

[For the DESERET NEWS.]

# INFIDELITY.

BY CHARLES W. STAXNER.

**CHAPTER X.—Why Biblical Prophecies should be credited, and their doctrines examined. Infidel historians record the fulfillment of prophecy. Unbelievers struck with its minuteness.**

If the prophecies contained in the Scriptures were simply there recorded as predictions not yet fulfilled in any degree, it would even then be our duty as sensible men and women to abstain from denouncing them, until their failure in time or manner of fulfillment should become plain to the observer, but when, as in the cases mentioned, a considerable part of Scriptural prophecy has already been fulfilled, and become a matter of history, recorded not only by admirers of the Bible, both Jews and Christians, but by some who scorned to acknowledge revelation in any form, it becomes our positive duty, no matter what may be our prejudices, to investigate the doctrines taught by those men who announced and recorded the prophecies in question.

If these predictions were vague and ambiguous, like those of the ancient Delphic oracle, admitting of various interpretations, they might indeed be regarded as uncertain; but when we consider that not only the events themselves have been predicted, with the time of their fulfillment relatively stated, but in some instances, the very details of their occurrence, and the effects which would be produced on the surrounding peoples, have been minutely described and literally come to pass, we must acknowledge that those prophets were in possession of a gift, for which we cannot account, by any science known even in this the age of scientific excellence. If any one of those men had predicted falsely in a single particular, how quickly would skeptics, on this ground alone, have pronounced him a fraud, and perhaps justly too. But when great improbabilities are predicted and specific particulars given, with time of fulfillment, and immediate results, and these things literally come to pass notwithstanding the previous improbability of their occurrence, it is useless for us to say the authors of such predictions were not prophets and seers, but only "poets writing for amusement," neither can we justly call them impostors, nor can the statement of Mr. Pain be correct, when he says that they were probably writing in figures about events that were transpiring around them; for the principal matters on which they prophesied, together with the conditions referred to in their predictions, were not brought about in most instances till after the death of the prophets themselves. The historical record of the fulfillment of prophecies found in the Scriptures has not been left to friends alone by any means, but haters of religion have done much to furnish proof of the Divine origin of those declarations; and in some instances they, infidel writers, were so struck by the correctness and minute precision of the fulfillment, that they sought to destroy its force, by declaring the prophecies must have been written after the events had transpired.

Porphyry, a cordial hater of the Christian religion, made that statement nearly 1,600 years ago, but he did not account before he died, for the prophecies which have been fulfilled during the hundreds of years since his death; at all events this statement cannot be made now, for the Scriptures, according to Gibbon, another unbeliever, were gathered from the villages of Judea by an Egyptian king who lived 800 years before the Savior was crucified; hence the Old Testament is of sufficient antiquity to place its existence beyond question; with regards to its prophecies, and their fulfillment during the last 2,100 years. The fact is we would have to credit impossibilities and nonsense, besides denying the most palpable facts, in order to evade belief in the divine authority of the Scriptural prophets. Heavenly inspiration is breathed in their utterances and righteousness is written upon their lives, why then should we doubt them?

## A Quickened Conscience.

An elderly gentleman of benign appearance has of late been distributing religious tracts in the street cars, and yesterday at least one case of quickened conscience was brought to public notice. A young man entered the car, paid his nickel, and was handed a tract, headed, "Are you a Sinner?" He turned pale at once, read a few lines, and suddenly called out:

"Yes, I am! I put a bad nickel in the fare-box, but now I'll begin a new life by being honest. Here, driver, change this half-dollar and I'll pay my fare over again!"

The change was given him and he paid, but after riding a block or so he left the car to see a man on the walk. The passengers thought it a wonderful case, and were deeply interested, when the driver suddenly called out:

"Hang me, if this 'ere half-dollar isn't bogus!"

So it was.—*Detroit Free Press.*

## SHORT AND SHARP.

"I wish you would not give me such short weight for my money," said a customer to a grocer who had an outstanding bill against him. "And I wish you wouldn't give me such long wait for mine," replied the grocer.

Probably, at the last dreadful day, when Gabriel sounds his trumpet, if he doesn't stop once or twice between the blasts and shout, "General, General! Colonel, I say!" not more than two-fifths of the men in American cemeteries will get up.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

A noted sharper, wishing to ingratiate himself with a clergyman, said, "Parson, I should like to hear you preach more than I can tell you." "Well," responded the clergyman, "If you had been where you ought to have been, last Sunday, you would have heard me." "Where was that?" asked the sharper. "In the county jail," was the reply.

Two or three years ago the other European powers looked down on Turkey because she was so long in quelling nearly simultaneous revolts in Bulgaria, Servia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro. But as Austria, with 200,000 soldiers, has not yet been able to handle Bosnia alone, she has probably revised her former judgment of Turkey. Zach and Szapary, at all events, now know what Turkish provincial insurrections are, and so does Field Marshal Baron Philipovich.

Mr. Earnest Marchmont, of West Hill, is not a very experienced sportsman, but he set a trap, all the same, for a fox or some other animal that was decimating his hen-roosts. The next morning there was something stirring about in the trap. Mr. Marchmont got down on his knees and looked in. "It looks like a rabbit," he said, and he opened the trap. "But it doesn't smell exactly like one," he added, sadly, and when he went to the house Mrs. Marchmont made him stand in the back yard while she stopped her nose up with blue clay and undressed him with the cistern pole. "Each heart knows its own bitterness best," Mr. Marchmont said, when his tailor wondered what he wanted another fall suit already for.—*Hawkeye.*

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## MOUNTAIN WARBLER!

THERE being several hundred copies of the above Song Book remaining unsold, they can be obtained at the Deseret News Office for 25 cents per copy. W. M. WILLES. S. L. City, March 31st, 1876.

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MY Agent having just returned from an extended business trip East, and having made arrangements with one of the oldest and most reliable houses in the New England States, I am now prepared to buy in quantities, from one pound and upwards THIS SPRING'S CLIP OF



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