

way and leave for shore when prompted to do so, swimming for miles. They will pass from one ship to another without the least regard for rules and regulations. How can they be quarantined?

The readers of the NEWS will remember that a couple of years ago a man in whom they have every reason to place the greatest confidence publicly announced that visitations were to come upon the earth, not to cease until that which has been recorded in sacred writ shall have been fulfilled. Events since then have amply proved that the announcement was dictated by a power above that commonly possessed by men and women. Events still future may furnish even more striking illustrations of this. At all events, blessed is he who is not carried away with the maelstrom of iniquity, but who is planted on the rock, watching for and understanding the signs of the times.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

A London paper, discussing the probable course of political events in Europe during the year, points out the impossibility of making forecasts with any degree of certainty. There are at least three different factors to consider, all of which are beyond calculation. Accidents may happen; rulers may change their minds, and nations may be subject to those attacks of insanity which sometimes seem to lead them on toward death and destruction.

It is therefore quite possible that things may move on as they are now, but it is also possible that great changes are imminent. Any day something might happen in France by which the attitude of the republic would be entirely changed. Another eruption in Constantinople might make intervention unavoidable. A re-arrangement of the European alliances might take place, perhaps as a result of the Spanish situation. The famine and plague in India may possibly lead to a military rising there which would tax to the utmost the power of Great Britain, or new inventions of engines of war might render the European armies practically useless, until at an enormous expense they all had been supplied with the new weapons.

It is further pointed out that there are six persons in Europe—the three emperors, the sultan and the French president—whose sudden death would result in great changes in the present situation. But even if they all are being spared, their decisions and actions are incalculable. No one can say what the sultan, or the German emperor, or the Russian czar, is likely to do next. In a moment any one of them would be in a position to overthrow the best laid plans, should their interests seem to require it. And finally, nations are governed by circumstances, much as individuals are. In times of excitement, sound reason often fails to obtain a hearing. Spain might yet demand to be led against the United States. Emperor William might be prevailed upon to set the triple alliance in motion, but more likely than any other contingency, the Mohammedan millions in

Asia might be seized by one of those paroxysms of fanaticism for which diplomats cannot account. What they, under the influence of such an attack, would do is not easy to foretell, nor what the result would be.

It has often been observed that the peace of the world rests upon such trembling foundations that the slightest breeze may injure the entire structure. That an era of peace will come is sure, but the foundations must be relaid in justice to all. There is much inflammable material in the building, that cannot stand the test of the fire. That will have to be destroyed and then all things will be made new.

A CONDITION OF DISTRESS.

The severe cold spell that now holds the greater part of the country in its grasp has brought to public notice the distressed conditions of many thousands of people in the populous centers. In these places, notably in Chicago and New York, charitable societies and public officials are seeking to ameliorate the suffering, not only from the inclement weather, but from the pangs of hunger. If it were only for the few days the cold spell will last that measures of relief are necessary, there would not be much to worry over in the situation, for the means adopted probably would be equal to the emergency. But the fact that in furnishing relief to those whose sufferings were intensified by the cold, there were found to be so many people actually in a condition of starvation, reveals a painful condition that existed independent of the present stress of weather, and tells a tale of woe and death in this country that is appalling to contemplate.

This suffering of the poor is not confined to even the great cities. It has illustration throughout almost every state in the Union. Here in the Rocky Mountain states and territories there is much less of it than elsewhere, yet some is known here. But in all other sections of the country it is a serious phase of the present situation. The appeals for the poor that are made in every state in the Union, and are named in the local papers but seldom find their way to the country at large, are many and urgent. And taken in the aggregate they present a deplorable picture. In some instances there are local causes, and in others the general business condition of the country contributes to the result, which in all the cases is about the same. Now the cold weather brings a cry for help in some localities, while in others it is a different condition. In Louisiana, for instance, it is the drouth, and the New Orleans States of the 20th Inst. joins with its contemporaries in an appeal for the suffering in an article which begins as follows:

A terrible calamity has befallen a large and rich portion of our state. One of the most fearful drouths that ever afflicted the land last summer visited a number of the fairest parishes in Louisiana, and ruin and desolation mark its trail. The crops were blasted; the foliage of the forests was withered up and even the wild game destroyed or driven off; the water courses were dried up; every green

and living thing was consumed as by a blasting fire. Human life alone was spared, and that to suffer and starve or find help in the charity of those who escaped the terrible visitation.

The States calls on the people to think of the men, willing to do any work, who are standing nerveless, helpless in the midst of their misfortunes, with neither bread nor meat to eat; to think of the women sitting with bowed heads while their little ones weep at their feet and beg for the bread that is not there to give them; to remember that this condition is not due to wilful indolence of the people who are sufferers, that the men are intelligent, energetic citizens who honestly strive to be thrifty, that the women are ladies, cultivated and refined, that the children are those who are to succeed to the government. And thinking of and remembering these things, that those who have escaped calamity open their hearts and their purse strings for the relief of their fellow beings.

Whether it be in New York, or Illinois, or Wisconsin, or Louisiana, the burden of the appeal is about the same—aid for worthy poor who are willing to help themselves if they could find a way to earn the food and clothing they need. And listening to this cry for relief, and noting at the same time the extravagance and the oppression that characterize a very large proportion of those who have money at their command, it is no wonder that a question arises as to what the nation is drifting to ere a change can be wrought. The picture presents a very large element of selfishness, of gratification of passion, of reckless disregard for the brotherhood of mankind, in the system that is being followed and that maintains a state of human slavery which no generosity of the kind and charitable people of the land seems to be able to overcome. The present tendency of these conditions is to find its end in wholesale upheaval and calamity, unless a check comes very soon. Yet in the statesmanship of the land there appears no real widespread interest in calling a halt; in the growth of man's civilization there is offered no panacea for the ills that afflict. The only hope is that a Divine Providence will interfere and readjust matters upon an equitable basis—for which course the requirements of the near future seem to be as urgent as any that have existed in the world's history.

"THE EAGLET."

In the State school for the deaf, dumb and blind at Ogden there is issued a highly creditable periodical, the Desert Eagle, published by the pupils of the school and under the direction of Prof. Metcalf, whose successful administration as principal of the school merits the commendation of all. Besides this chief journal of the school we received today another publication from the State institution. It is called The Eaglet, and is published by deaf mute pupils independently. Its editor-in-chief is a sixteen-year old boy, John H. Clark; the rest of the management consists of Lillie Swift, associate editor; Charles Martin, Matilda Lund, Charles