

EDITORIALS.

PROBABILITIES OF THE NEAR FUTURE.

The discourse delivered in the Tabernacle yesterday afternoon was of more than usual interest to the Latter-day Saints. In the first place it was novel to listen to an Elder relating his experience while on a mission to oriental countries, and especially to hear him give details regarding the land of promise, fraught with engrossing historic interest.

Circumstances and conditions now existing carried the minds of the congregation forward to future developments of great moment, a forecast of which has been given through the medium of all the Prophets from the beginning of the world to the present. The redemption of Palestine from its present sterility by the gathering upon it of the Jews is a theme which every genuine believer in the scriptures contemplates with pleasure. This interest is intensified by the fact that the consummation of that wonderful work of the future is to constitute one of the conspicuous signs of the coming of the Lord in power and glory to assume dominion over the earth and reign with His Saints a thousand years, pending the final change to a celestial condition of this planet.

Joseph Smith stated that there were people living on the earth that would not yet be departed from this life when all these things should be fulfilled. This places the consummation of these events within the possible duration of a human existence. The declaration is necessarily indefinite, but it suggests that we are living in momentous times, when startling developments are liable to occur. Nearly sixty years have elapsed since this important fact was communicated to the Prophet, and it is reasonable to anticipate that the particular development, now evidently in its incipency, directly alluded to by Elder Tanner in the concluding portion of his discourse, is not very distant.

One of the signs of its approach is the interest taken by many classes in the land which is, according to divine promise, to be the future home of the Jews as a people, first by those who are not of that race, and next, and more particularly by influential Hebrews themselves. The fact that efforts have been made by the latter to colonize it with their brethren of late years, and that they desire to become possessed of it by purchase is significant. The formidable barriers placed in the way of the consummation of the desire to purchase are liable at any time to be swept away, the present political aspect of the eastern question being favorable to that point being reached.

The present obstacles in the way of general colonization indicates the hand of the God of Abraham. Were it made easy of access to all corners the country would doubtless be overrun by people of various nationalities, who would gain a foothold and develop its wonderful resources. It would appear to be necessary in a divine economy which purposes reserving that land for a peculiar people—the lost sheep of the House of Israel—to so order its status as to prevent its possession to any extent by those not belonging to that race whom it would be difficult to uproot when the key relating to the gathering of Israel shall be fairly turned, which will be at the appointed time and not before.

Since the announcement was made by Joseph Smith that we were living in the days of the gathering of the Jews and the coming of the Son of Man, and the Elders have proclaimed the fact to the world while preaching the preparatory Gospel, many people have become impregnated with similar views. They see the signs of the times, and declare their belief that the fig tree is beginning to bud. The leaves of the Gospel has been doing its work in that direction as well as in relation to the doctrine of the application of the saving power of Christ's atonement and system of salvation after death and other principles held by the Church that were at first repudiated but are now generally accepted.

Special prominence is given by believers in the literal coming of Christ to reign a thousand years, to the evident nearness of His advent. Many of them go so far as to produce chronological data and fix upon dates for the momentous occurrence. Of the day or hour, however, no man, so far as we know, is cognizant. But the faithful will be looking for the signs of the event and shall be watching for Him. So far as the time is concerned it may be safely set down as a fact that before Christ comes in his glory certain other conditions must arise, as they are to be precursors. Among these developments is the one specially mentioned by Elder Tanner in his discourse of yesterday afternoon—the gathering of the Jews to their own land. It will probably be their own land from a double standpoint—by divine promise made to their forefathers and by purchase from those holding it at the time the key of their dispensation of gathering is fully turned. The latter will probably be reached when the hearts of the children are more fully than now, turned to the promises made to the fathers. The fixing of dates for

the fulfillment of prophecies uttered by men who were divinely selected to make known in part the purposes of the Creator, is speculative and hazardous, and, to say the least, vague and uncertain. But it is not unprofitable to view and consider the signs of the times and seek to know, in a reasonable way, what they portend. It appears from ancient and modern revelation that the establishment of the Jews in their own land will be characterized by remarkable exhibitions of supernatural power, which will bring vividly to mind the phenomenal manifestations of that nature that characterized the past history of the peculiar people. Two prophecies are to be raised up to them, the character of their mission being defined to some extent in the 11th chapter of revelations.

It may appear, even to the believer in the actual verification of the great things that have been predicted by prophetic power concerning the latter day, that, judging from present indications, they must be yet extremely remote. Let such mark the march of events during the past ten years. This consideration will give them some idea of the possibilities of the near future, which is evidently pregnant with vents of great moment to the whole world.

A GREAT DAY.

YESTERDAY (Sunday, January 8) was the seventy fourth anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, and is always observed by the Democratic party as a red letter day in its history as well as that of the nation. In commemoration of the great event which brought Andrew Jackson to the front among his fellow citizens, large and enthusiastic meetings were held in the principal cities of the United States, that in New York being perhaps the largest and most demonstrative of any.

The event that is thus glorified is of secondary importance only to the war of the revolution, for it was the second attempt of Great Britain to subjugate her former colonies on this soil and maintain her prestige in all of the four grand divisions of the globe. It was a more conspicuous failure than the first, for the reason that she contended on the latter occasion with a people more or less acquainted with all parts of the country and thoroughly determined upon maintaining here the principles of self government, while being better organized and equipped for a struggle than were the sires of 1776. The British forces were led by Lord Packenham and the Americans as previously suggested, by "Old Hickory" Jackson. The former were completely defeated with heavy loss, Packenham himself being among the slain, while the American loss was only eight killed. Surely such an event should be held in sacred recollection.

Andrew Jackson, the hero of that occasion, after being twice defeated for the Presidency, was elected. He was the typical Democrat of the age. He brought to the Presidential office such a degree of vigorous ability and determination coupled with a certain undoubted air of republicanism in its primitive sense, as to cause his name to be remembered and revered as long as our institutions last. Jackson's birthday has been overlooked in his triumphs, and the only celebration is that of the greatest of the latter.

LOOKING TO THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND LIMB.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Salem, Utah County, suggests two subjects upon which the Legislature might act with profit to the community—in relation to estrays; and to prevent the frequency of losses of health and life by accidental lye-poisoning. The News has on several occasions heretofore pointed out the defective and uneven character of the statute in relation to estrays, and it is therefore unnecessary now to endorse the suggestion in that regard of our correspondent.

If some measure could be enacted that would prevent the occurrence of fatal and injurious accidents from accidental lye-poisoning, it would be a great boon, because it would prevent much suffering, sorrow and remorse. The number of accidents of this character that have occurred in the Territory in the past has been appalling, and have been perhaps all the more regrettable because they could, in most instances, have been prevented by the exercise of a little necessary caution.

We are afraid that the kind of enactment suggested by Mr. Olsen would not have the desired result. The compulsory labeling of vessels containing concentrated lye by dealers in the article would have but little bearing upon the subject, as most of those who have been its victims have been little children too young to read. The innocents who would be likely to swallow the deadly potion, would not be able to discriminate in relation to the contents of vessels by their external appearance. Unfortunately no law in existence is competent to inject the necessary amount of caution into the minds of parents and others who use concentrated lye to cause them to place it where it cannot be reached by those liable to mistake it for some-

thing else. The most effective preventive measure against lye-poisoning accidents is in the hands of every housekeeper—banish it entirely from every household. It is not an indispensable essential in that department.

While upon the matter of legislation for the preservation of life and health, it may not be amiss to say something in regard to gun accidents, by which the mortal careers of numbers of people are suddenly stopped every year. No law can infuse sufficient sense into everybody who handles firearms to cause them to manipulate deadly weapons as if they were loaded, whether they are or not. Neither will it give that class sufficient sound judgment to cause them never to seize or carry a gun with the muzzle pointed toward their own bodies. It may, however, prove salutary in producing greater prudence in cases where the death of one person is accidentally caused by the carelessness of another, the latter were placed on his trial for involuntary manslaughter, and where it can be shown that the fatality could have been prevented by the exercise of ordinary caution, give the offender a lodgment in the county jail, according to the aggravation of the offense. If the accident cause merely temporary injury, the penalty should be proportionate. The grief of the party causing the wrong should not obviate the application of the law although it might be considered in mitigation of the penalty. The object is not to inflict suffering upon the offender but to protect the community, and place life and limb at a higher value than is now put upon it.

As many of the fatal and otherwise injurious gun accidents take place among boys and youths, it would seem appropriate to enact a measure that would make it unlawful for minors under a certain age to handle firearms for any purpose whatever.

What appropriate legislation can accomplish when pointed and clear is illustrated by the measure to which our correspondent alludes—that in relation to toy pistols. A large number of deaths were caused by that murderous little implement some years ago. A bill for an act making it a misdemeanor to sell them was introduced into the Legislature by Hon. H. J. Richards. It was enacted, and we do not recollect that there has been a single toy pistol fatality in Utah since the statute came into existence.

By the way the statute in question is about as dry in its proportions as the implement to which it relates. It is a model of brevity and periphrasy. It says what it means and means what it says. It would be an invaluable boon to the commonwealth if all the laws were constructed upon similar principles of simplification. It too frequently happens that they are so framed that their meaning and intent are difficult of discovery. Occasionally the essence of the statute is so covered up with verbal voluminousness as to create the impression that they are mere heterogeneous concatenations of extraneous phraseology. Brevity, perspicuity and directness are exceedingly desirable in framing statutes. Their construction should be such that it ought not to be a positive necessity for a person to spend several years at Ann Arbor in order to be able to grasp their meaning. They should meet the understanding of common folks.

BEYOND THE ATLANTIC.

THERE is a little flurry in India and a corresponding worry in Great Britain. Simultaneously with the above announcement comes another that Bulgaria is in imminent danger from the insurive Muscovite, who is in such a position geographically, strategically and otherwise that he could make a quiet descent upon the little principality and metaphorically put it in his pocket before the watchman on the towers knew he was in the neighborhood.

Russia has not concurred in the prevailing sentiment elsewhere, that winter is not the proper time to begin a great war because of the added expense and difficulty of transporting troops and supplies and the increased hardships involved. Russian soldiers are better fighters in severe than in mild weather, and the fact that it is otherwise with the remainder of the powers makes it an immense advantage on her part to do her heavy work when the others are laboring under temporary disadvantages which only the progression of the seasons can overcome. Perhaps all this is making the ruling power in Russia restive and it evinces its dissatisfaction now and then in a smothered perturbation or a muffled growl which makes the neighboring Kaiser and Emperor start up nervously and mechanically draw their swords. The question remains—How long will Russia, intent upon striking a blow the reverberations of which will be heard around the globe, be restrained from action with the incentive of her best campaigning season passing away spurring her onward?

England announces that if Russia enters Bulgaria she will send two fleets through the Dardanelles into the Black Sea. Of course these would not be sent upon a cruise, a voyage of exploration or a trip for practical instruction in the art of navigation. None of these lessons are required and armed and manned

ships are not used in that way by Her Majesty's government; besides, the passage of such vessels into and through such waters would be equivalent to a declaration of war against Turkey unless the latter power consented to it, in which case the movement would constitute simply the formation of a defensive alliance against the northern raider. This would indicate that the latter's campaign would be short, sharp and disastrous, as it could not fight England and Turkey on the shores of the Black Sea and Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Italy on the west and north at the same time, not even if France, as is expected, were to take a hand in the melee on the other side. But it is not at all likely that Turkey is as desirous of English protection as she was ten years ago; in fact it is tolerably sure that the nearer power and former foe is the present choice of the Ottoman Empire in the matter of a stalwart friend. But the "sick man" is about as sick now as he ever was, and the chances are that England would not ask his permission in such an emergency, but would send the vessels along and force her apparent friendship upon the sufferer. In doing this, she would strike one blow for Turkey and two for herself. Her principal route to her chief storehouse and treasure vault—India—is menaced on both the southern and eastern sides of the Sea, and if it should be found necessary to quietly smother the Turk and then fight for him, that programme, or something very like it, will be carried out. Such a complication would make the impending conflict present a different shape from any it has so far assumed, but it has already assumed as many different shades as Proteus, and the exact position in which the characters will be arranged on the board when the bolt falls can only be conjectured. There is only one thing that remains definitely fixed—that whatever position the contending hosts may occupy or from whatever source they may come, Russia will not be out of the fight; more than this, she will be the central figure and doubtless the initiator of hostilities. In fact it is strictly her fight, her trouble. No other nation thinks of aggressive movements except such as follow acting upon the defensive as a matter of course, and no preparations have been or are being made by any of them for striking a hostile blow except for mere protection and retaliation. Russia is the fomenting principle of the situation, there can be no doubt of that. She presents to the world the spectacle of a great, ungainly giant enervated by neighbors individually weaker but unitedly stronger than himself, and who have banded themselves together for the double purpose of confining him to his reservation and resenting any attempt to cut his way out by means of trickery or cunning. He is not happy in his belongings, not because he has not plenty of room in which to circulate and improve, but because he is cut off from such commercial advantages as the others possess, by means of which they are steadily advancing while he is stagnant if not retrograding. His heart is set on an outlet and the straits and other waters which unite the Black Sea with the Mediterranean Ocean are the very things desired to that end. Perhaps he will never satisfy his ambition in that direction, but that he will continue to work, intrigue and fight for it as much the certainty of the future as it is the history of the past. With that object gained Russia would soon be the chief nation of the earth from the standpoint of either military strength or commercial wealth. This would be no menace to us with a great ocean on either side and endless resources within; but it would be bad for those who occupy part of the same great division of the globe, and that is why they are combining so strongly to nip the movement in the bud if possible, but in any event not to let it fructify.

A TECHNICAL POINT.

THE House of representatives found itself in a dilemma yesterday. It followed the precedent of former sessions by choosing its officers before the oath of office had been administered to members. Mr. Hoge of Salt Lake County raised the point that an organization of the House effected before its members had been sworn, was not, in law and in fact, an organization of the House of Representatives of the Territory of Utah, but—we use his own words—"of a mob."

Had Mr. Hoge urged this point before the election of officers began, the House would probably have conceded that it would be better to forestall all cavil by having the oath administered to all of the members before transacting any business whatever, and govern itself accordingly. But the point raised by Mr. Hoge was one of propriety in parliamentary procedure, and not one affecting the legality of the action of the House. The validity of even a statute cannot be attacked in court on the ground that, in the minutiae of parliamentary procedure, formalities commonly observed were departed from by the legislative body enacting it. If the record shows that a bill has been considered by a legislative body in open session; that a majority of the members have voted for it; that the engrossed copy of it has been duly cer-

fied by the presiding officer or officers, and bears the endorsement and signature of the executive, and has been duly filed with the legal custodian of public archives, the bill has become a law, and is invulnerable to attacks based upon alleged defects in the parliamentary proceedings incident to its consideration and passage.

If a statute is published as such by authority of the body which enacted it, the fact of its being made public by such authority requires courts to take judicial notice of it without the production of evidence in support of its genuineness. Such publicity will protect its validity from attack on any parliamentary ground, unless some flagrant departure from the absolute requirements of law can be fully established.

Mr. Hoge's argument carried to a legitimate conclusion, would block the wheels of government. If the members of the House, sitting in the legislative chamber, awaiting organization, were "a mob," the calling to order of the "mob" was an act of organization. By custom this formality is performed by the chief clerk of the last House, whose official power of course, expired, so far as the law is concerned, with the session of the Assembly of which he was an officer. Therefore the House was not called to order in a lawful manner, hence remained, constructively at least, "a mob."

The House of Representatives of the United States assemble in its chamber; is called to order; elects its speaker, who, after being elected, administers the oath of office to the members who have elected him. If Mr. Hoge's theory be correct, there has not been a legal speaker of the United States House of Representatives for many years.

Legislative bodies are their own judges as to the qualifications of their own members to act as such. Again, there was an exhibition in the presence of the assembled members, of a document, duly certified, stating that they had been lawfully elected as such. The gist of their authority to transact public business is the fact of their election, and the authority so conferred upon them was ample to sustain them through the preliminaries of organization, and if all of the requirements of the law in respect to the qualification of members were complied with before business was transacted, actually and practically affecting the general public, the organization would, beyond all reasonable doubt or question, be legal.

Mr. Thurman evidently had a clear comprehension of the principles of law bearing upon the question of the legality of the organization of the House, and was justified in the position which he took. But inasmuch as the question was sprung, and doubts were created as to the validity of what had been done, it was as well to forestall all possible objection by re-electing the officers.

COMPILING THE LAWS.

ORDINARILY such precipitation in making appropriations of public money, as was displayed by the House yesterday, in the adoption of Mr. Thurman's joint resolution appointing a commission to compile the laws, cannot be looked upon with favor. In order to push the resolution through, it became necessary to suspend rules which were established for the purpose of protecting the public treasury and securing mature consideration of appropriations before they are made. Within an hour a measure appropriating \$2,400 was introduced, debated and passed.

But the excessive urgency of the object aimed to be secured by the measure appears to be justification for the avoidance of delay. Our laws are in an undesirable condition. Often several volumes have to be searched in order to discover what the law upon a given subject is. Worse than this, the laws of two or three sessions are out of print and beyond the reach of the masses of our citizens, who are required to be governed by them.

The purpose is to compile into one volume, to be properly arranged into titles, chapters, etc., and to be suitably indexed, all of the laws now in force in this Territory, together with all which will be passed at the present session of the Legislature. This work, if well done, will be a great relief to attorneys, courts, officers, and all who have to do with the administration of the laws.

Owing to causes not necessary here to dwell upon, efforts that were made at the last two sessions of the Legislature to secure the compilation of the laws, were unsuccessful; but this one promises to result otherwise, it being only necessary for the Council to concur in it, and for it to receive the official endorsement of the Territorial executive.

It is proper here to explain that the labors of the commission, as contemplated by the resolution, will be purely clerical, or ministerial. It will have no authority to add to, take from, or in any manner change the provisions of any law. Its duty will be to compile and arrange the statutes into a convenient volume.

The haste with which the appropriation in this case was made by the House ought not to be and doubtless will not be, made a precedent in relation to other measures.