

Yet \$10,000,000 lie unawarded in the vaults of the Washington treasury, all lawful claims having been settled. We are glad to see our friend, the *Chicago Advance*, writing thus thereon: "Our chief concern is, that our Government should hasten to make evident to the British Government and the rest of the world, that it is disposed to act in perfect good faith. If it has already paid, as by the terms of the settlement, all the 'direct' losses from the piratical cruisers, and still has left some \$10,000,000 of the amount awarded to be paid by Great Britain, then, the only course for our Government to pursue would be frankly to *pay back* that much, or that which, it now appears, was an overplus in the award due. To do this would be an act transcendently honourable—an example of uprightness and fair dealing, on a national and international scale, which would tend most effectually to unite in honourable fellowship the two foremost nations of the world." It is sad that the peace arbitration should have about it the apparent record of a swindle.

### FAITH'S ROLL CALL.—III.

#### NOAH.

The days of impending judgment, the coming of the Lord, are paralleled with the days of Noah. We would keep that parallelism in view. Matt. xxiv. 37, etc.: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Luke xvii. 26-27, an exact parallel.) Peter also, 2 Ep. ii. 5: "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. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing

out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

It certainly was not to discuss the question of a partial or universal deluge the New Testament writers brought forward this history; nor shall we delay very long upon a question which has been forced into the record rather than been suggested out of it; for to what tribunal shall we bring the dispute as to the local or general character of that judgment. The testimony of the rocks is silent, for although indications of floods and wastes of water are abundant, there are none that can be identified with that of Noah, which, though it may have been produced by geological changes, perhaps a great tidal wave impelled by earthquake shock, its duration was too brief to effect those changes which are evidently the result of geologic years. The marine shells found on high mountains are *in situ* and indicate a submergence of years, not of months. Rivers have changed their course in historic times, flooding entire districts, leaving great and permanent changes. Many indications of overflow which have been taken as marks of the Noachic flood in all probability had similar causes, but we are positively without any even probably decisive testimony from the rocks identifying the deluge. There are marks of floods—local, general—but nothing to identify such with the special flood with which we are concerned.

Traditions of a flood are fairly general in Mexico, India, and China. The Chaldean records, so lately brought to light from the ruined palaces of Nineveh, have a remarkable similarity with the Bible account; they undoubtedly have a common origin, and there are no convincing arguments against the acceptance of the Genesis records as the more ancient history. It is, however, a remarkable fact that Egypt, which disputes with Chaldea the proud position of being the pioneer nation of civilization, art, and culture, has, as yet, yielded up no trace of a tradition regarding a flood. The same seems to be true of Persia, which is the more noteworthy since Persia is adjoining Assyria, where the most