

Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens will temporarily succeed to the presidency of the national W. C. T. U. She is well known in suffragist and temperance circles. She was one of the board of lady managers of the World's Fair. When in 1876 Miss Willard introduced into white ribbon ranks the discussion of the ballot for women, Mrs. Stevens led the arguments in favor of the proposition. She was one of Miss Willard's close personal friends.

NO MORMON IN IT.

Efforts are being made to ascertain who is the Mormon candidate for United States district attorney, so persistently referred to by a contemporary. Thus far no one, Mormon or non-Mormon, has been able to even surmise who is meant. Of the three leading candidates, Bishop, Whittemore and Ritchie, none is a Mormon. Neither is Wylie Brown, nor Pennel Cherrington, nor Lindsey Rogers, nor is Dennis Eichnor. If there is a Mormon candidate for the place, he is not known here nor at Washington except to the correspondent who writes about him, and to whom presumably he must have applied for the position.—Tribune.

The conclusion implied in the foregoing, namely, that no Mormon has been participating in the unseemly scramble for the office named, which has been in progress for a year or more, is correct, so far as the "News" has information or belief upon the subject; and the statement of our cotemporary, whether so intended or not is a great compliment to the Mormon lawyers of the State.

WORKING THE SCHOOL PUPILS.

The San Francisco Chronicle has been exposing, lately, several so-called "scandals" in the public schools of the city on the coast. One of these was an attempt to make a record of the ailments of every school child, to be put into the hands of a patent medicine company so that the agents of the latter might introduce its remedies to the parents of the children. Then came a text book scandal. The Chronicle says a job lot of needless and costly treatises on various fads was forced on the pupils in spite of the protests of parents, many of whom could ill afford the outlay. The job was done, and when the books had been sold and the plunder divided, the board of education withdrew the new studies from the curriculum. The last is a grocery "scandal." The paper says:

"The teachers have been induced to canvass among their pupils for the wares of a certain firm, each package from which is supposed to contain a lottery ticket drawing a cash prize for the teachers' annuity and retirement fund. Special prizes are offered to teachers and pupils who get the most tickets together. The whole thing resolves itself to a bargain by which teachers agree to misuse the confidence put in them by children and their parents for the sake of making money on commission; and the disgrace of the thing between the grocery firm and the teachers not to 'give the scheme away.' It is a case of addition, division and silence all around."

The peculiar experience in this line of San Francisco is referred to solely for the purpose of calling attention to what mean uses even the public schools may be put to when not guarded by absolute honesty. The probability is that operations of that kind will not be confined to one locality, if allowed to go on without being held up in their true light. Parents have a right to see to it, that the class rooms are not

converted into brokers' offices for the pecuniary benefits of dealers in books, pencils, water colors and other merchandise.

PREPARED FOR WAR.

The latest dispatches from Havana sound ominous. There seems to be no evidence forthcoming that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an accident, and as the facts are brought to light, the excitement becomes more intense. Consul General Lee has advised Americans to leave the island, a measure too serious to be taken without good ground. Is it possible that the Cuban authorities deliberately placed the Maine over a submarine mine, in order to be able to destroy her, should the slightest sign of hostility appear, and that some fanatic, with or without the knowledge of those in charge of the harbor defenses, touched the electric button, and executed the murderous work? On the reply to that question depends, perhaps, another question, peace or war?

Some of the newspapers of the United States, even at this critical moment continue their lamentations over the alleged defenseless state of the country. Their object, of course, is to cool off the feverish desire for war supposed to exist in some quarters; but it is to be feared, whatever the influence of such talk may be at home, abroad it will only strengthen any sentiment of hostility against this country. If Uncle Sam has any enemies, their courage will grow in proportion to the strength of the evidence of his supposed weakness. Indiscreet talk about our defenses, as the world goes, is but a poor aid to the cause of peace.

Besides, it does not appear to be true that the United States is at the mercy of any European power that may conceive the idea of a crusade to the western hemisphere. Advice from Washington are to the effect that for several months the government has been preparing for a conflict, should it be forced on the country. The consequence is that the navy is on a war footing. The ships are equipped and manned. Preparations in regard to coaling and the opening up of lines of communication are complete. A complete military campaign has been arranged. At the word of command, every ship, every regiment, every transport will be sent to the proper place; there will be no loss of time in preliminary deliberations. So far from being unprepared for an emergency, the United States is in a position, if forced to fight, to engage in a short and decisive struggle.

THE U. S. NAVY.

The studied efforts of officers of the ill-fated Maine to withhold from the public any opinion they may entertain on the disaster is undoubtedly correct, but the effect of it is not, as intended, to allay suspicions that may have taken hold of the public mind. People will naturally conclude that the silence itself is suspicious. If the officers are convinced that the loss of the vessel was due to accident, there can be no harm done by saying so, unless indeed the explosion might be traced to the criminal neglect of somebody. On the other hand, if they believe in the theory of foul play, discretion would command silence until the proofs are furnished.

The disaster in the harbor of Havana has called attention again to the naval strength of the United States. The navy now consists of four battleships of the first class, one of the second class, two armored cruisers, sixteen cruisers, fifteen gunboats, six double-turreted monitors, one ram, one dynamite gunboat, one dispatch boat, one

transport steamer and five torpedo boats. In addition to these there are sixty-four other naval vessels, used for training and naval reserves, and about twenty subsidized steamers, and a number of large merchant steamers available at any time.

The United States is stronger than Spain on the seas, and when the new battleships are completed this country will be the equal of Germany in naval strength, only England, France, Russia and Italy being ahead. The recommendation of Secretary Long that Congress confine its naval appropriations to one battleship for the Pacific coast, with a few torpedo boat destroyers, may not be acted upon, in view of the loss to the navy of the Maine and the complications that possibly may arise.

NO DANGER.

Two religious papers, The United Presbyterian and the Christian Observer, are singularly exercised about the so-called Mormon propaganda. They believe it their duty to warn their readers against the Elders who have gone forth among their fellow men with a Gospel message of peace. No exception can properly be taken to this, since in this country every one has a right to hold views of his own and express them to the best of his ability. But it might be expected that those who assume the responsibility of instructors should at least be familiar with the subjects on which they essay to speak, or write, and that they should be imbued with a desire to state only the truth even about opponents. The publications mentioned seem to have neither knowledge about the Mormons nor too much regard for facts.

The United Presbyterian has a story to the effect that Latter-day Saints missionaries are individuals who go about the country with their pockets full of money, looking for families "largely made up of young women," whom they convert and then at their own (the missionaries') expense send to the "western colonies." After this statement it is no surprise to hear that Mormon "doctrines are but a miserable jumble of the beliefs of Jews, Christians and pagans," and that the Saints "deny the divinity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit."

The Christian Observer takes the position that the manifesto of President Wilford Woodruff of 1890 is being evaded by the Saints, and that "private features," the "economic principles" and the "political policies" of Mormonism "is entirely inconsistent with the free institutions of this country." The philippic closes thus:

"Let all sensible people utterly ignore their agents as they go two and two over the land. Let no public building be placed at their disposal for their meetings. Let no person take them into their houses. Let no one attend their meetings, or read their literature. Be assured that they will cunningly set forth what they profess to teach in common with most Christians, and that they will keep the main things back till the poor dupes are in Utah with no means to return. From the personal and domestic, from the religious and national points of view the whole system and all its agents should be so severely let alone that they will soon find themselves left alone, and so leave the place."

It should be unnecessary to remind our cotemporaries of the fact that they cannot dismiss Mormonism from the field of discussion simply by referring to it as a "jumble." Representatives of paganism used to bestow the epithet of "babbling" upon the great Apostle of the gentiles, when he appeared at their public places and declared to