

him and the place it illuminates. As he draws near, however, he will gradually come within its range and finally see clearly the surrounding objects. Prophecies in the inspired word will thus guide the one who gives heed to them in the right direction, and the nearer the time comes for their fulfillment, the better they will be understood, but not until their final completion can all the details be discerned, and even then only by those who possess the spirit of prophecy. This arrangement is by God, for prophecy is given not to help frail man to demonstrate his sagacity over his fellow-men, but to declare the wisdom and the power of the Almighty and thus lay a firmer foundation for faith in Him.

FIGURES ON LIFE-SAVING.

A department of the public service that receives a great deal of credit for the work it does, but which deserves all the credit it gets, is the life-saving service, whose operations extend along our coasts and are most in demand when mankind generally are disposed to seek shelter and protection. From the lately issued annual report of the superintendent of this important branch may be presented in a single statement the eloquent story of the heroic work of his department. During the year from July 1, 1894, to June 30, 1895, assistance was sent from life-saving stations to vessels in distress on which were 5,402 persons, and of this large number of human souls all but twenty were rescued. It will not do to claim that all these 5,382 persons would have been lost had it not been for the life-saving service, but it is very certain that a great many of them would have perished. Discussion of what might have been done, is, however, quite needless in view of what actually was done; and the latter record is brilliant enough to justify the high esteem in which the service generally is held.

"PREHISTORIC" ART.

One of the characteristics of the present age is the discovery of evidences of ancient civilizations that must have existed in the very infancy of mankind on this earth. The wonderful triumphs of archeology in Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Greece, have been followed by, if possible, still more startling finds on the American continent, and as the researches are being carried on in different parts of the earth, the evidences multiply in favor of the conclusion that civilization is about as old as mankind itself.

Specimens of so-called prehistoric art generally give the impression that the civilization they represent was crude, but as investigation continues it becomes clearer that this idea must be modified. The Literary Digest reproduces from *La Nature* some illustrations of objects of art recently unearthed in France, which prove much skill and artistic power. They are fragments of ivory statuettes, representing human figures, and the author in *La Nature* does not hesitate to say they recall in their vigor and expression of touch the unfinished

statues of Michael Angelo, for instance, the *Captive* at the Louvre. They were carved, it is thought, in the remote period of time when glaciers covered a great part of the surface of France and immense herds of animals furnished man with food and clothing and material for the expression of his artistic feeling.

The most interesting of these ancient relics is the head of a woman, as showing the general characteristics of the human race in those remote ages. The length of the nose is extreme and, on the contrary, the part of the face comprised between the nose and the extremity of the chin is very diminutive. The cheeks are protuberant, the visage flattened, the nose retreating, as with the Mongols. But very noticeable is the point at the chin, formed by the meeting of two straight lines starting from the lobes of the ears. Add to this, a round, brachycephalous head and swelling in the temporal region, and by these two characteristics—the angular chin and the protuberant temples—the head recalls those of the modern Basques.

The head-dress of the woman is arranged in parallel strips, recalling distinctly that of the ancient Egyptians.

It is extremely difficult to form a just idea of the magnitude of the civilizations that have been consigned to oblivion by the physical or social revolutions the earth has undergone, if we were to judge only by the monuments so far brought to light. But there is room for the supposition that they were vastly more advanced than generally is supposed. Speaking on this subject the *San Francisco Chronicle* asks:

What would there be left of San Francisco, proud mistress of the western sea, were she abandoned to thousands of years of desolation, and a new race, ignorant of her past, to chance upon her forgotten site, and endeavor to determine her history, and to trace the character and achievements of her inhabitants? Brick and mortar would have crumbled into dust, nine-tenths of the structures built of wood and other perishable materials would have returned to the soil which gave them birth, great iron girders and columns, railways and locomotives, and all the ponderous machinery that now shapes and fashions and furnishes motive power for the triumph of the engineer's skill would have vanished, leaving but a rusty stain upon the earth. What would there be, beyond a few thousand tons of out stone, here and there a few pillars of chaste design, but belonging to different and contradictory styles of architecture, here and there a massive wall, and small pieces of statuary, the treasures of private residences, which the elements might spare, to record the history of San Francisco's greatness as a commercial port, and her importance as a center of art and of learning, and as a city where men have thought great thoughts, consummated important inventions, painted beautiful pictures, written down brilliant ideas, produced dramas, listened to beautiful singers, and sent out eloquent statesmen who have thrilled a nation with their oratory? Even the habits of our people, their mode of domestic life, their degree of advancement in intellectual culture, the fashions of their dress would be impossible to determine. Our pictures would have mouldered away. There is not a book that was ever printed on paper that could survive a thousand years of neglect. Newspapers, presses, magazines, typewriters, bicycles would be gone. Our poems and the records of

cotemporary literature would determine our place in the world's history.

The probability is that the ancients were well aware of the uncertainty of the life even of nations. They lived close to the period in the earth's history when the traditions of great catclysms were fresh in the memory of the inhabitants of the earth, and they probably were desirous of leaving some few evidences of their existence to record on imperishable material. It does not follow, however, that these were the only means they had of communicating with each other or with posterity. It is highly probable that their communities were prosperous and advanced in arts and industries far beyond the most bold suppositions of modern scientists.

Science and religion are equally interested in this subject, for if the former demonstrates that civilization dates back to the very first appearance of man on earth, the only satisfactory explanation of this fact is furnished by the latter, that man from the first was guided by the unerring instructions of his eternal Father.

AN OLD-TIME SPECIMEN.

The NEWS is in receipt of a communication from a responsible correspondent in Butte, Montana, narrating an incident that is deserving of mention by reason of the example and the warning it conveys. We suppress the names, but they are at hand and the facts stated can be proven if necessary. On Nov. 3, at a restaurant in that city, a man began to talk in very hard terms about the Mormons and their evil ways. When his language became too offensive, a member of the Church, who was in the room, put his newspaper away and said to the slanderer, "I profess to belong to that Church myself. Please give me your name, and I shall inquire into your troubles, and, since there is a law that Church members must right their wrongs, I can assure you that there is a way for you to get redress." The large number of listeners became interested, and the supposed wrong-sufferer had to own up. He appeared surprised, and very reluctantly gave his name. His complaint was that the Mormons would not give him work because he was not of their faith; also that a Mormon had cheated him out of \$150; and furthermore that he was sick in a Mormon hotel in an Idaho town, and was overcharged for little services. His grievances were noted down, and next day he was shown a letter of inquiry to a presiding Mormon authority in the town where he said he had been imposed upon. But he did not wait for any answer to come; he left Butte next day, and has not shown up since. The answer, which was promptly received, was circulated among some of the men who heard the accusations against the Mormons; several expressed their contempt for the falsifier, and all were surprised and pleased at the prompt and complete reply that was made. This reply was to the effect that at the hotel named there had never been a guest of the name given, nor had there been any sick man there at all during more than a year past. In the