

THE WAR IS OVER.

Spain has formally accepted the terms prescribed by the United States as prerequisites to peace.

This virtually ends the Hispano-American war. All that remains is the carrying out of the terms and the conclusion of an agreement relating to the Philippine Islands.

The struggle has not ended a day too soon for either party. Spain is drowned in debt and is resourceless. Even if by forced measures and pledges she were able to raise money enough to continue for a while—which she is not—the outcome must eventually be the same and the additional expense thus become a case of throwing good money after bad; while the misery and humiliation of her people is already great enough to abide with them through all this generation at least. On the part of the United States, while quite able and if necessary willing to continue the war to a different conclusion, it is much more willing to stop. The expense of conducting the contest has been enormous from the start and on a steadily growing scale. Everything of consequence that Spain has in the way of colonial possessions is gone or encumbered with the prospect of eventual loss, and the United States could get no more than it has got, so that any additional expense would be so much more added to an already large uncollectable account. As against an expenditure of what will be at the finish fully \$250,000,000, this country will receive as its property Porto Rico with its adjacent islets and a Ladrone island, worth altogether on a liberal estimate one-half of the above figure. We will hold Cuba, but only in trust for the Cubans until they are able to control it properly or by their own unforced action cede it to the United States; the same in some measure as to the Philippines.

It is not to be inferred that with the close of hostilities there will be no longer need of armies and munitions of war. Until the natives settle down and become adjusted to the new order of things large police establishments will have to be maintained among them. The expense of this, however, may be partially if not entirely collected, as to the Philippines and Cuba, from the revenues of the islands to be handled and controlled under the guardianship of the United States. And there will be other expenses relating to the civil administration that will of course be met in the same way.

Then for reclamation, reformation, purification and the infusing of new and healthier blood into the shrunken arteries of the captive colonies! What a mighty, burdensome, long-enduring and withal upright, philanthropic, Christianlike labor this will be! It is the bringing of order out of chaos; the dragging from the dark recesses of ignorance and superstition millions of human beings and placing them within the benignant power of human progress; the rescue from the clutches of the monsters of misrule and oppression of the victims whose wrongs have been permitted to continue a hundred years after the sunlight of the new civilization began to break through the clouds of old-time barbarity; the establishment of schools, institutions of art, appliances of science, improved methods of labor, communion upon terms of amity and equality with other peoples; the overthrow of bigotry, the stamping out of hatred, the abolition of vice, the reformation of evils, the establishment of just government, the exemption from taxation unless accompanied by representation. A greater work than any ever undertaken and

carried out by any nation, and happily in the hands of those that are willing and capable, who will falter not and pause not until the grand consummation is gained at every point.

The American Republic now takes on a new glory. It has shown how terrible it is in war, though but partially how grand it can be in peace. No other power in all this world would have shown so much charity, generosity and forbearance when holding within itself the ability and authority to be exacting, harsh and unyielding. It says to Spain before going to war—"The issue can no longer be averted or put off. We have waited patiently for some sign of repentance of your atrocities to your helpless subjects at our doors, and in response to our entreaties, our urgent appeals, you or your agents destroy one of our ships on a friendly visit and with it 260 unoffending American lives. You disclaim the responsibility for the inhuman deed, yet you put forth no effort to hunt down the assassins so that the crime might be expiated and yourself vindicated. You are unfit to rule in this hemisphere. Now go, or fight!" The warning is unheeded—more, it is derided, laughed at. "The American is only a second-class nation," says the Spaniard, "with no prestige or standing on the sea and no army that we cannot demolish on the land. Go on with your fight." So it went on, slowly, very slowly, for a time, because the giant's forces were so great even in reserve that it took time to get them together and in battle array, but they came along in twos and threes, in dozens and hundreds, and finally in thousands and tens of thousands. There was no panic, no excitement, no precipitancy. There was a steady, unostentatious determination visible upon the manly faces of the men of our land as they placed themselves in line, shouldered their muskets and marched to the front. The war cloud gathered slowly but darkly and ominously above the doomed nation. Its volume increased, and soon the rumbling thunders were heard and the first flashes of lightning shot athwart the sky. Without other warning the first great bolt descended and shivered into atoms a Spanish squadron and destroyed or sent into captivity everyone upon it. The storm had broken and it raged with little abatement until the erstwhile boastful people were beaten, bruised and begging for mercy. Prostrate they ask for terms, and the victors, instead of spurning the supplicants and adding greater humiliation and sorrows to those already inflicted, say—"Arise! Repent! Amend, repair your broken fortunes as best you may without further molestation or harm. We only fight the foe in open battle. This war is over!"

ZIONISM.

Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, in the August number of the North American Review, discusses Zionism—a subject which is gradually laying a firm hold on the attention of the world. The idea is as ancient as the glowing word pictures of Hebrew Prophets. At times it has been but dimly perceived by Bible readers. Now it commences to assume more distinct outlines, and its importance is correspondingly apparent. As defined by Dr. Mendes, Zionism aims at strengthening the Jewish sentiment for good, that it may become an influence for justice, loving-kindness and humility; it aims at the establishment of a model government, a model state of society, a model system of education. Its present aim is to be a preparatory education of the Hebrews with these ideals in view, recognizing that the regeneration of Palestine can-

not take place until the Jewish people command the respect of the Gentiles, and it confidently looks for divine interposition for the accomplishment of its aims and purposes.

The author believes that all present forms of government show serious defects. Imperialism as represented by Russia and Germany are failures, if the prosperity, intellectuality or liberty of the masses are taken as indications. Monarchy seems unable to stave off bankruptcy and consequent bread riots. French republicanism has, he thinks, given itself a death-blow by placing the honor of its army officers above the honor of the country itself. Great Britain and Holland present a more encouraging view, but the crushing poverty among the masses is a sure sign of defects somewhere.

The purpose of Zionism, therefore, is to establish a form of government in which none of the defects noted shall appear, and it finds the ideal in a confederation, or republic, with a ruler who will regard himself as the representative of God, who, Zionism declares, is the real ruler, and who reigns forever and ever. When the ideal state shall have taken form and substance, it will have no political aims or colonial ambitions; probably its borders may not extend beyond the boundaries mentioned in the Bible, from "the river of Egypt to the Euphrates and from Lebanon to the Arabian desert." By its disinterestedness it will be eminently qualified to act as an arbitrator between the nations of the earth, and wars will therefore become unnecessary; people may safely make ploughshares out of their swords and pruning hooks out of their spears. The curse of conscription will be removed and one-third of the expenses of the governments will be saved for industrial and commercial enterprises.

This, then, is what may be termed the political aims of Zionism. Its social aims are equally idealistic. Dr. Mendes points out that in every country of the world immorality permeates society. People build fortunes on the ruin of fellow-beings and yet are respected in society. Zionism turns to the Mosaic code for the correction of these evils. That code makes holiness the cornerstone of society. It provides especially against the oppression of "a hired servant, the poor and needy, of thy brethren or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates," and the thing to remember is that the law that inculcates these principles of holiness and righteousness appeals not principally to man's fear of punishment, as do laws of human origin, but to his love of God, making that the motive of obedience.

With these aims and purposes in view the program of Zionism is moral, mental and spiritual elevation of the people whose destiny is believed to be the presentation to the nations of a model state, as once it gave the world an everlasting law and at another period of its existence, an everlasting Gospel.

The fact to note is that Zionism is no longer only an abstract idea. It has taken form. The Alliance Israélite Universelle, the Anglo-Jewish Association, Board of Jewish Delegates of America, the Allianz of Germany and numerous other societies are working for the purpose of redeeming Palestine for the Jews. In New York alone, we are told, there are forty Zionist societies, and others exist throughout the country. "Palestine for the Hebrews" is the burden of the cry of the Zionists, and the Hebrew heart is pulsating in response to it.

To many of the readers of the "News" the aims and purposes of Zionism, as here briefly set forth, will be recognized as strikingly in accord with the inspired teachings of the founders of the Church, and their suc-