

dents, Teachers, Prophets, Elders, etc. Each worker makes a weekly report to his higher officer. They swap, shift, change, separate and hold conferences as circumstances demand.

There is now being planned an alignment of forces in eastern and western Kentucky to invade central Kentucky. The only opposition comes from "the mules," a mutual protective order which has passed out the word to mountain householders that if any one of these Mormons is fed or lodged the feeder will be the center of a traction in a necktie party.

Neal's Saddlebag College of Mountain Evangelists have begun to ride and preach against the Mormons.

An outbreak is expected hourly in this section.

That was two weeks ago, and there is no "outbreak" yet; nor is there likely to be. All the graphic description as to what the Mormon Elders are doing is so much froth, like the prognostications of the item. A score or so of Mormon missionaries are located in the state of Kentucky, eastern, central and western, traveling two and two. The imagination which makes these few Elders "swarm like locusts" is fertile indeed—"a little one has become a thousand," as it were. These few Elders are preaching the Gospel of the Lord as it is taught in the New Testament; they seek to tell everyone of the joyful message they have, and let people choose for themselves; they organize branches of the true Christian Church wherever a sufficient number of persons receive the Gospel. But unfortunately many people who do not seem to recognize the voice of the true Shepherd are not as considerate of their eternal welfare as they might be, and a few of them antagonize the Elders. Perhaps it is appropriate that such as do engage in this antagonism should receive the sobriquet of "mules," yet the unwarranted perversity they display seems a libel on that useful animal. As for the threat that if Kentuckians feed or lodge the missionaries, mobocrats will assume to act, the hospitable mountaineers of the Blue Grass state evidently pay no heed to it; for they accord to the missionaries such kind and courteous treatment that the letters and reports of the Elders are full of praise and gratitude for the generous Kentuckians as well as the people of other localities where the missionaries labor.

"GREATER" CITIES.

The fad for extending city boundaries in order to make a showing of greatness for the municipality seems to have struck Springfield, Massachusetts, and on election day the people are to vote on the proposition of adding to the present city the area of West Springfield, which comprises about 9,000 acres and some 6,200 population. But the conservative judgment of leading citizens has been pitted against the proposition, and finds voice through the leading newspaper of the city—the Republican. The latter points out that while the city would become the "Greater Springfield" in having its area raised to 26,332 acres—an increase of over one-third—and its population to 57,659, the rise in taxes would be proportionately much greater, and alto-

gether out of a proper ratio with respect to the benefits to be obtained. The increase in area means increased municipal expenses per capita to maintain a given measure of uniform achievement over all this area in public and works and highway maintenance, and consequently the translocation of the city to the "greater" class would add more to public liabilities than to the assets or to the taxpayers' means of meeting those liabilities.

The theory of the Republican is right in this matter, as experience has demonstrated conclusively in this State. The extension of cities beyond the requirements of the immediate future for population has precisely the result in practice which our contemporary points out in theory. A city is unfortunate when, like a farmer who fails of success because he "spreads" himself over more ground than he can manage judiciously, it does the same thing; and for a similar reason.

RULES FOR VOTERS.

With the registration disposed of, the balloting comes next, and we again present these general rules for the guidance of voters:

1—If you wish to cast a straight party ballot, put a cross in ink in the blank square to the right of your party emblem, and make no other mark.

2—If you wish to make any change whatever from a straight party ticket, do not make any mark opposite either party emblem.

3—When you do not vote a straight ticket but pick your candidates, put a cross in the space at the right of each candidate you wish to vote for, and make no other mark on the ballot.

4—You do not vote directly for President and Vice-President, although the names of candidates are on the ticket; you vote for electors on the State ticket, choosing those of the party whose presidential candidates you wish to support.

By following these rules you will have no difficulty whatever in having your ballot just as you want it to be.

LIBERTY FOR CUBA.

It now seems as if Cuban patriots might look forward to an early consummation of that for which they so long have fought, bled and died. Not only is it probable that the Spanish government feels convinced of its inability to hold the island much longer, critical as the situation is both at home and abroad, but the hope is also held out to them that other countries, with the United States in the lead, may before long recognize Cuba's independence. At least this is to be inferred from the statement of a Washington correspondent in a New York paper, who says action by President Cleveland in the matter may be looked for the first of the new year. A high official of the administration is authority, so says the correspondent, for the announcement that the President has long realized that this administration could not shift the responsibility of intervention in the interests of humanity and the commerce of the

world. The President has patiently borne with Spain, notwithstanding the serious damage to American interests, observing the strictest neutrality, largely for the sake of giving the Spanish government a reasonable time to demonstrate its ability to crush the rebellion and at the same time to avoid burdening the administration with too many foreign complications at one time. Reports he has received from Consul General Lee and other sources have practically convinced him that Spain will never be able to end the war without acknowledging the freedom of Cuba.

Spanish papers, of course, protest against interference by the United States, but the fact remains that unless Spain can raise money, victory must attend the rebel flag, and no country can long refuse to recognize a victorious body of patriots. By all accounts Spain's treasury is about exhausted, and there are no more securities on which to raise money. The insurgent leaders are well entrenched and have by this time considerable supplies. They can prolong the struggle indefinitely by the tactics they have followed hitherto, and there seems no alternative for the mother country but to prepare for a retreat from the island. The war cannot go on indefinitely. Too many interests are suffering from it, and it is the undisputed right and duty of every country to see to it that its interests are not jeopardized by strife and dissensions in neighboring countries. If, therefore, it is evident that tranquility cannot be restored in Cuba until the connection with Spain is severed, and if Spain has proven her inability to restore order, it is incumbent upon the United States to take such action as may be deemed best for the accomplishment of the desired end.

THE SPELLING REFORM.

The incongruities of the English language have been made the subject of discussion for philological improvement so long that there are now very few people who are not convinced that a simplified orthography would be beneficial in almost every way that may be named in the line of advancement and economy. But it is very difficult to make changes in a language spoken by hundreds of millions, particularly when those millions include the most aggressive of the civilized nations. The history of English, however, shows that very important changes in its orthography have been made, and still are going on.

The philological societies in America have taken several conservative steps in the matter of spelling reform, and being endorsed therein by government educational departments, are making them effective. As a result of this, the better schools are teaching the new rules, such as to drop the final "me" from program, the final e from sulphid, oxid, etc.; and still other changes are under contemplation or in process of being introduced.

The latest change under the "Ten Rules" of the philological societies, by which a definite plan for certain improvements is laid out, is based upon rule 7, as