

usually stay—at their own expense—about two years in England, and then on returning to America are succeeded by other brethren. At present Messrs. Joseph S. Broadbent and Joseph Nelson are the presiding Elders of the Oldham branch, and in the person of Mr. B. R. Birchall the small local community has another Elder. There were about two dozen persons present at the service on Sunday morning, when Mr. Broadbent presided. Prayers were offered, hymns from a book of sacred hymns and spiritual songs compiled by Brigham Young, Parley P. Pratt and John Taylor were sung to the accompaniment of an accordion, and addresses were delivered to prove that baptism by immersion is essential for the remission of sins. The speakers were Messrs. Nelson, Birchall and J. H. Moss, elders of Haywood. In the afternoon at a better attended meeting Elder A. M. Wild, of Tyldesly, spoke on the personality of God, and Elder G. H. Bradshaw, of Manchester, analyzed the Gospel of Christianity, and compared it with teachings of Latter-day Saints. The room was well filled at the evening service, when Messrs. Birchall and Williams discussed the divinity of the Book of Mormon. They sought to establish the authenticity of that book as a divinely inspired record, and finished with stating that it teaches the same principles as the Bible.

WAR RUMBLINGS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—A special to the Herald from Washington says important developments in the Cuban affairs may be expected at an early date but not from this end of the line. The administration thoroughly understands the situation in Cuba, as it exists today, and does not regard the time as ripe for any action by this country.

Many sensational reports are afloat about immediate intervention by the United States, and extensive military preparations for prospective trouble with Spain. It can be stated authoritatively that the President regards the military situation in Cuba as far too critical to warrant any action by the United States at this time. It is the first conviction of the administration officials that a real crisis is approaching in Cuban affairs and that the only safe course for this country to pursue is to await developments.

The presence in this city today of Admiral Bunce and his long conference with the secretary, Mr. Herbert, has given rise to many reports as to prospective trouble with Spain. One of the alarming reports told with much detail by pessimistic naval officers is that their administration has not become entirely convinced that Spain's extensive naval preparations at home and the recent large augmentation of the military forces in Cuba are in anticipation of a conflict with the United States to be provoked by the former for the purpose of preserving her dignity in the loss of Cuba.

Of the incidents which have given rise to the many sensational rumors which the alarmists are circulating is a story which comes from Spain to the effect that Minister Taylor has discovered that the Madrid authorities have been consulting the representa-

tives of the European powers in that city as to their attitude in the event of war between the United States and Spain. According to the report, Minister Taylor discovered that a note was addressed to each of the foreign ministers at Madrid making the inquiry, and upon learning of the matter he went to the Spanish minister of foreign affairs and demanded an explanation. His interview, it is said, resulted in the notes being recalled. All of this happened several weeks ago and was duly reported to the state department.

It is further stated that Mr. Taylor has reported the existence of a bad state of feeling toward Americans in various parts of Spain and the danger of the instability of the Spanish government to prevent outbreaks.

There is no justification for this insubstantial talk about war at this time. Secretary Herbert is not unduly of the possibilities of the Cuban war, but he has not changed his naval policy by reason of any recent developments. Both the military and naval establishments have been unusually active during the last year in the way of military preparations, and orders have been issued by the secretaries of both departments to expedite work in various branches, not because of any certainty of any immediate trouble with Spain or any other country, but solely for the purpose of being prepared for any emergency.

The visit of Admiral Bunce here yesterday had something to do with the repair work on the vessels of his squadron and his winter's cruise after the fleet is got together again. The secretary and admiral spent some time together going over charts of southern waters. The main object of the conference was to map out a winter cruise for the fleet and plan of maneuvers. The secretary is anxious to avoid the necessity of keeping the squadron in rendezvous at Hampton Roads as he did last year, because of the fear that the Venezuelan and Cuban controversies might become further complicated by the presence of the ships in the Caribbean sea.

The Venezuelan question is now out of the way, and unless there should be a crisis in Cuban affairs during the coming month, the squadron will probably make a cruise touching at some of the Venezuelan ports but carefully avoiding Guano waters.

A definite program, however, will not be outlined until the squadron is brought together at Hampton Roads early in December, and Admiral Bunce's future movements will then depend upon the situation in Cuba.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 12.—A special to the Globe-Democrat from Key West, Fla., says:

Captain General Weyler has at last met the Cubans on the field and has suffered a repulse, according to the advices per steamer Oliveette from Havana last night. Weyler, it is said, was attacked while encamped in the Gobernadora hills in Pinar del Rio province by the Cubans under Perico Delgado and Perco Diaz. The Cubans surprised the Spanish outposts and for a time great confusion prevailed in Weyler's camp. Weyler is said to have fallen back about eight miles. During the retreat the Cubans killed thirty-four Spaniards and wounded sixty others.

MADRID, Nov. 12.—With regard to the dispatches from Washington on the subject of the possibility of trouble between the United States and Spain, it is officially denied that the Spanish premier, Senor Canovas del Castillo, has communicated with the powers with the view to seeking support against the United States. It is explained the story is probably a revival of a report circulated last August when Spain prepared a memorandum on the Cuban relations with the United States, suggesting that the powers assist Spain in bringing amicable pressure to bear on the United States on the occasion indicated, and by the advice of the ambassadors of the powers the Spanish minister for foreign affairs consulted with the United States minister at Madrid before sending the memorandum. It was the view of Minister Taylor that a despatch of such a note directly after President Cleveland's proclamation calling for the observance of the neutrality laws, would be calculated seriously to affect the relations between Spain and the United States, and in deference to that expression the Spanish minister of foreign affairs assured Minister Taylor that the memorandum would be withheld; also stating that no offense was intended to President Cleveland or to the government of the United States, and that Spain desired to sound the powers with a view to a contingency which might arise out of the presidential election. It is now added that the possibility of a war between the United States and Spain is regarded as most remote. It is pointed out that Spain remained perfectly neutral during the presidential election.

SMOOTH ADVERTISING FAKIRS.

Two smooth advertising fakirs have been playing to big business in this and adjoining cities within the last month. They are men who know their business and play their cards well—so well in fact that several of Salt Lake's most brainy and capable business men have been duped by them.

The first record of their appearance in this city is furnished by the Cullen hotel register, on the pages of which they inscribed their autographs, Oct. 23, 1896. J. M. Smith of Boston and M. Well of Kansas City are the parties herein referred to, and they have been operating here as authorized representatives of the United States Commercial Register company of Philadelphia. The latter is an advertising firm with which most of our prominent business houses have been dealing.

Smith and Well deserve the distinction of being called smart in every sense of the term. They ply their nefarious vocation so smoothly that they have drawn the most shrewd and careful business men into their net. One of the pair makes a call on a house that has been doing business with the Commercial Register company of Philadelphia. He introduces himself as a representative of the company and produces cards to that effect. Then he asks the manager of the firm for a renewal of his "ad," which, for two years, the length of time for which each contract is made, costs \$12.50. The manager in most cases