

the children of Sunday schools in the Deseret Sunday School Union, is the translation given in St. Matthew, sixth chapter, 9th to 13th verses. As the Bible is accessible to every family and to every child in the Church, there will be no confusion if it be remembered that the words are precisely as found in Matthew vi: 9-13.

### ZION WILL TRIUMPH.

Speaking of the assurance which the people of God had of victory if they observed the laws and covenants of the Gospel, the Prophet Isaiah made the prediction that no weapon that is formed against Zion should prosper, and every tongue that was raised in judgment against her she should condemn. The Zion here spoken of included those people who, having received the law of the Lord for their guidance, were faithful in the observance of that law, in the recognition of the authority which promulgated it, and in relying upon the principles of divine truth for their vindication.

The history of those who have become the covenant people of the Lord, in any age of the world, has verified the accuracy of the Prophet's statement. In ancient and modern times, whenever that people lived close to the Lord, watched for the instruction He imparted through channels He had appointed, and followed those instructions, even when sometimes they led to what in ordinary human judgment meant disaster, the enmity of the power of the adversary that seemed to be invoked by listening to the voice of counsel from on high always called forth the manifestations of divine omnipotence which brought triumph to those who heeded that counsel. By the unvarying persistency with which the Spirit of truth has vindicated and maintained those who relied upon it, the world has learned that God moves in a mysterious way to accomplish His purposes, and always succeeds; and those who trust Him have realized that the clouds they often feel to dread, by His overruling power burst in blessings on their heads. But in cases where His covenant children have departed from His counsel, disaster and destruction have come upon them, for their departure has been a weapon formed against Zion, hence must meet its fate.

In the latter times the Almighty has given an immutable promise to those who have become His people through obeying the ordinances and principles of His Gospel, as restored in this dispensation. He has said that Zion shall be established in these times; that no matter what may be the weaknesses and frailties of mortal beings, no matter who may give way to the spirit of apostasy and of rebelling against and rejecting the counsel of God, no matter who may seek to establish their own will above the will of the Father, yet there will be a sufficient number who will maintain inviolate their allegiance to Him, who will not bow the knee to Baal, to accomplish the triumph of Zion in latter days, and the ushering in of the Millennial reign.

In the restoration of the Gospel

in this age, the authority of the Lord was given to administer in all the temporal and spiritual ordinances of the Gospel; to organize the Church and direct the affairs thereof in all its branches; to conduct its temporal matters and its spiritual concerns; to require tithes and offerings, to contribute support to the needy, to construct Temples and other houses of worship, and to require such behavior in men's temporal conduct as makes them virtuous, upright and consistent Church members; and to confer such spiritual blessings in the way of gifts, ordinances, keys, promises and sealings as come within the purview of Gospel ordinances in this life and the life to come. For the accomplishment of all this, the Lord established officers in His Church, and a channel of communication thereto. He took it upon Himself to direct that communication, and designated the presiding authority in the Church to receive revelations and instructions for the Church, and to communicate those revelations and instructions in due form. Thus He directs the Church which He has founded. Its presiding quorum is the guiding quorum—directed from the Head.

There have been occasions in the history of the Church, especially in its earlier years, when members, some of them in high position, did not realize the full force of the principle of revelation and guidance coming through the presiding authority, and some have set themselves up as benighted—as those who might steady the ark with safety. But their failure in every instance has taught the people that those who do not recognize the order the Lord has appointed, who seek to overturn that order, or ignore or override those who have been called to the presiding authority, have undertaken the work of forming a weapon against Zion and could not prosper. The Lord has His way of conducting the affairs of His Church, and when any arise to conduct it in any other way, their strength has been only that of men, and they have failed in assaults upon the superior power.

The strength of the Church today, and the prosperity of Zion, are not in the hands of men. The Almighty is directing the work. The Saints have a warning not to put their trust in the arm of flesh, but to rely upon the Lord. And the way in which He directs His servants to lead the Church—the way they indicate, is the path of right; for theirs is the province, under Jehovah, to indicate the course to pursue, and none who hold a lesser position in any government can direct the greater and preserve order. A question for each member of the Church to decide is whether the authority of the Lord to direct will be recognized by him or her, or whether the varying and uncertain ideas of men shall be followed. The former is the rule concerning Zion, and any thing opposed thereto cannot prosper.

In all times, the members of the Church may expect trials in the struggle for the right—trials that require the exercise of intelligent faith to determine which is the proper course to pursue in the midst that sometimes seem to obscure. But there is a

never-failing voice that directs—the voice of command that comes through the Prophet of God. When the voice of the presiding authority is heeded, then each member of the Church is entitled to the light and testimony of the Spirit as to the Higher source of command; but where that voice is not heeded, then the witness of the Spirit does not come, because of the darkness that ensues upon rejecting a divine order. But for all those who aid Zion, who live pure in heart, whose walks are in righteousness and whose paths are peace, who heed the admonitions and counsel of the Shepherd of the flock comes the knowledge of their perfect accord with the divine Priesthood which on earth centers in the presiding authority of the Church of Christ, and an unwavering assurance that, by the power of the Lord, Zion will triumph and be established in latter days.

### THE CRETAN REBELLION.

On the pages of history it is apparent that some of the changing scenes in the political kaleidoscope of the world may be regarded as signs by which the people of God can judge of the progress of the kingdom of heaven among mankind. The followers of our Lord were told, for instance, that when they heard of wars and rumors of wars and of famine and pestilence, they should know that the coming of the Son of God was near, just as they knew, from the budding of fig tree, that summer is approaching. When, moreover, they saw the Roman standard planted on the sacred temple ground—the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet—this should be to them a sign to flee to a place of safety beyond Judea, for then the old dispensation was about to end and the new one was to be established.

In the same way the decay of the Roman empire was to the first Christians a sign of the establishment of the rule of antichrist in the world. They had been told—as may be inferred from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians—that the opposing power could not assume the blasphemous position to which it aspired as long as pagan Rome was supreme, but that the downfall of the empire would be followed by the revelation of the wicked one in all his mystery of iniquity. For this reason they fervently prayed to the Almighty for the pagan emperor—even for the persecuting Nero—and for the preservation of the empire. They knew that a political change would be the signal of the great apostasy and the coming of the antichrist.

In our age the signs on the political horizon are equally ominous. Everyone who believes in the authenticity of the divine word uttered through the medium of ancient and modern Seers will watch eagerly for the development of the storm that seems to be gathering at the seat of the Ottoman empire. A revolution on a small island, where disturbances are so frequent as they have been on Crete, may in itself be a comparatively insignificant matter, but if this insurrection involves the combination of Europe