

THE TIME OF ISRAEL APPROACHING

EVERY intelligent Latter-day Saint who understands the nature of the work with which he has connected himself believes that the time approaches when the Lord will fulfil the covenant he made with ancient Israel, by gathering the remnants of the race from their long dispersion to the lands promised to their fathers. The symptoms that were to precede that marvelous work are accumulating. One of these indications is the development of a belief among the children of Abraham in the true Messiah. Of course there are numerous other symptomatic indications, but, owing to the universal rejection by the peculiar people of Jesus as the Redeemer of Israel, this is necessarily one of the most conspicuous among the signs. The Prophet Nephi, speaking of the coming forth of the Gospel in the latter times and concerning the gathering of the Jews, says (Book of Mormon, p. 122):

"And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ, shall also become a delightful people.

"And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence His work, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of His people upon the earth."

The book abounds with predictions in this particular line. The same Prophet—as occurs on page 108—also makes this declaration:

"Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations;

"And after they have been scattered, and the Lord God hath scourged them by other nations, for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation, until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind; and when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts and clean hands, and look not forward any more for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things.

"And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men."

The Savior, subsequent to His crucifixion and resurrection, in His ministry among the ancients on this continent—a branch of the House of Israel—was remarkably explicit upon this subject, giving many of the details that would be associated with the restorative feature of the Latter-day dispensation. The remnants on this land, the Indians, were

also to develop a belief in the Christ and look forward to his coming. But, returning to the subject in its relation to the Jews, we here introduce a dispatch which appeared in the *Ogden Standard* of May 27th, as part of the special telegraphic service of that paper:

Cleveland, Ohio, May 26.—The celebration of the Jewish feast of weeks in this city was marked by a sensational scene. The day was to be observed in all the synagogues and a large audience assembled in the place of worship at Woodlawn avenue and Erie street in response to a call issued by the Rev. W. P. Werber, of Baltimore, editor of the *Friend of Israel*.

Rev. Werber appeared with a rabbi's cap upon his head and began his discourse. He was bold and declared in the face of the eight hundred sons of Israel that their ideas of the Messiah were ridiculous; that Christ had been on earth and his second coming would be in the glare of a burning world.

"This was more than the congregation could bear and men sprang in great excitement to their feet and rushed to the platform, where they gathered around the now alarmed minister, spitting upon him and endeavoring to take the rabbi's cap from his head.

"Pandemonium reigned until a squad of police officers arrived. Women rushed from the hall in fear, while men shouted themselves hoarse. The minister kept in the background, surrounded by friends, out of reach of the mob that taunted him, calling him an imposter and the 'Second Jesus.'"

"He attempted to make an explanation, but none would be received, and the crowd lingered for some time, but the police prevented violence being done, and finally dispersed the congregation without making arrests.

This scene was highly dramatic, and reminds one of some of the recorded incidents connected with the life of Jesus nearly 1900 years ago, the same spirit being manifested toward the learned Rabbi who boldly announced his belief in the Christ that was exhibited toward the Lamb and His followers when He dwelt in mortality. It is notable, however, that so influential a man as the Rev. Werber should take so bold a stand in opposition to the crystallized belief of the great mass of his brethren. It is equally remarkable that he should have quite a number of adherents and friends under the circumstances, all of whom were risking their reputations and standing among their people. It is only reasonable to infer that most if not all of those who stood by the Rabbi while he was reviled and assaulted entertained similar views to those expressed by him, their attitude being a strong indication in that direction.

In the course of events, similar evidences of the decay of Jewish prejudice against their Lord whom their fathers rejected will multiply,

the indications being favorable to the anticipation that the times of the Gentiles—their season for having the gospel carried to them—are nearing a close. When the terminal point is reached in relation to them, the marvelous work among the House of Israel will fully begin.

NOT A "MORMON" ELDER.

A SINGULAR story is going the rounds of the newspapers, especially those of the west and north-west, regarding a subject which is creating a good deal of excitement among the Indians. Eastern journals have, to some extent, referred to the matter, while a jumbled mass of contradictory statements in relation to it has been flashed over the wires in the form of press dispatches.

We have reference to an assertion alleged to have been made by numbers of Indians to the effect that a person has appeared among and conversed with them, somewhere in the mountains of the northwest, who claims to be Christ. Quite lately a letter giving what information he possessed on the subject appeared in the *New York Ledger* over the signature of General James A. Brisbin, U. S. A., in command in Montana, with headquarters at Fort Custer. There also appeared in the *Helena Independent*, of the 18th inst., an account of a lengthy interview on the subject between that officer and a representative of the paper mentioned.

From these sources and other newspaper reports the following central points are gleaned from a maze of conflicting statements: Indians who claim to have seen this personage assert that he is a white man, and that there are scars upon his hands and feet, and a spear wound in his side; that he has informed them that they are cousins to the people across the great water; that the Indians are not to fight the whites, but to lay aside all firearms and use only bows and spears in hunting; that he intends in some supernatural way to destroy the whites and preserve the Indians, the consequence to be that the latter will have the lands taken by the white men restored to them.

According to General Brisbin, as related in the *Helena Independent*, Jules Semerale, an old interpreter at the Tongue River Agency, on being questioned on the subject, said:

"The rumor about Christ is not new. The Indians believe he has come, and