

try, and that the perpetual drive about "the Mormon Church" controlling business and legislation and other matters with which it does not attempt to interfere, is either the issue of dense ignorance or the voiding of malice and mendacity.

The City Council is doing very well. The four non-"Mormons" in it appear to be holding their own as strongly as can be reasonably expected of any minority, and while that body is open to public criticism and is perhaps no more perfect than any other human beings and institutions, it is striving to promote the public interest, and should be encouraged and stimulated instead of misrepresented and obstructed.

Why cannot harmony be established in business and municipal affairs for the general good, even though men associated therein differ widely in religion and politics? And why should there be more pother over an imaginary supervision of some mythical Church autocracy, than over the insolent, arrogant and dictatorial dogmatism of an aggressive and active newspaper?

LOOKING FORWARD.

A GREAT many Christian people throughout the world are looking with deep concern upon the present general condition of affairs. They regard the current drift of events as indicating the near approach of a terrible climax. Circumstances of a striking character are developing in such a way as to cause an anticipation in their minds of a gigantic conflict among the nations, which will spread death and desolation over the earth. Many leading statesmen, aside from religious considerations, express opinions to the effect that such a culmination is inevitable. The only question involving doubt upon the subject relates merely to the time when it shall happen. That it will take place, in their view, a foregone conclusion.

Thus are men's hearts filled with anxiety concerning the gloomy prospect ahead. As the situation grows darker and more forbidding their hearts will "fail them for fear" of the things that are coming to pass, in fulfilment of the predictions of scripture.

That class of Christian people to whom we have referred associate the developments of these days, national and international, with the speedy advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. The student of the New Testament, with special ref-

erence to the prophecies of the Lord Himself, can scarcely fail to observe that the record, when compared with the present situation, reads like history written ahead. It is a mistake, however, as we understand it, to expect that what is now transpiring indicates the immediate appearance, so to speak, of the Lord in His power and glory. There are certain events and developments which have to be perfected before that momentous occurrence takes place. Such, for instance, as the gathering of the Jews in Palestine, and the re-building of Jerusalem on the ancient site of that once glorious city. There are also certain future events that have to become matters of fact on this continent prior to the coming of the Lord as the bridegroom of the Church. In the present, however, the fervent and consistent Christian beholds with the eye of faith the premonitory symptoms which point to the nearness of certain other developments that will be the immediate precursors of the descent of Him whose right it is to reign.

As an example of the thoughts of a large class of people upon this subject, and to show that those views are gaining ground outside the community of Latter-day Saints, we here produce an extract from a letter written by a lady now residing in Rome, Italy, to her brother in this city:

"The atmosphere of Europe is stormy, as I need not tell you, and I watch with deep interest passing events. If it could be that we were spared the horrors of a great war, how thankful should I be! But at present it hangs over us like a great black cloud. I also look for the coming of the Lord Jesus, but have few to whom I can speak of it. Yet I have some friends at a distance to whom I can write of it, among them a very scholarly and devout clergyman of the Church of England. Certainly the signs of the times given by our Lord could hardly be clearer than they are just now. One thought comforts me—that the struggle will be short. For the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

The Pope is now in very close quarters, treated as a subject, amenable to the common law of Italy. His indignation knows no bounds, yet he is helpless. I daily wait to see if he will not remove to some other place, as I know he thinks of doing. But there are doubtless difficulties in the way, and he may possibly wait until some commotion may force him away. Distress and anguish are increasing among the people, and the government does not know where to look for the money to finish their war preparations. Flour and salt have already been touched, yet there is talk of

another salt-tax beginning next month. So we began 1889!

I shut my eyes and ears as much as I can, for I am unable to cope with the misery, and of course I am doing what I can."

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that these were the latter times—the age of the great occurrences which would immediately precede the coming of Jesus Christ. This fact—like many others enunciated by him—is being recognized by a large class of devout and thoughtful Christians, without respect to sect or denomination. They base their conclusions upon the predictions of scripture.

It may be confidently expected that this manifestation of faith regarding the most important incident in relation to this earth that has yet taken place will increase and spread as time rolls on.

A CORRECTION.

To Whom it May Concern:

Some remarks made by me at Nephi, on the 3rd instant, having caused considerable comment leading to misapprehension, I freely admit, on further investigation, that I was in error respecting the attitude of Hon. John T. Caine in his speech before the Congressional Committee on Territories respecting polygamy being "a dead issue in Utah." I do not now dissent from his statement on the important question involved.

My remarks were not fully, nor in all respects, correctly reported, but, finding that I was in error, I hasten to acknowledge that I did him great injustice in denouncing his utterances, and I freely, in this public manner, express my deep regret and acknowledge the wrong I did him. Other than myself, no person is responsible for my utterances or acts, but when I wrong anyone I am willing to make restitution, as far as I can, and with this in view I publish this card.

JOHN W. TAYLOR.

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, March 17, 1889, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding:

The choir and congregation sang:
How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.
What more can He say than to you He hath said—
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?