

# The Deseret Weekly.

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## OLD YEAR AND NEW.

To RUN over the great events in detail that have transpired in 1888 would require many massive volumes. All that can be done in a few brief words is to grasp the general aspect of that division of time.

There is one thing with which it is impossible for the Latter-day Saints to avoid being struck—that the shaping of all human affairs denotes that we are indeed living in the latter days, and that the prophetic gift must have rested upon the Prophet Joseph Smith to a marvelous degree. There is not a general or special phase of society which he did not specifically refer to as a condition not far remote from the time the prediction relating to it was uttered. These events constitute indicators directed to the consummation of still greater changes which are to precede the coming of the Lord.

Among these conditions are the preparation of the nations for a gigantic coming struggle; "rumors of war," which are the precursors of the actuality; offensive and defensive organizations in civil society, fulfilling the prediction in the Book of Mormon concerning the development in the latter days of "a great division among the people;" secret combinations whose aim is the destruction of the social fabric as a whole, including wholesale murder in their modes of operation; the growing disposition toward violent lawlessness and crimes of the most blood curdling atrocity and barbarity; the incipient outcroppings in this country which forebode a coming war of races; destructions on the sea and phenomenal and disastrous battles of the elements on land; the tendency of vaulting ambition to override the commonest rights of humanity, and many other sinister elements that are sapping the foundations and testing the stability of human institutions.

It may be that we are liable to be deemed pessimistically inclined by alluding to the cloudy portion of the passing year, associated with a pros-

pective glance no less heavy. We are not alone in such reflections. The nature of current events is causing deep concern in the minds of hosts of thinking people throughout the world. But while much has happened during the past year that has inflicted untold misery upon multitudes of people and may portend woes still deeper and more extensive in the near future, there has been much for which to render thanks and praise to the Giver of all good. Indeed, it is a question whether the most calamitous events should cause those who are honestly seeking to pursue a godly course to be despondent. These conditions indicate the nearness of the bright and glorious era which will dawn upon the world, and in one sense should lead the righteous to rejoice because of the approach of their redemption. The Latter-day Saints have special reasons for rejoicing in many respects. By faith they can see beyond the darkness of the night the dawn of the coming day. Some of the brethren who have borne the heat and burden of the day have passed to their rest in the paradise of God, where they co-operate in the work of redemption with the visible Church on earth. Many have been cast into prison, and still languish there; others are in exile.

While these and other circumstances have discomforted and disturbed the people, the blessings of the Lord have been plentiful in many respects. Among them has been a general time of prosperity, while faith is being increased by experience. Abroad the Gospel has spread with remarkable potency, especially among the "lost sheep of the House of Israel," on the islands of the sea. And the Saints may take this comforting assurance home to their hearts—that whatever happens, at home or abroad, of a general character, will conduce to the establishment of God's truth on earth, however contrary the aspect of this proposition may appear at the time of the occurrence, for the "work of the Father" is about to begin among all nations to prepare the way for the redemption of Israel.

While we can look back upon 1888 as one of the most wonderful years in the history of our planet, there is good ground for anticipating that its successor will not be one whit behind it in that respect. We live in a remarkable time, and events are about to happen that will cause the ears of the inhabitants of earth to tingle. The righteous will take the Holy Spirit for their guide, and not be moved.

## THE NEW WEEKLY.

HEREAFTER the contents of the DESERET WEEKLY will comprise materials that appear in the daily, from which the most appropriate and important will be selected, omitting articles that are of less moment. The remainder of the space will be filled with original articles by well known writers of ability and experience. We hope also to receive contributions from those who can wield a pen but are not at present known in the literary field.

We hereby invite our friends to contribute to this publication, which will not only embrace articles upon politics, religious principles and current events, but likewise be open to statements concerning exhibitions and manifestations of the power of God, answers to prayer and other matters that tend to strengthen the faith of the Saints and cause them to seek after the spiritual as well as the temporal things of the work of the Lord. Narratives of striking incidents of missionary experience will also find their way into the columns of the new weekly, and we hope that this invitation to our friends to forward contributions in the lines herein defined will not go unheeded.

We announced the other day that an "answers to correspondents," department would also be opened, and that we would do our best to render it as interesting as practicable. This will not be feasible, however, unless we are plying with questions of a proper kind.

One excellent feature connected with our new periodical is that its size and shape will admit of its being bound, and preserved as a part of the private libraries of subscribers. Thus they will have within easy reach a work of reference in relation to the history of the times in which we live that will be beyond price.

We request our agents and friends everywhere to do us the kindness not only to subscribe themselves, but to use their influence to induce others to do the same. The price is the same as for the old weekly edition, now defunct—\$2.50 a year.

## THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

FROM the lofty position which the Pope of Rome occupies as the head of one of the most extensive religious organizations on earth, he is able to obtain a comprehensive view of what is taking place in the world, and of its general condition. That