

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-eighth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning, October 4, 1897.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILLIARD WOODRUFF,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency.

CITY POLITICS.

Whatever else may be said by the partisans or party organs against the work which the non-partisan citizens' committee is seeking to accomplish, they have not yet been able to find any fault with the personnel of the ticket which that committee has put up. In one published instance it is called "just such a ticket as might have been nominated by a convention," which, while rather faint praise, must still be considered, when its source is regarded, as "praise from Sir Hubert" indeed. On every hand it is spoken of as a strong, good ticket—hardly a person even among the most determined partisans but who admits there are many names thereon which he proposes to vote for.

It must be, and is, a pleasure to the committee to receive such assurances; for the members thereof had no intention of putting up for election a corps of angels or indeed anything better than clean, tried, practical men, representative of the various elements and classes of the community—men who have the ability and the nerve to move right off in an attack upon the abuses and grievous burdens under which this devoted city is suffering. If they have succeeded to that extent—and they and the people believe they have—they have accomplished all that anybody could ask. It only remains for the voters themselves—scanning the ticket closely, remembering the motives which prompted it and the all-overshadowing fact that the nominees stand upon a plain, square business platform and have no party friends to reward and no party debts to pay at the people's expense, and remembering further their own pitiful experience in taxation and official incompetence as a result of political rule involving the disgrace to the city's name—it only remains for the voters, we say, to do the remaining part and carry the ticket triumphantly at the polls.

The opposition are much worried at what they are pleased to term the proposed breaking down of party lines after all the years that have been required to get those lines drawn. The desperation of their case is shown by the unworthiness of such an argument. Nothing could be more transparent as an attempt to revive the bickerings and bitterness of the past, which every honest man is glad to consider ended and behind us. The speaker or the paper that even in the most indirect way resorts to an attempt so base should be branded and

remembered as the common enemy that he or it is. Why not let the men who have worked at this non-partisan movement, and the candidates who are willing to stand on that ticket and serve in various official capacities if elected, be judged by their own character and motives, not by what greedy place-hunters, unscrupulous rounders and paid press-writers may think or say of them! We have confidence enough in the discernment and common-sense of the great bulk of the people of this city to feel that they cannot be blinded by the biased stories of office-seekers, nor swayed by the distortions of professional politicians, nor sneered out of an honest intention by the coarse buffoonery of loafing heelers and so-called "funny" writers.

While there are doubtless many good citizens whose sense of party allegiance is sincerely expressed in the thought that in the candidates of their party will be found the looked-for saviors of the city's name and credit—many who do not recognize the business government of the city as a purely business affair to be conducted by experienced business men chosen for those qualifications only—the startling fact remains that their own good desires and motives are jeopardized by the associates who stand on their side for wholly selfish reasons. We repeat, the non-partisan movement may find some opposition from thoroughly reputable and respectable sources. But it is in the highest degree satisfactory and cheering to be able to announce that there is not a scrub in town who is not ready to fight against it tooth and nail. We submit once more that it is a cause which every decent person can afford to love if only by reason of the enemies it has made.

CUBA CONSIDERED.

Again is the attention of the people of the United States drawn to what was once the "gem of the Antilles," but is now a battle-scarred, barren, forbidding nook in the vast expanse of nature. More nearly united to this country than to any other, making a life-and-death struggle for independence upon largely the same lines and against almost as great odds as obtained in the eight-year conflict which eventuated the freedom of the colonies, they naturally once in a while turn a longing gaze across the narrow expanse of water which separates us from them. When they do so they must occasionally wonder if the spirit of freedom from kingly rule which is supposed to be a heritage to us and an incentive to the oppressed everywhere, has died, or withered, or been put aside and neglected in the giddy quest of material and sensuous things; meantime they falter not, but half-starved and ragged continue a fight which means in its outcome to them the same as the Revolutionary struggle meant to our forefathers and us—liberty or death. It is a grand and yet a gloomy spectacle.

The subject receives fresh impetus at the present time from the warlike aspect of things in the diplomatic air. But the matter is never overlooked and at times the pelting which occurs becomes so voluminous and wide-reaching that it looks as if we were on the eve of arising in our might and saying to the unworthy descendants of Ferdinand and Isabella, "The war in Cuba ceases at once." Some of the utterances in their behalf are quite aggressive and all more or less vigorous.

The Chicago Record's "pulpit editorials" recently presented a strong exhibit of this side of the case, showing among other things that the time is coming when even the most circumspect administration cannot refrain from interfering. Spain has been given the fullest opportunity to show its ability to govern the island colony, and has signally failed. The next session of our national legislature, now not far off, will probably take serious steps. The question arises, what will be the duty of the Christian in the event of an armed conflict of America with Spain? Do the principles of non-resistance taught by the Savior forbid his bearing arms at all? Or would this be such a war as could be called "holy" in any sense, so much as to make his encouragement of it justifiable? The editorial sermonizer answers by saying that "these questions depend upon the attitude our President and Senate may take. I consider there is a position they may assume which will make our intervention righteous and worthy the aid of every Christian. The first thing to note is that Jesus' command of peace has a deeper and more far-reaching meaning than merely personal non-retaliation. In a republic like ours it means that while that republic is to manifest due forbearance and patience under indignities aimed against itself, at the same time it is to secure and maintain peace and law in every way in which its power may extend; and to do this a recourse to force may be necessary. The immense resources of our nation constitute a talent lent of God for which we are nationally responsible."

The argument is clinched by the conclusion that "if it lie in us to stop the horrid reign of terror in the little isle that nestles at our feet, it is our plain duty to do it, whatever may be the international complications. To wage battle in order to annex Cuba for our own selfish ends, or to meddle with another nation's affairs from sheer pride when they concern us not, would be on a level with the innumerable wicked wars of history. But to step into the Cuban wrangle, to bring law and protection to a distracted people, and then to turn the government of the pacified country over to whomsoever shows the best right and title to it—this would be but exhibiting on a national scale the theories of Jesus, which are for justice and mercy."

Well-chosen, even-tempered language this. Undoubtedly, as stated, if the United States shall thus enter the lists in behalf of a common humanity, acting upon so dignified and disinterested a motive, while in all cases purging herself of every charge of self-seeking, such course will command the loyal support of every good citizen of this country and the sympathetic support of Christian peoples everywhere. The principle enunciated by Dr. Wheaton, which received the commendation of President Woolsey of Yale College, is quoted approvingly: "Whatever a nation may lawfully defend for itself it may defend for another if called on to interfere."

Altogether, it looks very much as if the beginning of the end were at hand, and that the end itself will not hang tardily behind. So mote it be.

"LIBERAL RELIGION" IN CONGRESS

The fourth annual meeting of the "Liberal Congress of Religion" will be held in connection with the Tennessee Centennial Exposition during the six days October 19-24. The movement was organized in Chicago in May, 1894, and its object, as set forth in the articles of incorporation, is:

"To unite in a larger fellowship and