

of God; His revelation to Israel; the coming of a personal Messiah and the future life as set forth in the thirteen principles of Maimonides. We declare that the prophets in no way discountenance ceremonial duty, but condemned it only when the personal lives of those who observed ceremonial law were not spiritual. Ceremonial law is not optative, it is obligatory. We hold that the Talmud contains the traditional and legal interpretation of the Scriptures and that the rabbinical exposition already received is binding; that the Abrahamic ceremonial is indispensable for the admission of males into Judaism, and that intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles cannot be permitted, unless the Gentile is converted from conviction and complies with the requirements of our existing laws. That we are still a nation, though temporarily without a national home, and that the restoration to Zion is the legitimate aspiration of scattered Israel. In no way conflicting with our loyalty to the land in which we dwell or may dwell at any time. We believe that in our dispersion we are to be united with our brethren of alien faith in all that devolves upon men as citizens, but as religiously in rites, ceremonies, ideals and doctrines we are separate, and must remain separate. In accordance with the divine declaration. (Leviticus, xx, 26), "I have separated you from the nations to be mine."

It was decided to form a permanent organization under the name of The Orthodox Jewish Congregational Union of America, with a view of upholding Judaism. This is certainly a step forward. It is an attempt at uniting a scattered people on the platform of the Law and the Prophets, and the result of such a union cannot but result in good. Probably unions of this kind are necessary preliminaries to the gathering in Palestine.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

There has for some time been a feeling of animosity in certain quarters of this country towards France on account of the Spanish sympathy that has found expression chiefly in the French press. Congress in making the appropriation for the Paris exposition in 1900 has not been influenced by this fact, but very properly recognized that the attitude of the French government is one of strict neutrality. Whatever the sympathies of some of the French people may be, the attitude of the government is alone to be officially considered.

Congress more than a year ago accepted the invitation to the American people to be represented at the exposition and space was secured for an American exhibit. The United States should fill this space with the wonderful products of her industries and give to the world a demonstration of her advancement in every direction. For business purposes this is necessary, and also for political reasons. The United States, to carry out the policy which now seems her inevitable destiny needs friends among the European powers, and the opportunity to show our friendly feelings toward France should not be lost.

NEUTRALITY VIOLATED.

During the period just preceding the war, when the United States was buying acceptable war craft wherever it was to be had, an effort was made to purchase the Chilean cruiser O'Higgins, but it came to nothing. Now comes a dispatch, saying that the cruiser has been bought by Spain and its guns are to be turned against us instead of the

enemy. This is bad if true, very bad indeed; not that the cruiser, or a dozen more like it in the Spanish hands would amount to a formidable proposition, but because of the unlooked-for exemption at such a time of the old adage that blood is thicker than water. Chile is as Spanish as Spain itself, and notwithstanding the awful drubbing which the South American republic gave the mother country thirty-four years ago, it seems the family feeling is beginning to assert itself.

Even this would not be a matter of so much concern were nothing else involved. The fickleness of the Romans and their descendants are too well known to occasion wonderment when a new development of the weakness is apparent. The really regrettable thing connected with it is that, if true, Uncle Sam will have to whip Chile and he would rather have its respect through admiration and fear than by subjugation and ruin. Chile has declared itself neutral and as such has it been treated; but it is a flagrant violation of neutrality laws to sell war-craft or munitions to either combatant. More than that, it amounts to a declaration of war on the part of Chile. This is of course the thing Spain has long coveted; and yet it may not be true. It will be all the better for Chile if it is not.

AFTER THE WAR.

In the anxiety to save this Republic from the alleged threatened "imperialism," some forget entirely that the relations between the United States and the people of the Hawaiian islands and the Philippine islands now impose upon us certain obligations which must be met after the war. It is perfectly clear that the Hawaiians must be placed in such a position that any Spanish demand for indemnity for violation of neutrality laws has to be addressed to Washington instead of Honolulu. National honor demands this.

The same may be said of the Philippines. Aguinaldo has placed himself at the service of Admiral Dewey and proclaimed a republic, although the Spaniards have offered a heavy reward for his assassination. What is to become of him and his republic after the war? Are we going to abandon them to their fate after they have served our turn at Manila? The natives there are ground into the dust under the iron heel of an ignorant hierarchy supported by the military power of the oppressors. Shall this condition be perpetuated after the people for one brief hour has tasted freedom? He who falls to see in the miraculous victory of Manila the hand of Providence pointing out the destiny of the great American Republic and its duty toward less fortunately situated fellow-beings, is not capable of reading the signs of the times.

As regards Cuba there is a difference of opinion whether the policy set forth in the resolution for intervention is binding upon the government. The resolution expressly declared "That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people." This resolution, however, which was signed by the President on April 20, it is claimed by some, was superseded by the act of April 23, which declared that a state of war existed since April 21. Spain, by its act of war on April 21, made it impossible to communicate the terms of the resolution to the Madrid government, and the contention therefore is that the

pledge contained in the declaration has never been given. If this interpretation is correct, our government has as free hands in Cuba as in the Philippines.

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

General Shafter telegraphs the government at Washington that he is able to take Santiago within forty-eight hours, but it would probably entail a great loss of life. The information is also sent that Spanish reinforcements are now so near that forced marches will bring them to the scene in about the same length of time. The question thus presented is this: Shall all preparations be completed before the advance is made and thus make it sure that our forces will have to fight 8,000 or 10,000 more men than now, or shall it be made at once with some details incomplete and thereby subject the men to greater loss than would be the case if everything were in readiness?

It is a most critical situation. Shafter is a cool-headed, capable man, one who does not permit fancy to suggest conclusions for him nor let figments of imagination take the place of logical deductions. When he says he can take Santiago, we may rest assured that he is giving expression to no idle boast nor exhibiting over-confidence in any degree; but what of the great cost? And will the cost be any less if further delay takes place?

It was intimated that the attack would be made at once, and if so, the desperate work should be well on as these lines are being written.

AN INVASION.

The present year, according to the prognostications, is grasshopper year in Eastern and Southern states. The grasshopper, it is said, belongs to the periodical insects, the advent of which can now be timed with the same precision as a railroad train. It never fails to put in an appearance when due.

Government entomologists have made a careful study of the cicada and are now perfectly familiar with its habits and are able to predict when and where it will make its appearance. They say that it will attack the trees of city and country in two great broods or armies. One of these armies, it is explained, is known in entomological parlance as "brood xvii," and will capture Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The second army—"brood vii"—will strike Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The grasshopper here spoken of is the cicada, which chiefly devastates trees and shrubs. When they are through with a forest it frequently presents the appearance of having been damaged by fire.

Captain Sigsbee is modest. He reports having had a fight with the Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Terror. The Spaniards reported that two other vessels helped the Terror; but Sigsbee may be excused for not mentioning them on the ground that they kept out of his range, although they were there to attack him if he had not given the Terror such a hot reception.

American officers in Cuba assert that the chief employment of Cuban soldiers near Santiago just now is to smoke cigarettes and gorge on Uncle Sam's provender. The abundant provender is a new feature in the Cuban soldier's bill of fare.