

"How old are you, Mother Hardy?"

She replied, "I was born on the 16th of September, 1806. I joined the Church in 1844."

They are well preserved and I left my blessing with them.

I then came south a few blocks and found Father Lorenzo Clark, of Mormon Battalion fame, comfortably seated, reading the DESERET NEWS, without glasses, and after a friendly chat I said, "How old are you, Father Clark?"

"I will be 90 in May," he replied.

"When did you join the Church?"

"In December, 1835."

He is robust, hale and hearty.

Now what has kept these brethren in a good healthy condition has been plenty of hard work and hard living with sometimes a good home, and sometimes none at all; but always full of faith in the Gospel of Christ.

Now, Mr. News editor, don't you banter us Dixie fellows, for we can compete with any of you for good, faithful men and still better faithful sisters, smarter sons and daughters, healthier and better babies and more of them to the number of inhabitants, than any other place in Utah, and we will permit you to run over the borders into a few neighboring states; and you can't back us down in quality, either, for we have both quality and quantity, yet we never boast, but if you want to see anything good, pay us a visit and we will show you how we live, where we live and what we live for. And to sum it all up, we say we live to do good to all mankind.

Our Dixie cotemporary mistakes the inquiry of a correspondent for information for a banter; but just the same we are pleased to hear news of our aged, faithful friends. In the item referred to, Brother George Meyers, of Spanish Fork, was named. He is in his 91st year, became a member of the Church in 1843, and signs his name without glasses. The inquiry was for an older person who had been in the Church longer. Our Dixie friend finds one who is a year older and has been in the Church a year longer; also one a year younger, who has been a member eight years longer. As to the "better," "smarter," etc., we think the bantering is with the Dixeyite; for while we concede all the good things that can be said of Utah's southern land of sunshine, its northern vales can present equally as good specimens, qualified to associate with those of the south as true brothers and sisters. Are there any more veterans?

THE SITUATION CRITICAL.

This week opens on an intensely critical situation in international affairs. The danger of a great war appears more imminent than at any time this century since the allied powers were called upon to face the great Napoleon. The key to the situation is in the hands of Great Britain, and wiser counsels may prevail and lead that nation to pursue a conciliatory policy toward the United States, instead of assuming a threatening attitude. The flying squadron has not yet sailed from Portsmouth harbor, and will not receive its final orders until the departure from Bantry Bay, which will not be until Friday at the earliest. Up to that time the British premier has opportunity to send his immense naval force to a quarter

where its presence will not be regarded as a direct menace to a nation which Britain should be the last to threaten. But if the royal squadron is destined to the Bermudas, either for action against the United States or in seizing upon Cuba in pursuance of an agreement with Spain, the serious nature of such a movement hardly can be overestimated.

It is scarcely to be conceived that Lord Salisbury and his astute nephew and political adviser, Arthur Balfour, really possess an idea that by a great display of naval force they can intimidate the United States into acquiescence to English dicta on the Monroe doctrine. In the first place, the past few weeks should have convinced them that English public sentiment is not demanding war with this nation. When the Transvaal incident occurred, it was quickly discovered that all Britain could be arrayed against Germany, and the latter had to act with discretion. But an anti-American campaign shows no such local support, for the simple reason that the British public see no justification for it. What they want is closer commercial relations with the United States, and not war. In the second place, if a war with this country were to be enthusiastically supported by the British people, the United Kingdom could not hope to come out of it with less damage than would accrue to the United States. The loss to British commerce alone would exceed in value the greatest destruction which has been pointed out as possible to inflict on this country. And thirdly, if Britain does not want war with the United States, any "bulldozing" procedure of the British ministry would be the worst possible step, for the present temper of this country, as shown upon the President's Venezuelan message, already is too much inclined to knock the chip off John Bull's shoulder.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, we do not believe that England wants war, and will find a way to surmount the present difficulties. Queen Victoria, while exercising only the powers of a limited monarch, still has sufficient influence to prevent her people being plunged into such a disastrous conflict, for in Great Britain, ministry and all would have to go down before the queen's popularity should she appeal to the nation in this respect. The way for this has been opened by permitting her to take an active part in the German affair. Were the queen to pass away—an event not at all improbable—things might be entirely different. But while she lives there is strong reason to believe that her ministry will be careful in its war policy where the United States is concerned.

The new question involved is of far more importance than the Venezuelan boundary. Here is the situation of a revolution in Cuba about to prove successful. Spain, recognizing that her practical control of the island is about to pass away, is said to have negotiated to transfer it to Britain. In this transaction there is a virtual concession that Spanish power in Cuba is replaced by the republic there. The situation demands recognition by the United States of belligerent rights for the Cuban rev-

olutionists, and the President's proclamation to that effect is anticipated any day. If Britain accepts the Spanish transfer, she will be virtually in the position of attempting to conquer an American republic. This the United States could not permit; and here lies the danger of selecting the Bermudas as a point of rendezvous for the flying squadron, so far as Cuban affairs are concerned; for the Bermudas is an important base of British operations either against Cuba or the United States, being within 600 miles of our shores.

Thus it may be seen that unless the supposed destination of the squadron is changed, trouble will result. But, as before stated, it may not be Bermudas at all, hence no occasion for alarm. We say we believe steps will be taken to avert or at least defer the trouble yet a little while. But we do not believe that it will be postponed for long. The consensus of opinion on ancient prophetic utterances has pointed for more than a hundred years to the end of the nineteenth century as a time for great national turmoil; the correctness of this opinion has been confirmed by modern revelation. The situation is exceedingly critical. Whatever may be the particular course of events, a stupendous international eruption is near at hand, with Great Britain as one of the chief factors. Occurrences of a nature more stirring than any that have been observed recently are on the program of the now not far distant future.

UTAH'S WOMEN.

Tomorrow, January 23, is the opening day of the twenty-eighth annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage association at Washington, D. C. The convention will remain in session six days, discussing subjects associated with woman's exercise of the suffrage. The evening session of the first day has for its special feature an address of "Welcome to Utah," by the Rev. Anna H. Shaw, whose visit here in company with Susan B. Anthony, in 1895, will be well remembered. Following the address will be "Responses from Utah's Representatives," Mrs. Emily S. Richards and Mrs. Sarah A. Boyer; and on that occasion we may anticipate that many good things will be said regarding the women of Utah, and the men also, who, by a heavy majority in the Constitutional Convention, extended the suffrage to women in this State, which, as a Territory, was the first to enfranchise women, and now stands third in the order of states that have done so, Wyoming being first and Colorado second.

Referring to the enfranchisement of the women of Utah, the official organ of the N.-A. W. S. A., The Woman's Tribune, says in its issue of January 18:

There are no women in the United States better fitted to exercise the right of suffrage than the women of Utah. They are accustomed to manage great enterprises, as witness their Relief associations; they are thrifty, industrious, and simple and sincere in tastes and habits. When voters before they contributed to good local government. Since that time they have joined hands with