

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THE RELIEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE.

On Saturday next, June 27, there is to be a conference in the Salt Lake Stake of an important woman's organization—the Relief Society. It is the chief of all woman's associations among the Latter-day Saints, and in its purposes reaches to every department of work engaged in by the gentler sex that have membership in the Church of Christ. Its training is for all that exalts and ennobles, whether at home or in public, whether to maiden, wife or mother. The blessings it is designed to confer are not limited to its membership, but extend to all who need a helping hand in requirements of mind or body. And all women members of the Church owe it to themselves to make the conferences and operations of this society an unqualified success.

The good this society has done in its more than half century of existence is incalculable. Every Stake in Zion, every ward and branch organization, wherever located, has performed a part in the divine labor which benefits and blesses the poor and needy, nourishes the sick, relieves the afflicted, and comforts those who are called to mourn; and this labor is marked out for the future course. In all this there can be only good things said for a society which merits and receives the divine favor for its humble and unselfish efforts.

Great as has been the work that the Relief Society has accomplished in the Church, there is abroad it today a broader field for operation than ever before. It may not be in relieving destitution, because there is less of this than in some periods of the Church's history; but it is in that training and instruction to its members which saves them from sorrow in this life and exalts them in the life to come. Today there is a special opportunity for the society to put forth its efforts in increasing faith and fidelity to the Gospel in the hearts of its members.

In this respect one suggestion may be made for more persistent and active work. The Latter-day Saints who live their religion are a praying people; by their devotions in that form they keep in close communication with the Lord. Today there is great need for the Relief Society to inspire mothers with a deeper sense of the importance of prayerfulness. If all the mothers in Israel were prayerful in its true meaning—if they not only prayed themselves in intense faith and earnestness but taught their children active participation in prayer of this character, there would be a vast improvement over the conditions which exist. Such prayerfulness would be the antidote to a very large proportion of the listlessness, the disregard of sacred things, and the waywardness manifest in many quarters today. Mothers need instruction in prayer, and to give that instruction to children in substance more completely than in form. Praying fathers, mothers and children constitute families that are largely proof against the temptations which now too commonly are submitted to.

Among the Latter-day Saints the young men have grand opportunities for learning the truths of the Gospel and the eternal forces thereof, by the missionary experience that is open to them. It is as essential that this knowledge should come to the young women as to the young men. The former have not the foreign missionary experience necessary in many instances to develop the testimony, but in their home training by parents who unite all the family in practical prayerfulness, and in local associations, they can have the requirement fulfilled. And the Relief Society can and ought to be a potent factor in impressing this and other truths upon mothers in Israel, that their sons and their daughters may be preserved to truth and virtue as valiant workers for the right.

A NEW BONAPARTE.

The announcement that ex-Empress Eugenie, the widow of Napoleon III, has called a conference of French imperialists, to be held somewhere in Belgium in the month of August, has been the subject of much comment on the part of those interested in the political affairs of France. Politicians not in the confidence of the Imperial party were for a time puzzled, there being no apparent cause for the unexpected move. Lately, however, a story has found publicity to the effect that it is the intention of the ex-empress at this meeting to present the son of the late prince Imperial as the rightful heir to the French throne.

According to the published story the empress and her son did not get along very well together, the latter being accorded too little freedom. The prince actually took refuge in the ranks of the English army operating in Zululand in order to escape the constant warfare at home. Now it appears that before the prince set out upon the journey to Africa that ended with him falling a victim to the assaults of the savages, he had been secretly married to Gladys Watkins, the daughter of a retired English merchant. He also left an infant son. Not until a few days before the death of the prince did his mother receive the message in which the fact of the marriage was announced to her. In this letter from Africa the prince wrote:

All my happiness and interest lie centered in my little household, and I fervently pray we may share your sympathy and love.

When the prince had fallen the grief-stricken empress sought her son's widow. She satisfied herself that the marriage certificate was authentic and consequently recognized the legitimacy of the son.

This newly discovered branch of the Bonaparte family is now fifteen years of age, and it is said he bears a strong resemblance to the first Napoleon. He is an indefatigable student of the classics and of military tactics, and is already now pronounced an expert rider and swordsman. He is the pride of his grandmother. Naturally the

appearance on the scene of this new claimant to the throne has given rise to much speculation, and the schemes of the French imperialists will be closely watched by their political opponents.

THE NEXT SENATE.

So sanguine were the Republicans of the St. Louis convention that they would sweep the country with McKinley that they seemed to forget the currency plank in the platform meant the loss of the senate to that party, except on terms of compromise which the silver men could dictate. The silver men, however, did not overlook the fact that without their vote the promises of the Republican platform as to protective tariff changes are impossible of fulfillment, and the country must continue under existing laws unless the Republican legislators grant important concessions to the very men who "bolted" at St. Louis, and to others who represent silver states.

In figuring the matter out the Chicago Record concludes that unquestionably the hope of controlling the senate is lost to the Republicans for some time to come. It points out that during the last session there were in that body forty-four Republicans, thirty-nine Democrats and six Populists, with one Delaware seat vacant. The bolt at St. Louis, by which four United States senators left the party, reduced the number of Republicans in the Senate to forty, only one more than the Democratic vote and six short of a majority. But the discouraging thing for the Republicans is not that they will be short of a senatorial majority in the next session of the fifty-fourth Congress, but that they are likely to be still short of that majority in the fifty-fifth Congress, when they hope to have full control of the other departments of government. There are seventeen Republican senators whose terms expire in 1901 and twelve whose terms expire in 1899, making twenty-nine in all. Of the states to elect senators to succeed those whose terms expire in 1897 seven are practically certain to choose or have chosen Republicans as follows: Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont. These, added to the twenty-nine hold-overs, will make thirty-six Republican senators certain for the fifty-fifth Congress. In addition the Republicans claim to have a chance to secure senators from the following states: California, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin. If the Republicans can secure ten senators from these fourteen states they will have a majority in the Senate; but the prospect of their doing so is not encouraging.

The Record omits in its figures to make any reference to the Utah senators whose terms will expire in 1897 and 1899 respectively, and whose votes in the fifty-fifth session may be counted as in favor of silver. In this respect the assurance of high tariff legislation following the election of McKinley is made still less bright, without the support of the silver sena-