

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY.

It is not inappropriate at this time to call the attention of the Latter-day Saints to the well known and most remarkable prediction given through Joseph the Prophet concerning the disturbances to be expected before the consummation of the present era. The prediction referred to is that contained in the 87th section, Doctrine and Covenants. The Seer first depicts the awful convulsion of this nation, terminating in the "death and misery of many souls." But this war was only the beginning of a series of disasters of a similar kind, for "the days will come," he says, "that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at that place." Thus far the words of prophecy relating to this subject are perfectly clear. Viewing them in the light of history, we can not fail to perceive their literal fulfilment in every particular; nor can it be denied that the great Seer of this age, for clearness of prophetic vision and perception of details of history to him still future, ranks among the foremost Prophets sent to man by the Almighty.

But of the latter part of this prediction there is evidently something which is not yet completely fulfilled. We read:

And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war. And it shall come to pass also, that the remnant who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceeding angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.

Now, if part of this prophecy has had its fulfilment in the War of the Rebellion, it is almost universally understood that there are other parts of the prediction still to come to pass. There is a series of events that are distinguished from that war as something which will take place "after many days." It is true, the slaves as well as their masters were marshalled and disciplined for war; but there is evidently something more, even of that, to expect. In this connection, and in view of the recent marshalling and disciplining of an army calling itself "industrial," an observant and studious friend ventures the suggestion that the term "slaves," although primarily applying to the African race in the South, may admit, like so many other prophetic expressions, of a metaphorical use; why may it not, in short, find application, in a metaphorical sense, to the laboring classes? Our friend argues: The appropriateness of such metaphor cannot be questioned when it is remembered that the working men themselves in their controversy with their so-called "oppressors" often represent their condition as "white slavery" and themselves as "slaves." Terms like these have become almost a universal battle cry.

Without assuming the correctness of this interpretation, the prophetic passage under consideration may safely be called a forecast of impending troubles in which the labor agitation may and doubtless will play an im-

portant part, followed by or perhaps contemporaneous with agitations among the Indians, of a serious nature. But this is not all. For to the calamities of internal contention among the nations of the earth shall be added those of famine, plague and earthquakes, and thunder and storms, until the nations shall feel the chastening hand of the Almighty. And all this is, according to prophecy, in consequence of the innocent blood that has flowed on earth, and which, like that of Abel of old, is crying to the Lord of Sabaoth for vengeance.

The present movements among the industrial classes of the civilized nations point to a speedy fulfilment of many of the predictions of Joseph the Prophet. Even the world now can see danger ahead. Master Workman Sovereign says the Coxey agitation is the foreboding of a revolution, and he compares it to the insurrection of John Brown previous to the Rebellion, an opinion which is shared by others. Fear for what may soon transpire has seized many a brave heart. In connection with this subject it is well worth noticing that the question has been sprung to call representatives of the various labor organizations together in a general conference for the purpose of discussing the practicability of consolidating the various interests, so as to enable them to present a solid front not only against employers, but also against legislators all over the country. Surely these portentous events would seem to be leading to the remaining great occurrences which were foretold by the Seer more than half a century ago.

To the Saints these things are most significant. The Saints shall be the only people not at war one with another. Among them the conditions of the world do not prevail and cannot prevail as long as they are adhering to the commandments of God. Their mission is one of peace and their whole interest is centered in the salvation of mankind. They are commanded to be faithful in this work while destruction is sweeping the earth. "Wherefore stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold it cometh quickly, saith the Lord." And in as much as they will adhere to this with all their hearts, they shall certainly be preserved in times of peril and obtain final victory, to the honor and glory of the great Captain of their salvation. And in the meantime they will give heed to the sure word of prophecy as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawns and the day-stars arise.

ELDERS EXPELLED FROM PRUSSIA.

The latest issue of the *Millennial Star* which has come to hand—the number for April 9—contains extracts from letters written by President J. H. Stocker and Elder Vetterli of the Swiss and German mission regarding the expulsion of two of our missionaries from the kingdom of Prussia. Some days ago the NEWS noted an item in

an exchange wherein the statement was made that North Germany had recently imposed the penalty of banishment upon Latter-day Saint Elders. At the time we observed that, according to information received, such action had been taken by the authorities in Lorraine, the province won by the German empire from the French; but as no news of like character had come from Prussia we thought it probable that a geographical mistake had been made in the name of the country which had imposed the edict. It now appears that our cotemporary was right; it was the Silesian province of Prussia that did the expelling. From the letters above referred to the following extract is taken:

There is quite an uproar at Sorau, Prussia, at present. Elders Vetterli and Billeter have been banished from the kingdom and their banishment placed on the passports. Brother Vetterli was bidding the Saints farewell in the branch and returned on the evening of March 21. A surprise awaited him in the shape of an invitation to go before the police, and a newspaper announcement that the "Mormon Elders" had been banished from Prussia. The following day they went to the court house, where they were informed of their banishment and that they would have to leave within eight days. They pleaded their cause, but without avail. They spoke of Elder Weiler, who was unable to speak the language, but were told to take him along or banishment would follow. The order for banishment came from Frankfurt on the Oder. It was indeed a surprise to the Elders, not only to be banished, but to find that the priests had gained their object in expelling them; and while it will be hard on the Saints they feel that the Lord will turn everything into good. Elder Weiler has remained temporarily at Sorau, but he may also be banished.

It was at Sorau that the late Elder David Hoagland Cannon passed his last days on earth; it was there he died. But the work which he was instrumental in beginning in that vicinity did not stop with him. An Elder who lately returned from the Swiss and German mission and who had excellent opportunities of information, made the statement that in this very branch of Sorau there had been more accessions to the Church than in any other branch of the mission, if not more, indeed, than in any other branch in Europe. In view of this condition, it is easy to understand the uproar of the opposition and the expulsion of the Elders. The adversary is not asleep, and he always acts in this way when the power of light seems to be preparing to make great headway.

MEXICAN COLONIZATION.

Periodically there is an agitation by the newspapers of the country regarding a proposed exodus of the Mormons from the United States to Mexico. This has occurred so frequently that it might be thought no one would be deceived by the statements made, for the Mormons are yet living in these valleys, with no indications or intention of moving. The agitations referred to are generally chargeable to interested parties in Mexico, who have secured land grants on condition that they bring in a certain number of colonists,