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Signs of the Times.

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ELDER J. S. ROTH.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

BY ELDER J. S. ROTH.

It is not my intention to frighten any one; I merely expect to set forth facts and truths. Neither do I desire to offend any one, for that is not my purpose. The last time I spoke upon this subject, three persons jumped up and left the congregation. I found out afterwards that I had hit them terribly hard, and of course they could not stand it. You know that when a bird is hit, it will always flutter, so if all goes off smoothly this afternoon, we will know that no one is hurt.

My brother dropped a few words in his sermon this morning—I believe the words were, “We are living in the last days,”

or perhaps, "These are the last days." I learn in the Word, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established, and shall endeavor to prove the brother's assertions true by prophecies which I find recorded in the word of God, and by phenomena which many of you, perhaps, have observed in days past and gone. The words which I have selected for my starting point, are found in the 3d chapter of 2 Peter.

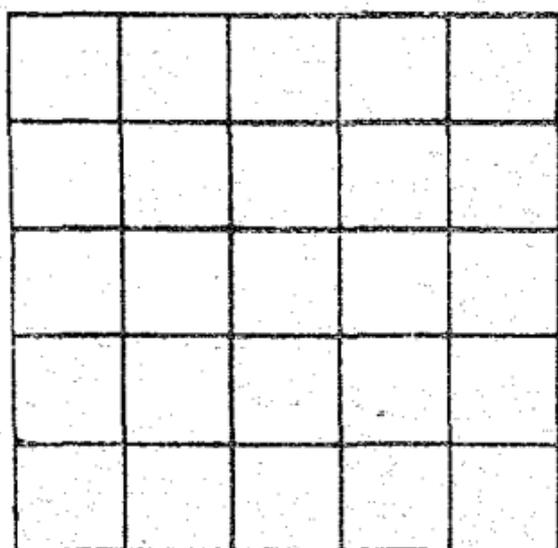
It will be impossible for me, this afternoon, to present all the ideas in connection with this subject—that we are living in the last days—there is so much to be said, considering also, that I will have to be somewhat careful as well, because my brother said the other day, that I forgot we had a reporter, so I will try to remember that we have one here today. The words I referred to are these: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking

after their own lusts and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." I know that the objector comes in right here on the starting point of this examination, and tells me that the apostles wrote in the days in which they lived, and that those were the last days; that the apostles were in the last days eighteen hundred years ago. Well, if the apostles wrote eighteen hundred years ago that they were living in the last days, and if we have lived nineteen hundred years, or nearly that, this side of the apostles' day, are not we nearer the end than were they? If they concluded in their day that they were approaching the end, and we are nineteen hundred years farther down the stream of time, are we not nearer the end than they? I believe that we are living in the last of the sixth portion of time, and

that the seventh day is approaching; that the last rays of the setting sun of this dispensation and age of the world are disappearing in the west, and that we can already discern signs of the millennial dawn in the east; and we want to examine this matter and see if we cannot find some prophecies which have been spoken, which will establish this idea, and prove this claim.

I go back and find a record given concerning the creation of the world; and I believe that if this world would be allowed to run until the last day, or the last hour, or the last minute, that it would not be over one hundred and eight years until the final consummation of all things would be ushered in. When I go back I find that God created the world in six days. Now, I do not care whether we call that six days of twenty-four hours each, or whether we take Peter's word as found in 2 Peter 2: 8, where he declares that one day with the

Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. I believe that when God created the world, he created it in six divisions of time (the Word tells us that these divisions of time were days, but I am not going to tell you whether they were days of twenty-four hours each, or



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whether they were days of a thousand years each), and I believe that when God had worked six divisions of time He rested on the seventh division, and that is emblematic of our week. Six days we labor, and rest upon the seventh day, and then the week is complete. We find that God

labored six divisions of time, and rested upon the seventh, and I believe that is emblematic of this creation; that this world shall labor six divisions, or periods, of time, and that upon the seventh division or part of time it will undergo the rest that the Creator underwent. I believe these six divisions of time are almost past. We find that after the world had labored two thousand years it underwent a great change; the flood was ushered in, and the world was baptized and almost wholly depopulated. We pass along two thousand years more, and another great event takes place; we learn that Christ, the Son of the living God, comes as a Redeemer to save the world, and now we have passed along until we have almost reached the end of the two thousand years; or, in other words, we are almost down to the Saturday evening of this great world, when a change will take place upon the face of the earth, and what will that be?

The world is beginning to wake up to the fact that there is going to be a change; we find that many are already figuring as to when the end will be. But remember, we are not going to set the day or the year in this examination. That has been done by many in days past, but so far we have failed to learn that the world came to an end at the time they set for that event to transpire; therefore, they have failed. When I read in the 24th chapter of Matthew, that Jesus says no man shall know the day nor the hour of his coming, I learn that when I set the day for the end to come, I am doing something that God says I cannot do; but nowhere is there a declaration that we have not a right to look into, and examine the events that are transpiring around us, and see whether or not we are approaching that time when Jesus shall come again. There is a man—perhaps you have read of him—Prof. Totten, who says in his

writing, "I am more concerned about this than I can express, for while the mass of men take it for granted that I am merely 'a crank,' 'an alarmist,' I have ample testimony from thousands who have read my books, that they are absolutely in accord with current events. We are living in the most critical days the world has ever seen, and I am perfectly willing—nay, anxious, to go on record that things will by no means get better, but rather worse, so it is peculiar, so it is fulfilling day by day, and those are blind who do not or will not see it."

There is where the trouble is; he says we have evidence that the end is approaching, and the mass of men WILL NOT see it. When we go back sixty years to the time when this idea was first promulgated, there were very few who would accept it, but now there are thousands everywhere who drink in the same idea, and advocate the same theory. Take

this partial summary of events. Since January 1, 1892, there have been four destructive wind-storms, killing nearly 200 persons, viz., April 1st, Missouri and Kansas, 75; May 27th, Wellington, Kansas, 53; June 16th, southern Minnesota, 50. In the same period there have been four great floods, viz., April 11th, Tombigbee river, 250; May 18th, Sioux City, Iowa, 35; May 20th, Lowell, Mississippi, 36; June 5th, fire and flood, Oil Creek, Pennsylvania, 196; and there have also been, viz., January 7th, McAlester, I. T., 65; April 20th, Minersville, Pennsylvania, 12; May 10th, Roslyn, Washington, 44; May 14th, Butte, Montana, 11. Three fires have been unusually disastrous to life, viz., January 21st, Indianapolis, Indiana, Surgical Institute, 13; February 30th, Hotel Royal, 30; April 28th, theater, Philadelphia, 12. Besides these there were: On March 21st, an explosion at Jordan, Michigan, by which 10

lives were lost; and June 13th the explosion at Mare Island Navy Yard, which killed 13; and June 16th, the fall of the bridge over the Licking river, by which 32 lives were sacrificed. These are the principal disasters of the year, and they involve an



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aggregate of 960 lives. Adding to this total the sum of losses by minor accidents we have the following sad and unusual record: By fire, 876; by drowning, 1,364; by explosions, 313; by falling structures of various kinds, 267; by mine disasters, 308; by wind

storms, 340; by lightning, 320; grand total, 3,788. The total loss of life by these causes during the whole of last year—and 1891 was one of the most destructive years on record—was 5,762. So it is evident that 1892 far surpassed its predecessor in loss of life and property.

I will now introduce another witness who corroborates my statement; although I believe he is wrong in some of his statements, nevertheless it shows the moving of the spirit of the times. I quote from *Dubuque Times* of January 26, 1897. I will not reproduce all the sermon, only extracts. "Rev. Beverly O. Kinnear said, 'Do not say I preach the end of the world, that only makes people laugh; I preach the end of the age. After that we shall all be taken off this continent and transported to another, if we are believers; if unbelievers, we shall be killed. The time for this is now close at hand.' * * * Sir Richard Proctor

says: 'In about 1897-8 the heat of the sun will be so enormously increased by the impact of a comet, as to destroy life upon this earth.' Sir J. W. Dawson, 'I anticipate the destruction of the present state of things on the earth by conflagration from the teachings of science.' Moody, 'The church is cold and formal, may God wake us up. And I know of no better way than to get the church to looking for the return of our Lord.' Dr. F. M. Close, of Oakland, California, ex-president of the Tacoma Academy of Science, writes: 'The late seismic disturbance which extended over the middle and southeastern states, was one of the preliminary throes of a great cataclysm.' These undoubted authorities show that the time is near at hand. We know that the end of the age is within this generation, but whether the present generation began in 1870 or 1871 we do not know. That is where chronology is liable to err. But

the time is near and we must be watching for it. What will become of the present United States when the end comes? It will be carried over to England. McKinley is to be the last president of the United States. Before the end of his term, there will be a terrible European war. Nations are building warships and getting ready for it. More have been built within the last year than in the world's entire previous history; this war occurs within the next three years. In it comes the end of the age. Now, when it comes to locating the day for this to begin I must beg off a little. I used to believe in chronology, and all signs say that the world will come to an end March 29, 1899. But it may be September, 1901. That is my present belief, there is only a little difference, one is surely right, and the time is very near." As I said before, I don't believe all that Rev. Kinnear said, but it shows the thought

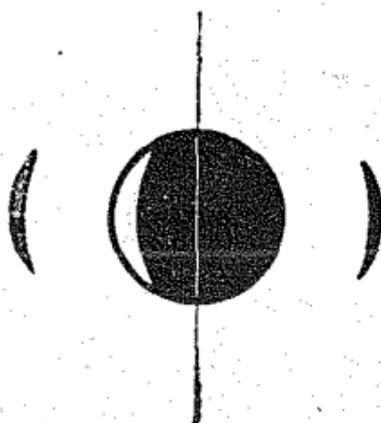
of the world on this subject.

Now, I will read another clipping: "Kansas City, Missouri, August 22. A small pamphlet entitled, 'What Do These Things Mean?' is being freely distributed among the homes, particularly of workingmen, about town. It is interesting, inasmuch as it attempts to prove that the end of the world is at hand, and the wonderful things told in the book of Revelation are about to come to pass. The recent railroad strikes is declared to be the last sign of prophecy. This last sign it declares is distress with perplexity. Nations have been perplexed before, and likewise have been distressed; but this is the first time, it is asserted, that both calamities have come at once. This pamphlet is published by the Internatinal Religious Liberty Association. At their office today no one was able to fix the exact day for the end of the world, but it was declared that the present generation

would live to see it, and that most of us would be present when the end would come."

Now, my friends, is that all chaff or imagination? Think of it. What is it that makes the people everywhere move in that line, and figure for the end?

I merely desire to show that there are others who stand as



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witnesses that we are approaching the end of time when all things shall take a change. Now the text says, "Knowing this first, that their shall come in the last day scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as

they were from the beginning of the creation." If I did not have another testimony on record, that alone would be sufficient to prove my position. Not long since I was talking with a man who used almost the identical words which are recorded here. When I told him concerning the signs of the approaching end he asked, "Where are the signs of the coming of the Son of Man? All things are as they were in the past." That comes very nearly repeating the words of the text. So men will fulfill prophecies recorded against themselves.

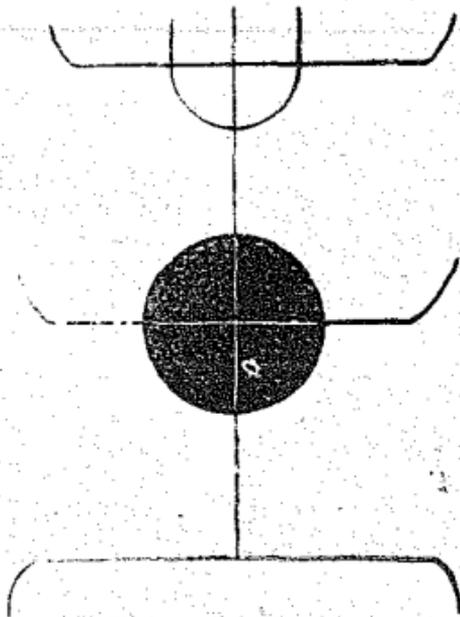
We pass along and examine other prophecies in connection with this, to learn whether they have been fulfilled or not. Turning to the third chapter of 2 Timothy and beginning at the first verse, we have some prophecies which declare that which shall be in the last days. And I want every one of you this afternoon to watch and judge for your-

selves; look around you and meditate upon this matter, and ask yourselves if these things have not been fulfilled, or are not in course of fulfillment. We read, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." Have perilous times come? Look around you, look upon the waters and upon the land. Have ever such events occurred as have transpired within the last score of years? We will see what they are. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves." Are there any in the world today who are lovers of themselves? Judge for yourselves. You are to be the judges this afternoon, I merely present the facts before you, and remember, if these prophecies are not fulfilled today, they will be somewhere in the near future; if there are no men on earth today, who are lovers of themselves, the time is coming when there will be. "Men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boast-

ers." Are there any covetous people on the earth today? Look around you and examine for yourselves. Any boasters on the earth today? A certain person once said to me, "You are the worst boaster I ever saw." I replied, "If that is true that fills the bill." Perhaps I can find another one among my brethren here that will stand by me, and help me boast. But, thank God, we have something of which to boast. That fulfills this prophecy and shows that we are living in the last days, in the fullness of time when Christ shall come again. "Proud." Are there any proud people upon the earth today? Well, if there are none in this part of the country, come out to Grinnell, and I will show you a few. We go on a little farther, and we find that there shall be blasphemers in the last days. Have we any blasphemers today? Yes, we have them today, and we shall not have to go very far to find one. At Rock-

ford, Illinois, there was one who claimed to be the Christ. He filled the bill. It is said he had a hundred angels in constant attendance around him; but I am not going to vouch for the truthfulness of the statement, for I don't believe that they are angels; I saw one of them and she *had no wings*. And Sweinfurth is not the only one. A blasphemer by the name of John Galbroth (he said his name was Gabriel but wrongly translated), spent nearly a whole day with me trying to convert me to accept him as the very Christ; every prophecy concerning Christ's second coming he would apply to himself. When he saw that he utterly failed to convince me that he was the Christ, he said when I got converted and got the Holy Ghost, then I would know all about it; that he was the Christ. That is another prophecy fulfilled, showing that we are near the last days, or to the end of this dispensation.

These are some of the blasphemers that are to be in the last days. "Disobedient to parents." Are there any of that class among the children of men today, who are disobedient to parents? I have talked with old men and women, and they have



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told me that they can look back and see the change in the rising generation from what things were in the time when they were young. (I see somebody nod his head back there, I guess that must be true). So we have this prophecy fulfilled.

"Without natural affection."

Oh! I wish that that was not so, —that there are so many of the human family without natural affection. What does that mean? Sam Jones said once, “What God has joined together let no man put asunder, but what the devil has joined together let them go to Chicago.” (So the papers had it). Well, the reason for that was, because, in Chicago, the train stopped twenty minutes for dinner and fifteen minutes for divorce; so there was no trouble in getting rid of those they had got tired of. “Without natural affection.” Yes, that was the point I was once examining when two women and a man in the congregation arose and went out. They had just been divorced a short time before. We want more natural affection in the human family. I sometimes think that some get married for the sake of seeing their names in the papers, then, in twenty-four hours, they are ready for a divorce to get their names in the

paper again. I will tell you what I have seen; I saw license for marriage taken out within an hour after the divorce was granted. The brother told us very plainly this morning that when Eve transgressed the law and was about to be expelled from the garden of Eden, Adam had natural affection enough to eat the apple and go out with her. I wonder how many men today would do likewise? It is more likely that they would, instead of eating the fruit, let the woman go, apply for a divorce and get another one. These are signs that we are living in the last days. Judge for your own selves whether this prophecy is fulfilled; whether there are those in the world who have not natural affection. This is one of those promised signs of the last days.

We have another declaration here: "truce breakers, false accusers," etc. Truce breakers, we learn in Romans, means covenant breakers. Are there

truce breakers on earth today? For the information of the children who do not know what truce means, I will explain. In the army, when we were down in front of Petersburg, Virginia, and the picket lines were within a stone's throw of each other, we would hoist a flag of truce; that is, we would tie a white handkerchief or a newspaper on the end of a ramrod and hold it up—a token that we were on friendly terms with each other. But, just as soon as the officers came along, the truce would be taken down and firing would commence. Now suppose that while the flag was up somebody would have taken up his gun and shot at the other side, that would have been breaking the truce; and Paul says they are covenant breakers. Have we anything in that line today? Here two persons make a covenant with each other, but finally one begins to break that covenant—does not do as he agreed to do. Are there

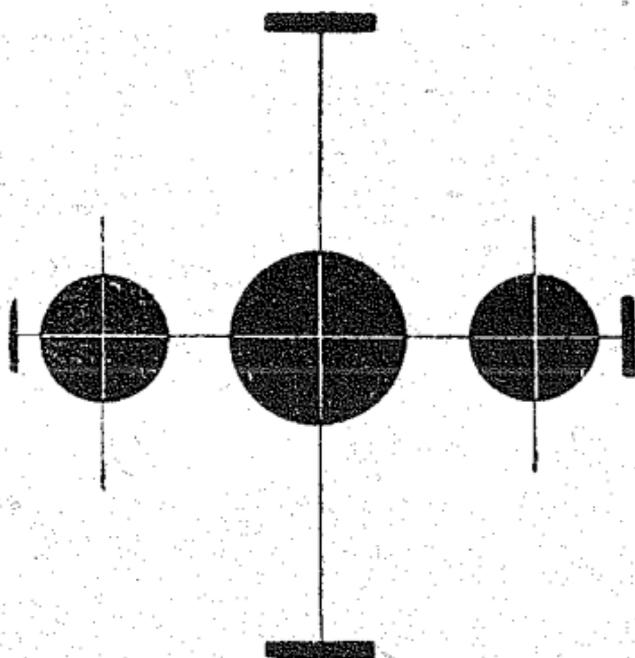
any of that class in the world today? Are there any who will get into your confidence, and, as the expression is, "pump" everything they can out of you concerning your affairs, and just as soon as they get your secrets, turn around and betray you? Are there any of that character in the world today? If there are none, there soon will be; and if there are, mark it down as one of the signs of the coming of the end of the world.

"False accusers." Are there any false accusers now? Yes. There was a woman down in eastern Iowa who accused me of having seven wives, and I had only one. That is a false accuser. They are to be in the last days, and if there are any now, friends, it is a token of the fulfillment of prophecy, that we are living in the last days.

We go on a little further and read, "incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good." If I had time I would

liketo comment on all these.

“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” I guess there are none of that class today. “Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God;” I wonder if there are any Latter Day Saints



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who are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. But the day will come when these people will be on earth, and I believe the day is close at hand, if not here now.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

These are they who profess to be the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Are there any of that class now? Look around you. There shall arise in the last days those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. What is this power of godliness? I will examine that matter for a short time, and then let you judge. We read in Luke 24: 49, that Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem and remain there till they were endued with power from on high; and when that power came, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, we learn that they prophesied and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2). In the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians I find more of the demonstrations of this power: "To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith

by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues." Here is the power that was to be given by the Holy Ghost in days that are past and gone. Now we come down to this age of the world and we find those who have the form of godliness, but deny all these things connected with it. If there is none of that class today there will be before Christ comes; there will be a class in the last days that will worship God, but deny the power which was given to the Saints eighteen hundred years ago. And this is an omen, that we are living in the last days.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive

silly women." In the last days there is to be a class of people who will creep into houses and lead captive silly women. I think you all know something about that class of people. If some of you don't, I will just briefly give you a few words of description. There is a class of people known as Mormons, away out in the Salt Lake valley, who creep into houses (remember they also have a form of godliness), and lead captive silly women. If there was ever a class of silly women on earth, it is they who are silly enough, or so silly, that from five to twenty will marry one man, when in ninety cases out of the hundred the whole man won't fill the bill. That shows silliness in the extreme. And that was to be a sign of Christ's coming, and that abomination began to be publicly practiced in 1852, so we are safe in counting from that time as one of the signs of the end. "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood

Moses, so do these also resist the truth, men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith, but they will proceed no further," and neither will they, for their folly shall be made manifest to all men.

But I will have to pass on. I will invite your attention to the 24th chapter of Matthew and come right down to what Jesus has to say about this matter. Remember he said, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." In the 24th chapter of Matthew and 3d verse this momentous question is asked him: "Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" That is just what we are trying to get at this afternoon—what shall be the sign of His coming and of the end of the world. Let us see what He says about it. "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For

many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Here is a very remarkable expression of the Savior's concerning the end or His coming. Many shall come in His name and say he is Jesus Christ, and thereby deceive many. How can that be. I understand that in the last days many preachers will present



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themselves as ministers for Christ—come in His name—and claim that Jesus is the Christ and the Savior, and tell the people, all they have to do, is to believe on Him, and they will be saved. But I read in John 3:34, "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God," then in John 14:1, we are told to believe on God and Christ. Mark 1:18, "Repent and believe the

gospel." Acts 2:38, "Be baptized for the remission of sins." Acts 22:16, "Be baptized and wash away thy sins." Acts 8:17, "Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost." Acts 19:12, Jesus sent Ananias to lay on hands (he was not an apostle). Acts 19:6, Paul laid on hands on gentiles for the Holy Ghost. Hebrews 6:1, 2, Galatians 1:8, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Again, 2 John 1:9, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." I understand by these quotations that these men or ministers, who come, saying Jesus is the Christ, and don't preach the gospel as the apostles did, are the deceivers spoken of, who should come in the last days deceiving many. Jesus says in Matthew 28:19, 20, "Teach all nations to observe all things w

soever I have commanded you," so I don't see any chance for any one to creep out, and *not teach all that Christ taught*. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall raise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Please mark now: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you:" that is, the church of Christ is going to suffer: "and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." These are omens of the last days, and when we see them we may know that the last days are near

at hand. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." It is said that there are ministers of Christ in every part of the world preaching the gospel. Now there must be something wrong somewhere; either they are mistaken and preaching only part of the gospel, or Jesus' prophecy is false. And I cannot afford to believe that Christ ever made a mistake.

In Matthew 24: 23, we read: "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out

of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Now, skipping another verse or two, we read: "Immediately after the tribulations of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken;" I wonder if there is any one here who saw that fulfilled. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:" His sign shall appear. What shall that be? By and by we will find some more of these signs. "And then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." We will skip a few more verses and go to the 33d: "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is *near*, even at the *doors*." We will examine these things as we pass along, I am now merely

laying a foundation to stand upon. "Verily I say unto you, this generation"—the generation when these things begin to take place—"shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled," till Christ shall come again. "Well," says the objector, "the genera-



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tion that witnessed the beginning of these things is past, for a generation is thirty-three years." No, friends, we learn from the Bible and Book of Mormon that a generation is one hundred years. But mark you, this hundred years from the

time these things begin to come to pass, shall not pass away till all be fulfilled. Now if the wise men of the world will step upon the platform and tell us when these signs began to appear, then we can approximate the time closely when Jesus will come.

We pass along a little further. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Are things now as they were in the days of Noah? The next verse says, "They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark."

Now, turning to the 21st chapter of Luke, and beginning at the 7th verse, we read: "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and

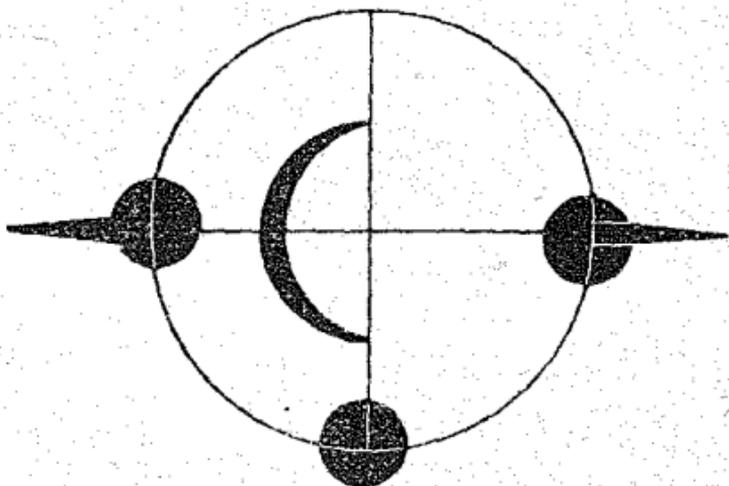
what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?" And he repeats the same that we have in Matthew. We go to the 10th verse: "Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake." This has all been fulfilled. "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put

to death." This has been literally fulfilled within the last sixty years. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." Then he goes on again describing the destruction of Jerusalem. In the 25th verse he says: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." Now, has there been any of this fulfilled? Has there been any perplexity of nations? Is there any today? What of these strikers? The nations are perplexed, they do not know what to do. Thus we have fulfilled the declaration of Jesus, that in the last days there shall be perplexities of nations which are coming on the earth; "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Do not men's hearts fail them for fear when they look around and see the terrible things that are upon

the earth? In Grinnell, Iowa, where I live, when a black cloud rises in the west you will see the people watching it and trembling, and if it begins to loom up larger, you will see them enter their caves in a hurry. A terrible cyclone swept over the city a few years ago, and killed some thirty or forty persons there. "Men's hearts failing them for fear."

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars." There has been signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars within the last few years. I will exhibit some drawings that I have here, of signs which some of you, perhaps, saw at the time they occurred. You'll have to say that at least some of the prophecies have been fulfilled. Now, friends, remember the words of Jesus Christ, that, just before his coming, "There shall be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars." Here we have a few signs. Here we

have the Northern Lights (See cut No. 1) as they appeared in 1887. See how the heavens were crossed and checkered. Here we have the Black Cross of 1883 (See cut No. 2), a black cross in the northern skies. These are signs of the coming of the Son of Man. Here we have the moon on



No. 8.

February 18th, 1899 (See cut No. 3), with a strait bar across it and a curve on each side, as you see it here. "There shall be signs in the moon," says Christ. Here is the moon on February 26, 1883. (See cut No. 4). You can see this bar through the moon, and these beams crossing it. I ob-

served these myself and copied them as they stood upon the moon. Jesus says. "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars." Here is the sun in 1862 with two small suns on each side of it (See cut No. 5), with a bar across each one, and one through the center of the sun. Here is the sun on November 22, 1879 (See cut No. 6), with the figures 22 appearing on its face just as plain as it could be written on the blackboard. I want to say further concerning these signs, the first one, I believe, was seen with the naked eye, in 1816. Remember "This generation [or one hundred years] shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." Here we have a hand that appeared on May 22d, 1888 (See cut No. 7). It hung over Finley, Ohio. I saw a man from that place a short time after it was seen, and he said that some of the citizens of the town went almost crazy over it, and I do not wonder at it. Here

is the hand with the index finger pointing downward, and these spots represent blood dripping off the end of the finger. Here we have signs of the coming of the Son of man in 1888. Here is another—here is the quarter moon on December 6th, 1891 (See cut No. 8), with a circle around it and three other moons visible at the same time. Will some of the wise men of the age tell me what all this means? Here we have four suns visible at the same time, three below and one above (See cut No. 9), all visible at the same time. This was seen in March, 1890. Four suns with a circle around each one of them. Jesus says, "There shall be signs in the sun." Here is another: The moon on December 31, 1883 (See cut No. 10). This is the moon with a bar across it as you see it there, and another across that one. Here we have another. The moon in March, 1890 (See cut No. 11), with one straight bar across it

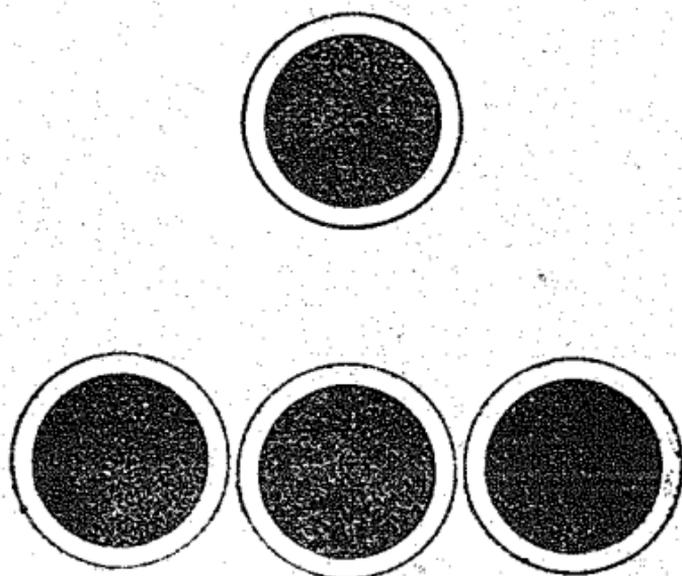
as you see it presented there. Again, here we have another moon in 1890 (See cut No. 12), with two circles, one encircling the other. Here is another that appeared in December 1888. At the bottom of the ring is the sun (See cut No. 13); the curve inside the ring represents sun dogs, and the three small circles are small moons. Will some of the wise men tell us what these things mean? Now look at these, remembering the words of Jesus Christ: "When ye shall see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." That is, the one hundred years, when these signs begin to be fulfilled, shall not pass away till Christ will come.

I have in my possession fifteen more of those signs seen in the sun and moon. On March 3, 1893, the moon had a cross with a circle round it, and a curve over

the top. In 1894 the letters G O-D were seen in the sky. April 10, 1895, the moon was seen to take three different shapes in less than an hour. September 1895 the moon presented three different phenomena, the first there was a dagger, then it turned to an anchor, then it was a cross. In 1894 the moon had a cross. February 17, 1897, the moon had a broad bar over it, up and down, with a large curve on the left of it. On May 7, 1896, the sun had a large circle with a quarter moon inside of the circle, and a star near the moon. In 1897 the sun had the figure 4 in it. November 28, 1897, the quarter moon had a broad bar down and over it, similar to the one of February 17, 1897, and many more might be given, but I think that is sufficient.

I will now give a few signs in the heavens. Quoting from *Albia (Iowa) Republican* for June 25, 1895: "About eleven o'clock

Tuesday, the heavens around the sun presented a curious yet beautiful spectacle. There were eight distinct and separate circles around the sun, and each one of them possessed all the colors of the rainbow. The circles were visible for about a half hour."



No. 9.

Chicago Times, September 7,
1895:

"MOON HAS THE JERKS.

"We read with only languid interest that the moon has been detected jumping up and down apparently. It is beyond a doubt that many observers in

different parts of these islands witnessed an extraordinary lunar phenomenon just after dark last Sunday evening. The moon was seen distinctly to make a series of jerks on a verticle line which nobody thus far has tried to explain. It is certain, however, that it could not have been the result of any terrestrial activity."

BATTLE IN THE HEAVENS.

St. Louis (Missouri) Globe-Democrat, August 18, 1894: "In the way of sights and viewing visions, a Dickinson county farmer has laid claim to first prize. He has a statement that is not only unique in every respect, but is told with startling attention to detail. H. W. J. Smith, a long time resident of the county, living seven miles from town, publishes in the *Evangelical Visitor*, the church organ of the Brethren in Christ, printed here this week over his own signature, and attested by an affidavit, a story of his strange

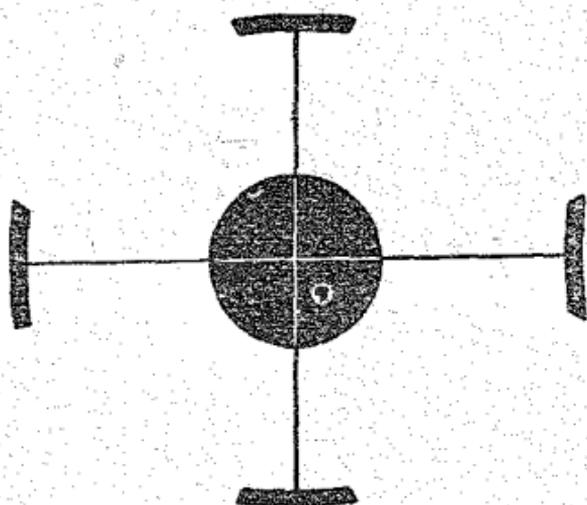
visitation. He says that in company with B. W. Blue, a neighboring farmer, a few nights ago, he stepped out of the house at Andrew Thompson's, three miles from Manchester, and fifteen miles from Abilene. As they looked at the sky, which was clear, suddenly something like a large luminous ball appeared in the northeast about thirty degrees above the horizon. Is it a comet? Is it a meteor? The questions were asked simultaneously, but there was no time for answer. Just then it shot westward, meteor-like, about three degrees, and immediately returned on the same line to its first position. We had only time to say, It merits watching, when it opened as a casket with a hinge, presenting on its right a cross—most beautiful, golden, corrugated and furbished. At the left of this was a living man, clad in citizen's style, with a plain crown on his head. His form was symmetrical, his coun-

tenance bright and permissive—a perfect Son of man. The casket soon closed and away it went to the eastern horizon like a meteor. There it oscillated as if for time to be emptied and refilled, returning on the same path to its original place. It opened, presenting a portly man, with sword and scabbard on his thigh, a cross on his breast, and on his head a crown of many glittering jewels, like stars. He looked beautiful, but was partly hidden by an obtrusive rider on a black or dark horse. These were hidden or overshadowed by a haughty woman in costly royal attire, who seemed to rule over both. Then these were eclipsed by the coming of a military leader with sword in right hand, elevated ready to strike, the scabbard cast away, a cross on his right breast and a square and compass on his left. On his head was a military hat, the crown blended with the man's hair, on each side of the man's head was

a horn, and a cross was erected behind him. He stepped out and forth and began action, never stopping to rest or turning his back on the enemy. He retreated eastward to within about five degrees of the horizon, then began to advance with heavy martial tread, like one tramping the wine press and wielding his sword. About 11:40 p. m. as we stood watching the phenomenon, blood was seen to stream forth from the casket and spread far and wide, apparently two hundred miles in extent. Mr. Blue, who is a veteran of the war, said it was like the blood of the battle field, only a deeper red. The warrior seemed at times to be in blood to his knees and above. It continued till after 2 a. m. Mr. Smith adds, I hereby certify the above to be given as penned as seen by me." Was that a sign in heaven, or what was it?

Let us examine further. Since 1860, earthquakes have been very frequent. Mark this down

first, that the first history we have on record of them there was just one, on an average, in one hundred and twelve years. How many are there now? We have one every six and one-half hours. It has been said that there are so many more lives lost now than there used to be,



No. 10.

because there are so many more people now than there were formerly. That looks plausible, but is that the reason we have an earthquake every few hours, instead of one every one hundred and twelve years? I believe it is the fulfilment of Christ's words that "earthquakes shall be

in divers place, and famines and pestilences." Let me read a little farther concerning this earthquake matter: "Since 1860, earthquakes have been more frequent, wide spread and terrible; thunderings more common and frightful; 'lightnings' more fearful, terrific and disastrous; and 'tempests,' tornadoes, cyclones and whirlwinds, have been more prevalent and destructive than ever known before in the same length of time. These facts are beyond successful contradiction." "In October, 1864, in India, the waves of the sea were driven inland by a cyclone, and many thousand lives lost and many million dollars worth of property was destroyed."

Now I would like to know when the first cyclone occurred. I can remember when such a thing as a cyclone was not known. The first cyclone is recorded in 1834. Mark it down, that in 1834, the first cyclone is recorded. What is the cause of this? Is it be-

cause there are so many more men upon the earth? No, it is one of the signs of the coming of the Son of Man. In 1883, I believe it was, there were six hundred cyclones recorded by the United States Signal Service, and you go back only a few years and there were none at all. Jesus says, all these things must come to pass. I will read a little more about destructions by cyclones: "On October 31st, 1876, in the same region [India] a cyclone drove the waters of the sea over some of the most populous districts, destroying two hundred and fifteen thousand human lives, with an immense amount of property. In 1867, at the island of St. Thomas, the waves rose sixty or seventy feet higher than common, and 'heaved themselves beyond their bounds,' carrying upon their crest a United States war steamer, and leaving it high and dry on land. In 1868, at the Sandwich Islands, the waves rose fifty or sixty feet higher

than was their wont, and 'heaved themselves beyond their bounds,' washing away a number of the little coast towns, destroying life and property. In August of the same year occurred 'the great tidal wave' which beat along the Pacific coast from the bay of San Francisco on the north, to Cape Horn on the south. At the bay of Valparaiso, and other contiguous seaports, the waves rose fifty to seventy feet higher than usual, tearing the shipping loose from its anchorage in many places, and bearing the largest vessels in upon the the dry land, destroying a great many lives and millions of dollars worth of property, and up to the present time, tidal waves, with the sea heaving its waters beyond their bounds, are frequent and appalling."

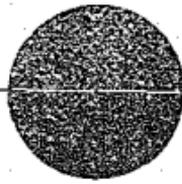
Now I will give some death rates: "From January 1, 1887, to December 31, the death roll from natural causes has been increased from the ranks of scientists, clergymen, doctors, bank-

ers, scholars, all classes, trades, and callings, in youth or age. Disasters have made thousands of victims, 1,000 in one fire, 700 in one earthquake, 200 by a theatre fire, 5,000 by floods in China, and again 4,000 and 2,000 in the same manner, 150 in a railroad disaster, 162,000 from pestilence, 10,000 in battle, in all 187,950 in Europe; and 2,810 in our own country, of whom 1,822 met the grim monster on the rail. 204 lost their lives on our inland lakes, and 6,557 lives were lost on the ocean; the grand total of pestilence, battle and disaster reaching the enormous number of 199,164 souls as against 122,791 the year before."

"Suicides, poor mortals incapable of further conflict in the battle of life, through blighted affections, melancholy, or the thousand alleged causes for the rash act, number in the United States alone 1,287, including men prominent in mercantile, scientific and political circles. Nine-

teen different methods of taking life were used, the revolver being favorite; the hemp route second choice, with novelties in the way of starving, cutting down a tree so as to fall on the suicide, and the dynamite route adopted by the anarchist Lingg.

“Murder has held high carnival in America during the year, his victims numbering 2,335 against 1,499 in 1886. Quarrels



No. 11.

resulting in 1,199, jealousy 184, liquor 212 and self defense 34.”

Now I will give you another summary which comes down to a later date of the increase of crime and suicides compiled by Ralph W. Farrell, Sullivan, Maine, but as it is just to the point I will use part of his article here: “In 1886 there were 1,499 murders and suicides; in 1887, 2,335 murders and 1,287 suicides; in 1890, 4,290 murders and 2,040 suicides; in 1891, 5,906 murders, and 3,531 suicides; in 1892, 6,794

murders, and 3,860 suicides; in 1893, 6,615 murders, and 4,436 suicides; in 1894, 9,800 murders, and 4,912 suicides; in 1895, 10,500 murders, and 5,759 suicides; in 1896, 10,652 murders and 6,520 suicides. These figures refer to the crimes committed in the United States. In ten years we find that murders have increased 8,153 more than in 1886, and there were about 5,000 more suicides in 1896 than there were in 1886. It is true that the opposers to the statement that the world is becoming worse, say 'O well, the reason there is such an increase in crime, is because there is such an increase in population.' " But the Apostle Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 13, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." So we must look for it. Bro. Farrell continues: "Now this kind of logic might help them some if they would not add that the world is getting better, there are more christians, more Bibles in circulation, etc." Now any person who has an atom of intelligence can prove that that time-worn statement of the increase of crime being caused by the in-

crease of population, is a fallacy—a statement without any foundation. To illustrate: We will say the population of the United States in 1886 was 55,000,000. Now let us divide this by 1,499, the number of murders committed that year, and we find that each person had a chance in 36,684, of being murdered. How is it in 1896? By going through the same process we find that each person had a chance in 6,664 of being murdered. Let us carry this thought a little further. If in 1880 there were 1,000 murders when the population of the United States was 50,000,000, in order to make the theory that the increase of crime is caused by the increase of population true, for every extra thousand murders, there should be an extra fifty million of people, and as there were 10,000 murders in the United States in 1896, there should have been 500,000,000 people. This was not the case as there were only about 71,000,000.”

Jesus says (Luke 21:25), “The sea and the waves shall roar.” The British vice consul at Arica, Peru, thus describes a tidal wave of which he was an eye witness:

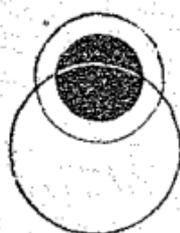
“What a sight! I saw all the vessels in the bay carried irresistibly to sea; anchors and chains were as pack thread. In a few minutes the great outward current stopped, stemmed by a mighty rising wave, I should judge about fifty feet high, which came in with an *awful rush*, carrying everything before it, in its terrible majesty, bringing the shipping with it, sometimes turning in circles as if striving to elude their fate.” It is estimated that the flood in China, which covered one hundred miles of land long by thirty miles wide, in October, 1892, killed 50,000 people, and 1,000,000 were left homeless. A flood and fire in Pennsylvania, June, 1892, killed from two to four hundred people, and damaged \$3,000,000 worth of property. Is it not a plain fact that the waters have been cursed in these days? 275 drowned off the Spanish coast in December 1896. In the world, during 1896, there were 3,840 who lost their lives by drowing. In Saga and adjacent towns in the flood, October 14, 1893, there were upward of 1,000 perished. 237 lives lost in one storm off the coast of Great Britain in 1893. A terrific storm

on the Gulf of Mexico a few years ago, from 1,500 to 1,800 lost their lives, etc. O when shall I stop? Disaster after disaster everywhere. Burnett, in his "Sacred Theory of the Earth," remarks: "I do not look upon this ominous noise of the sea as the effect of a tempest, for then it would not strike such terror into the inhabitants of the earth, nor make them apprehensive of some great evil coming upon the world as this will do."

God says in Joel 2: 30: "In the last days I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth. Blood and fire and pillars of smoke." In late years blood has been flowing almost constantly. Just think of the terrible wars and massacres that are occurring all over the broad earth. (Don't forget Cuba). Also notice the appalling fact that in the last ten years there has been upward of 64,000 murders and 36,500 suicides in the United States alone.

Fire is to be one of the signs of the end. In January, 1895, there were two fires in Toronto damaging \$2,000,000 worth of property; several killed. An explosion of several powder cars at

Butte, Montana, 75 killed, 100 injured. This was January 11, 1895. Another fire at Toronto March 3, 1895; loss \$1,250,000. March 20, 1895, 60 miners killed by an explosion at Evanston, Wyoming; March 24, 1895, Reed's packing plant was burned in Kansas City; loss \$1,000,000. Twenty business houses were burned in Milwaukee in 1895. Twenty-five men were killed in a fire in Denver, Colorado, 1895; 40



No. 12.

killed in explosion at Detroit, November, 1895, and 20 wounded. 30 miners killed in Houghton, Michigan, September, 1895. December 8, 1881, Ring's theatre was burned in Vienna, nearly 800 lives lost. In 1890 in one explosion in Wales there were 88 killed. March 10, 1893, a fire in Boston damaged from six to eight million dollars worth of property. In 1887 in one fire 1,000 lost their lives. In the same year \$130,000,000 worth of

property was destroyed. In 1891 there were 876 burned to death.

So I might continue for hours, but this is enough to show the prophecy of fire, blood and smoke all fulfilled to the letter.

Now a few words about famines and pestilence. In 1867 and 1868 England and France suffered terribly from famine; Germany, Eastern Prussia, Algiers and Russia were in a similar condition. At one time fully 100,000 Arabs perished. Persia has been nearly annihilated by famine and pestilence. 400 Indians perished from hunger in Quebec, November, 1893. India was visited by famine in 1865 which took away fully 1,000,000, and in 1868 1,500,000 starved; it was visited again 1876, * * * and in 1877 500,000 more perished; not less than 2,000,000 died from famine in 1878, and at the present time (1897) they are dying by the thousands. And how will it end? In a *New York Tribune* of a late date, is the statement that Europe wants 300,000,000 bushels of wheat, 325,000,000 bushels of rye, 1,000,000,000 bushels of potatoes. When will she get them?

What is the matter, friends?

Are we drawing near the end of time? Mark you, the nearer we get to the end of time, the more the power of God and the power of the devil will be made manifest against each other. We are told that there are no devils to be cast out today. Then it is a good spirit that is acting upon humanity and causing this large number of suicides and murders. Are you prepared to believe that? Was it a good spirit or an evil one that caused our worthy presidents, Lincoln and Garfield, to be murdered?

The law and Judge Lynch have not been idle, though the vengeance has been in small ratio with the crime, 79 judiciously hung, while the less merciful, but generally more just, Judge Lynch, has swung off 123 victims, the majority in the southern states.

I will have to pass along, because my time is almost expired. I am not through with this, but I want to get along a little further and show you something about war and equipments.

The war equipments of the nations, by land and sea, are far more extensive and highly perfected than ever before known.

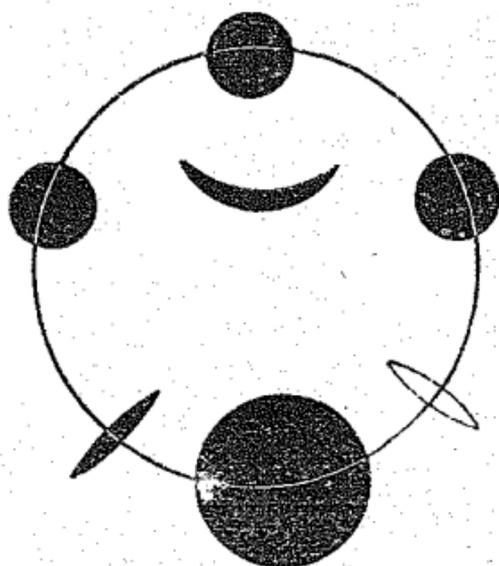
For instance, the forces of Austria amount at present to 856,980 men. Russia has augmented her armies to 1,519,810 men. The aggregate military strength of Italy is near 605,200. The German Empire can summon to the field 1,261,160 men. The French army is about 977,600 strong. The land forces alone in Great Britian number over 478,800 men, besides which her navy is the largest in the world. The Swedish army numbers about 274,500. The number of soldiers now at the disposal of all the European governments amount to between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000; an increase of over one-third in number since 1859. And still they are arming. The trust of nations today is mainly in their strength, their wealth, their wisdom, and their military prowess, rather than in truth and righteousness.

Now I read a clipping from a Chicago paper: "War, famine, pestilence, fire, wind, water and ice have been let loose and have done their worst, and with such appalling results, and with such remarkable phenomena accompanying them that it is not to be wondered that men have some-

times thought that the end of the world had come."

Yes, it is no wonder that the children of men begin to think that the end of the world has come. I might go on and give you many more evidences of the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the last days, but will call your attention to one more portion, or perhaps two, from the Old Testament referring to the fulfillment of prophecy in the last day. We find in the prophecies of Joel, a description of how it shall be in the hour of God's judgment. I read from the first chapter beginning with the second verse: "Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land, Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?" He goes on to prophesy something which shall be somewhere in the future. I know the objector comes in here and tells us that all these things come in their natural course and time, and because the human family is growing and multiplying so much. Let us go on and see what Joel has further to say about this: "That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which

the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten." Here we have the description of something that is going to destroy the vegetables. And I sometimes think that Joel did not look down the stream of time as far as to where we are. He has failed in



No. 13.

this description to portray all the events that would occur, for he missed the cabbage worm and the potato bug. But he has given us enough to show that we are living in the last days. He goes on further: "For a nation is come up upon my land, strong and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and

he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white. Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the Lord; the priests, the Lord's ministers, mourn. The field is wasted, the land mourneth, for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley,"—mark that, farmers; for the wheat and for the barley—"because the harvest of the field is perished. The vine is dried, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranite tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered." Is that true, friends; are the trees dying in the orchards? Why, I could point out orchards today, which ten years ago were nice, thrifty orchards, and today there is not a single living tree in them. These are signs of some great event that was to

take place in the future from the time when this prophecy was written. "Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord, alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered."

Is that true? Does the seed rot in the ground? Why, I can go back just a few years when we could sow a certain number of acres of wheat and tell just about what the result of the harvest would be. Can you do that now, friends? Within the last two years I have seen where farmers have planted their po-

tatoes three times before they would grow; something that was never known before.

“How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea the flocks of sheep are made desolate. O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.”

Has such as that been known? Go to Wisconsin, Michigan, and other places, and you will find this prophecy literally fulfilled, when the fires swept across the country and it seemed as though the very elements were on fire. Up in Dakota a man had a new wagon standing about the middle of a forty acre field of plowed ground. The fire burned that wagon, and he cannot tell for the life of him how the fire got there, unless, as it seemed, the elements were on fire. So we have this prophecy fulfilled. But I am not through with this yet. “The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.” Do we need any more evidence that we are

living in the last vista of time? The prophecies are fulfilled.

In 1833, on the 12th day of November, if I mistake not, many of the stars fell from heaven. I am not afraid to assert that to be a fact; my mother has often told me that the stars fell from heaven on that date, and I find a prophecy recorded somewhere declaring that it should be so, that the stars should fall from heaven as a fruit tree casteth her untimely figs when shaken of a mighty wind. Just shake a fruit tree violently, and then tell me which way the fruit will fall. It will fall every way, that is the way the stars fell. They fell every imaginable way, fulfilling prophecy to the very letter.

I could show you many more evidences had I time. How many of you remember the first Saturday night of September when the northern light began to come up? I will call your attention to that. They were arrayed in two contending bodies, and came up higher and higher, as two columns of fire, and seemed to be resisting each other. A great stream or gulf of darkness was between them. When they came up, they came

as two contending armies. How many of you saw that? This continued until they came right over our heads in the center of the heavens. There they rested as two armies preparing for battle, and when they had gathered their forces, as it were, they came together with a mighty rush, then recoiled and rested again. The streams continued to come together, and then recoil, and the closer they would get together the faster they would go; when they came together they seemed to come with a crash.

What does all this mean? There shall be signs in the heaven and in the earth, because these things point to the time when Christ was to come again. And now, friends, figure for yourselves, whether we are not living right in the sunset of time, or in other words, when Christ shall come again. I would like to examine the second chapter of Nahum, for it also refers to the preparation, or of the second coming of Christ. Read it and you can see the application; that was fulfilled in 1830, so I believe that a good time to start to count. Thank you for good attention.