

demands referred to. And they still continue to meddle and attempt to stir strife in matters with which they have no kind of legitimate business whatever.

The address to the Saints does not affect any man in his politics. If a Church member permits his political actions to interfere with an official obligation which he has entered into with the Church, the latter insists on its right to have its business attended to, or if the individual chooses to abandon the labor he has undertaken, to fill his place; and as a matter of discipline it asks that notice of an intention to abandon Church labors be given in time, or if the abandonment is intended to be only temporary, that the official obtain legitimate permission to leave his Church post of duty. In this there is no interference with politics; it is wholly a Church matter. A Church member or official is perfectly free in his politics and business, and any action therein that does not deprive the Church of those labors which he has agreed to perform is not affected in any way by the rule of the address. It only asks that in the way of political action by anybody, Church affairs be not interfered with; and it insists on its right to that immunity, both from members and non-members. On the other hand, the politics of a man is none of the Church's business under our form of government, and it cannot and will not attempt to regulate any person in his action in that line, no matter whether he be high Church official, lay member, or outside of its ranks.

#### WHY HIS POPULARITY?

No doubt one reason of the marked success of Wm. McKinley in the campaign for nomination at the Republican convention in St. Louis is the association of his name with the protective tariff doctrine of his party. But this is not the real reason for his popularity in his party ranks, although that was the particular feature that brought him prominently before the public. The concentration of party sentiment upon him as a candidate has come from other sources, and in a volume that professional politicians could not control as they would have done if McKinley's protection record had been the strongest basis of his claim for recognition.

It may be said, and with no disrespect to the prospective Republican standardbearer, that there are greater men, more brilliant men, intellectually, than he in his party, whose names have been just as prominently before the people, and who are fully as anxious to receive the party nomination as is Major McKinley; but their greatness does not give them the advantage over him which ordinarily they might be expected to possess. It is quite possible that some of these would make a better President if elected, than would the Ohio man, but for some reason the bulk of their party does not seem to think so. They are just as ardent tariff advocates as the more favored candidate, but they have not struck the popular chord which he has reached.

One item which finds favor for McKinley among the masses is the fact that

he is of the common people, developed in the school of labor, privation and perseverance. It is well known that he is not a brilliant man; there is little or none of the magnetic quality in his nature; he is affable in his way, and free from all suggestion of haughtiness, but he is not a half fellow well met with everybody; his speeches never electrified the nation, and his name is not spoken with familiar fondness. But his abilities are of that order of uniform and every day excellence which conveys the impression of adequate strength for any emergency, and yet does not give out a sense of superiority. He controls his temper, is careful in his talk, subordinates himself to the interests that he serves. It is easy to comprehend what he says, and to believe in his sincerity. His record is straight and clean, his reputation untainted with the least suspicion of dishonesty. Those of his party who do not consider him a great man, do regard him as a safe man, who is not at all likely to do any foolish or reckless thing, hence there is confidence in him. His home life is regarded as ideal; and he is a believer in the Bible and a church goer. These things do not indicate profound statesmanship, but they count for a great deal among the masses. A man without them might make a model President, but he can hardly have the popular sympathy which attends them as pleasing to the imagination and penetrating to the way they touch the heartstrings. On these is based the popularity that sweeps wave-like over his party and foreshadows with reasonable certainty the action of its national convention.

So far as these and other actual qualifications are concerned, either party could put forward very many candidates who would make as good, and possibly better Presidents. But the circumstances have not combined specially to bring many of them forward just now, so that interest centers only on a few. And one lesson of the present illustration is that no matter how bright intellectually a man may be, in order to get popular support politically or otherwise he needs in his character and home life those elements which make people feel that he is one of them and can be trusted as safe to carry out the policy they set their minds upon, be it wise or unwise.

#### THE RUSSIAN FETES.

The effect of the present fetes at Moscow, where the glories of militarism are so artistically blended with the display of religious rites, will presumably be to infuse new vital force into the old systems of government that keep Europe armed to the teeth. To many there is something exceedingly fascinating in the immense power and wealth over which despotism presides, particularly when their naked reality is clothed in the magical robes of pious devotion. It is almost sure to result in the strengthening of the cause of royalism and imperialism as against the movements for popular sovereignty, more or less felt among the nations. It is also sure to render the labor for disarmament and universal peace more arduous for a long time to come.

The present situation is by no means

encouraging. Russia is today an empire larger than that of the Cæsars or of Attila. It is governed by the will of one man and his few counselors. He has nearly 5,000,000 soldiers in his service, and these he can concentrate at any point of the immense country in a few weeks. In western Asia there is another autocrat, the sultan, who notwithstanding his weakness commands millions of men and property, by virtue of his alleged divine authority as the successor of the Arabian prophet. In eastern Asia the Chinese ruler, just awakened from his long slumbers, commences to realize the gigantic strength which he controls. China and Russia seem already to have come to an understanding that their interests require united action against the rest of the world. Turkey is also thought to have thrown herself upon the protecting friendship of the white czar, whose policy it seems to be to avoid all entangling alliances with powers that can demand an equal voice in the common affairs, and to befriend only those that on account of weakness need support. It looks as if a policy had been inaugurated that must ultimately lead to a gathering of slave, Mongols and other Asiatic nations. Such a combination—and it would take only the will of three men to effect it—would give to Russia a power, against which combined Europe would be about as helpless as was the Roman empire against the Asiatic hordes that devastated it and broke it to pieces.

It is true there is at present no visible ground for fear that the Russian government contemplates the disturbance of the peace of the world; but such may appear almost at any moment. Commercial interests may claim to such a degree that an appeal to arms may be thought unavoidable; Russia may think it necessary to interfere in the affairs of western Europe in order to protect the despotic system of her government threatened by the liberal undercurrents in neighboring countries. The fate of Poland is a precedent in this direction. Under the circumstances, statesmen will be slow to listen to the humane demands for disarmament and arbitration, as long as the sound of the bells and thunder of cannon, the glittering bayonets and the shouts of enthusiastic crowds, mingled with the soft incantations of alleged representatives of heaven, remind them of the fact that at the doors of western civilization stands oriental despotism, unchanged as to its mediæval grandeur and aspirations.

#### NEW MISSION PAPER.

A recent letter from Elder George B. Spencer, president of the Netherlands mission, conveys the news that on the first of June the initial number of a mission monthly, the Dutch Millennium Star, will be published. That distant part of the vineyard is described as very prosperous, and friends in Utah and vicinity who retain an interest in affairs of the old country, will be better able, by means of the new periodical, to hear and be heard from than in any other way. Elder Spencer's address is 120 Isaac Hubert Straat, Rotterdam.