

another name for the Dutch government. The government operates as a planter and merchant, and its immense net income is the product of legitimate toll and enterprise, and not of burdensome taxation.

If it should happen that the Philippine islands should become the charge of the United States, the fact that the inhabitants of those distant parts of the world under proper management are capable of rapid improvement is certainly encouraging. They may be unfit for self-government, but they certainly seem to take kindly to the advantages of civilization when these are offered by humane rulers and not in too great abundance at a time. Probably the time is not very far off when it will be necessary for American statesmen to consider whether the American system of government can be applied, in some form or other, to races accustomed only to the paternal rule of the Old World.

#### THE BOOK OF MORMON.

In the Pacific Transcript, published at Pacific, Missouri, Mr. C. L. Phifer makes the subjoined comments on the Book of Mormon, which are entirely different from the views generally expressed by writers on that subject:

"While the Christian Bible is the best book in the world, the sacred books of other religions, loved, believed in, treasured, and eagerly read by millions, are worthy our respectful attention. Indeed, I am not sure but that the very prestige they have gained stamps them as among the world's greatest books, and that for this reason a man who aspires to read the best should peruse them even before he finds place for many classics that have pleased the living but never been pillows for the dying head. For my part, individually, I have for years considered it a privilege to read the Bible of any people. I have read several; I have been converted to none; yet in every one I have found much to admire.

"The last one I have read is the American Bible, the Book of Mormon. As with all the others, it has not converted me, but I find good in it. I began the perusal with all the popular misconceptions concerning it. I ended with the feeling that it is worthy a place in any scholar's library. If it sanctions polygamy I didn't notice it. If it is impure in tone or teaching or the work of an ignoramus, then I am unable to read a book understandingly.

"The author is not a fool. If he is a knave he cleverly masks himself. His style never varies from that of the pious oriental. Sometimes it is tiresome, but it never betrays nineteenth century manner. The claim that the work was translated from ancient plates is not betrayed by any literary lapse in the unlettered author. Smith has produced a remarkable work, to say the least. Unbelievers in its divinity might well class it as the greatest American novel, for it deserves the term. The romance of it is complete. As a story composed of many stories, it is plausible and takes rank along with biblical and profane history. It easily excels, in this regard, the Koran, the Zend, and the Vedas, though the legendary matter of commentators on the Koran approach and perhaps excel, not the continuity of the story, but the story in detail."

The author, however, finds fault with the Book of Mormon because, he says, it contains no new doctrines. In this respect it is unlike the productions of Siddhartha and Zoroaster. The latter plunged boldly into the sea of life's perplexities and each "brought up his

own pearls" which he strung into a necklace of philosophy. The same may be said of Confucius and Loo Tsai. But in the Book of Mormon Mr. Phifer finds nothing new. It is all in perfect accord with the Bible, often in the language of the Bible itself.

This fact, the author mentioned, and many others consider an objection to the sacred record. But the thoughtful student should not fail to recognize that fact as a strong argument in its favor. From what we know of religious systems of human origin it is highly probable that an impostor in endeavoring to establish a new religion would have made an effort at startling the world with new and striking doctrines. What form these would take would depend on circumstances, but the principle itself is well illustrated in Mohammedanism, which teaches valor in war as the supreme virtue; in Hindooism which lays stress on ritual observances; in Jewish tradition which makes nationality a key to salvation, not to mention Swedenborg's religion with all its unfathomable mysteries. If the Book of Mormon is found to be different in this respect from all so-called sacred records originated by the wisdom of man; if it makes no attempt at satisfying man's curiosity regarding the mysteries of life on which philosophers in vain have speculated, but rests on the same lofty platform as the Bible, enunciating the same doctrines and declaring the same morality, that certainly is a strong argument for its genuineness.

Suppose the Almighty had been pleased to communicate His will to the people living on this continent in a manner similar to that in which He revealed Himself to the favored nation in the Old world, and for similar purposes. The probability is that the records containing such revelations and kept in widely separated parts of the earth would bear a strong resemblance to each other. The teachings conveyed would certainly be the same, even where the modes of expression were different. The Book of Mormon is such a record. It is not to be expected that it should contain in their fulness the great truths revealed in these latter days, any more than do the sacred records of the Hebrews. Those truths are there, but rather in foundation than complete structures, just as in the Old Testament the doctrines of atonement, immortality, church, etc., are foreshadowed. The Book of Mormon will to the thoughtful student commend itself as the ancient record it claims to be. Contents and style testify to its antiquity.

#### NO ROOM FOR "PATHIES."

At the opening of the session of the American Medical association, now sitting in Denver, the president of the organization read a paper in which occurred a declaration to the effect that there is no longer any room for "pathies" in the medical profession. Medical science has made enormous strides within the last few years, but this assertion by the president of the body referred to epitomizes all that it has achieved. That assertion means that by scientific processes the truths that relate to the health of human beings have been so far disclosed and demonstrated that there is no longer sufficient doubt concerning them to justify medical practitioners in dividing themselves up into schools, sects or "pathies."

That is to say, there can no longer be more than one thoroughly honest and scientific school of medicine, the school which embraces within its teachings all the truths which all the other

schools have brought to light, and which rejects not only quackery in all its forms, but mere empiricism as well. In other words, the light shed by modern research over the entire field of medical science is so strong and clear as to expose to view the ignorance, incompetency and dishonesty out of which have arisen in the past those differences and dissensions that have divided the faculty into contending sects. Such is the claim of the president of the American Medical association.

To admit the claim in full is more than the "News" is prepared to do; but it cannot be denied that the justification which formerly existed for different schools of medicine has been very largely swept away by the discoveries of recent years. Responding to this condition the boundary lines of the creed have been rapidly becoming more and more indistinct, and an increasing liberality has been shown between the various medical sects. A most gratifying feature of the situation is the promise it bears that within the near future experience will so incontestably establish the best methods of preventing and curing disease that those methods will be universally adopted in civilized countries; and of course there will be only one medical school in those countries when this comes to pass.

#### ANNEXATION POLICY.

If the Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune, found elsewhere in the "News," is correct, the government has finally decided upon a policy of annexation. Hawaii is to become part of the United States and then the Philippine islands will be added. Nothing is as yet said about Porto Rico or Cuba. As for the latter, the declared intention of the United States is to occupy it until peace and tranquility shall have been established—which possibly may take a long time—and as to Porto Rico, the fate of the other Spanish possessions will probably be shared by that West Indian island.

With regard to the Philippines the policy of the government is said to be to reduce the burdens of taxation, lower the import duties, regulate the wage scale and stimulate business enterprises in various ways.

When the war with Spain commenced it was freely predicted abroad that one of its immediate results would be the departure of the United States from the time-honored policy believed to be a corollary to the so-called Monroe doctrine. The prediction is about to come true and the next important question is what stand the European powers are likely to take on receiving the official notification of the annexation policy of the United States. But that is a question on which it at present would not be safe to form an opinion.

There are many evidences that the public opinion of Great Britain is very friendly toward the United States. Leading journals there declare that Spain must speedily submit to fate and that the policy of the British government will be to support the just claims of the United States whenever a question of the terms of peace arises. The press of other European countries has not yet spoken on this subject, but it is reasonable to suppose that there finally will be but few dissenting voices. If Spain, after having demonstrated her inability to maintain peace in her colonies and to defend them against foreign attacks, has any friends left, they will urge her to yield as gracefully as possible in order to have free hands for the reconstruction of affairs at home and the laying of a foundation for future prosperity on the hitherto undeveloped resources of the Iberian peninsula.

Another evidence of the friendly feel-