

ticularly significant this year, because as it commenced with reports of the conflict in eastern Asia still ringing in the ears of mankind, so it is about to close with the world in breathless suspense as to what the next moment will bring. The whole year has a history the pages of which are stained with bloodshed incident to war and riots. Every continent has had its share, and as the sun of the century is nearing the horizon its last rays are falling on massacres in Armenia, war in Abyssinia, rebellion in Cuba and in other places, and the greatest powers in the world ready for a work of destruction.

That this condition exists in the world, notwithstanding the efforts of peace societies and the phenomenal progress of civilization, and that it was predicted as one of the signs of the last times is a testimony to the inspiration of the Prophet who told it over half a century ago.

The present condition of the world is to the Saints a reminder that they should be faithful in their mission. "I tell you of these things," are the Prophet's words, "because of your prayers; wherefore treasure up wisdom in your bosoms." His work was one of peace. He pointed out the road to a universal brotherhood, through faith in God the eternal Father and faithfulness to the Church of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

NEW ORLEANS'S BAD FIX.

According to the New Orleans Item, Louisiana's metropolis is in sore straits for honest men to manipulate its affairs; and the state for an executive against whom serious criminal charges cannot be truthfully brought. The Item says there is in that place an "unholy alliance between the chief executive of the state and a 'gang' of robbers, who have for the past few years, like the 'pirates of Lafitte,' been despoiling the metropolitan city of the state, and bartering and trading its franchises and property for their own enrichment and aggrandizement." The Item claims to have inaugurated a movement for the punishment of dishonest officials, and by this procedure "a relentless warfare has been carried to its legitimate fruits, when behind the bars today we have not less than four of the councilmen who were placed in charge of the city's affairs, and who have violated their trust." It says there are others laboring under indictment and stained with charges preferred by a grand jury, and who still continue to assert their power, and in its exercise, to trade upon the city's rights, burdening it with obligations which will not be discharged and extinguished until decades have passed—and these obligations, incurred in order that these pretended representatives of the people might enrich themselves at the public expense;" and adds that the governor is now keeping out of prison "councilmen tried, convicted and sentenced, and the judgment and sentence affirmed by the highest court of the state," to suit his own purposes, these being of a political character.

If half the Item's charges against state and municipal officials in the Crescent city are true, New Orleans

must be given the palm for about the most corrupt government which has afflicted any American municipality, so far as the public records relate. One contemporary of a late date contains several pages of specific accusations, some of them of an astounding character; and in such form that if they are not susceptible of proof there can be no possibility of justification in proceedings for libel. These are made with such direction as to leave a deep impression on the minds of the reader, and to those outside of Louisiana at least lead to a feeling of relief for the reason that, whatever crookedness may have crept into municipal government, it has not been so awful as in the great city near the mouth of the "father of waters," and which is in greater need of deliverance from oppression than it ever was when under control of a military commandant. If our New Orleans contemporary makes an approximately fair statement of the situation, the taxpayers must be yearning for the shades of Ben Butler to soothe them with the dews of an honest though it be a stern administration of the city's affairs.

PROBATE JUDGES IN UTAH.

"One interested" submits the following inquiry to the NEWS:

Under the State government, when inaugurated, will probate judges continue to perform duties in probate courts, as at present?

If not, will the probate judges go out of office, and the three selectmen perform the duties of county courts without the probate judges?

Taking the apparent intention of the framers of the Constitution, it would seem that if Utah is admitted before January 13, 1896, the terms of probate judges, as such, will be peremptorily ended on that date by the express language of the Constitution. If the proclamation is delayed after the second Monday in January, another condition of affairs would result. Assuming that the President's proclamation will come on January 4th, as now appears likely, the reply to the first question probably is that probate judges cease to perform duties in probate courts on and after January 13, 1896.

As to the other interrogation, if the terms of such judges expire on the date named, it does not seem reasonable that they shall continue, after that time, to preside at the sessions of the county court by virtue of holding an office which has ceased to exist. There is a question, however, as to this cessation, in its effect on membership in the county court, so far as present incumbents of the office are concerned. The law constitutes the probate judges such members; and while the Constitution abolishes the probate jurisdiction in such officers, those who are in the office may be held to still occupy official place as members of county courts, for the transaction of county business. In effect, the law took persons who had been named as probate judges and installed them as members of county courts; and it may be that notwithstanding the abolition of the probate judgeship as an office, the individuals who held it can retain their

standing as county court members till their term expires by law. This interpretation would constitute present probate judges members of county courts, after their probate judgeship ceased, for an indefinite period—the term is two years and until the qualification of a successor—unless the Legislature provides otherwise, which it probably will do at its first session. Upon this statement of the situation, therefore, we will not venture any suggestion in reply to the second interrogation further than that while the judges named cease to act in all matters of probate, it is possible they will continue as county court members.

It has been urged that the Constitution provides in one section for a change—abolishing the office of probate judge—and negative it in another section—continuing in office those now in position under Territorial laws till the expiration of their terms; consequently the Constitution is inoperative as to the particular point of conflict. But the higher courts are not in the habit of declaring inoperative any instrument when its parts can be made to harmonize; and as there is a way to harmony in the various Constitutional sections it is quite probable the courts will follow it if the question reaches them.

The Constitution provides that all laws of the Territory now in force, not repugnant to the Constitution, shall remain until changed in due form; it also provides that all officers shall continue to hold such positions until superseded under the Constitution. It further directs that all matters in the probate courts shall pass into the jurisdiction of the district courts, "upon the expiration of the term of office of the probate judge, on the second Monday in January, 1896," and until the expiration of their term probate judges shall perform the duties required by Territorial laws. The two latter features are directed specially to strictly probate business, and seem to conclusively end the term of probate judges as such on January 13, 1896, if the Constitution is then in force by reason of Utah being a State. As to the formation of county courts it is a different situation, and the higher courts may have to settle any question unless the Legislature deals with the issue at such an early date as to leave matters involved not worth while litigating over.

WHERE THERE ARE MORE POOR.

The people of Utah can very properly congratulate themselves on being better provided for at the opening of the winter of 1895-6 than they were a year ago. There may be some people poorer than in 1894, and not many richer; but along the entire line there is less demand for chargeable assistance, thus showing the people to be in an improved condition generally. The same fortunate advance has not been made all over the country, however, as may be learned from a statement in the Chicago Record concerning the poor in that city. It says that in 1894 the county agent relieved 36,500 families, or 219,000 persons. Thus far this year 40,000 families have been relieved, and by the end of the year the number is