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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

We are living in a time of terrible calamities. Great disasters occur on both land and sea. The record of fire and flood, earthquake and famine, railroad wrecks, labor disturbances, disputes between nations, rumors of war, recalculation, "graft," corporate rapacity, the domination of capital, combinations among trusts on the one hand, and among unions to resist the power of wealth on the other hand, secret organizations against life and property, dissolution of marriage bonds, social corruption in high society and in low life, libel, fraud, fierce recrimination, political chicanery, intrigue for office and general commotion are signs of the times, and are of the kind predicted in ancient and in modern scripture as heralding the great consummation, and the end of the world. By that term is not meant the destruction of this planet, as some people imagine, but the breaking up and dissolution of the powers of this world ruled over by the prince of darkness.

There have been convulsions of nature and of society from time immemorial, but no such congeries of events such as are foreshadowed as signs of the coming of the Son of Man as those which have recently appeared. We are not among the alarmists of the latter days, but we do not close our eyes to the occurrences of the present, nor think it right to fall in giving a warning as to the approaching change in the world's affairs. To those who believe in the Second Advent, these portents are highly significant, and it is well for them to heed the monition to "stand in holy places and not be moved" when these calamities appear. And while "evil men and seducers wax worse and worse" and falsehood and vilification abound, to refrain from reviling and retaliation and "in patience possess your souls."

The terrible catastrophe at Meridian, Mississippi, recalls the driving and mobbing of our Elders there and the murder of a "Mormon" missionary in that neighborhood a few years ago. And also the prediction in section 88 of the Doctrine and Covenants, given when the Elders were sent out to warn the world in the early days of the history of this Church, which was this: "And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon 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; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people."

The great tidal wave which has overwhelmed some of the Society Islands, as related in our news columns on Monday, was an awful visitation and is one of the tribulations of the latter times. So are the cyclones that have swept different parts of the United States since the testimony of the Elders has been borne to the people. We note with pleasure that when our missionaries are exposed to these visitations, they are not only preserved by a divine power, but they exhibit that courage and render that assistance to others which is characteristic of the true servants of the living God.

The testimony borne to the noble conduct and character of our brethren by the American Consul at Tahiti is worthy of special note, and illustrates the course of our missionaries generally, whose self-sacrifice, abiding faith and undaunted courage are fruits of the religion which they and their parents have espoused. While they are traduced and misrepresented by professed Christian ministers and their names are cast out as evil, they go forward and perform their duty, braving the wrath of their enemies, the opposition of hostile men and the fury of the elements.

They are preaching "the gospel of the kingdom as a witness unto all nations" before "the end" shall come, and this also is among the signs of the times immediately preceding the advent of the Son of Man. Let nations as well as individuals wake up and behold the tokens of approaching events, and prepare for the day of the Lord, which is nigh at hand!

THE RUSSIAN ASSEMBLY.

May the 10th is finally set for the convocation of the Russian general assembly. The czar has long delayed the redemption of his promise to grant the people a voice in the affairs of the state. Perhaps he entertained the hope that the policy of delay could be played indefinitely. However, the date is now decided upon, and it looks as if the liberal program were to be carried out.

This is not the first time the Russian people have been called upon to consider the affairs of their country. During the 16th and 17th centuries the "zemski Sobors," or "land parliaments" were repeatedly identified with the momentous deliberations concern-

ing the entire country. At the close of the 16th century the internal affairs of Russia were so intricate that the Boyars gave up the task of effecting a reorganization. The leaders of the Nizhni Novgorod delegation then sent letters to every town in Russia, calling upon the people to elect two or three representatives to a new Sobor at Moscow, and also urging them to contribute men and treasure in support of the new administration to be decided upon at the meeting of the Sobor. For several years, until 1612, the Sobor continually sat in Moscow and exercised the supreme functions of government. In 1613 it elected the Boyar Michael Feodorovich Romanoff to the throne of Russia.

Russia had a national assembly in continual session from 1615 to 1618. It adjourned for a short time, and met again in 1619. In 1621 another assembly convened. These bodies deliberated upon every subject of national importance, just as do modern congresses and parliaments. They decided questions of customs, taxes, internal order, foreign alliances, peace war, and the defense of the country. In bringing to the knowledge of the people a somewhat burdensome tax, Czar Michael referred to the "wise decision of your chosen delegates." The Sobor, however, strengthened the authority and the position of the first Romanoff, and thus enabled him to dispense with this body for 10 years after the last meeting in 1632. Michael felt himself strong enough to declare war against Poland in 1632 without asking the representatives of the land; but a few defeats caused him hastily to summon a session of the Sobor in the summer of 1632. Twice again during his generally successful reign the first Romanoff Czar summoned an assembly of his loyal subjects. In 1637 and 1642. The former session of the Sobor discussed the threatened aspect of the relations with Turkey, and the latter considered the advisability of accepting the offer of the port of Azoff from the Cossacks of the Don.

The last Russian general assembly was held in 1693. This was called to pass judgment upon Sophia for alleged conspiracy against her brother, Czar Peter the Great. Since then Russian rulers have had no use for the advice of the people. It has remained for Czar Nicholas to make his reign famous, not only for the defeat in the war with Japan, but also for the reconvening of a Russian parliament after an interval of over two hundred years. Russia now needs a parliament, more than ever. The history of the country shows that popular representation is no new thing in that country. It is not a foreign importation. It is older than autocracy. The czar in calling a parliament does not confer a favor upon his subjects. He but restores an ancient right of which the people have been gradually robbed for the benefit of a few families.

FRANCE PREPARED.

It is to be hoped that the Morocco question will be settled without bloodshed, notwithstanding the threatening utterances of the Kaiser a few days ago, when he received a deputation which congratulated him, on behalf of the army and navy, the occasion being the celebration of his silver wedding. But, if it comes to war, France is thought to be fully prepared at this time. There will be no repetition of the events of 1870.

The general staff of the French army has been busy night and day for a long time, and as a result half a million men are ready to take the field at a moment's notice, and this time, it is thought, they are actually ready, "to the last button," and not merely on paper, as under Napoleon, "the little." Behind the standing army, there is a reserve force consisting of 2,000,000 men that can be called out, when needed.

It is further stated that at points along the German frontier engineers are prepared to unwind huge spools of telephone wire as fast as horses can gallop to connect the various military posts. The frontier garrison posts are on a war footing and have heavy artillery support within call. Arrangements have also been made for commandeering the speediest private automobiles in France for war use.

The Eiffel tower has been decided upon as the central headquarters for the direction of the fighting. From there wireless messages can bring the corps commanders in the field under the direct supervision of the general staff in Paris.

Such preparations for war indicate that the situation has been considered serious, by the French authorities. But, possibly, the activity they have unfolded is the best guaranty of peace.

"GONE FAR ENOUGH."

The following sensible and conservative editorial in relation to the litigation in progress at Ogden and the bitter feelings that have been stirred up over the expropriations and recriminations resulting therefrom, appears in this morning's Inter-Mountain Republican:

"These prosecutions at Ogden have gone far enough. They have probably ended forever the custom, practiced everywhere, and supposed to be legal, of councilmen drawing extra pay for extra work. They have called attention to the custom, have secured a legal adjudication of the case, and have, without unnecessary expense of sorrow and pain—fixed the limits of compensation."

"They have by no means proved criminally against any one. So far as belief in the right of certain officials to take extra money, it certainly has existed, and that in the minds of honest men. It existed right here in Salt Lake, and when Mr. A. S. Reiser was auditor an amount was appropriated, and Mr. Reiser refused to honor the draft. An attempt was made to compel him by mandamus to pay the amounts ordered, and the court sustained the auditor. There was an honest difference of opinion here, and no more than that has been proven in Ogden.

"Out of the criminal prosecutions begun and pushed by a 'busy' man, have grown a host of angry accusations, a world of allegations that men should not lodge against their neighbors, and a flood of abuse that does no community any good.

"There is no use pretending that Ogden has been builded and brought to its present excellent estate by crim-

inals, thieves and law-breakers. Thieves and thugs do not build homes, do not improve the ground, do not aid in state making and nation founding. And these Ogden men have certainly helped in the making of the state, in the advancement of the nation.

"It is about time to call a halt in the anger-breeding litigation which is never going to produce a particle of good beyond what is now assured. It is not right to wreak private vengeance by means of public courts. It is not seemly to drag a political fight into the arena of tribunals. It is not helpful to the state in the eyes of the nation to prolong the feud with heated comments from outsiders. It harms every interest of Utah, and helps none of us.

"If there is a plan to discredit certain men for the benefit of opposing political plans, then it is certainly time to call a halt. If the purpose is to overthrow the Republican party and substitute any other, men who have the interests of that honored old organization at heart should throw their influence on the side of returning reason.

"No matter what the motive, the result is the same. No good interest is served, and the only effect must be a hurt to the state.

"Better call a halt."

A LAND OF TOURISTS.

Consular reports show that Switzerland derives an income of from thirty to forty million dollars annually from the tourists. This means a yearly increase of at least 10 a piece for every man, woman and child in the country, from that source. It is evident that the yearly influx of visitors enables the farmers to make the cultivation of even the poorest of land a paying occupation. All arable land is cultivated and made to yield returns in cereals, vegetables, fruit and wines. The dairy business is also made both famous and remunerative. Switzerland has, it is said, about three and a half million inhabitants, but its foreign trade amounts to more than \$400,000,000, of which \$239,333,730 is import, and \$170,055,504 is export. That is an immense volume of trade for so small a country. It proves what its fame as a tourist land is worth. It indicates what the "see-America-first" movement, when a success, will mean to this country. Switzerland has its high mountains, and its picturesque hills, the Alps, and the Jura, Mont Blanc, the Jungfrau, Platteau, and the Matterhorn. It has its little cities set like precious jewels among its silver seas. It has its excellent climate sought by sick people. But what has that country which this country cannot duplicate?

Handle with care—the China situation.

The weather bureau seems to have lost control of itself.

The Yerkes-Misner marriage seems to be developing into a problem play.

The Oregonian is indulging in a great deal of Ballard poetry. It has the usual spring flavor.

King Edward is visiting Paris. It was as Prince of Wales that he had royal times there.

Liquidation is a great flux for the metal stocks. Just see how it makes the prices run off.

It is said the price of shoes is to be advanced. A man "down on his uppers" can't make the raise.

The Russian primary elections are passing off as quietly as an off-year election in this country.

The Chicago federation of labor has taken up the pure food crusade. It's a good thing. Push it along.

Why not refer the question of what type of canal shall be made at Panama to a typographical union?

The "inner circle" making victims of the men it had used as tools, is a beautiful example of dog eat dog.

The soldiers at Fort Sheridan have got the war fever very badly. In such a case there is no cure like phlebotomy.

Sunday, Mark Twain pictured in New York and thousands who wanted to hear him were unable to because of the immense rush. He should have held an overflow meeting.

A gentleman of North Tarrytown, N. Y., is of the opinion that the general adoption of an artificial, universal language is merely a question of money. On the theory, no doubt, that money talks.

It was real good of Richard McCurdy to promise District Attorney Jerome that he would come back whenever he was wanted. Perhaps he will be able to induce "Andy" Hamilton to accompany him.

The average school child works harder than the average man, is the opinion of the Philadelphia Bulletin. Many children certainly worry more over their lessons, particularly when they are about to graduate, than most grown up people do over their work.

Speaking of Attorney-General Hadley's work, Ida M. Tarbell says: "Upon my return to New York I shall make him and his success against Standard Oil the subject of an article in the magazine, of whose staff I am a member." This will be Hadley's apotheosis.

An American deported from England because he didn't have the alien tax price! How much bitterer the dose seems when administered to an American by an Englishman than when given to an Englishman by an American! It really does make a difference whose ox is gored.

Colonel Mann has issued a denial of blackmail on his part or that of Town Topics, and offers \$1,000 for evidence to convict any employee of the paper of soliciting or accepting money. Here is a chance for subscribers to "Fads and Fancies" to get some of their money back.

King Oscar is reported to have said to an American newspaper correspondent, that he hoped President Roosevelt would follow the example of General Grant and make a tour of the

world, when his presidential term is finished. His majesty was pleased to say that all would be glad to see and personally know such a man as the American President. It is an excellent suggestion. But why could not the King come over here, and see the President? Neither law nor custom prevents him from leaving his kingdom. His health would be immensely benefited by a tour of this country, and there is not an American that would not be glad to see such a man as the Swedish King, who gave up a crown to save two countries from war.

THE WORST CITY.

Boston Transcript.
Berlin has the sympathy of Boston in its latest trial. Haven't we heard our city named as the "wickedest on earth"? And actually, we have forgotten now who it was that said it. Frequent New Yorkers have heard their city so called, and they probably cannot tell now who were the offenders. Every city of size and pretension has had the experience, and not one of them cherishes a grudge for the man who dared say it. His utterance has always started a laugh after the first shock of anger disappeared, and residents of Berlin will be laughing to-morrow, perhaps they are today, over the finding of Oliver Nienmann that the wickedest city in the world is the German capital.

HUNTING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Athenian Globe.
The Philippines are said to afford the best hunting in the world. Ducks, deer, wild boar, wild water buffalo and wild chickens are plentiful, particularly wild ducks and other water fowl. Quail are a gem in the Philippines except under strict regulations; and as a result the natives have no guns, and the whites get all the hunting.

A PERPETUAL BENEDICTION.

New York Globe.
It will go well with America as long as Lincoln is sincerely revered. However alarming existing evils may seem we need not despair of the essential truthfulness of our people while they turn their faces to such an ideal of sweet humanity. The best fruit American democracy has yet produced, his memory is a perpetual benediction, and we need not be ashamed of the sentiment which prompts the bringing together the stones and sticks with which his life was associated, and which speaks to the imagination of the homeliness and the greatness of his life.

LET IN THE FRESH AIR.

New Orleans Picayune.
Fresh air, no matter how cold, if it be dry and breezy, is a good thing and should be made use of as often as possible for ventilation and the purification of our houses.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS.

Baltimore News.
There are visionaries dreaming of the great equality of Socialism who never give a dollar to feed and clothe the poor when the rigors of winter are on.

JUST FOR FUN.

If a metric system will insure full weight of ice in summer and of coal in winter it should have many advocates.—Washington Evening Star.

"So you turned down that impecunious nobleman?" interrogated the inquisitive girl friend. "Was he shy when he proposed?" "Yes, shy about two millions," replied the daughter of the multimillionaire brewer.—Chicago Daily News.

Newberry—Is Sanford of an optimistic temperament?
Baldwin—I should say he is. I have known him to go into a restaurant without a cent in his pocket, order a dozen oysters, and feel satisfied that he could pay his bill with a pearl—Life.

Perkins—And so you claim that the thoughts of a husband and wife become identical?
Peck—Certainly. Now, my wife is sitting up waiting for me and she knows just what she is going to say to me—and so do I.—Columbus Dispatch.

Collector—Are you going to pay this bill within the next few days, or never?
Debtor—Well, it's mighty nice of you to give me my choice, old man, I'll make it never.—Cleveland Leader.

Always Wound up, Yet Runs Down.

It is said that one of District Attorney Jerome's diversions is making clocks. We suspect that this inference is derived from the fact that he is ever on the watch.—New York Commercial.

From the Haze to the Fog.

The cadet who graduates and goes to sea may be said to jump from the haze into the fog, rather than from the frying-pan into the fire.—Baltimore American.

Knew All About It.

"What do you understand by a cat-in-the-hat?" the new teacher of No. 2 asked Willy Strav. The answer came promptly. "It's the fire engine down at Daleville Corners," he said, in breathless haste to impart his knowledge. "But it looks some, and it isn't half so good looking as the Tarrant, either. You just wait till parade day and you'll see, teacher!"—Youth's Companion.

Golf and Matrimony.

As an illustration of the enthusiasm with which golf is pursued by its votaries, the following anecdote is told of a well-known Scotch author and a young friend of his: The two had spent the whole day on the links, and had had some close and exciting matches. As they left for home the elder man remarked:

"Do you think ye could play again to-morrow, laddie?"

"Well," answered the youth, "I was to be married to-morrow, but I can put it off."—Harper's Weekly.

"Do you think that spiritualistic medium was really controlled," by the eminent financier you wished to consult?"

"Yes I recognized his methods. She insisted on getting the money first and making me take all the chances."—Washington Star.

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