

thing radically wrong in the construction of a pair of optics that see in Spain a meek, innocent lamb quenching its thirst by the idyllic brook, and in the United States the savage wolf thirsting for blood. People whose eyes are so abnormally constructed, or so diseased, can really have no voice in public matters, because their judgment is at fault.

Spain, all the world knows, has for centuries been playing the part of the wolf. And so terribly real has its acting been that the soil of her colonies is still reeking with the blood of her victims. When finally the cry of agony moved heaven and earth to compassion, the United States was commissioned to execute justice and to tear the lamb from the jaws of the wolf. This was done. The Republican would have this country throw the lamb back again, but, fortunately, the American people are still actuated by the patriotism that sent thousands to the front at the call of the President, and the demand is to give the poor islanders in each ocean the full benefit of the American victories.

We do not believe this demand is to any large extent, if at all, based on a hunger for territory, or expansion, or imperialism. It is, in the main, a desire for fair play and to see fellow-beings blessed with free government and religious liberty. It is the natural impulse of a noble heart, conscious of having at its service a strong arm to protect the weak from the miseries of oppression inflicted by tyrants. This is the only rational interpretation of the motives by which a majority of American expansionists are actuated.

AN EASTERN VIEW.

The views of a great majority of the people in this part of the country regarding the financial question are somewhat at variance with those of the eastern section, as is well known. But since the late elections we have had some displays of feeling regarding the matter which show either that the two elements are further apart than ever or getting closer together than they have been for a long time—it is really a difficult matter to say exactly which just now. That the contest went largely in favor of the eastern idea, even in some of the previous strongholds of the other element, is a recorded fact, and the press of the East, of both political parties, is well nigh unanimous in its exhibitions of great joy that this is the case.

The New York World, which may properly be called the leading Democratic paper of the country, expresses its satisfaction over the outcome in a thoroughly undisguised manner. It thinks that "no political event in years, perhaps not even the election of McKinley, is more important than the wiping out of the free-silver majority in the Senate and the substitution of an almost two-thirds majority for sound money." It then goes on to show that all the "unsound" financial legislation of recent years originated in the Senate and concludes that

"All the business and industrial classes, indeed everybody, can now feel that free silver is dead even in the utterly improbable event of a free-silver majority in the House and a free-silver President in 1900. The importance of this established fact cannot be overestimated. It is equal to a victory in a Presidential election. McKinley's majority was so small—a change of 25,000 votes distributed in the five closest states would have defeated him—and the vote for Bryan was so large, six and a half millions, that the election of 1896 was not decisive. Now, however,

it seems impossible to keep up the free-silver agitation. The revolution in the Senate has completely collapsed it."

Out of this state of affairs the World prefigures a business boom, meaning prosperity based upon assured stability; and holds that with free silver dead and out of the way, the Democrats have now a chance to get on the right side of some other great issue and win in 1900. What such issue may be is not suggested.

Without opposing or endorsing our Gotham cotemporary's views, we can all afford to hope for the conditions to arrive which it so confidently predicts as a result of the contest through which the country has passed. None of us has had too much prosperity of late years, and an advance in that direction would not be resisted by even those who are not willing to believe it can come as the result of such causes.

A NOVEL SITUATION.

The new acquisitions of the United States have of necessity brought before us some novel circumstances and conditions to be dealt with and harmonized if possible, otherwise to be suspended or reformed. Not the least novelty that has been or is likely to be presented for adjustment is the request made by the professional bull fighters of Havana that their occupation be not interfered with; not only this but they want it recognized and protected! In doing this the petitioners show a degree of recognition of changed conditions and respect for the new powers that be such as entitle them to a respectful hearing and proper consideration, albeit their line of occupation is not one that the people or authorities of this country look upon with marked favor.

The proper answer to make to the request is one that would no doubt be construed by those who made it as an affirmative; it is that we have no jurisdiction in the premises. The American occupation of Cuba is not that of a conqueror or an owner in any sense, but rather that of a protector and guarantor. Order is to be maintained, persons and property protected and wholesome regulations enforced. None of these conditions could properly be construed as interfering with local pastimes so long as individual rights are not interfered with, even though such pastimes from our standpoint are brutal, barbarous and to be eliminated from the social conditions of Cuba as rapidly as it can be done by peaceful agencies. We might as well undertake to suppress cock-fighting in the Philippines or gander-pulling in South Carolina as to break up bull-fighting elsewhere by any other agencies than those herein suggested.

INTOLERANCE IN THE SOUTH.

The spirit of intolerance, once so rampant in Christendom, has not yet died out. That freedom of thought and speech and action on religious matters which is guaranteed in civil government under the Constitution of the United States, is not yet fully enjoyed in religious government. This has been recently exemplified in some occurrences in the state of Mississippi. The particulars, briefly stated, are these:

Some months ago, Elders Edwin C. Penrose and J. S. Bellows, traveling Elders in the Southern States, made considerable stir by preaching the Gospel in Lewisburg, Miss. They were kindly entertained by a prominent citizen and merchant of that place, Mr. B. F. Lewis, who, with his family, became much interested in the principles ad-

vanced by the Elders. They belonged to the Methodist church, but believed in the scriptural adage, "Prove all things and hold fast that which is good." The Elders were permitted at first to speak in a schoolhouse, but the prejudices of sectarians being aroused, they were refused permission to occupy that building. Mr. Lewis, desiring to give the brethren an opportunity to present their side of questions in controversy, cleared out a large store-building for public services, and gave the free use of it to the Elders whenever they should visit Lewisburg. It came to be known in the town as "The Mormon Tabernacle."

This aroused the ire of some of the local Methodists, and Mr. Lewis was threatened with expulsion from the M. E. church if he did not cease entertaining the Elders and giving them the opportunity to speak in his building. That gentleman, not being of the kind that yields to improper force, asserted his rights as an American citizen and a believer in the Bible, and continued to take the course which he believed to be right and Christianlike. An effort was then made to exclude him from fellowship without a hearing, but being familiar with the discipline of the church, the designs of his enemies were for a time frustrated. He demanded that he be given an opportunity to appear in person and also requested that Elder Edwin C. Penrose be permitted to speak in his defense. The request was not granted, but his demand could not be entirely ignored. After several attempts to expel Mr. Lewis by irregular proceedings, extending over a period of two or three months, he was at length tried before Rev. W. D. Burrough, the M. E. minister at Lewisburg, and found guilty under the following charges:

"Bro. W. D. Burrough, P. C. Lewisburg M. E. South. We, the undersigned members of said church and committee appointed by you to investigate the report that Bro. B. F. Lewis was disseminating doctrine contrary to our Articles of Religion, par. 297 Discipline of M. E. Church South, regret very much to say that in our judgment we deem a trial necessary, inasmuch as he persists in encouraging a denomination commonly known as the Mormon Church, whose doctrine, in our judgment, is subversive to the Methodist doctrine;

"First. In furnishing them a house in which to preach.

"Second. In caring for them as ministers of the Gospel and bidding them welcome to his home, while they are disseminating their doctrine.

"Third. (This specification was withdrawn.)

"Fourth. By encouraging others to hear them preach.

"B. F. ROSS,
"N. P. ALLISON,
"J. M. DOWNER."

From the decision rendered in his case, Mr. B. F. Lewis appealed to the quarterly conference of the M. E. church in Pleasant Hill circuit, North Mississippi, addressing his appeal to Rev. Dr. J. D. Cameron, presiding Elder. It is here inserted in full:

To the Rev. J. D. Cameron, presiding Elder of the Holly Spring district, and members of the quarterly conference of Pleasant Hill circuit, North Miss. conference.

I, B. F. Lewis, appellant before your body from a trial held by W. D. Burrough, P. C., at Lewisburg church on the 28th of September, 1898, at which I was charged with disseminating doctrine contrary to our articles of religion; paragraph 297, Discipline of the M. E. Church South.

I desire here to submit for your prayerful consideration, the unjust and unchristian-like manner in which I have been treated and to show the