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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

(ILLUSTRATED.)

BY ELDER J. S. ROTH.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

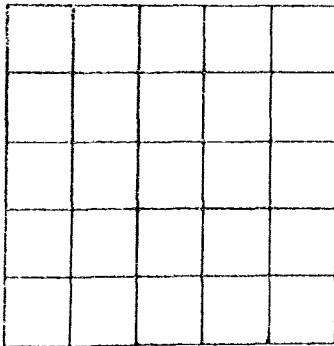
ILLUSTRATED

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 liv-

ing 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



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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 2d Peter.

It will be impossible for me, this afternoon, to present all the ideas in connection with this subject—

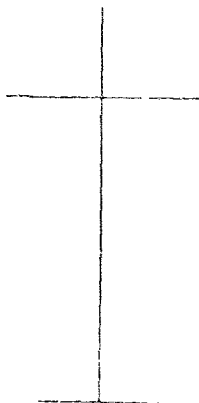
that we are living in the last days — there is so much to be said, considering also that I will have to be somewhat careful as well, because my brother said the other day that I forgot we had a reporter, so I will try to remember that we have one here today. The words I referred to are these: “Knowing 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 day in which they lived and that those were the last days; that the apostles were in the last days 1800 years ago. Well, if the apostles wrote 1800 years ago that they were living in the last days, and if we have lived 1900 years, or near that, this side of the apostles’ day, are we not nearer the end than they were? if they con-

cluded in their day that they were approaching the end and we are 1900 years farther down the stream of time, are we not nearer the end than they were? 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 that 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 108 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 2d 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 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 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 2000 years it underwent a great change; the flood was ushered in and the world was baptized and almost wholly depopulated. We pass along 2000 years more, and



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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 third 2000 years, or in other words, we are almost down to the Saturday evening of this

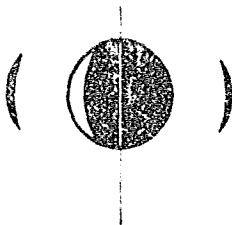
world, when a great change will take place upon the face of the earth, and what will that be? The world is beginning to wake up to the fact that there is going to be a change; we find that many are already figuring as to when the end will be. But remember we are not going to set the day or the year in this examination. That has been done by many in days past, and so far we have failed to learn that the world has come 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 that 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 no where 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 that 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 Janua-

ary 1st 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 7, McAllister, L. 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 25th, theater, Philadelphia, 12. Besides these there were: On March 21st an explosion at Jordan, Michigan, by which ten lives were lost; and June 13th the explosion at the 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 principle disasters of the year, and they involve an 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



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kinds. 267; by mine disasters, 308; by wind storms 340; by lightning, 320; grand total, 3,588. 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 will far surpass its predecessor in loss of life and property.

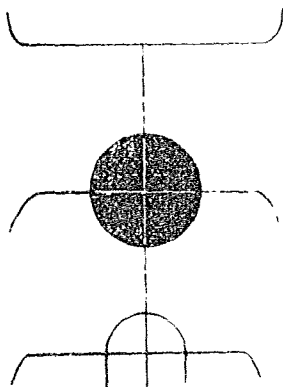
I merely desire to show that here is another who stands as a witness that we are approaching the end of time when all things shall take a change. Now the text says, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continued as they were from the beginning of creation." If I did not have another testimony on record, that alone would be sufficient to prove my position; not long since I was talk- with a man who used almost the identical words which are recorded here. When I told him concern- ing 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 near re- peating 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 3d chapter of 2d Timothy and beginning at the 1st 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 yourselves; 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, boasters." Are there any covetous people on the earth today? Look around you and examine for yourselves. Any boasters upon 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 to boast of. That fulfills this prophecy and shows that we are living in the last days, in the fulness 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 Rockford, Illinois, there is one who claims to be the Christ. He fills the bill. It is said he has a hundred angels in constant attendance around him now;



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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. These are some of the blasphemers that are to be in the last days. But this man is about to remove because it is too warm

for him in Illinois, and he is going down on the line between Iowa and Missouri. I suppose he thinks he can dodge there. Yes, we have blasphemers 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 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.

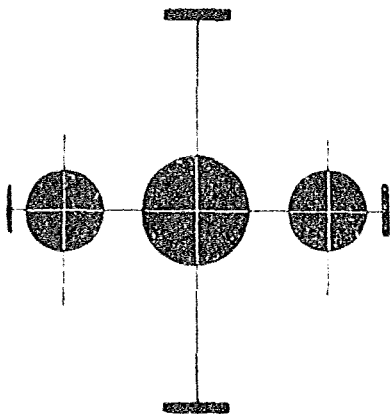
"Without natural affection." Oh! I wish that that was not so,—that there are so many of the human family without natural affection. What does that mean? Sam Jones said once, "What God has joined together let no man put asunder, but what the devil has joined together let them go to Chicago." (So the papers had it.) Well, the reason for that was because in Chicago the train stopped twenty min-

utes 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 examining once 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 into 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 to-day would do likewise? It is more likely that they would, instead of eating the

apple, 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 the promised signs of the last days.

We have another declaration here: "Truce breakers, false accusers," etc. Truce breakers, we learn in Romans that that means a covenant. Are there truce breakers on the earth to-day? For the good of the children who do not know what truce means I will explain. In the army when we were down in front of Petersburg 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 that 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 to-day? Here two persons make a



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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 to-day? Are there any in the world to-day 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 to-day? 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 on the earth to-day? 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 like to comment on all these.

“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” I guess there are none of that class to-day. Lovers of pleas-

nre more than lovers of God; I wonder if there are any Latter Day Saints 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 that 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 in the world to-day? 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 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. 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 the discerning of spirits; to another divers kind 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 are not any of this class to-day 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 1800 years ago. And this is an omen, when that time comes, 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. “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do



No. 6.

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, “By the mouth of two or

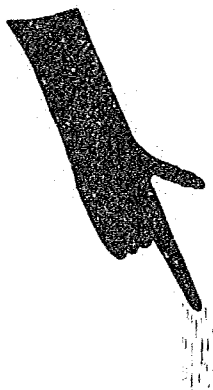
three witnesses shall all things be established.” In the 24th chapter of Matthew and 3d verse this momentous question is asked him, “Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” That is just what we are trying to get at this afternoon—what shall be the sign of his coming and of the end of the world. Let us see what he says about it. “And Jesus 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. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilence and earthquakes, in divers places.” Please mark now: “And they shall deliver you to be afflicted, and shall kill you.” That is, the church of Christ is going to suffer. “And ye shall be hated 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 arise 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 22:24 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 tribulation 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



No. 7.

things begin to take place—"shall not pass till all these things shall be fulfilled," till Christ shall come again. "Well," says the objector, "the generation 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 also shall 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."

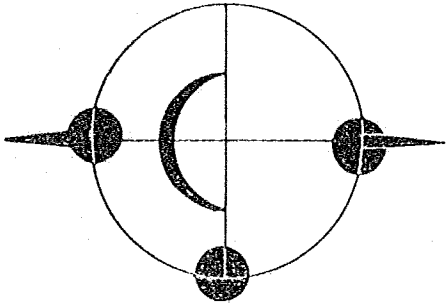
Now turning to the 21st chapter of Luke, and beginning at the 7th verse we read: "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall

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 on to the 10th verse: "Then he said unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines and pestilence; 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.” Don’t men’s hearts fail them for fear when they look around and see the terrible things that are upon the earth? In Grinnell, 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



No. 8.

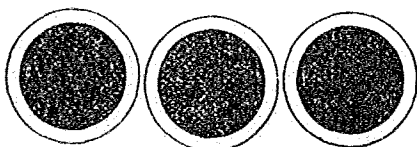
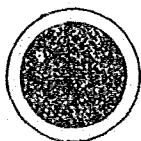
stars." I wonder if there have been any signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars within the last few years. I will exhibit some drawings that I have here of signs which some of you perhaps saw at the time they occurred. You'll have to say that at least some of the prophecies have been fulfilled. 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 February 18th, 1889, (See cut No. 3.) with a straight bar cross 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 26th 1883. (See cut No. 4.) You can see this bar through the moon, and these beams crossing it. I observed 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 22d, 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, '91, (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.



No. 9.

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 112 years. How many are there now? We have one every six and one half hours. It has been said that there are so many

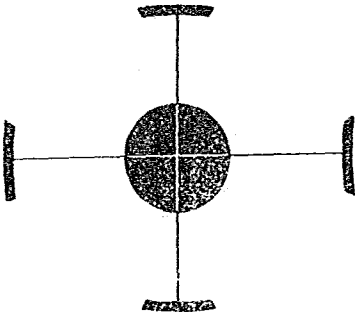
more lives lost now than there used to be, because there are so many more people now than there were formerly. That looks plausible, but is that the reason we have an earthquake every few hours, instead of one every 112 years? I believe it is the fulfillment of Christ's words that "earthquakes shall be in divers places, 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; thunders 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 thousands of lives and many million dollars worth of property were 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 because 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 is, there were 600 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 215,000 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,' carry-

ing 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 to sixty feet higher than was their wont and 'heaved themselves beyond their bounds,' washing away a number of the little coasts 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 near 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 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 1st, 1887, to De-

cember 31st, the death roll from natural causes has been increased from the ranks of scientists, clergymen, doctors, bankers, 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 theater fire, 5,000 by floods in



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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. Nineteen 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 resulting in 1,199; jealousy 184, liquor 212 and self defense 34."

What is the matter, friends? Are we drawing near the end of time? Mark you the nearer we get to th

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.”

“The fire fiend destroyed \$65,158,000 in \$100,000 to \$5,000,000 lots, while the smaller fires raise the sum total of property destroyed to about \$130,000,000 against \$115,000,000.”

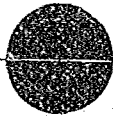
I will have to pass along, because my time is almost expired. I am

not through with this, but I want to get along a little further and show you something about war 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 of Great Britain, 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 wis-

dom, 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 sometimes thought that



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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 I will call your attention to one more portion, or perhaps two, from the Old Testament referring to the fulfillment of prophecy in the last

days. We find in the prophecies of Joel a description of how it shall be in the hour of God's Judgement. 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 palmer-worm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the canker worm eaten; and that which the canker worm hath left hath the catterpillar 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

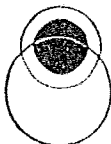
where we are. He has failed in this description to portray all the events that would occur, for he missed the cabbage worm and the potato bug. But he has given us enough to show that we are living in the last days. He goes on further: "For a nation is come upon my land, strong, and without number, whose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



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of the harvest would be. Can you do that now, friends? Within the last two years I have seen where farmers have planted their potatoes 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.”

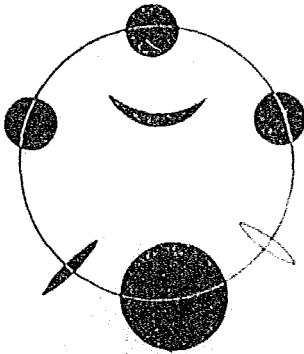
Has such as that been known? Go to Wisconsin, Michigan, and other places, and you will find this prophecy literally fulfilled, when the fires swept across the country and it seemed as though the very elements were on fire. Up in Dakota a man had a new wagon standing about the middle of a forty acre field 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 water 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 contend-

ing 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



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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. Thank you for good attention.