

prized by our readers. But of late we have received such a large amount of such matter, while the pressure upon our space from other sources has been so great, that we have not been able to publish all the missionary letters we have received. We trust that no exception will be taken by the writers on this account.

In this connection we suggest to the traveling Elders abroad: Make your letters to your loved ones at home as long as you see fit. All the little details of your experiences will be read by them with avidity. But when you write for publication in the "News," be brief and to the point. State facts that have occurred in connection with your labors, which you deem of interest to the Saints generally, or that possess interest or value historically. Testimonies of the power and goodness of the Lord in behalf of yourselves or your work; remarkable cases of healing; the fulfillment of dreams and prophecies; the raising up of friends in time of need; the making of openings for preaching; particulars attending conversions; and statistical information such as the number of baptisms, etc., and similar matters, are usually proper subjects for you to write about; and your testimonies concerning them constitute evidence of the highest value, which will be taken into account when God shall judge the wicked.

But not much space should be devoted to moralizing, philosophizing, or personal affairs, opinions or feelings. When such matter is embraced in a missionary's letter to this paper it usually becomes necessary for the editor to expunge it, a waste of time and labor. A little reflection will usually indicate what is and what is not advisable to embrace in a letter intended for publication. One thing should be remembered—to write on one side only of the paper.

When, however, a missionary has an opportunity to use the columns of some publication in his field of labor, it will usually be necessary for him to write in quite a different strain. His object then will be to explain the doctrines he is sent to teach, and prove their truth by a proper use of the Scriptures, as the Holy Spirit may direct.

Often missionaries have occasion to request this office to change the address of their papers. It would facilitate matters if, in such cases, they would state which paper they are receiving, the daily, semi-weekly or weekly, and give the address to which the paper has been going as well as that to which they wish it changed. Such a request, like any other item of business, should be written on a sheet of paper separate from that on which is written something designed for publication. Business letter and no farther. This does but inspire renewed determination and so ters go to the business department; letters for publication to the editorial department.

The above suggestions are submitted with the greatest respect and most cordial good feeling for the Elders laboring in the mission field. May a merciful and cheering Providence be with them always!

THE NON-PARTISAN NOMINATIONS.

That the non-partisan committee is adhering to its announced purpose of constructing a ticket on business principles, totally regardless of religious or political lines, is sufficiently proven by the additional nominations it has announced today, viz., Miss Joan Sprague for recorder, Joseph E. Caine for treasurer, George L. Nye for attorney, Sam C. Park for auditor, and Orson A.

Woolley for police justice. Every one of these names is good and strong. Not a valid objection can be urged against either of them. Each of these candidates is well qualified in every way for the position for which he or she is named, and in choosing them all lines of religion and politics have been obliterated.

The objection may be made that they have been selected by a few men, and that only a small number of persons have had any voice in naming them. How many persons usually determine nominations in a ward primary or municipal convention? Is it not the rule for a group of a very few factional or sectional leaders to control nominations? Sometimes a candidate is the first and spontaneous choice of a convention, but such cases are rare exceptions to the rule. Usually he is the result of trades or combines.

As a matter of fact it rarely happens in a political nominating convention in this State that so large a number of conscientious, unselfish and intelligent men canvass the names of the candidates before fixing upon them, as took part in the selection of these names. The number of members of the committee who gave earnest and careful thought to each nomination before finally agreeing upon the candidate far exceeds the number of men who usually control nominations by a convention.

But this is not all; for before the people will be asked to support this ticket at the polls, it will receive the endorsement of a larger number of strong and patriotic citizens than any political organization could well collect in a nominating convention. The politicians who seek to belittle the non-partisan committee, the movement which it leads, and the ticket which it is preparing, because of the small numerical strength of the committee, are likely to be astonished as well as defeated by the reserve strength behind the effort for reform.

The parties measured their full strength in this city long ago, and partisan feeling has been on the wane for some time. A happy juncture has been hit upon for a strong non-partisan movement in city affairs; and every day, from now till election, as the real nature and prospective results of the movement become better known, will see its strength augmented.

DWINDLING SPAIN.

It has come to the surface that the Spanish have been exchanging prisoners with the Cubans, and if this be the case the claim of the Spanish government that its contest is one for the overthrow of a band of rioters vanishes into thin air at once. To exchange prisoners of war is a function of war, a complete recognition of the militant footing of the enemy, and thus disappears one more reason, urged by the home government, why the United States should not give the Cubans full recognition. It is not to be supposed from this, however, that there are not others; for there are, and additional to the ones which have been in existence from the beginning of the outbreak besides.

Recently General Garcia, the right arm of Commander-in-Chief Gomez and the worthy successor of Antonio Maceo, captured the city of Victoria situated about midway between the Atlantic and Caribbean coasts, or to speak more understandingly, between the north and south sides of the island. Another of the reasons offered by the Spanish government in opposition to recognition was that the Cubans had not taken and did not hold a fortified town. They have now taken and since held the one spoken of, which con-

tains about 7,000 inhabitants and is surrounded by a cordon of forts, several in number. This is a matter of the utmost importance, contributing so greatly as it does to the humiliation of the Spanish forces and the embarrassment of the Spanish government. It must now be patent, even to the Madrid cabinet, that Spain is unequal to the task of overthrowing the insurrection, and that the longer the withdrawal of all hostile forces in Cuba is postponed the greater will be the dilemma which is already of frightful proportions.

In one sense Spain is a subject of the most profound commiseration. Hopelessly bankrupt, credit exhausted, internal resources curtailed through the two rebellions it has had to oppose and the consequent withdrawal of men from their regular pursuits, the Cuban uprising merged into a regular war with the advantages chiefly with the Cubans and no present hope of a successful outcome; add to all these misfortunes the greater one (if possible) of a false pride which is permitted to hold sway over the judgment, and the picture becomes a sorrowful one indeed. And when the seemingly inevitable shall come and peace without power to Spain shall prevail in the gem of the Antilles, it will be without recompense or compensating circumstances. Almost at any time the Spanish government might have had enough for Cuba to have replenished its depleted exchequer and placed it on the way to national standing again, but it would have none of it; and now it can contemplate the spectacle of homes made desolate, a people immersed in humiliation and threatened with despair, a rule enfeebled and made insecure, not a dollar in possession, all the resources of the nation unequal to its outstanding obligations, and the probable loss of the island besides. What a difference between this and the \$50,000,000 which General Grant's administration was ready to pay for the island's release! When one thinks of it all the feeling of pity is well nigh overcome by that of contempt, especially when it is considered that for no natural reason has Spain any right whatever to own and control Cuba.

LAND ENTRY QUESTIONS.

Monticello, Sept. 13, 1897.

We are expecting a government survey of this part of the State soon and it would be a help to the people of this section if you would kindly publish answers to the following questions:

"First—Can a man take up land under desert entry?"

"Second—Can a woman, married or unmarried, take land under desert entry, or otherwise?"

"Third—Do occupants of lands before the government surveyed it have any privileges in relation to entering said lands that others do not have; and what are they?"

"Fourth—Where a field is occupied in small holdings what is the law or custom in relation to obtaining titles to each claimant's land?"

"A publication of these questions with their answers in your paper will greatly oblige the writer and many others of this district."

JAMES B. DECKER."

1. Yes; if the land be desert, as described in the desert land law.

2. Yes.

3. Settlers upon or occupants of government land at the time it is surveyed have a preference right to file upon such surveyed lands; they have three months after the filing of the official plat in the land office at Salt Lake City in which to enter such lands, and within that time an entry of occupied