

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

DEPARTURE OF THE TROOPS.

Wednesday was the first time that a body of men ever left the State of Utah to go to war, and the departure of the troops of Fort Douglas for the probable scene of battle was an event that stirred the emotions of the people in the towns through which they passed as nothing has done for years. At every railroad station the populace of all ages and both sexes, from the toddling infant to the gray-haired grandparent, gathered in throngs and cheered and sang patriotic songs, while the national colors were most conspicuous. The fact that the troops were colored men made no difference at all.

Farmers plowing in the fields, on seeing the soldier train approach, ran to the side of the track and swung their hats and cheered as the cars filled with troops flew by. The workmen in the smelters alongside the road did likewise; and country boys on horseback would come tearing down a lane or cross road to reach the rails in time to cheer the soldiers. The patriotism of the people, though hitherto not noisy, was a resistless force in its depth and intensity.

The student of history sometimes sees an instance in which an overruling Providence brings to pass developments of right and justice that are so in harmony with the eternal fitness of things, and are wrought on a scale so grand as to be in themselves a proof of the control over mundane affairs of a Supreme Being who is wise and just beyond compare. The concentration of the colored troops of the United States army preparatory to invading Cuba is a development of this character. Cuba is to be invaded that Cubans may be free; and the invasion is to be made by troops who were themselves made free, only a few years ago, by a war that caused a deluge of blood. Those troops will do for another race what was done for theirs, and the mighty coincidence will mark another epoch in the tremendous evolution of human liberty.

NEUTRALS AND BELLIGERENTS.

All diplomatic relations having been broken off between the United States and Spain, the two nations are now facing each other, prepared for hostilities. It is to be presumed that the handing over of the passports to Minister Woodford is Spain's final reply to the President's ultimatum. If so the word of command to move to the scene of action may be expected any moment. Formerly it was considered a rule of civilized warfare to make a formal declaration of war before entering upon actual hostilities, but lately it has been the custom merely to issue a proclamation stating that a condition of war exists, and the President has been advised, it seems, to follow this course.

The issuance of such a proclamation is usually followed by a declaration by other powers stating whether they intend to remain neutral, and this imposes upon them certain obligations and restrictions. A neutral power, by the law of nations, may not furnish either of the belligerents arms, troops, or ammunition, or render any other assistance for the prosecution of hostilities; nor may it refuse one belligerent favors granted to another. A neutral state is further entitled to perfect inviolability of its territory. Since the congress of Paris, 1856, it has even been

established that goods belonging to the enemy but carried in neutral ships, cannot be seized, and that the property of neutrals, if not contraband of war, found in an enemy's vessel, is free. A neutral power may not send its ships to blockaded ports, provided due notice of the blockade has been given and the blockading belligerent has at the port a squadron strong enough to make the blockade an actual fact. The neutral must also be ready to prove that he is a neutral and allow the belligerents to search his vessels. The proclamation by the President that a state of war exists between the United States and Spain subjects the neutral powers to these rules of international law.

When war has been declared to exist all the property of the enemy is liable to confiscation. Debts due from one state to the other may be sequestered, but as a rule this is not enforced. Commerce between the subjects of belligerents may be entirely interdicted, although special licenses may be granted. Partnerships between subjects of hostile states are dissolved by the declaration of war. Every act calculated to bring the enemy to terms is considered justifiable, but the wanton destruction of life and property is contrary to the rules of modern warfare. Persons merely engaged in the peaceful occupations of life may not be attacked by the enemy, but vessels and their cargoes, unless the goods belong to subjects of neutral powers, are liable to seizure and confiscation.

DEATH OF A FRIEND.

A returned missionary, who formerly labored in Kentucky, has brought to this office some clippings from papers published in that state which give particulars of the death of one of its old and respected citizens who leaves to mourn his departure a number of relatives and a larger number of warm friends who reside in Utah. Oliver S. Shelby was his name, and the news that he is dead will be a shock to many persons in this State, and especially to Elders who, while in the mission field, have partaken of his hospitality, as many of them have done. On the Twenty-fourth of July last year twenty-five Mormon missionaries were his guests.

He resided in Fountain county, Kentucky, about two and a half miles north of Covington, and his death occurred March 21, the cause being apoplexy. A local paper says:

"In the death of Mr. Shelby the county has lost an honored and influential citizen, the neighborhood and community a kind neighbor and a sincere and sympathetic friend and helper, and the family are bereft of a tender, loving husband and father. He had passed the three score and ten, and in that time had won and justly merited the esteem, respect and affection of those with whom he came in contact in every-day life and in business transactions.

"Oliver Steely Shelby was born in Vigo county, Indiana, April 4, 1825, making his age 72 years, 11 months and 17 days. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Shelby, who were pioneers of this state, having arrived here from Ohio in 1817. He was married to Hannah Nebeker, daughter of John Nebeker, Nov. 13, 1845. To them were born four children, the two eldest of whom died in infancy. Two, Sarah Emily, wife of David Ferguson,

and John W. Shelby of Randolph, Utah, still survive their father."

The works of such men as Oliver S. Shelby entitle them to have their names inscribed on the roll containing those of the honorable men of the earth. The "News" understands that he was never a Latter-day Saint, but he had the kindness, courage and hospitality to receive in his home any Mormon Elders who might chance that way, which is a mark of soul-superiority. The "News" sincerely condoles with the bereaved family and honors the memory of its departed head.

WITHOUT SALARY.

Some of our exchanges note as something extraordinary the fact that a pastor of a Baptist church in Chicago recently made the announcement that he was going to preach without a salary and that he wanted the work of the church carried on by voluntary contributions. It seems that the members were at first opposed to this arrangement; but the minister carried his point; and from now on only in case anything is left after the expenses are paid will the preacher get anything for the support of himself and family. He declares it as his view that this is the only way pleasing to the Almighty, and he believes the day is approaching when all the so-called Christian churches will adopt a similar method.

It has often been observed that the doctrines of Mormonism like a leaven are slowly permeating the ecclesiastical world. This is natural, for whenever they are understood they commend themselves to the judgment and conscience of the best men and women. The great truth that the ministers of the Gospel should devote themselves to their work without a fixed salary—without selling it at so much a yard, as if making merchandise of it—is distinctively Mormon. In fact it was one of the teachings that called down upon the Saints the wrath of a salaried ministry in the beginning, causing much bitter persecution. Yet, now there are signs of its being adopted by others as the only Scriptural method.

The reverend gentleman in Chicago has set a noble example. Undoubtedly he will further search the Scriptures to learn the business methods of the Almighty as regard His Church, and then he will find that not voluntary contributions alone, but tithing is commanded as the source of revenue of His people. We imagine it will be a great deal easier to persuade the clergy of the divine origin of the law of tithing than of the necessity of preaching without a salary. But both are commanded in holy writ, and the Church must submit, or lose her power for good in the world.

BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES.

Whether any further formalities be observed pertaining to the mode of informing the powers of the world of the present status of the relations between the United States and Spain, war is now an actual fact, and the responsibility rests with the latter country. The refusal of the Spanish government to receive the ultimatum of President McKinley can be regarded in no other light than the interruption of friendly relations with this country, by those in power at Madrid; it was an act by which they assumed the responsibility for what is to follow.

Spain's first act of hostility—not to mention the destruction of the Maine and the assassination of the American sailors—appears to have been a treacherous attack upon the United States minister to Madrid, Mr. Woodford, who