

## VARIOUS PROPHECIES.

The time in which we live is notorious for its tendency to deny everything that cannot be explained on so-called "natural" principles. Men now-a-days seem to suppose that they know every "law of nature," and when a phenomenon appears purely spiritual or physical, a phenomenon for which they can find no place within the boundaries of physical nature, as far as this happens to be known, the immediate recourse is to simply deny. As soon as a phenomenon cannot be explained and accounted for in a hurry, it has, in this supernaturalistic age, no right to exist. It must be denied, and those who do not feel disposed to deny the testimony of their own senses are "cranks" or idiots. That which cannot be accounted for is "miraculous," and the miraculous is impossible. The world has chosen the position of Voltaire, who once said: "If a miracle were indisputably performed before my eyes, and in the presence of 10,000 people who all saw it, I would sooner say that I was myself blind, and all the ten thousand were fools, than I would believe in the miracle." This is exactly it. Men deliberately choose to deny, and when this standpoint is once taken, no argument can avail. All the light of the sun cannot penetrate the dungeon of deliberate infidelity.

In harmony with this tendency of the age is the denial of the prophetic gift. That God, in this age, should have endowed men with the gift of prophecy is, of course, impossible; and here, it should be observed, infidels and "Christians" unite in denial. "Christians" who say they believe that the gift of prophecy formerly existed also assert that they do not believe it exists now. "It is no longer needed," although no one knows why. Here we stand face to face with the awful fact that a host of professed infidels have peaceably joined hands with a host of professed Christians, and both blend their voices together in denial. What a spectacle is this alliance between "Christianity" and infidelity! How does it look when viewed from the lofty regions of light where Christ and His Saints dwell in glory!

Against all this infidelity we can point to numerous facts which are sufficient for any honest mind. These facts belong to history, and can neither be ignored nor denied.

The human mind, or soul, or spirit—for the name is inessential—is so constituted that a person can under certain circumstances perceive things independent of space or time. Let the following examples speak for themselves:

When Count Zingendorf, in 1843, returned from America, a violent storm met the ship on the 15th of February and threatened to destroy it; but the Count calmly said: "We shall all come on shore safe and well." As the storm raged more violently he said to the captain: "It will abate in two hours." The captain did not

believe this, but the prediction came to pass nevertheless, and on further inquiry the Count assured the captain that the Lord had revealed to him beforehand how long the storm would last. (Seelbach, *Fingerzeige der göttlichen Wetterregierung*, P. I.)

Socrates, in *Theages*, says: "From my early childhood something wonderful accompanies me. It is a voice which always, when audible, warns me from doing that which I purpose to do, but which never tells me what to do." This "voice" was so reliable that Timarchus knew he must die, because he had neglected the warning thereby given. A few days before the execution of Socrates, Crito came to him and told him that the sentence should be carried out next day, to which the great philosopher replied: "If that is the will of God, be it so. But I do not believe that it will take place tomorrow. I have just had a very pleasant dream. I thought I saw a lady of uncommon beauty, clothed in a long, white robe. She called me by name and told me that I should be in my beautiful *phthia* (or home) in three days." This really happened. On the third day the great man emptied the cup of poison that ended his earthly life.

Josephus prophesied, while Nero yet reigned, that Vespasian should soon become an emperor, a prophecy which saved his life, and which was fulfilled. (*Joseph de bello Jud.* III, 8.)

Jeanne d'Arc foretold the wound which she received in the battle of Orleans, and also that the English should be driven out of France.

Savonarola of Florenz, († 1498) foretold the invasion of Charles VIII in Italy. In a time of deep peace, when preaching against the sins of the rulers and of the people, he often alluded to a great king who should come over the mountains and punish with his sword the tyrants of Italy. This happened in 1494, when Charles with his mighty army came over the Alps and conquered Italy. Savonarola was once told that Lorenzo of Medici would expel him from the country; to which the great man of God answered, "I do not care. Your whole land is only as a pea compared to the earth. But this Lorenzo should know, that although he is a citizen and the first in the State, and I nothing but a stranger and a poor monk, yet I shall remain and he shall have to leave." Lorenzo died a short time after.

John Knox, the great reformer of Scotland, has left several prophecies. On the 23d of January, 1570, Count Murray had been murdered. The day following Knox preached a sermon. In the pulpit he found a piece of paper and thereon was written a suggestion that he should speak on the death of a man whom he had considered to be "a second God." Knox put the paper in his pocket. After the sermon he expressed his deep regret at the great loss which the Scottish church had sustained through the death of this honored man, and concluded by saying: "One is present here to whom this foul murder, which causes all

good men to mourn, is a source of joy and mockery. But I tell him that he shall not escape without punishment. He shall die in a strange land, far away from here, without a friend to sympathize with him or to support his head." The author of the mockery was Thomas Maitland, who confessed to it before his sister, Lady Trabrown. He added that Knox must have been crazy when he pronounced a death sentence upon a man whom he did not know; but the words of Knox are literally fulfilled. Maitland was expelled from the country and died in Italy on his way to Rome, without having a soul near him in his last moments.

Hildegard, of Bingen, 1178, was a wonderfully endowed lady. She has written several passages which must be admitted to be inspired by a higher spirit than that possessed by mankind in general. In the *Scivias* she distinguishes five different periods to the destruction of anti-Christ, and it should go on until the bishops and the clergy should be driven away from their worldly possessions. "When justice shall have lifted her voice to the highest Judge, everybody shall cry out against the perverters of justice, and they shall allow the fierceness of the enemy to rage over them; they shall say: 'How long shall we suffer these rapacious wolves who should be physicians but are not?'" Thus she goes on describing the apostasy and the judgments of the last days, and gives among other prophecies the following which seems to be fulfilled in the appearance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: "Then shall also the true angels approach unto men. For brave and wise men shall be raised up, and all, both old and new, expressions of the Bible, and all the words which have been dispersed by the Holy Spirit shall be gathered, and their meaning shall be laid out as an ornament with precious jewels, and all the believers shall look therein as in a looking glass. Then shall also the Jews and the heretics rejoice and say that their honor is near by. Many Gentiles shall be baptized and confess and honor Christ. In the meantime, unrighteousness shall raise its head, but soon then be done away with. Also wars, famines and pests shall rage and again vanish." (*H. Arnim, Blicke auf Vergangenheit und Gegenwart Deutschlands mit besondere Beziehung auf die Prophezeiungen der h. Hildegard. Bremen, 1849*). Here we have a prophecy delivered in the twelfth century which describes minutely the work of Joseph the Prophet. Men shall be raised up to explain the passages of the Bible and to gather together all the books that have been dispersed by the Spirit, pointing clearly to the Book of Mormon and the Book of Abraham, and that this should be followed by numerous conversions among Gentiles at the same time as the Jews should begin to gather home, and so on.

Prophecies to the number of hundreds could be produced from the pages of history. They belong to