

Spain acting alone would scarcely be a menace to any third-rate power, and to bristle up and make wry faces at the mightiest of all the first-class powers of the globe is a performance which possesses some of the features of opera bouffe. It is now hinted, however, that a sort of understanding has been arrived at by Spain with Great Britain out of which an alliance looking to the clipping of the American eagle's wings may grow. This, if true, would lend considerable gravity to the situation, and yet it can scarcely be believed that English statesmen are so willing to invite serious trouble that they will "stand in" with a nation which they would have to help materially and which could help them but very little if at all.

### THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD.

At the closing meeting of the Y. P. S. C. E., held in the First Congregational Church, in this city, Sunday evening, speakers of national and international reputation addressed the large assembly. One of these was Ira D. Sankey, the companion in evangelistic work of Mr. D. L. Moody, and whose sweet songs are familiar to Christians in every land. Another was Mr. William Shaw of Boston. The latter is the national treasurer of the Christian Endeavorers.

Mr. Shaw opened his remarks by reference to the Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The speaker had been impressed by the vast multitudes gathered in the Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall, and he left these places with the thought in his mind, that "if one man could start a movement like Mormonism without the power of God, what cannot we do, with the same industry and the assistance of Almighty God?" Mr. Shaw placed himself on record as denying the divine hand in the greatest religious movement of this age. To what agency, then, does he ascribe this work for the salvation of men?

We have often had occasion to speak a kind word for the work of Christian Endeavorers, and will do so again, because, unlike the opponents of Mormonism, Latter-day Saints acknowledge the work of God in all that has a tendency to good and light and truth, no matter from what source it flows. As to the principles of the Gospel and the purposes of the Church, they have been misunderstood and misrepresented before and they will be so hereafter, but whatever conclusions that fact justifies are rather opposite to the view expressed by Mr. Shaw; for if Christ Himself and His Apostles and their work were to be judged by the opinion of a vast majority of the great and good men of their time, Christian Endeavorers today would have but little justification for their endeavors. They would be worse off, if possible, than the Mormons, for was it not stated of the Master in whom they believe, that His work was performed through the power of the evil one and that His associates were the outcasts of society?

The fact is that the existence of Mormonism today is an ocular

demonstration to the world—whether men deny it or not—of the manifestation of divine power on earth. People see, or profess to see, the finger of the Almighty in the growth of ancient Israel from one family to a great nation, and in its deliverance from bondage and its preservation notwithstanding the efforts of the mighty kingdoms of the world through ages to destroy it; we trace the work of Providence in the growth of Christianity from its insignificant beginning to its conquest of the pagan religions with which it came in contact. But history has no more striking evidence of Divine power than that furnished by the results of the preaching of the "new doctrine," as it was called, by the youthful Prophet Joseph Smith. The organization to which Mr. Shaw belongs is no comparison. That encountered no opposition to speak of. Men of influence and wealth in all positions of life nursed and cared for it from the beginning. The case of Mormonism is different. From the first, like the work of our Lord, it was everywhere contradicted. Religious influences were brought to bear against it, and then political. Its first exponents were few and apparently but poorly equipped to face the world in opposition, yet they went out conquering all obstacles. The work has grown in the storm. Like the mighty oak that becomes the more firmly rooted the more it is exposed to the rage of the elements, so Mormonism today is more firmly established than ever. To say that this has come to pass without the power of God is to admit an impossibility. Through Mormonism ancient prophecy has been fulfilled; precious new truths have been revealed and truths formerly known have again been declared; through its instrumentality thousands have found peace and happiness and eternal salvation, and the Lord has joined His seal on it by signs and mighty wonders as in ancient days, and by preserving it and strengthening it from time to time.

Mormonism should not be judged lightly. The advice of Gamaliel is still good, for if this work is of God, it is well not to take a stand on the opposite side.

### THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

The candidacy of Secretary Carlisle, which was recently spoken of in the News, has been given renewed prominence by means of another letter from him on the subject, this one being addressed to Charles R. Long, chairman of the Democratic State committee of Kentucky. Summed up briefly, the letter amounts to "Barkie is willing;" that the secretary, while not in hot pursuit of the distinction, will not run the other way and give it trouble about catching him if it wants to. The candidacy finds editorial endorsement from the ponderous pen of Henry Watterson, of the Courier Journal, and this amounts to an added impetus which is not to be despised. Clearly, Mr. Carlisle is in the race, and being so is at least equal to a dark horse with the almost certainty that the official designation of the President would put him fairly in the lead.

The time approaches when both the great parties must name their standard bearers, and at no time within our experience has there been so much uncertainty and so little speculation as to the result on either side. There will be several very strong candidates brought before the Republican convention; and if the Democrats organize with their forces as at present arranged, or disarranged, the first ballot would, we think, be more scattering than an old-fashioned fowling piece. It seems, however, to be a growing case of Carlisle against the field.

It is not, though, so much the question of men as of measures that obtains the greatest consideration. In both the conventions there will doubtless be tolerable harmony regarding one of the greater issues—the tariff—while it is well assured that on the other—the financial plank—there will be trouble from start to finish, albeit it is easy to see that in either case there will be a decided majority in favor of the system at present in vogue; with of course some differences as to mere detail. The principal reason why the matter will not be settled easily and at once is because the minority are a power in the land and a growing one, and the party which thrusts this element out or treats it unfairly is in danger of not only losing it but having it go to strengthen the other; hence compromises will undoubtedly be offered in abundance and some plan satisfactory in a general way to all factions sought. To go too far in either direction is to give displeasure to those who incline the other way, while a tissue of platitudes intended to be all things to all men and dodging or "straddling" the great issue must at this time be worse than anything else that either could do. It is a complicated situation, one that we will leave those immediately concerned to unravel.

### TRIAL BY JURY.

The death penalty for murder was abolished in Michigan some time ago and imprisonment for life substituted. Some six years past a man was fully convicted of that crime and the punishment had proceeded up to a few weeks ago, when the prisoner was liberated. Information of a conclusive character had been brought to the board of pardons, showing that the man was not guilty of what the jury convicted him of. Herein is a text for those who favor the obliteration of capital punishment, and their name, if not legion, is at least quite voluminous. If that kind of law had been in existence when the man was convicted he would have been dead and buried at least five years by this time, and the chances are that those who fished out the exculpatory evidence in his behalf would not then have gone to such trouble; thus he would have undergone the terrible ordeal of an ignominious death and the ignominy would have attached to his name so long as it was remembered. That he is still alive and free to go or come, with no stain upon his name so far as the offense of which he was convicted and had undergone