

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Sixty-sixth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, April 4th, 1896.

The officers and members of the Church generally are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Conference.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

### PIONEER SQUARE DEPOT.

The NEWS feels to express its gratification at the prompt action of the City Council in granting Pioneer Square for depot purposes to the railway to be constructed from Salt Lake City to the Pacific coast. This is the first occasion when such a proposed road with something tangible on which to base hopes for its speedy construction has been dealt with by the municipality, although several attempts, commendable in their aim, have been made in the past and have failed. The times are auspicious for carrying this project forward to success, and the business is in the hands of people whose hands and brains are not idle; and this combination cannot fail of desirable results.

It was hardly to be expected that the petitioners' request would meet with so little antagonism as it did; nor to find that this antagonism was not of a really unfriendly character. This fact shows how anxious the people are for the proposed road and indicates the steady and practically unanimous character of the support they will give to it. In this situation the promoters of the road have reason to be highly elated over the whole-souled endorsement given their plan. Since we have preferred to antagonism, we will also call attention to the fact that in that from residents around the Square it is stated by themselves to be merely suggestive of the "unguarded condition of railway tracks," and the danger thereof. In the past there has been some reason to complain of this, but as affairs progress this cause of fear is being steadily removed by the safeguards of municipal regulation and the defensive precautions of the railways themselves, so that there need be no fears on that score. With that objection disposed of, there is really no antagonism to the use of the Square for the purpose for which the Council has granted it.

There has been a suggestion that a sort of traditional idea has existed from pioneer times that the Square should be retained as a public park. In response to this we recall an event

of twenty-five years ago. In the autumn of 1871, President Brigham Young and others broke ground on Pioneer Square for a railway passenger depot, and the President predicted at that time that the place would yet become notable in that use; and by solemn prayer he dedicated it to that purpose. It has lain unused ever since by any railway, but the idea of its ultimate occupation, from the pioneer standpoint, has been the one to which that great leader and pioneer, President Brigham Young, declared it should be put—a railway depot at which should arrive great and notable persons of all nations, who would come to see Utah and her people and learn of their ways. The President's predictions on this point apparently are approaching fulfillment.

### A MORE PEACEFUL OUTLOOK.

The political sky on both sides of the Atlantic is at present considerably clearer than it has been for a long time. Rumor has it that the Venezuelan question is virtually settled by England consenting to submit to arbitration. Russia, it is said, has succeeded in gaining control over the policy of the Sublime Porte, and has guaranteed peace in Armenia. At the same time a re-arrangement of the European powers in groups for the maintenance of the equilibrium seems to be under consideration, by which the old three-emperor alliance would be resurrected. About the only war cloud remaining is that darkening the horizon of Spain, but that does not amount to much, notwithstanding the position taken by the United States Congress on the Cuban question and the consequent ebullition of Spanish mobs outside or inside the walls of the universities of that country. As to the latter, there is a suspicion that much of it is due to revolutionary tendencies against the Spanish government, hursting out under the disguise of demonstrations against the United States. The outlook is, therefore, on the whole rather bright at the present moment. The effect will undoubtedly be felt in the various branches of industry and commerce, and there is no reason why people should not look forward to a time of prosperity. The prospects are decidedly peaceful.

With regard to the Venezuelan question, it appears that the government of Great Britain, after looking over all the evidence carefully, admits that England's claims to the disputed territory are not so well founded as at first supposed. Lord Salisbury therefore wisely decided to submit to arbitration, if President Cleveland would so as one of the arbitrators. This he undoubtedly will do, and the supposition is that Venezuela will accept the decision unconditionally. The vexed boundary dispute is therefore regarded as virtually settled without any further aid of the Venezuelan commission.

As to the Armenian question it is now known, that Russia was responsible for the failure of Great Britain to use force against

Turkey. In the diplomatic negotiations on the matter Prince Lobanoff, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, said to the British ambassador:

In no case will the Russian government associate itself with measures of constraint, or adopt coercive measures or consent to the creation in Asia Minor of a district in which the Armenians would have exceptional privileges and which would constitute the nucleus of an independent kingdom of Armenians—such being evidently the object of the Armenian committee.

The reason for this refusal to consent to any active interference in Armenia was given thus:

Russia was formerly to the position of a protecting power in the Danubian principalities (Bulgaria, etc.), and in Servia, but she was unable to secure any real improvement in administration, and the result was that she made herself unpopular with the population. Russia would, therefore, object to any proposal which would in any way render the Russian government responsible for the administration in any part of the sultan's dominions.

Should the statement from Constantinople prove correct that the czar has now obtained a controlling influence in the East, these diplomatically worded utterances stand forth to a new light. Russia objects to co-operation with Europe in the regulation of the affairs of Turkey, in order to have her hands to act alone. And as the other powers are either unable or unwilling to cope with an enemy that knows enough to make his very weakness his strength, matters will continue for a while as they are.

The world has been filled for a long time with rumors of war and heard of bloodshed in many places. There has been enough of this kind to satisfy to some extent the curious appetite for the horrible, that periodically seems to come upon mankind. Whether the peaceful condition will obtain for a considerable period is another question. There are, however, mighty influences at work for the preparation of the world for a long period of peace.

### PROF. HOLDEN'S HIGH CLAIM.

"L. E. H.," whom we take to be Prof. L. E. Holden, well known in this State, writes in the Cleveland Plaindealer claiming a credit which the NEWS, for one, is quite willing should be fully accorded him. In the latest of his series of articles on matters in Utah, the above authority writes as follows:

I have a little personal pride connected with the law that finally became instrumental in the overthrow of polygamy. In 1878, as I remember it, Senator Sherman, ex-President Harrison, then senator from Indiana, Judge Stroog and several other gentlemen were visiting Salt Lake City. I was then living there, and with several others on a beautiful morning we were taking them to a drive about the city. We had passed by Brigham Young's former residences, the Eagle Gate, and at last stopped in front of the private burying ground, where his remains lie. Our carriage stopped aside by side and Senator Sherman was asking me some questions about the Mormons and polygamy. Senator Harrison turned and said: "What is the solution of this problem?" I replied very quickly: