

good behavior, or until further legislation upon the subject. This ought to place the department entirely out of politics, and make it easy to establish a condition of harmony, discipline and efficiency. Complaints that the laws are not being properly enforced in this city are becoming numerous and loud, and some heed should be paid to them.

This decision is a tremendous vindication of the firmness and sagacity of Mayor Clark. Suppose his backbone had yielded under the pressure of the machine, and he had appointed a new police department; the city would have had two sets of officers to pay, and a complicated muddle, making prolonged and costly litigation inevitable, would have ensued. Serious and expensive consequences have been avoided by the resolution and foresight of the Mayor, and a corresponding opprobrium falls upon the heads of his enemies.

Now let wrangling cease. Let the City Council hold up the Mayor's hands in his efforts to give the city a good government. Let meddlesome schemers who were not placed in office by the people be no longer permitted to dominate the men who were. Again the "News" says, let us have peace.

IS IT TO BE WAR?

In the case of war between the United States and Spain, the latter country would have a fleet at her command, believed to be, in some respects, superior to that of the United States, and it is not improbable that the Spanish people for this reason feel inclined to insist on more than common regard for the national honor. But comparisons based on figures on paper are idle. On the side of the United States are all the elements of superiority. In the opinion of experts it is no longer the number of ships and guns that count, but rather the thickness of armor and caliber of the guns, and above all the quality of the men commanding the engines of destruction. In these respects the United States navy is undoubtedly ahead and fully prepared to maintain the glorious record of past wars, which eclipses that of most other nations. About all the naval heroism in Japan's war with China, worthy a place in the annals of history, was displayed by an American, the commander of the Chen Yuen, and there are other heroes in the American navy.

A war with Spain would be largely one at sea. If the warships in Havana harbor were sunk and the port captured, Spain would have to endeavor to make some counter-move to even up matters. But the United States fleet would be able to meet any squadron Spain might send out for the purpose of attacking our seaports. With the aggressive tactics concentrated on Cuba, it is believed that Spain could do but little harm to this country, and that it would be but a short time before the haughty chevalier across the sea would acknowledge himself beaten.

It is still hoped that the Spanish government will find some way to satisfy the loud demands of humanity and justice in behalf of the thousands of human beings that are slowly dying in the cities of Cuba, and at the same time save the "honor" which seems to be the first consideration. Public opinion in America now is in favor of rescuing the sufferers, even at considerable cost. With Spain rests yet to decide, whether this shall be done by peaceful means or only by the sacrifice of more property, more lives. According to present appearances the near future will make this clear.

By latest developments it is seen that the United States has determined that

Spain's inhuman methods in Cuba shall cease, and is about to give notice to that effect to the Spanish government. In view of other recent circumstances, it would be no great surprise if Great Britain should join with the United States in such notice, in which event there would be no resistance on the part of Spain that would lead to war, and all the clouds would pass by for the present.

IN RELATION TO THE MYSTICAL.

Since the fullness of the everlasting Gospel was proclaimed to the inhabitants of the earth by the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Elders who trace their authority to him, there has developed in different parts of the world, especially the United States, a strong tendency in the direction of certain forms of the mystical. The masses of the people in those countries in which the Gospel has been preached have rejected it, though some of its features are very attractive even to persons who lack the courage or honesty or both to embrace it. The promise of the Spirit of Revelation, which the servants of the Lord make to all who will believe, repent and be baptized, is one which a great many people would like to realize without complying with the laws upon which the blessing is predicted. Hence the development of spiritualism and other forms of mysticism that signalize the present age of the world in so marked a degree.

The opportunity is given to the children of men to put themselves in a position to receive revelation from God for their individual instruction, comfort, guidance and salvation. But this great blessing calls for a correspondingly great sacrifice on the part of each individual who aspires to it. On the other hand the age has developed opportunities for receiving revelations and spiritual or mystical manifestations of various kinds without the making, on the part of the individual who receives them, of any sacrifice whatever, either by performing the works of righteousness or in any other way. Such revelations and manifestations originate in sources that are the opposite of heavenly, and, with few if any exceptions, are evil in their tendency and effects upon the human soul.

There is another class of spiritual or mystical manifestations which cannot be set down as evil in their source or tendency, yet which ought not to be relied upon too strongly by members of the Church in weighty matters of faith and conduct. To this class belong dreams, visions, prophecies, interpretations of Scripture, etc., that come through unofficial channels. Often where such manifestations occur among the Saints, they are tokens of the favor and blessing of the Almighty upon the individuals who are favored with them, and should be received and prized in a spirit of humility and gratitude. But occurrences of this character may originate in sources that are not divine, and even members of the Church may, in consequence, be misled or seriously deceived. Where there is doubt as to the actual source or character of a spiritual manifestation, it should be tested by or compared with the principles of truth as revealed to and accepted by the Church. If the individual is not able to make this test or comparison to his own satisfaction, he may lay the matter before his presiding officers in the Priesthood.

Within the last few years there has been a rapidly increasing interest in

the advanced studies of Mutual Improvement associations, theological classes in the Sabbath schools, and quorums of Priesthood; and many members of these organizations have been exercised in their minds concerning questions of doctrine, the interpretation of the Scriptures, ancient and modern, the application and fulfillment of prophecy, etc. This interest is commendable while restrained within proper bounds; but to allow it to create disputation is to let it become an evil. If students of the Scriptures encounter a difficulty which neither they nor their instructors can solve to the satisfaction of all concerned, it is far better to leave the matter open by common consent than to dispute about it; there are difficulties in the Scriptures which no class of students in the Church is expected to fully solve. If the matter is of actual and practical importance it should be laid before the proper officers of the Priesthood for determination; otherwise it may be passed with such light as the students or their instructors may be able to throw upon it.

These observations are called forth at this time by a number of communications the "News" has lately received. One correspondent has offered a carefully prepared interpretation, from his standpoint, of some passages from one of the Old Testament Prophets; another writes of the mystical and prophetic significance of some features of the Pyramid of Giza, and of predictions said to have been uttered by a modern Apostle concerning the commencement of the Millennium, while another urges us to expound a portion of Paul's writings. These letters indicate a trend of thought among the readers of the "News," and it is a trend which requires to be both encouraged and guarded. For members of the Church, and especially the young, to study the Scriptures, is a most excellent thing, but care should be taken that ideas be not imbibed nor adhered to which are at variance with the authorized teachings of the Church.

One grand and controlling principle is reached by a consideration of the foregoing matters, which, however, can at best be but very imperfectly treated in an article like the present one, and that principle may be thus stated: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is led by Apostles and Prophets, who are the living oracles of the Almighty among the children of men; to these oracles are committed both the ability and authority to impart to the Latter-day Saints, individually and collectively, all the instruction in spiritual things which they require for their guidance here and their salvation hereafter. There is, therefore, no need for any of the Saints to be deceived, to accept false doctrine, to be led astray nor to be left in the dark, concerning spiritual things. Though all the light and knowledge an individual may desire and ask for may not at once be given him, he may easily obtain enough for his present needs and safety.

There is another principle growing out of the one just laid down which may thus be stated: Spiritual gifts, dreams, visions, prophecies, interpretations of Scripture or of other matter, and all forms of spiritual blessings and manifestations enjoyed by unofficial members of the Church, are designed for their individual benefit, and not for the guidance of the Church; and this is the reason why communications of the character above referred to, addressed to the "News," are frequently deemed inappropriate for its columns. In conclusion: Doctrine, prophecy and revelation which come through or are endorsed by the proper authorities of the Church, may be accepted and relied