

exercise its influence for good in the direction suggested by the course the general progress of the civilization of the world has taken since the day that liberty dawned upon mankind.

WE ACCEPT.

A few days ago the "News" received the subjoined challenge:

"I challenge the 'News' or any representative of Mormonism whatever whom it may choose, to a brief discussion through its columns of the following or any similar proposition: 'Resolved, that Mormonism is true Christianity.' I take the negative of this statement, of course; or you may reverse it and I will take the burden of proof on the affirmative; though the logic of your position places you to affirm the above proposition. The only conditions which I would insist upon are that the articles shall appear on a given day weekly (Saturday, if possible), shall be gentlemanly in tone throughout, and that each side shall be given equal space and position.

Sincerely, yours for the truth alone,
JOHN D. NUTTING.

"Salt Lake City, Aug. 17, 1898."

After due consideration of the matter the "News" notified Mr. John D. Nutting of its willingness to engage in a friendly discussion with him on the question stated, upon this condition:

"The final works of authority upon Mormon doctrine for this discussion shall be understood to be the accepted standards of Mormon faith, viz: the Bible, The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price."

Mr. Nutting agreed to this condition and signed this brief statement:

"I accept this limitation and will carry on the discussion.
JOHN D. NUTTING."

It was further agreed that Mr. Nutting should take the affirmative and endeavor to prove that "Mormonism is not true Christianity."

According to the arrangement made, a brief series of articles on Mormon doctrine will appear in the columns of the "News" in the near future, giving both sides of the question. The articles should be of value to all who sincerely are asking for the truth. It is to be hoped that the matter can be discussed throughout in a gentlemanly manner and in a spirit of forbearance and charity, and without bitterness. If so, good will result.

FOR HUMANITY.

The Springfield Republican is an ardent and persistent opponent of the policy of expansion, which it never tires of calling "imperialism." In a recent issue, speaking of the surrender of Manila, the Republican says the fact is that "the imperialists" rejoice because of simple unalloyed territorial conquest. "Because a war begun with the noblest of motives and without the foul taint of greed, has degenerated into a passion of earth hunger," therefore "the imperialists" rejoice. "It is sheer national debauchery that a grand act of self-sacrifice should be turned into mere lust and groveling for power."

This is the substance of the arguments advanced against a foreign policy apparently forced upon the country by the irresistible course of events. The Republican would have the administration withdraw the triumphant hosts, whose achievements have filled the world with admiration, for the benefit of either the vanquished country or

some of its earth-hungry European neighbors. It would have us declare to the world that American institutions are useless as an elevating, civilizing force, something dangerous, in fact, except to a nation grown to maturity. But can that be admitted? Is not the United States with her marvelous system of government more capable of educating a semi-barbarous race than is any other country, and that in a shorter time? If so, why should not our peace commissioners insist on retaining all the advantages gained?

The war with Spain was commenced in the cause of humanity. It was intended as a death blow to tyranny. Surely, the eight or ten million human beings in the Philippines are entitled to consideration when the final accounts between this country and Spain are to be made up. They may not at present be capable of self-government in the American sense of that term, and if so, it is all the more necessary that they should be well provided for with a view to their future emancipation. They should not be left to the mercy of any country to whose interest it is to keep them in perpetual slavery.

The probability is that the administration has intentions regarding the Philippines not stipulated in the peace protocol, and that these will be made clear during the deliberations of the peace commissioners. No other conclusion is possible when it is considered that so large a force of soldiers has been dispatched across the Pacific. If so, the general sentiment of this country will be satisfied, for it is felt on all hands that a coaling station and some adjacent territory is no adequate recompense for the money and lives sacrificed in the struggle for the liberation of Spain's oppressed colonies.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

The scarcity of water in this city at the present time is the subject of much comment, although there is, of course, no actual "water famine," and no prospect of one. The regular fall storms are likely to come before long and settle the water question for another year. Still a condition that makes it necessary to use the water supply sparingly should be met. Salt Lake City cannot afford to acquire a reputation for not having water enough for culinary and other purposes. Street sprinkling cannot be given up during the dry, hot season, as that would mean sickness and an increased death-rate. And if there is not a supply in the city pipes large enough for this purpose, the necessary sprinkling should be provided for from some other source.

A friend of the "News" suggests that the city immediately construct several large wooden boxes for the purpose of holding water to be supplied from the Salt Lake and Jordan canal, in sufficient quantities to sprinkle all the streets of Salt Lake City, placing one tank or box at the corner of Main and North Temple streets; one at the corner of Fourth East and Second South streets; one at First West and Third South streets and one at Seventh East and Ninth South streets. There are, he says, millions of gallons of the Jordan canal water running through the city and going to waste daily, and he is convinced that this water could be utilized for this purpose at no great cost, thus leaving in the service pipes of the city for culinary and lawn sprinkling purposes the amount now withdrawn for sprinkling the streets. Three, four or more tanks or boxes could be permanently established and the water conveyed to them through surface pipes only to be used in warm weather and

the water turned off in winter, so there would be no danger of freezing.

The suggestion is recommended to the proper authorities.

WAR SPIRIT IN ENGLAND.

It has often been noticed that the war fever is contagious. When one country achieves glory on land and sea, others seem to be seized with a desire to shine, too, and thus the war spirit is kept up. Just now, according to accounts, Great Britain is showing serious symptoms of unrest. Our cousins across the water have read the story of the wonderful feats of our navy in the contest with Spain, and they are said to be longing for an opportunity to try English gunnery against Russian battleships. If for no other reason, to demonstrate to the world that all the Deweys and Schleys are not on this side of the Atlantic. Nor can it be wondered at, if a nation that claims to be ruler of the waves should have a desire to engrave on the annals of history a chapter of illustrious deeds as memorable as those just recorded of the United States.

That Russia is on the lookout for the day when she must defend herself seems to be the deep impression of her statesmen. Only recently an announcement was made that the St. Petersburg government had placed an order with an American firm for five new warships. Undoubtedly Russia's present policy is to delay the struggle until the railroad through Siberia is completed, but if once a war about the Chinese interests is considered necessary by the English people, it will not be postponed until that time. When the popular sentiment becomes in favor of a speedy settlement of the dispute, the effort to settle it will be made, and the result will be another important change of the map of the world. Europe is looking for this war with anxiety. It is believed that Queen Victoria's declaration some time ago, that she would never again sign a declaration of war, is the slender thread by which the sword at present is suspended. If so, any act of imprudence, however insignificant under ordinary circumstances, would cause the British to break that thread. They would place the matter beyond the control of the queen, touch the button and release the thunderbolts destined perhaps to set the world aflame.

"Naval defense was not wanted," says the London Times in a critical review of our campaign against Spain, "and military offense was as little wanted. The moment Cervera's fleet was destroyed the war was practically at an end and Gen. Shafter's occupation was gone." Add to this the statement recently attributed to Admiral Colomb of the "Queen's navy," that "the naval war has taught on-looking navies just nothing at all," and it looks as if mild-mannered criticism had come with deliberation. As to the latter statement, while it may be true that on-looking navies were not greatly benefited, it still remains that that of Spain found something out.

Captain J. W. Phillip, erst commander of the Texas, occupies a peculiar position. He was nominally advanced five points in promotion, making him commodore; but between him and Admiral Watson are Sampson and Schley, who have respectively advanced eight and six points, and having the effect of making the ex-captain's advancement in reality only three points. The supposition by "land lubbers" is that the three points brought him up against Schley, where he had to stop, as nearly everything else that ran up against that man has had to do.