

THE SAVIOUR'S PROPHECY.
ITS FULFILMENT.

BY J. LITCH.

But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten; and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

And the gospel must first be published among all nations. But when they shall lead you and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents and shall cause them to be put to death.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.—Mark XIII: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

"Persecutions against the disciples of Christ began at an early age after the ascension of Christ. The first of magnitude was that which arose against Stephen, as recorded in the 7th chap. of the Acts of the Apostles. Under the leadership of Saul of Tarsus, havoc was made of the Church, and they were scattered abroad, and went everywhere preaching the word, Saul and his confederates pursuing them and persecuting them even unto strange cities. Nero was the first Roman emperor who instituted a formal persecution against the saints of God, in A. D. 64. He is said to have fired the city of Rome, that he might have the pleasure of witnessing the conflagration; and then to shield himself from the odium of such a transaction, he charged the crime on the Christians, and instituted a most terrific persecution, which raged with great ferocity till the death of the monster.

"The next general persecution waged by the emperors, was A. D. 94, under Domitian, a monarch of similar character to Nero. It was during this persecution, and under this emperor, that John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, where the visions of coming events were opened to him. Domitian almost exterminated Christianity for the time being. No station in life was sufficient security to protect the disciples of Christ. Flavius Clemens, a man of Consular dignity, with his wife, who had become Christians, were put to death.

"In the year 106 or 107, a violent persecution raged in Bithynia, an account of which was communicated by Pliny, the governor of the province, to Trajan the Roman emperor. From this account, it is evident that the persecution was waged from hatred to the name of Christ; and that treachery was rife, so that they betrayed one another to so alarming an extent, as to fill even the government with terror.—Pliny says: 'In the course of this business, informations pouring in, as is usual when they are encouraged, more cases occurred. An anonymous libel was exhibited, with a catalogue of names of persons who declared that they were not Christians then, and never had been.'

"Marcus Antonio assumed the Imperial dignity 161. He was a bitter persecutor of the followers of Christ, and continued his persecution for nineteen years. During his reign Justin Martyr, and the venerable Polycarp, with other eminent Christians, suffered death. When brought before the tribunal in the hundredth year of his age, the proconsul told him to reproach Christ, and he would release him. 'Eighty and six years,' said Polycarp, 'have I served him, and he hath never wronged me, and how can I blaspheme my King who hath saved me?' And with the most perfect triumph, he yielded himself up to death for the sake of Christ.

"The emperor Severus, in 203, passed an edict forbidding any of his subjects to change their religion, hoping thereby to retard the spread of Christianity. Many under it were brought to a cruel death.

"Maximin, a few years after, continued the persecution of the followers of Christ. But Decius, who became emperor in 249, waged a most dreadful war of extermination against the Christian cause. He directed his officers to exterminate the whole race of Christians, on pain of death, or to force them to bow to idols. This persecution raged two years, and vast multitudes of martyrs suffered. Valerian also manifested the spirit of intolerance and persecution; and under his reign Cyprian fell a glorious martyr to the cause of Christ, in the hope of a better resurrection.

"In the commencement of the fourth century, under Dioclesian, a most violent persecution raged for eight years. It began in 302, by pulling down the churches of Christians, burning their books, and depriving them of civil rights.

"The recital of their sufferings would appear almost beyond credence, were they not related both by pagans and Christians. Every torture which could be invented was resorted to, to terrify the disciples and stop the spread of the Christian religion. 17,000 are said to have suffered martyrdom in one month. In Egypt alone, 150,000 suffered death, besides 700,000 who came to their end in banishment or the public works. At length a medal was struck for

Dioclesian, with this inscription—'The name of Christians being extinguished.'

"This was the last general persecution by the Pagan emperors, Dioclesian dying in 312, and in 324 Constantine published an edict by which the ancient religion of the empire was abolished, and Christianity established as the religion of Rome. Thus when the enemy of Christ supposed the victory perfect, God had raised up instruments to effect an entire change, and place Christianity in the ascendant.

"Passing over the wars which were waged against heretics by the Greek emperors and emissaries of the Pope, for the establishment of his power, we will briefly glance at the persecutions which were more systematically waged after the establishment of their power.

"The Inquisition was the great instrument of persecution, and sacrificed many millions of lives. The Council of Verona, in 1184, constituted each bishop the Inquisitor of his own diocese. But in the commencement of the 13th century, the Pope appointed special delegates to visit those parts where his power was the most despised and trampled under foot, who, failing by their preaching to convert heretics, took on them, without consent of bishop or magistrate, to inflict capital punishments on their victims. 'But,' says Dr. Brownlee, 'the Inquisition was perfected in its terrific power, when the emperor Frederic II. and Louis IX., surnamed St. Louis, king of France, lent their authority to establish this tribunal; and when the magistracy was converted into a tool of the priests to enact legal murders on men, simply for their opinions in religion.'

"Pope Innocent III. was properly its founder, and Saint Dominic its earliest Inquisitor. 'It was fully in operation in Italy in 1251. It gradually extended into other countries, and the tormentors and executioners of 'the Holy Office' were always Dominican friars.' In England, Scotland, and Ireland, and some other countries, they never yet were able publicly to establish the Inquisition, and it was soon banished by an indignant people from France and Germany. But poor, unhappy Spain, Portugal, and Italy, were doomed to smart for centuries under its crushing and diabolical power.

"In Spain, where this tribunal triumphed in the reign of terror, over religion, morals, and bleeding humanity, there were eighteen different Inquisitorial courts, with their apostolical Inquisitors. And besides the legions of officers in these hells, there were 20,000 familiars, dispersed over the land. These mingled in all companies, invaded the sanctity of families, and dragged all suspected persons to the cells of the Inquisition.

"The familiars were spies, invading the sanctity of the domestic circle, bound by the most solemn oath, to report every word, look, and act, that could be construed into disregard or slight of the Church, her dogmas, or doings, to the Holy Inquisition. On the most faint suspicion, every person, either at noon day or at the midnight hour, was liable to be seized and dragged to the cells of the horrid slaughter house. The wife and mother was carried from the bosom of husband and children. Fathers, husbands, brothers, sisters, the blooming maid and adorned bride, in an hour of fancied safety, was made the victim of torture or debauchery, with no power to deliver them. Such was the terror inspired by this diabolical institution, that whenever the words were heard,—'Open to the holy Inquisition,' 'Deliver up your wife, your daughter, your son, parent or husband, to the holy Inquisition,' instant would the terrified relative, with rapid step hasten without daring to remonstrate or even implore pity, lead forth the trembling victim to be delivered to the tormentors. The next day would the bereaved go into mourning as for one dead. Nor dared they to breathe one word of murmuring or complaint, lest they should be the next victims.

"With such profound secrecy did these familiars conduct their movements, that members of the same family would know nothing of each other's apprehension. Dr. Geddes states, that a father, three sons and three daughters, all living in one house, were carried prisoners to the Inquisition without knowing of one another's being there, for seven years, when the survivors of them, who had not died under their horrid tortures, met at the *Auto da fe*, when their eyes fell on each other, about to be consumed in the flames.

"The accused and accused were never confronted in an Inquisition court. The prisoner was never informed of his crime, nor permitted to know who had informed against him. But torture after torture was inflicted for the purpose of inducing confession. Says Voltaire: 'This procedure, unheard of till the Inquisition, makes all Spain tremble suspicion reigns in all bosoms; friendship and quietness are at an end; brother dreads brother; and father his own son.'

"Lorente thus gives the statistics of the Spanish Inquisition, from the year 1481 to the present century.

"All the victims condemned and burnt, 33,912; burned

in effigy, 15,695; placed in a state of penance, with rigorous punishment, 291,450; total 341,057.

"When the city of Beziers was taken by the Crusaders in 1209, seven hundred Christian Albigenses were slain in one church; sixty thousand perished in all.

"When the city of Lavour was taken, eighty gentlemen were slain in cold blood; the governor and his lady were put to death, four hundred Christians burned alive; and all the rest of the citizens indiscriminately put to the sword!

"When Languedoc was invaded, one hundred thousand Albigenses fell in one day.

"A Papal historian, Mezerai, says of the massacre of St. Bartholomew's eve, in Paris: 'The streets were paved with dead bodies and the mortally wounded, the gateways were blocked up with them. There were heaps of them in the squares; the small streams were filled with human blood, which flowed in torrents to the river.'

"Similar massacres were enacted, at the same time, at Meaux; at Troyes; at Orleans; at Nevers; at La Charite; at Toulouse; at Barbades; and at Lyons. France was drenched in the blood of the Huguenot Christians in the reign of Charles IX.

"There perished under Pope Julian 200,000 Christians; and by the French massacre, on a moderate calculation, in three months, 100,000. Of the Waldenses, there perished 150,000; of the Albigenses, 150,000. There perished by the Jesuits, in thirty years only, 900,000. The amount murdered by the Duke of Alva, is set down by Grotius at 100,000.

"The estimate of the number of deaths of which the Church of Rome is guilty, is estimated by those most competent to make it, at 68,500,000. The amount of suffering endured by these individuals, and the heart-rending anguish caused by their sufferings among surviving friends, what mind can estimate or pen describe!

"Well did the Holy Ghost, in describing this horrid system, present it as having a mouth speaking great things, and making war upon the saints and prevailing against them.

"The facts given above are mostly from Dr. Brownlee's '*Roman Catholic Controversy*.' They are necessarily briefly stated, and present an inadequate view of the horrible sufferings of the people of God under that despotic and bloody power. Nor has the spirit which prompted these persecutions ever changed."

CALIFORNIA:

ITS CONDITION, POPULATION, MORALS, PROSPECTS &c.

Owing to the transition state of society here, and the fact that every independent writer takes his own stand point of moral observation, there are many seeming contradictions in the communications, which from time to time, appear in public print, and for which no one but an actual observer can make due allowances. I desire, first, to call your attention to the number and character of the population of California. In a recent official report to the Legislature, the entire population of the State is put down at 260,000. Our population is very transient, and hence the difficulty of establishing institutions upon a permanent basis and of effecting radical reform. During the year ending December 31, 1852, there arrived at San Francisco by sea 64,640 passengers, and during the same period, 23,196 persons departed, showing an addition to the population of the State by sea of 41,444 for the year. This estimate is founded upon reports made to the Custom House by captains of steamers and masters of vessels.

The immigration across the plains in 1852, is variously estimated at from 35 to 50 thousand. It would doubtless be within bounds to put it at 30,000, which would make a total addition to our population of, say in round numbers, 75,000 during the year 1852. Our population is in many respects peculiar, as here are to be found full representations from almost every nation on the globe. We have about 25,000 Germans, 25,000 Frenchmen, 5,000 Englishmen, 5,000 Irish, 5,000 Scandinavians, 15,000 Chinese, 10,000 Jews, native Californians, Mexicans and Chilians who speak the Spanish language, 25,000; 30,000 Indians and many smaller representations, amounting in all to about 25,000, leaving a population of about 100,000 Americans who may be regarded as the controlling and saving element. There are probably in the State not more than 8,000 white children of suitable age to attend Sabbath-school. As we look upon the polyglot multitude moving on in the busy whirl of Mammon without any social affinities for each other, let us ask, "Watchman what of the night?" The response is, the American portion of the population is tolerably well supplied with evangelical Protestant Pastors, of whom there are probably one hundred and ten in the State. But for the balance of the population there is not one evangelical pastor for the French; not one for the Germans, the countrymen of Luther; not one for the Irish; not one for the Scandinavians; not one for the Native Californians, Mexicans and Chilians, and but one for the Chinese. * * *