

hands of a strong power their possession would insure an influence at Peking, second only to that of Great Britain and Russia. Under modern rule the Philippines would command the trade of one of the most populous and prosperous districts of China. As an American possession they would be the gateway by which the products of American industry would find entrance to the homes of millions.

Further, it is believed the Philippine group before many years will be able to sustain a population of fifty million people. Such is the extent of their area and the wealth of their natural resources. This fact alone disposes of the argument against their retention based on the expenses involved in bringing order out of the chaotic condition in which centuries of misrule has left them.

#### NO DISCREPANCY THERE.

A cotemporary, noticing an article in the "News" of last Saturday on the Book of Mormon, quotes this paragraph:

"With regard to the ancient Scriptures, it is perfectly clear that the writers, while under the divine influence, were allowed the full use of their own faculties, their mental peculiarities, their own amount of knowledge and modes of thinking."

"It also quotes the following from "A New Witness for God," by B. H. Roberts:

"The doctrines which our Prophet teaches as the revelations of God, must be perfect in every particular; for since he claims to have received them from the Lord Almighty at first hand, by revelation, there is left no room to plead the error of historians or of translators, and certainly the Lord would not reveal erroneous or untrue doctrine."

The question is then asked whether the "present claim of the 'News' harmonizes with these authentic Mormon claims."

To the best of our understanding it does. Elder Roberts justly maintains for the doctrines taught by the Prophet as the revelations of God, perfection in every particular. These doctrines are not tainted by the errors of historians or translators. The same claim is made for the doctrines revealed through the ancient men of God. But this does not mean, as was stated in the "News," that the channels through which the doctrines were conveyed were perfect, too. We claim perfection for the matter revealed, notwithstanding imperfections of penmanship, orthography or grammar. The life-giving water may be as pure in an earthen vessel as in one of the clearest crystal or the finest gold. The gifts and accomplishments are many, but the Spirit is one.

#### JEFFERSON'S "IMPERIALISM."

The Fortnightly Review for September has an article on the Monroe doctrine by Theodore A. Cook. From this it appears that Canning, the British minister of foreign affairs, in the summer of 1823, proposed to Mr. Rush, the American minister to Great Britain, that the United States and Great Britain unite against the Holy Alliance formed for the purpose, it was believed, of assisting Spain to subjugate her American colonies. This proposition was submitted to President Monroe who consulted Jefferson and Madison in regard to the matter.

In a letter from Jefferson to Monroe the question is fully discussed. Jefferson says in part:

"Our first and fundamental maxim should be never to entangle ourselves

in the broils of Europe; our second never to suffer Europe to meddle in Cis-Atlantic affairs. America, North and South, has a set of interests distinct from those of Europe and peculiarly her own; she should therefore have a system of her own, separate and apart from that of Europe. . . . Great Britain is the nation which can do us the most harm of any one or all on earth; and with her on our side we need not fear the whole world. With her, then, we should most sedulously nourish a cordial friendship, and nothing would tend more to knit our affections than to be fighting once more side by side in the same cause. Not that I would purchase even her amity at the price of taking part in her wars but the war in which the present proposition might engage us, should that be its consequence, is not her war but ours."

He further asks:

"Do we wish to acquire to our confederacy any one or more of the Spanish provinces? I candidly confess that I have ever looked on Cuba as the most interesting addition which could ever be made to our system of states."

From this it would appear that the framers of the Monroe doctrine anticipated some such situation as that brought about by the war with Spain and that they were contemplating an "Imperialistic" policy without too much alarm.

#### HORRORS ACCUMULATE.

It was fondly hoped by many and believed by a few that we had heard the most of the horrors of Cuba which had grown up under the rule of Weyler and Blanco; but it seems greatly otherwise. The horrors are, under the American occupation which is going gradually forward, but beginning to be unfolded, and when the whole of the horrid tale is told it promises to be a volume whose contents have rarely been equaled in all the world's history. The Chicago Record has a staff correspondent at Havana whose statements of the situation seem to be impartial and fair and in most of his statements he uses direct language rather than generalities. From this source it is learned that at a time when the people of Havana and the surrounding country were suffering from hunger, Blanco not only refused to admit foodstuffs free of duty, as he did during the blockade, but he restored the old tariff rates, and in addition levied extra duties on all imports. As a result foodstuffs in large quantities rotted on the wharves of the Havana custom houses because the rates of duty imposed were so high as to be prohibitive. The people within suffered from hunger while food was allowed to rot at the doors of the city as a result of Blanco's orders, which were as cruel in their effects as the famous reconcentrado order of Weyler.

The Record correspondent gives specific instances of corruption in the custom houses. The facts were so easily learned as to indicate that corruption on the part of customs officials is a matter of every-day occurrence which exists in all colonies ruled by Spain. The terrible debauched state of public sentiment from long experience with public officials who have little other notion of public service than an opportunity for plunder is one of the facts with which the government of the United States must reckon when it undertakes to establish a new government in Cuba. The people of the island have been so long used to corruption that they will need a course of training in honest methods of gov-

ernment before they can be trusted to rule themselves with satisfactory results.

"There are no reconcentrados in Cuba now," was the information received a short time ago. It does not require one profoundly skilled in the art of deducing conclusions from circumstances to tell why—they are all dead. Not killed in battle, that would have been merciful; not from famine, that might have come as an inevitable outgrowth of the times; not essentially of disease, at least not contagion—but of hunger, the direst, dreadfulest death of all, brought upon them when there was enough available food to at least have saved their lives. What conscience, soulless murderers the authors of these terrible infamies are!

#### SPAIN'S QUEEN REGENT.

A contributor to the Fortnightly Review gives as a reason why he believes Spain is on the eve of a terrible revolution the fact that constitutionalism is broken down and that in the eyes of the people the crown, and not the cabinet, is responsible for the misfortunes of the country. In this connection he gives an interesting picture of the queen, whom he characterizes as an Austrian Puritan, good enough for heaven but unfit for the throne of Spain. He relates the following incidents as characteristic of Dona Maria Christina:

"During one of those solemn receptions in the palace, which in former times made Spanish etiquette proverbial, her majesty noticed something like a white rag on the floor of the salon. She motioned to one of the attendants to draw near, and, pointing to the white object, said, in a tone sufficiently loud to be heard by a considerable circle of subjects: 'Pick up that handkerchief and return it to its rightful owner.' 'May it please your majesty, it is not a handkerchief; it is the lining of a hat.' 'Ah, really! Well, pick it up and let it be kept safely in case the owner should come and ask for it.' When anybody executes a piece of music at one of the select musical gatherings which from time to time take place in the palace, the queen, if she happens to know the composition herself, generally criticizes the performance, and often takes the player's place in order to show how it should be interpreted. Real artists are not always of her majesty's way of thinking on these subjects, but nobody ever ventures to execute anything which she has once played.

"Her thrift, which is commendable rather than royal, found expression once in connection with a portrait of her son, Don Alfonso XIII, which a celebrated artist, Domingo, painted by order. The price seemed exorbitant to the lady, who resolved not to patronize that celebrity again. Some time afterward another portrait of the boy-king being required, a very ingenious little scheme was spun for the purpose of getting a bargain. Her majesty's intendant entered into conversation with the portrait painter, Palmaroli, and chatted agreeably about all manner of subjects except the one that interested him most. At the fag-end of the conversation and in a very casual way the official said: 'Oh, by the way, what is your usual charge for the portrait of a child?' Palmaroli, an Italian by extraction and education, immediately saw through the little plan, and desirous of becoming portrait painter to the queen of Spain, mentioned a relatively small sum—amounting, according to the present rate of exchange, to less than £100. He received the order at once. The portrait, however, when painted, fell very short of the lady's expectations, and she made a present of it to Pope Leo, His holiness,