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POWER OF THE PRESS.

When dangers darken o'er the land,
And gathering tempests rise,
And lurid lightnings glance and gleam
Along the murky skies—
What trusty guardian seek we then
To shield us from distress,
And 'neath its shelter feel secure?
The Press, my friends, the Press!

When rulers fail their faith to keep,
And use their power for ill,
And in the sacred name of Right
Their selfish aims fulfil;
When injured Justice lifts her head,
And dares to ask redress,
Who pleads her cause with clarion voice?
The Press, my friends, the Press!

To keep the boon our fathers gave,
For which they fought and died—
The boon of Freedom, bright and fair,
A nation's dearest pride!—
What power beneath the arm of God
Do Freedom's sons possess,
That holds the tyrant in its grasp?
The Press, my friends, the Press!

The Press, my friends, the Press—it speaks
The burden of our souls!
If gay, it laughs; perplexed, it guides;
Or vexed, it thunder rolls!
Then should we guard it pure and free,
That heaven may ever bless
Our champion, advocate and guide;
The Press, my friends, the Press!

—Selected.

DANGER ON THE WATERS.

MARITIME disasters have been so frequent and appalling during the past few years as to shock the civilized world. They have not been confined to calamities upon the broad bosom of the ocean, but have occurred inland upon navigable rivers, which should naturally be free from such occurrences. Neither have they been exclusively the result of furious storms which lash the waters into an ecstasy of rage, snapping huge timbers as if they were frail pipe stems, and engulfing ill-fated vessels with their unfortunate living freight. The most dreaded of all catastrophes, the "ship on fire" has been an incident of great frequency, resulting in the most horrible holocausts.

The increase of maritime disasters, has been such as to constitute a latter-day phenomenon. Thinking people are led to reflect upon the conducting causes, but the solution of the question is enveloped in mystery. Those who are religiously inclined regard it as a sign of the times, in unison with affairs in general, which are sadly out of joint. A few days since, in treating upon existing conditions and what they indicate, we referred to a specific prediction made by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, to the effect that peace would, "not many years hence," be taken from the earth. In connection with this allusion it was shown that a comparatively pacific spirit throughout the world was being supplanted by the genius of contention, and combinations constantly arising in every phase and department of life, each pitted against the others, while the associations themselves, were racked with internal splits. These conditions are developed in all departments, from the smallest concerns of men to those involving the relations of nations and kingdoms with each other. These are the incipient stages of war, being the primary elements of actual conflict.

The object of treating upon the subject was to show that the Prophet had predicted, by inspiration, the present situation, besides pointing by the same divine gift to a still more appalling state of affairs which would be the legitimate outgrowth of the incipient elements of gigantic contention. For the same purpose we direct attention now to the phenomenal destruction of late years upon the oceans and navigable rivers of the world.

On this subject the Prophet Joseph Smith made a direct prediction, the indications for the fulfilment of which before a great while are strongly marked. A portion of the

prophecy containing this forecast occurs on page 229 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and embodies these words: "Wherefore, the days will come that no flesh shall be safe upon the waters."

The safety with which companies of Latter-day Saints have traveled over the ocean on their way to the gathering places of the Church has been a marked feature in the history of this people. This being a gathering dispensation, those who have received the Gospel through the preaching of the Elders have flocked to where the main body of adherents was located like doves to the windows. Hundreds of companies have traversed the ocean on the way to central points, yet not one casualty of any extent has ever occurred on the journeys. This providential preservation has been the result of the fact that the overwhelming bulk of the people composing those parties of pilgrims have been the honest and pure in heart. Those of a contrary quality have been rare exceptions. It appears, however, that the virtue of the main body will not always be effective in preserving those who are not pure and upright. So great will become the danger of maritime travel, on ocean and river, that only the worthy will have the divine providence thrown over and around them. Hence the revelation already quoted from says: "And it shall come to pass in days to come that none is able to go up to the land of Zion upon the waters, but he that is upright of heart."

UNWITTING WITNESSES.

I.

THE theory of evolution, or the gradual unfolding of physical life, supplemented by the unnatural and gruesome vagaries of Darwinism, came like a palladium of comfort and license to a corrupt and atheist-