

dard of the three being the measure of gain.

Thus it may be seen that a slight investigation is sufficient to show the foolishness of Sound Currency or any one else attempting to show that the Book of Mormon records either a bimetallic or a monometallic standard of coinage, much less giving any "supernatural" authority thereto. And this foolishness of the Sound Currency writer—who, by the way, poses as a financial authority in the person of Henry Loomis Nelson—also exposes the supreme silliness of his conclusion that a "solitary utterance of alleged inspiration is in a bad way." Silence on the part of Sound Currency on such a matter might have been golden as showing some decency and respect for truth, but his speech thereon is wholly unworthy a comparison even with demonized and debased silver, in being altogether unfit for a useful purpose.

THE COST OF WAR.

Of the immense cost of modern warfare an idea can be formed by the expenses to which Spain has been put by the insurrection in Cuba, without accomplishing the desired end. The San Francisco Chronicle gives the figures as published in the Spanish political year book for 1895. According to these the number of soldiers sent from Spain to Cuba since February that year is 172,295. Adding to those the 40,000 men recently landed in Cuba, there is a force of 212,295 Spaniards against the forty or fifty thousand rebels under arms.

Spain has borrowed of various banking institutions \$82,500,000 which she has been spending at the rate of \$5,000,000 a month to keep the war going. But these figures represent but a part of the entire cost. The loss by the destruction of the sugar crop is estimated for 1895 at \$50,000,000; by the destruction of farms, villages, live stock and other property, \$14,000,000; by the paralysis of the commerce, \$10,000,000. This, added to the military expenses, makes the total cost for the first year \$134,000,000, and the expenses for 1896 are sure to exceed these figures considerably.

It was reported from London recently that Spain had applied to the Rothschilds for a loan of \$200,000,000, offering as security her famous quick-silver mines and certain railroad concessions. The application was denied, and with it went the hope of Spain to raise money for war expenses in this way, her resources being destroyed or mortgaged to their full value. Under the circumstances nothing seems to be left to Spain but to make peace with her rebellious colonists upon the best terms obtainable.

In looking over the immense expense of the war in Cuba, where the question is only of the subjugation of a handful of poorly equipped hands, it becomes clear why the large powers of Europe, although armed to the teeth, hesitate to let loose the thunder storm of war there, even in such a cause as that of the Armenians. The sacrifice of life and property would be so appalling that no one statesman would take the responsibility of the initiatory step. There is all

the more reason, then, why international arbitration should be resorted to for the sake of justice and the protection of the weaker nations against the stronger ones.

STORM VISITATIONS UNABATED.

In comparison with its fellows, 1896 can lay claim to the distinction of being "the year of storms" until some of its successors shall make it yield the palm; for no preceding year of which we have account presents a parallel to the present. There have been great disasters in the world's history, storms, and tidal waves, and earthquakes, and the like; and some of these have been appalling in their character. But in the number and frequency of these visitations of disturbed elements, recent years exceed all previous records. Earthquakes, tidal waves and fierce storms are vastly more plentiful in the annals of the nineteenth century than in its predecessors, and their proportionate number is increasing; they have been in all ages, but in no age so abundant as now. This is the unimpeachable record of history.

The closing days of September have added one other awful event to the list of catastrophes. In this, the southeastern coast of the United States received the full force of the violent hurricane, the sea was thrown far beyond its normal bounds, and wind and water combined in working fearful havoc to life and property. To readers in this part of the country the terrible story is briefly told in the telegraphic dispatches, which state that the killed and injured are numbered by hundreds, and the damage to property figures into the millions.

The marked frequency and ferocity of these storms is not without a purpose in this age of the world: there is a definite object in the decree which says the Lord shall "make desolate the earth" in the last days, preceding His coming. This decree was promulgated centuries ago, and in some respects the aim sought is the same as that of the deluge which swept the earth in the days of the Patriarch Noah. It is to cleanse the earth of those who will not listen to the word of the Lord, but will persist in perverting His ways and in walking in forbidden paths.

But in Noah's day, the Lord gave the people an immediate and direct warning of that which was near at their door. Will desolation again come upon the earth, this time without a similar direct warning? No; for the Lord is no respecter of persons, and to accompany an overwhelming visitation then with an offer of escape and to bring another of like universal character now without such offer would be inconsistent. Is the decree made and recorded centuries ago, and handed down in the Bible, an adequate warning for today? No, for it is not sufficiently explicit, except with the added voice of immediate modern inspiration, to notify the children of men in what age and generation they are to look for these things. Besides, the Gospel was preached in Noah's day, as a means of escape, through the agency of one to whom the Lord communicated His will by direct revelation. To make the parallel complete

then, that "as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man," the Gospel also must be preached in the latter days through the agency of one to whom the Lord communicates His will.

And in this latter day the parallel has been made perfect while the great time of the visitation of the wrath of Almighty goes on. The Lord sent His messenger Noah, and for one hundred and twenty years the antediluvians were offered the means of escape. In this age the Lord sent His messenger Joseph Smith, and for sixty-six years the way to salvation has been pointed out to the people, and the work is yet going on; the Lord continues to speak through His authorized servants, and it is but little more than two years since His Apostle, President Woodruff, declared, and his prediction was published broadcast, that from that time the severe judgments on earth would increase—a prophecy which is receiving perfect fulfillment as the months and years pass along. The Prophet Noah warned the people that in his day destruction would come upon the wicked; the Prophet Joseph warned the people that in this generation the latter-day destruction should come. And in fulfillment of the promise the Lord Jesus made to His Apostles at Jerusalem, there is a gathering of a remnant of the Jews to the ancient city, and the Gospel of His kingdom is being preached in all the world for a witness of the end.

This preaching is being done by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, through the example of its members and the spoken and written word of its Elders under the inspiration of the Almighty. The Elders are sent out to warn the people; they have been engaged in that work for more than threescore years; and as the Lord has said: "it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor," that people may be left without excuse in the day of the wrath of the Lord. The Almighty proffers to the human family testimony concerning His work through His duly commissioned servants, as He did in the days of Noah; and He has declared that after their testimony comes wrath and indignation upon the people, also the testimony of earthquakes, of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds, and men's hearts failing them for fear. His word in this respect is being fulfilled in the eyes of all the nations: the testimony of His wrath is following the testimony of His servants where the people have not heeded the latter. Men may scoff at the warning mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith as they did at the warning mission of the Prophet Noah, but both were directed by the immediate revelations of the God of heaven.

The warning of these steadily multiplying storm visitations ought to be, whether or not it is, a lesson of deep import even to the most skeptical. It would seem to be beyond possibility to ignore the message except through wilful disbelief in an overruling Power. But with those who receive the testimony of the servants of the Lord, and who wait with certainty the coming of