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PATHWAYS THROUGH LIFE.

You say that your life is a failure,
Your future holds naught that is sweet,
That the troublous years bring little but tears,
And always, always defeat.

Mistakes—aye sins, you can call them—
May cover your past like a pall.
But the soul that is strong to outlive its wrong
Is the bravest soul of all.

You long to go forth in the battle,
But your feet are fettered quite,
Remember, who serve in the corps of reserve
May be able as those who fight.

You chafe to enter the races
For pleasure and gold and fame;
Yet many who win 'mid the plaudits' din
Find the prize but an empty name.

The toil that is yours seems fruitless,
Your days are weary and long;
But the lowliest duty may glow with beauty
When wrought with a cheerful song.

The world's best sweets are denied you,
You have tasted earth's cup of woe!
But who suffers to give that others may live
Has the nob est life, I trow.

Oh let us, my friend, do bravely
The work that to us is given,
And smile in belief that what causes us grief
May keep us the closer to Heaven.

The pathways we traverse are many,
And some are by barrenest strand;
But with vision grown wide we shall wonder
We sighed,
For they led to the Beautiful Land.
—Ladies' Home Journal. EMMA C. DOWD.

THE PLAGUE FROM THE STAND- POINT OF PROPHECY.

GREAT alarm prevails in Europe in consequence of the ravages and spread of cholera. Intense anxiety exists in this country because of the reports of the plague which come across the Atlantic and the probability of its visiting the United States. We regard it as one of the judgments of the latter days and a consequence of the wickedness of the nations. When the hosts of men give themselves over to unrighteousness, the spirit of God ceases to brood over the earth. That holy power is preservative and when it retires or withdraws the people are left a prey to calamity and distress.

One of the reasons for our belief that the terrible disease now making fearful

havoc among our race is one of the judgments of our times is that we have unshaken faith in Joseph Smith as a Prophet. He has prophetically delineated with great clearness the whole of the conspicuous and remarkable conditions of our day. One of the visitations which he predicted was of the character of the cholera plague, as will be observed from the following passage of a revelation given through the Seer on March 7, 1831:

"And there shall be men standing in that (the present) generation that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge, for a desolating sickness shall cover the land."

This prophecy is a repetition of what the Savior told his disciples on the Mount of Olives, a portion of which is related in the 24th chapter of Matthew, and repeated through Joseph Smith in completeness, with the respective predictions in their consecutive order. This "overflowing scourge" was to perform its deadly work within the lines of the generation existing at the time of the restoration of the Gospel in the latter days. The length of time that would elapse from the Gospel restoration and the visitation of the "desolating scourge" is not sharply defined any further than that there would be men living at the time of the introduction of the last dispensation who would not pass to the other world before the plague referred to should commence its work. Although the Saints may not unqualifiedly take the ground that the advent of cholera is the fulfilment of that important prophecy, it is interesting for them to compare current events with the predictions of the Great Prophet who was the instrument selected by Divine Wisdom to found the Church with which they are identified.

Commendable efforts are being made in this and other countries to prevent the ravages of the plague, and the effects of their endeavors will doubtless be to ameliorate the situation. Speaking, however, from the standpoint of revelation, there is another condition, without which the result will not be entirely satisfactory. That is the repentance of the people; or, in other words, reformation. We will here quote from a revelation given through Joseph the Seer on Sept. 23rd, 1832:

"For I, the Almighty, have placed my hands upon the nations, to scourge them for their wickedness; and plagues shall go forth, and they shall not be taken

from the earth until I have completed my work, which shall be cut short in righteousness, until all shall know me who shall remain, even from the least unto the greatest, and shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, and shall see eye to eye."

According to this, the only hope of escape for the people from the judgments of the latter days is for them to become righteous, as the revelation shows that, in order for the earth to rest and be freed from corruption a species of elimination will progress, until a remnant shall remain who will conform to the laws of nature and of God.

Another revelation given through the Prophet Joseph, August 2nd, 1833, indicates that whichever plague shall be the "scourge" referred to will not, after gaining a foothold, have any lengthy cessations until the Lord Himself shall come. We quote from it:

"For behold, and lo, vengeance cometh speedily upon the ungodly as a whirlwind, and who shall escape it? The Lord's scourge shall pass over by night and by day, and the report thereof shall vex all people; yet it shall not be stayed until the Lord come; for the indignation of the Lord is kindled against their abominations and all their wicked works."

The facilities for the spread of information relating to existing conditions in any part of the earth are complete. Hence the accounts of the ravages of the present plague are presented daily to the whole civilized world. These reports are causing much vexation, the minds of the people being harassed and agitated by them.

The present times are perilous and perplexing, all things being "in commotion," as the prophets have predicted. There is no human situation of the present period of agitation that has not been a subject of prophetic treatment by the Prophet Joseph Smith. Of course such views are created by many people with derision and contempt; they are hardly ever met by those who sneer at them with fact and argument. But the prophecies are being fulfilled, and the conditions of the world are assuming more and more the aspects of the pictures which inspired men have painted by the assistance of Divine Power. The near future is pregnant with events and situations of great moment and the Saints should not be asleep to the signs of the times.