

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

LADY MISSIONARIES.

The Millennial Star of July 28 notices editorially the splendid work done by the sisters sent as missionaries to Europe. The first two lady missionaries were Sisters Lucy Jane Brimhall and Inez Knight. These sisters were called on a mission to Great Britain and set apart on the evening of April 1, 1898, in Provo, Utah. The next morning they started on their long journey across America and the Atlantic, and ultimately arrived at the office on April 21st, when they were duly appointed to labor in the Cheltenham conference in the capacity of lady missionaries. The duties of a lady missionary, say the Star, are essentially identical with those of a traveling Elder, as regards tracting, preaching upon the streets and addressing audiences within halls, introducing the Gospel at the fireside, and endeavoring to allay prejudice on all sides. But in the matter of performing the ordinances of the Church, that entirely rests in the hands of the Elders and the Priesthood. Of the effect of the presence of the lady missionaries in the meetings, the Star remarks:

"The labors of the first two lady missionaries in the European mission have been watched with interest. That the appearance of two young Mormon ladies upon the rostrum at several meetings that have already been held, has awakened interest amongst the congregation, goes without saying; one has only to note the incident of people leaving the seats in the rear of the hall and crowding down to the front, in order to drink in every word in breathless silence."

The idea of setting ladies apart for missionary work seems to have been suggested by the visit to England of Sisters Elizabeth Claridge McCune and Harriet Jacobs. While there, they evidenced a deep interest in the labors of the Elders. At the request of the various missionaries, with whom they came in contact from time to time, these two sisters, who were in different parts of England, cheerfully arose in the meetings of the Latter-day Saints and bore testimonies to the truth of the Gospel. The effect was very marked and proved extremely beneficial to the successful laboring of the Elders in those districts wherein these two sisters had borne their testimonies.

"SAVED THE DAY."

Utah bears her honors modestly; not because they are not grand or numerous, for they are emphatically both; but rather because she is so ably and conspicuously doing only her duty in the present struggle and as much more as falls her way, without boasting or asking for invidious recognition. Her sons have won honor on every field to which they have been called and elicited the unstinted applause of peoples beyond the sea as well as at home.

It was to be expected that when an opportunity came by means of which the enemy, emboldened by the discordant elements which beat upon the earth with merciless fury, together with the lateness of the hour and served as a mask to the surprise attack, had nearly gained the field, the Utah battery would not be found idle. In the midst of the intense darkness, the drenching downpour, the sullen rumbling of the thunders, the vivid but blinding darts of lightning and the all but impassable mud, our boys were slowly but determinedly tugging away

at their field pieces, making all the speed possible to that portion of the line where the attack was the fiercest and getting there just in the nick of time. It would have been altogether out of the question for the infantry, surprised as it was by greatly superior numbers and measurably unprepared for such an onslaught, to have stemmed the tide much longer, and even so slight a victory as that would have been must have encouraged the Spaniards to the point of renewed hope and determination. No such assistance was to be theirs. The valorous and hardy Pennsylvanians with only the comparatively ineffective Springfields, aided in great measure by the Californians and Coloradoans, kept the enemy at bay as only such men engaged in such a cause could, but the need of a battery to hold the ground was as necessary as was the arrival of Blucher to the success of Wellington at Waterloo. It came, it conquered. Down the lines of skulking, darkened and desperate Spanish were soon pouring volleys of shrapnel tearing great gaps in the ranks, filling them with dismay and forcing them from the field with many hundreds of their dead and wounded left behind.

This was a victory under trying circumstances, but a great, a decisive victory none the less; and that the Utah boys, as the dispatch had it, "saved the day," is a source of honest pride in which no feeling of discrimination against the other heroes of that occasion finds a place. Cheers for the living and tears for the dead of our American Spartans!

NO MORE WAR.

The final consummation of the proceedings which are to end the war were reached today. It was all agreed to on the 6th, and what has since taken place has been in the nature of elaboration and definiteness. At once hostilities are to cease. Manila is to be surrendered to Merritt and San Juan to Miles, though it will be some time yet before the grand entree into Havana takes place. This is caused by the terms of the agreement itself, which provides for delay in the matter of Cuban evacuation because of the greatness of the task. Spanish sovereignty will cease at once, of course, and the rule that exists will be under the direction of the United States. The military commission to arrange for the evacuation of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines will meet in Havana in fifteen days.

This is about as gratifying a denouement to the bloody drama which began with the destruction of the Maine as could be expected or desired. Some more sanguinary or vengeful than the majority would (or say they would) have preferred to see the struggle go on to a devastating, depopulating finish with Spain battered to pieces and the pieces scattered upon the earth. More Christianlike, more humane and more progressive views have obtained and the United States has not lost one jot or tittle of its majesty or might by reason thereof.

When the signature of M. Cambon is actually affixed to the protocol, thus officially bringing the struggle to an end, there will doubtless be some little demonstration in places. There may properly be. A great war has been fought by this truly great nation, for a high and holy purpose, to a successful and honorable conclusion. Cu-

ba is free; Porto Rico is ours; the Philippines will be disenthralled. When it is all passed in panoramic review through the mind and the purposes and consequences wrought are fully comprehended, what expression more fitting than that which Garfield uttered after the assassination of Lincoln—"God reigns and the government at Washington still lives!"

THE VATICAN INTERESTED.

A dispatch from Rome states that the Vatican is in constant communication with representatives of the Roman church in this country as well as with the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, with a view of securing clauses in the treaty of peace that will "safeguard" the religious interests of the Catholics in territory to be ceded by Spain to the United States.

Public opinion in this country is decidedly against foreign aid in formulating the terms of peace, and this sentiment is not confined to any possible suggestions by the secular governments. Rome, too, if insistent, might be reminded respectfully that this affair is one in which Washington and Madrid alone are interested directly. If the Vatican be admitted to the peace council, why should not the head of the Greek church, or the Sheik-ul-Islam for the Mohammedans, also be allowed to suggest "safeguards" in behalf of their creeds? And why not listen to the representatives of various Protestant bodies as well?

His holiness cannot be supposed to be ignorant of the fact that in the United States there is the most perfect religious liberty, based on equality before the law of all churches, no matter what their creed is. He knows that Catholics stand on an equal level with other denominations, and that whenever the Stars and Stripes are unfolded to the breeze it means that this condition is to be established. When Porto Rico becomes American territory, and Cuba is placed under the protecting wing of the American eagle, religious liberty is one of the blessings that will become the inheritance of those islands. When Pope Leo, notwithstanding this, displays anxiety for special promises in behalf of the church he rules, he either intimates that he is skeptical as to the honest intentions of our government in regard to the newly acquired territory, or, what is more probable, he is endeavoring to secure special privileges for the Catholics in violation of one of the principles on which our government is founded. In either case the American peace commissioners need to be on the lookout.

It has been proved that one cause of the misery of the Spanish colonies is to be found in the fact that the natives have been kept in ignorance. Competition has been practically excluded. To remedy this, it will be necessary to open the field to the various intellectual and spiritual forces that are at work for the elevation of the work. Let there be no special privileges to any, but equal protection to all. The result will be beneficial, inasmuch as the most intense light will penetrate the farthest, and even the lesser lights may be useful in the discovery.

THE NEXT QUEEN.

When Victoria ascended the throne as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland some sixty-one years ago, she began what has proved to be an unparalleled reign, not only as to length of service but as to the general character of the service. A retrospective view of her personal and official excellence is caused by the approaching coronation of Wilhelmina of Holland at the same