land, and hew out for ourselves a home where white men had never lived, or lay our bodies on the soil we had consecrated to God and virtue, than prove recreant to our God, our faith and our hopes of eternal salvation.

MINING! MINING!! MINING!!!

What a constant fussing and fuming about mines and mining—placer diggings, quartz veins, lodes, leads and so on, as though the acquisition of gold and silver was the most important object of human existence. Gold and silver are convenient and have a proper sphere of usefulness, but why try to have everybody go crazy about them and abuse themselves and others in their acquisition and use?

Long years ago we knew of the lead ore veins on both slopes of the Oquirrh mountains bounding this valley on the west, of the mineral veins at Pahrana-gat and other places, and also knew that they contained a percentage of silver. Did we then want to have anything to do with them? No. Do we now? No. Why not? Because we can suit ourselves better at other occupations. A Spanish proverb says "it costs a mine to work a mine;" and, aside from a knowledge of the general correctness of that proverb, our own personal and practical experience of some eight years spent in mining, with spade, pick, shovel, drill, gad, &c., above the water, in the water and under the water, has proved quite curative of any liking we had for that pursuit.

Do we object to others engaging in mining? Most certainly not; though in Utah, so far as mining for gold and silver has yet proven, our precept is, as our example has uniformly been, that any other laudable occupation is not only more pleasant and useful, but is also more profitable than mining for the precious metals within our borders. Is there anything intrinsically wrong in mining, abstractly considered? No, but it is too uncertain; and when unprofitable, as is the case with the very great majority, almost the only reminiscence tending to gild past arduous, self-denying and profitless toil is the memory of the accompanying excitement at the time! Is that kind of payment satisfactory? If so, try it, all who prefer so doing.