

state of the world, and its state at the Birth of Our Lord, when prepared by God for the mighty changes introduced by Christianity.

1. The war between France and Prussia was the most terrible among civilized nations since the "Prince of Peace" was born. As one result the kingdom of Prussia has risen to be the foremost in some respects in the world. Russia, Prussia, and the United States have in a few years become mighty powers in the earth. Such a change has not taken place for 1,000 years.

2. Note the tendency to weld the smaller States into powerful Empires, as for example the German Empire, and the efforts of Great Britain in binding together her scattered Colonies. Notice also the rise of Italy. Compare this with the fact that when our Lord came, the whole world was under the sway of the mighty Empire of Rome.

3. Note also the increase of the English-speaking race, and the spread of the English language. Like the Greek language, which, in the days of St. Paul, was universal, and so enabled the Scriptures to be spread, and the Gospel preached everywhere, so the English Bible is penetrating the remotest quarters of the globe.

3. The infallibility of the Pope has been decreed as an Article of Faith. The vote was taken July 18th, 1870, in a storm of thunder which almost drowned the voices of the voters. *On that very day*, war was declared between France and Prussia. The French troops were withdrawn from Rome. Italy seized her opportunity, and the temporal power of the Papacy, which had existed for centuries, fell, never to rise again.

4. The Ottoman Empire is the subject of several prophecies found in the Book of Daniel and the Revelation. Students have generally agreed that this century would see its decline and fall. What do we see? The power of Turkey in Europe broken, whatever course events may take. The decline of Turkey, symbolized as "the drying up of the Euphrates" is taking place before our eyes. This is a most important "sign of the times."

5. It cannot be denied that, while there has been a great increase of good in the world, while efforts for the benefit of the human race have largely multiplied, and good works abound, at the same time evil of all kinds has alarmingly developed. It seems as if the day were at hand when the hosts of the Lord shall be marshalled against the hosts of the Prince of Darkness in a tremendous conflict. Let the reader of prophecy mark this sign also. Events are thickening about us, and it may be that those of us who live another quarter of a century may have to witness fearful trials which will come upon the earth. "Be ye sober, and watch unto prayer."

A SKEPTIC who was badgering a simple minded old man about the miracle of Balaam's ass, finally said: "How is it possible for an ass to talk like a man?" "Well," replied the honest old believer, with meaning and emphasis, "I don't see why it ain't as easy for an ass to talk like a man as it is for a man to talk like an ass."

THERE are nearly nine hundred communicants among the Indians under the care of the Protestant Episcopal Church.