

reasons, are pretty sure to grant. Besides this advantage, this plan has the further one of converting the people themselves, the source alike of power and immorality, to correct views on a great moral subject.

AN AUSPICIOUS CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-eighth Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened today under circumstances and prospects of a character most favorable and satisfactory, and at least some of the reports that will be presented relative to the progress of the work of the Lord, both at home and abroad, are sure to be highly pleasing to the Saints. The success that is attending the labors of the missionaries who are traveling in various countries of the world, and the remarkable awakening in spiritual matters which has been effected among the young people of most of the Stakes of Zion during the past winter, are some of the most gratifying phases of the present situation which environs the Church.

A signal feature coincident with this gathering of the Saints is comprised of the war clouds that darken the sky over a great portion of the world, portending the events and calamities which the inspired servants of God in this age have long been foretelling; and while the spirit of the Gospel is the Spirit of Peace, it also recognizes the necessity of great revolutions in the affairs and conditions of the nations, and looks forward with both the faith and the hope that God will overrule for the best the developments that are taking place in the earth.

The opening day of this Conference commemorates several events in the history of the world. The suggestion is made that there is reason to believe it to be the true anniversary of the Savior's birth; while most Sunday school children in the Church know that it is the day of the year on which was organized as a religious body, the Latter-day Saints. Fifty-eight years ago today President, then Apostle, Brigham Young, first set foot on English soil, and forty-four years ago today the allied Powers declared war against Russia, resulting in the Crimean campaign.

A "CHRISTIAN" ORGAN.

The Christian Leader is a Baptist organ published at Cincinnati, Ohio. In its issue of March 9th it contains a number of unkind flings at several different denominations, especially the Methodists and the Mormons. It seems as ready to attack some one else's religion as it is to defend its own, and it has several correspondents of like predilections, one of whom is a Rev. R. B. Neal, who writes from Grayson, Ky. Rev. Neal has lately written and published an anti-Mormon tract and has been soliciting subscriptions to defray the expense of circulating it. In the course of a column and a half of paragraphs furnished by him he makes fun of some Methodists who were obliged to use the baptism in his church for administering baptism by immersion to some converts who wanted it that way, and then he pays some attention to the Mormons, as follows:

"B. B. Tyler, like the true yokefellow that he is and always has been, promptly sends in a two-dollar bill to aid in the fight against Mormonism."

"Close on his heels follows Bro. George Darste, of Frankfort, with a duplicate two dollars to aid in distributing the tract where most needed. Such brethren realize the imperative need of such work, and take the only practical way of aiding in it."

"The Mormons sow tracts knee deep

all over the land. No one man among us interested in antidoting has the means necessary. By co-operating, each giving a mite, we can do a grand work with tracts. I trust that there are others like them, and that they will not lag in their coming to the front with 'the sinews of war.' We are but at the beginning of the fight and it will be hard and long."

"Just received a note from the editor of the Kinsman, a valiant sheet that is doing great service right in Salt Lake City, the hot-bed of Mormonism. He says: 'Dear Brother—Your tract received at this office. We are glad to welcome a hard hitter in this fight. You make a good point in striking a thing they are pushing.'"

"S. E. Wishard, synodical missionary for Synod of Utah, writes on receipt of the tract: 'Lay on, McDuff. A few thousands of that tract, distributed through your ministers among all the people, would be a good Mormon disinfectant.'"

No particular importance attaches to the above paragraphs, further than the indications they furnish of the drift of anti-Mormon sentiment at home as well as abroad. They show a disposition to oppose Mormonism by means of tracts instead of firearms, a change quite commendable as far as it goes. If the writers of the tracts will make them conform to the truths of history and Scripture, there will be no complaints made at this end on account of the zeal displayed in distributing them. But to ask for truth in an anti-Mormon tract is to look for figs on a thistle stem.

A ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE.

We have passed the end of a long, hard winter. It began about the first of November and we have had five solid months of it. During much of that time the weather has been very fine, though the temperature has averaged low. But the meteorological features of the winter are not the ones to be here treated; its sociological phases are of greater importance.

In this city there have been several hundred men, strong, healthy and able-bodied, who have spent these five months in idleness. So far as building up the city is concerned they haven't done as much as to set a fence post or lay one brick on top of another. They have had no money to spend and so haven't helped business houses at all. Many of them have wives and children who would have suffered for the necessities of life had not the generous hand of charity bestowed relief. The value to a city like this of a population of this kind is simply negative. Idle people dependent upon charity for food, fuel and other necessities, are no advantage to any community, and are in a demoralized condition themselves. It is doubly difficult for them to live within the laws of the land, of good morals and of true religion.

There is no intention to here speak unkindly, or even disrespectfully, of poor people who are such because of misfortune; the above remarks are designed as a foundation for an argument that will be of great benefit to them if they will open their minds to conviction by it. There is another class whom the argument will fit like the hawk fits the tree; they are the fellows that hang around city offices and officers, begging or bargaining for jobs, and they comprise an element of a city's population which it is extremely desirable to scatter, or neutralize in some other effective way.

Spring time is here. In northern Utah and southern Idaho there are wide stretches of land which do

not require irrigation, and if sown within the next thirty days with wheat adapted to them, will, inside of a hundred days after being sown, yield from ten to thirty bushels per acre. Within the period of the sowing season a man and team can put in acres enough to yield quite a working capital at threshing time; quite a start for a family. A few dollars in cash to pay the land office fees, a team, wagon, plow and seed grain are the only indispensables with which to begin operations. When the seed is in the ground it is an asset on the strength of which fence wire and other necessities can be obtained as soon as they will be actually needed, and while the crop is growing a log house can be built that at least will be a home, a better one, probably, than Abraham Lincoln was born in.

Any of these idle men who have excused themselves because work is scarce in the city; any of these poor families who have been dependent upon charity to ward off suffering, and whose head is able to labor; any of these political hangers on whose vote is their most valuable asset, can easily become self-sustaining by going where land and the employment land always furnishes can be had almost for the asking. The argument to be deduced from the foregoing facts is sufficiently apparent without further elaboration here.

REASONS FOR CONSERVATISM.

The "News" is not one of those papers that have been censuring the conservative policy of President McKinley. It has believed that he had reasons for his course which were not fully understood by the American people generally, and has had confidence in both his patriotism and his ability. Some of the arguments that might well restrain him from acting too rashly or precipitately are given by William E. Curtis, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record, though he gives them merely as news matter and not with any apparent intention of making a plea in support of the President's policy. He says that Dr. Louis Klopsch of the Christian Herald, who has been in Cuba for more than a month acting as a member of the committee for the distribution of supplies, and who has himself given \$10,000 to the relief fund, spent an hour with the President a few days ago, and told him that the property holders, the taxpayers and the better classes of people of Cuba did not want independence. Dr. Klopsch says:

"I gave the President my views on the Cuban question. I reported to him that there were 205,000 reconcentrados who had no means of support other than that given by American charity. I told him that when I left Cuba we had enough food in our store-house there to supply the reconcentrados for the next twenty days. I also informed him that if war should be declared within the next week or ten days it would mean death by starvation to many Cubans, for Spain would take possession of the food we have in our store-house. The blockading of Havana would mean an awful death rate, and 150,000 helpless women and children would die. I told the President this and that there was no way of avoiding it. My words to the President were: 'The pen that signs a declaration of war signs the death warrant of 150,000 reconcentrados.' I also told him that the better class of people in Cuba were in favor of autonomy—that they would consider independence a terrible calamity. I informed him that the majority of the Cubans believed this, and that they admitted their own incapacity for self-government. They fear that if independence is brought about