

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Much interest has been created among the Saints by an announcement made last Sunday, June 24th, at a large meeting held in the Brigham City Tabernacle, by President Woodruff. It was to the effect that the angels who had been designated and set apart to execute the judgments of God upon the nations had already left the temples in heaven and had come down to the earth to perform their work, which would continue from this time onward until the coming of Christ.

This is a statement which affects the whole world, although it may at present create but little interest beyond the pale of the Church of which President Woodruff is the earthly head. It is, however, of force to the full extent of its application. If those who doubt the inspiration of the sweeping announcement will take the trouble to watch they will be in a position to judge whether or not the future shall furnish evidences of its having been made by prophetic or by merely human power. The sustaining proofs will come in the form of conditions which will be appalling because of their destructive forces. They have been predicted by men divinely called and appointed in ancient and modern times; and more especially by the Prophet Joseph Smith, the head of the latter-day dispensation; also by his cotemporaries in that connection and those who have outlived and succeeded him.

These conditions are of two distinct classes—elemental disturbances, and uprisings, and commotions among the hosts of men. Under the former are earthquakes, cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, great noises and groanings in the bowels of the earth, terrible destruction upon the rivers and the oceans; tidal waves which will rush inland and submerge great tracts and sweep every living thing from the face thereof; unprecedented hailstorms, finally reaching one such of sufficient dimensions and overwhelming force, being also out of season, to do incalculable damage to the crops of the earth. Peculiar and incurable diseases will make their appearance, and scourges will depopulate immense sections of the globe. The thunders will utter their voices with deafening roar that will terrify the people, while blinding lightning will streak with unparalleled vividness athwart the sky.

Among the nations there will be great perplexity. Crowned heads will tremble and thrones will totter. There will be internal popular dissensions, class against class; secret combinations, bound together by oaths involving conditions and penalties, will abound. These will aim at the very existence of organized society and will exhaust the powers of the most stable governments to keep them in check. The lives of prominent men in the political and social departments will be in jeopardy, because of the onward flow of the tide of social disorganization. Nation will rise against nation and

kingdom against kingdom," and war, which exists already in its incipient stages, will burst forth with tremendous fury and deluge the nations with blood, and, because of the universal demonstration that man cannot govern himself without the aid of the Almighty, "fear shall come upon all people." Finally there will appear the great and more immediate precursory signs of the coming of the Lord, as foretold by the Prophets—the sun will be hidden, the moon will have the appearance of being bathed in blood, and the stars will have the semblance of falling from their places in the heavens, while the earth will reel as if shaken from center to circumference by a mighty impulse.

We are in the opening stages of these phenomenal features of the great latter-day drama, indicating that this is the most important epoch of the history of our globe. The position of those who have claim upon divine protection in the midst of overwhelming disaster is defined in the following words of the Redeemer: "And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man."

THE PULLMAN WAR.

Nothing illustrates better the power and compactness of consolidated labor than the war now waged on the Pullman company. Hardly had the order been issued to boycott that company on account of its refusal to pay higher wages, before the effects of the command were felt all over the continent. Roads are tied up unless they refuse to carry Pullman sleepers and traffic is impeded in various ways. It has come to this that an employer is no longer dealing exclusively with his employees but with a gigantic organization of which his own workmen are but a small part. And as there are innumerable such and the whole machinery is apt to be set in motion whenever one of them has a grievance, a condition of strikes and boycotts bids fair to become permanent, since the chances are that one set of laborers or another will always have something to complain of.

The avowed purpose of the opposition leaders in the Pullman fight is to bankrupt the company, unless the demands are acceded to. The manager of the company claims that they have for some time been running the works at a loss in order to keep their workmen employed. If this claim is founded on facts it seems that the company is placed in a position where ruin is inevitable. It is only a matter of choice between Scylla and Charybdis. To resume work at the demanded wages means bankruptcy in the end, since it is not possible to carry on any enterprise indefinitely at a loss; and the penalty of refusing to work is also financial ruin. What can an employer under such circumstances do?

Perhaps the railway union is power-

ful enough to carry out its threat and perhaps not. But if it is, the closing of the works where thousands in years past have found profitable employment must necessarily result in sufferings to the workmen too. The coal strike is calculated to have cost the laborers over ten millions dollars in wages alone. The victories won by strikes are expensive and the question is whether they are worth the price paid for them.

One thing is sure, peace and good will among men is necessary to material prosperity. Contention and strife in the industrial arena, no less than on the battlefields, are conducive to loss and ruin to all parties engaged therein. In the interest of the working classes as well as of the whole country, a policy of peace must be advocated. Differences will arise between representatives of different interests, and it is only too true that labor is not always given the consideration its importance can justly claim. But all such differences can be settled in an amicable way, provided there is a willingness on both sides to show fairness. Arbitration, not war, ought to be the remedy in an age of civilization. The condition that now prevails, labor and capital standing against each other as two antagonists, armed to the teeth, and each seeking to inflict a fatal wound on the other, is a most abnormal one. It can result in no good. Is there any reason why employer and employe should not be true friends, each seeking to promote as far as possible the interest of the other? In so doing all would be well satisfied, and the earth would by and by be entering into another golden age.

MODERN JERUSALEM.

A recent report from the British consul at Jerusalem gives interesting details respecting the present condition and the rapid growth of the holy city, its modern suburbs and public improvements, as well as its industries and trade. One novel enterprise that has lately been commenced is the collection of the bitumen which rises to the surface and floats about on the Dead Sea. Two sailing boats were taken by train from Jaffa to Jerusalem, and then conveyed on carts to the Jordan, where they were floated down the river to the Dead Sea, and they are now engaged in picking up the bitumen, which is in much request in Europe. The consul thinks it would be advantageous to trade with the island districts if a steam launch and several lighters were placed on the Dead Sea to ferry across the produce of Moab, which is a country rich in cereals, fruit and cattle. At present it is conveyed by caravans round the north or south end of the Dead Sea, entailing a journey of four to five days.

There also seems to be what in western vernacular would be almost considered a "boom" in Jerusalem real estate. On the western side of the city particularly, houses have increased rapidly within the last few years, and in this new suburb, formerly given up to fields and vineyards, there is keen competition for every piece of available land by pri-