

ings? Is it not a fact which may be said to be demonstrated, that atmospheric and other material conditions affect the feelings, emotions, temperament and actions of mankind, particularly of those who are super-sensitive? If the inward nature of men is so affected by outward forces that murder, suicide, passion, tumult and crime of various kinds are to some extent attributable to their influence upon the mind, is it not probable that those elements from which such forces proceed are affected by the mental and spiritual conditions of mankind, and that thus the effects produced are reciprocal?

We believe that the material is primarily affected by the spiritual, for the spirit of things is their life. Wickedness of spirit, intent and desire, culminating in evil deeds, has its effect upon surrounding elements and produces or fosters malefic conditions. This is an evil and perverse generation. The spread of intelligence has not been accompanied by a corresponding spread of righteousness. But the power of evil has been increased with the acquisition of knowledge. The more light the greater sin, when deeds of darkness are done. That wickedness is increasing in the world at a rapid rate, all but optimists who blind their eyes to facts which disfavor their theories, admit. Here is an extract from *The Churchman*, an organ of the American Episcopal Church:

"The present is a critical time in the history of religion and of morals. The Christian faith is assailed as never before on the ground of alleged conclusions of science, and of a criticism which is almost wholly destructive. The mind of the people at large is affected by a prevalent spirit of indifference and unbelief. The church itself is subtly infected by worldliness and mammon-worship. Society is given up to a fierce pursuit of wealth and pleasure. The nation is shamed by a depravation of public morals, which could hardly exist without a terrible lowering of the standard of private morality. The foundation of society, the family, is daily loosened by false theories which are but too easily reduced to practice. The whole social framework is threatened by systems of socialism and communism, and even of anarchism, which are openly preached and eagerly received by the masses of the people. Patriots as well as Christians find good grounds—not for despair, nor even for too gloomy forebodings, but for the most earnest consideration of the problems of this present time and of the fast coming future."

These are facts which cannot be denied and ought not to be ignored. Corruption is spreading, religion is

derided, God is rejected, disbelief prevails, and the judgments beginning to come as the consequence, make no impression upon a world drifting to its doom. When the Johnstown flood was bursting upon its victims, they had three hours warning but heeded it not. On a small scale it was like the Noachian deluge. As it was in the days of Noah so it will be in the last days. The voice of warning will be uttered in vain except to a few. Infatuated, they will smile at the "enthusiasts" who utter it, while the more depraved will treat with violence, even unto murder, the heralds and evangelists who sound the alarm.

As sure as God lives, we are nearing the time of the great consummation. The signs in heaven and on earth are those given by the Savior as tokens of the approaching "end." Their gradual manifestation is such that the boasting, defiant, skeptical world make light of them and say they were always suffered, not perceiving the coincidence of so many calamities with the preaching of "the Gospel of the Kingdom as a witness to all nations," and the fulfillment of other sayings of the Savior which were to be sure harbingers of His advent.

Now let the Latter-day Saints give heed to the word of the Lord and "stand in holy places, that they may not be moved" when God shall "shake terribly the earth." Let sympathy and help go out to the afflicted. It does not follow that they who suffer most are greater sinners than their fellows. The troubles impending invoke solemn reflections and sad feelings, which are only relieved by the Savior's injunction to his Saints: "When ye see these things, lift up your heads and rejoice for your redemption draweth nigh." And when the evil-minded mock and ruffians revile, remember the saying of Daniel concerning the time of the end: "The wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

#### YOU NEED NOT ANSWER.

COMPLAINTS come to us from all parts of the city of impudent alleged canvassers for a Directory, who ask people, especially women when their husbands are absent all sorts of questions that have no relation to the business which these impertinent fellows pretend to be upon. It is none of their business whether

the occupants of any house are "Mormons," whether they are citizens, whether they are registered or not, or anything of this character. Without advising any one to be rude, we say, treat these prying persons with silence and refuse to answer their queries. If they misbehave themselves further, send for the police or some able bodied neighbor, or enter complaint before a Justice of the Peace. This "Liberal" scheme should be stopped now and that effectually.

#### A REGRETTABLE EXCESS.

No right thinking person in the community can avoid being impressed with a feeling of deep concern in witnessing the growing popular disposition toward the pursuit of pleasure. The appetite for whirl and excitement seems to grow on that upon which it is fed. An unnatural and decidedly "Frenchy" condition in that respect seems to be gaining an ascendancy that cannot be otherwise viewed than with regret, not only because of immediate effects, but on account of subsequent results, especially upon the rising generation, who are, to an inexcusable degree, led into pleasure-seeking excesses by the example and encouragement of older but evidently not wiser heads.

It is admitted with sadness that the public journals, which are flooded with applications to "boom" parties on pleasure bent, contribute their quota in swelling the dangerous trend of the times. In this way the hunt for excitement and pleasure is kept constantly afloat before the public gaze, until the infirm of mind and unstable of purpose, who are ruled by the external conditions that surround them, imagine that they must join with the crowd and take part in the race.

Among the existing phases of this peculiarity of the times in this city is the formation of clubs by young people of both sexes for the express purpose of providing for the gratification of the desires of its members to engage in fleeting pleasures, to indulge in which this community now presents so many opportunities. These organizations solicit among their acquaintances for members, and thus are additions drawn into the whirl of the worldly maelstrom. Their minds not being thoughtful and matured, and not being able to grasp in advance the disadvantages and even dangers of such a course, they doubtless mean