

there was no harmonious connection between the request made by Col. Little and the call for the Mormon Battalion.

THE LOST CONTINENT.

Mention was recently made in these columns of the startling conclusions of Mr. Augustus Le Plongeon, drawn from his archaeological researches in Yucatan, according to which this continent must be considered the original home of man and the cradle of civilization. Mr. Plongeon's work is the subject of a fascinating paper in the July number of the *Review of Reviews*. In the *Westminster Review*, under the caption, "The Mystery of the Pacific," W. H. O. Smeaton also discusses the evidences of a lost continent. The writer has studied the mysterious ruins of Easter Island, situated far out in the Pacific, off the coast of Chile, and, curiously enough, arrives practically at the same conclusion as Mr. Plongeon. He finds in those gigantic remains of an early civilization the unmistakable features of Egyptian architecture and contends for the existence in ages past of an immense western continent, of which Easter Island was the terminus, before the terrible cataclysm occurred which practically submerged it below the waves.

Traditions of this lost continent have been preserved, but the scientific corroboration of the vague sagas seems to have been reserved for this century. And as light is thrown on that dim past, the mystery of Egyptian civilization which, as Renan said, appeared in the world as if "dropped from heaven," instead of evolving from something previously existing, is solved. The broken threads of ancient history are being united.

The most tangible ancient account of the lost continent is that of Plato. In the "Timæus," Critias relates that his grandfather had been told by Solon, that this famous Greek had learned from Egyptian priests in Sais of the overthrow of the island Atlantis. "This was a continent in extent greater than Libya and Asia (as then known) and was the passage to other islands and another continent. The empire of Atlantis reached to Egypt and Tythemia and ruled the countries bordering on the Mediterranean until by the bravery of the Athenians liberty was gained to all the nations within the pillars of Hercules."

On account of the great wickedness of the inhabitants of Atlantis, the country was shortly afterwards visited by an earthquake. The island continent sank into the sea and its inhabitants were swallowed up in the deep. Such is the substance of the account given of the destruction of Atlantis, hitherto generally relegated to the domain of fiction but now on a fair way to be demonstrated as historically true.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the theories advanced by the eminent archaeologists mentioned are as yet unfinished, and that some of the details must be altered as the research is progressing and new facts are coming to the surface. But the importance of the discoveries, nevertheless, cannot be overestimated, if it is

admitted that they indicate the direction in which science must go in order to find the first home of man on earth and to trace the highways along which civilization spread to Asia, Africa and Europe. And the knowledge thus obtained will not be rendered less valuable to science by the fact that the founder of the Mormon Church was the first to announce as a positive certainty that the progenitors of our race lived and died on this continent and not, as others had been led to believe, somewhere in the plains watered by the rivers flowing into the Persian gulf.

ALL EUROPE TREMBLING.

Russia's policy has for centuries been conducted upon fixed principles from which that country never has deviated. Like the tidal wave, that retreats only to return with greater force, that nation has slowly overrun the greater part of two continents. This being well known, it might seem that the diplomats of Europe would be in a position to counteract all her movements with mathematical precision; yet, for every new step Russia takes, a tremor sweeps over the cabinets of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Rome, and just now, according to advices from Berlin, there is such bitterness between the European governments, and clashing of interests, that everybody is apprehensive of what may come next. "The time is approaching," says the *Vossische Zeitung*, "when a revolution, and perhaps a revision, of international politics the world over must be made."

The present cause of this apprehension appears to be a newly made discovery that Russia aims at exclusive control over China. It is proposed to draw that country in under the protecting care of the czar with a view to limiting her trade to Russian producers and make the Siberian railroad the main artery of commerce into the depths of Asia. Troops are secretly being sent to the border, and at present it is thought not less than 150,000 men are available at the most advantageous point. The Russian guarantee of a great part of the Chinese war loan was only the beginning of an effort to gain complete mastery in eastern Asia, which, if successful, means practically the loss of the Chinese market to the rest of Europe.

But Russia's plans are thought to be still more far-reaching. In the recent events in Bulgaria an attempt is seen to gain a predominating influence in that country. Stambuloff was the guardian of its independence against Russian intrigues. He is no more. The next step is the dethronement of Ferdinand, which seems to be contemplated. That accomplished, another ruler would have to be found, and as, by the Berlin treaty, no king can ascend Bulgaria's throne except with the sanction of all the signatory powers, a new election of monarch would be Russia's opportunity to assume and assert a protectorate over the principality. That would be a long step toward the Mediterranean and an attempt to gain a voice in the management of the main waterway to eastern Asia.

That such are the plans mapped out appears from the effort made to drive

Italy out of Abyssinia and the placing of a Russian minister at the palace of King Menelik. The repeated declarations of France that England must evacuate Egypt and agree to the neutralization of the Nile region on conditions laid down by an international congress are also regarded as echoes from St. Petersburg.

It is supposed that a conflict with Italy on account of Abyssinia would force England to take up arms against Russia, and that France, in that case, would necessarily be involved. Germany would then be called upon to come to the aid of her colleague in the triple alliance, and thus the whole continent would again be ablaze. This sufficiently explains why the slightest move of the Russian colossus is viewed with apprehension in Europe. It shows that the structure reared by its statesmen is so loosely cemented that it may fall any moment.

THAT PAYSON MATTER.

We have received, from an esteemed correspondent at Payson, a letter on the recent sorrowful event during an excursion to Castilia Springs, in which a combination of causes tended to produce the death of an estimable lady. Our correspondent cites the remarks of a number of people who seem to censure the excursion manager as being indirectly, at least, responsible for the fatality, and makes an elaborate statement relating to the excursion and accident, reciting the details thereof.

The News does not like to exclude from its columns any reasonable expression of feeling or any explanation an individual may desire to make on behalf of himself or others; and especially is this the case when, through a common penchant of some people to gossip about and unjustly condemn their neighbors, a serious accusation is made. In this particular case, however, we feel that the gentleman chiefly affected, as well as our correspondent and the good people of Payson generally, will agree with us that there should be a declaration on our part, when it is realized that the publication of the letter in a widely circulated paper like the News would spread broadcast a slander that heretofore has been confined to comparatively local limits. Notwithstanding the fact that the accusation and denial appear together, and the former is shown to be wholly untenable, in this instance it cannot be other than injurious to the accused to herald abroad the tidings that such statements have been made regarding him; and especially would its publication be harmful to the inhabitants of the town where the discussions have taken place. The public and private good alike demand that we do not disseminate these untrue statements even in association with their refutation.

We have, however, a word of advice for our Payson friends. With many of them the event referred to seems to have been the occasion of altogether too much talk, and that, too, of an unbecoming, un-Christian character. There have been bitter feelings and comments, and strong assertions one way and the other, that self-respecting people should refrain