

runner of Christ. Doctrine and Covenants lxxxiv: 28.

2. We cannot give the information at this time.

THE DESTROYER AT WORK.

Destruction and death seem to be in a way of surpassing, in 1897, all previous records. The Indian famine, the Persian earthquake, the Japan floods, the range of afflictions in Australia, South America, and Africa, the storms of Europe, the massacres in Turkish territory, and a score of other destructive operations already witnessed in this year leave no room for doubt as to the destroyer being at work now as never before in the history of the world. There have been periods when there was greater slaughter of humanity in a brief space of time, but never when the destructive force was operating in so many diversified ways and with so much evident certainty toward the consumption of all things predicted by the prophetic word as the "time of the end."

In the world at large the wars and rumors of war, the storms and famines and disasters, disturbances in the elements and among nations, present an evidence of all things being in commotion that is not recorded of any other age since the days of the patriarch Noah. And our own land, though geographically and politically apart from other countries where irruption and discontent might be looked for, yet does not escape. In the way of recent disasters the great floods that have cost scores, and perhaps hundreds when all is known, of lives and millions of dollars in property, are yet kept prominently before the people; for, although the floods have receded temporarily, there is prospect that another thaw, quite reasonable for this period of the year, will swell anew the raging streams in the Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi valleys, and cause much more damage than has been reported thus far. Indeed the outlook for such an event is most ominous.

Even if nothing more comes than has been experienced through the floods the past week, there will be a great field for relieving the needy in the afflicted districts. The sweeping away of homes and property, and the ruining of the crops, has been of so serious a character that general hardship and privation are unavoidable. The greater measure of human suffering is yet to come, unless it shall be alleviated by well ordered relief operations; and these cannot be instituted too soon or receive too ready assistance from every part of the country not caught by the catastrophe.

In these mountains the people have cause to congratulate themselves at their immunity from the ill that affect other parts. Yet it will not do to be so overconfident of natural protection as to be careless. The present situation here is that freshets and floods would come with any sudden warm spell, and a vast amount of damage is possible unless care is exercised. It may be that no emergency measures will be necessary, but it is possible that another condition will exist as soon as spring weather is fairly inaugurated; and it would be better to be

prepared to adopt them and not be called upon than to have inadequate preparation if they should be required. With more snow in the mountains than has been the case for years, and with the soil of the valleys well saturated and the channels for streams all full, it is quite possible to suffer much damage here from high water.

There is now every promise of an abundant crop for the farmer and gardener. Yet the outlook is not such as to justify reducing the supply of food much farther, in the hope that well filled granaries and cellars are sure to come next harvest. The failure of crops elsewhere is such as to give assurance that there will be no plethora of marketable foods here. And right at home there is a bare possibility that the abundance hoped for may not be fully obtained. For instance, many orchardists are counting on a typical fruit year; yet an examination just completed by competent persons has revealed the fact that along the east beach fruit district in Salt Lake county, southeast of the city, the heavy frost of November last did immense damage. That frost, coming as it did before the sap was down in the trees, has left whole orchards with scarcely a fruit bud, where a heavy yield was anticipated; fortunately the orchards a little farther removed from the mountain bases do not seem to have been affected so severely. But if the fruit crop is injured to any great extent this way, and farm and garden crops are touched by an untoward season or by floods and high water, it is easily possible to run affairs here closer than is comfortable, notwithstanding the brightest prospects.

Of course, while the worst has to be provided against, it is the best that is to be looked to and worked for. And in the case of Utah the way is through plenty of vigorous toil for the production of the largest crops possible. It is unfortunate that now there are so many idle men whose labor could be utilized for this desirable end, but who will not be called into requisition either by their own energy or the good management of others. But with all that is and may be done, it is just as well to remember that the destroyer is at work in the earth with such a force as should make the people here mindful of the real conditions that prevail.

A NOBLE WOMAN.

A sweet spirit passed to "the other side" when Sister Libbie Noall departed from mortality on Sunday last in this city. Her life has been one of humble devotion to the highest ideal of womanhood, that of a dutiful daughter of God. She remembered the Lord in her early youth, and scarcely attained womanhood ere the call came to labor as a special missionary for the Gospel in a strange land and among a strange people. She went with her husband to the Hawaiian Islands, there learned a new language, and performed her missionary responsibilities among the native Hawaiians, so different in manners, customs and race to herself, in way so typical of her sweet and devoted

nature, that she became loved as few persons have been loved by that people. No task was too burdensome, no effort in their behalf too great, for her to undertake to bring them to a full understanding of the Gospel and to give them peace and happiness. Two missions to Hawaii, seven and a half years in all, were fulfilled by Sister Noall by the time she had reached thirty-one years of age. Her faith, zeal and courage have won for her the blessings of eternal life, and her example shines for emulation by the daughters of Zion. May the Lord comfort Brother Noall and family, and all the bereaved; and may the now motherless children never lack for motherly care to bring them to the honored womanhood occupied by the loving parent who has been called by the Divine will to another sphere.

GREEKS AND TURKS.

The Economist, a London journal, gives some facts and figures relative to the comparative strength of Greece and Turkey, and says that King George, if he were left to fight his battle alone, undoubtedly could take and hold Crete and probably all the islands in the Aegean sea, because the islanders sympathize with the Greeks, the garrisons are insufficient and the Turkish fleet is not fit to go to sea. But on land Turkey is considerably stronger than Greece. The whole of the regular army could not be employed against the Greeks, as the withdrawal of the soldiers from the Asiatic provinces would be the signal for a revolt which would lead to the proclamation of a new Caliph by the Arabs, and in Constantinople, where a large part of the population is Greek, about 40,000 troops are required to keep the people in subjection. And then, the movement of large bodies of soldiers costs a great deal more money than the sultan has at his disposal, and this would be a serious obstacle to the employment of the available forces where mostly needed. However, in a couple of weeks 80,000 men would be ready to defend the Turkish frontier. The arsenals are well equipped, and there are many skilful officers in the army. With all the corruption and cruelty for which these are famous, they have a certain genius for war, and the private soldiers are known to be brave, indifferent to losses in battle or in the hospitals, and at present they feel that defeat at this time would be the end of their rule in Europe and probably in Asia.

The five million Greeks scattered all over the Turkish empire are believed to be too badly armed to be able to render their cause much service. It is the fleet in which the Greeks place their main hope, but they would not be allowed to pass the Dardanelles, nor to bombard Salonica. The Greeks, too, are a valiant race, but they seem to lack generals, unless the emergency, as is frequently the case, brings to the front some genius now not known.

According to this, there is not much confidence in the ability of the Hellenes to carry out their program if left to themselves. But the negotiations and military operations of the European powers in this crisis furnish