

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

INGERSOLLISM.

A Chicago exchange takes notice of the rather interesting fact that while Robert Ingersoll was regaling a by no means large audience at Columbia theater, Chicago, last Sunday, ten thousand people were struggling for admission to the Auditorium to participate in a purely religious ceremony, conducted by Christian people, to commemorate the return of peace. Mr. Ingersoll's remarks were as follows:

"I do not thank God for the victory at Manila. I thank Dewey—the bravest admiral that ever trod a deck. I thank the brave men and officers under him; I do not thank God. I do not thank God for the destruction of Cervera's fleet. I thank the brave officers and I do not thank God for the capture of Santiago. I thank the heroes, I thank the regulars, white and black; I thank the men in the trenches, the volunteers, the rough riders, the wounded and maimed; I thank the worn and fainting; I thank them all, the living and the dead."

While this harangue was being listened to in the theater, the immense throng at the Auditorium united in thanksgiving to God for the victories won and the return of peace, rendering honor and glory to Him for the outcome of the war, commenced in the interest of justice and humanity.

The gatherings in Chicago prove that the star of the agnostic is setting. People have become tired of the old jokes and poor aphorisms that are his stock-in-trade. They are passing and in a few more years there will be even no imprints left of them in the consciousness of the nation. But while they are sinking into oblivion the religious truths against which they have been hurled will remain, brightening as before the lives of millions and lightening their burdens. And what is, perhaps, worth especial notice is this, that the triumphs of Christianity over its assailant is due entirely to its own intrinsic value. Ingersollism has of late years not even elicited a serious retort. It has been treated with silent pity. And yet it is vanishing as the walls of sand built on the beach are washed away by the tide so completely that no trace of them remains. History repeats itself. He who has patience enough to wait will always be rewarded by seeing truth triumphant and error, even if making a great stir temporarily, fail. Error is but chaff, "which the wind driveth away."

OUR SCHOOL REGULATIONS.

A few days since the "News" gave expression to what may properly be classed as the indignation of a great number—probably the majority—of parents in this community over what they consider the improper hour at which children are required to be at school. The matter should not be ignored, nor postponed for too long a time. It is not only a condition of things which produces general annoyance and discomfort, but is provocative of bad results otherwise, not the least of which is ill-health. The hours of study should not be prolonged and more particularly should not have any lengthening trench upon the time immediately following the sleeping hours.

There is nothing gained by "cramming," especially under the circumstances spoken of.

The Medical Record is giving the subject some attention. It holds that the care of the body has been strangely neglected in the public schools of this country. It declares that numbers of delicate, highly strung children have broken down under the strain, and the dreary daily grind of the monotonous cramming system, undergone in unhealthy surroundings, has developed many of the nervous diseases to which the present generation is so peculiarly susceptible. What does knowledge profit a man if in the gaining of it he loses the still more precious gift of good health? The nations of the old world, notably Greece and Rome, understood and appreciated much more clearly than do the people of these times the harmfulness of unduly forcing the mind to the lasting hurt of the body. The gymnasiums of ancient Greece probably reached in their methods of training the young, a higher ideal than have any of the educational systems now in vogue. In the face of this condition of affairs it is pleasing to note that the people of America are rapidly becoming alive to the pernicious effects of developing the mind at the expense of the body.

It is shown that the more rational mode of educating the young is to so train the mind and body that both advance at an equal rate. A child being of weak constitution but having unusual mental capacity should be so taught as to strengthen its physical powers without crowding the mind in the least, and no child should be forced in a way that is sure to weaken its energies and eventually break down its capacities. No more certain way of doing this could be devised than by hustling a child out of bed before it is thoroughly awake, rushing the dressing operations and enforcing the bolting performance at breakfast, if indeed it shall be so lucky as to get any breakfast under the circumstances, then away to school on the keen jump. Let the nine o'clock school hour be set aside altogether and everywhere; ten o'clock is early enough, especially these short days.

MUSIC AT THE L. D. S. COLLEGE.

The school of music conducted in connection with the Latter-day Saints' College in this city promises, we are told, to become an important feature of that institution and should prove a great attraction. The course embraces music, individual and choral; harmony, elementary and advanced; voice culture and instrumental music.

In the elementary vocal class drill and practice are given in sight reading, with full explanations of fundamental principles. The choir is to be made an efficient means of training. Special attention will be given to individual voice culture, and to the training of those who are leaders or members of ward choirs at home. It will master not only the ordinary hymn tunes adapted to the morning devotional exercises, but also classic selections from oratorios, cantatas, operas, etc.

The work in harmony will be devoted in the elementary class to the fundamental principles of chord building, composition and musical theory in general. Those students who are particularly apt and progressive will be organized into a class where more advanced principles of harmony will be

taught. In voice culture the work will be purely individual.

Musical training is an important part of modern education and we feel assured that that now offered at the L. D. S. College will be the best obtainable in this musical community.

FRANCE VS. GREAT BRITAIN.

The speck of war which the "News" spoke of a few days ago as being visible in the European firmament has grown perceptibly in the interim. So rapid has been the growth that it is no longer a speck but a cloud of some proportions and outlines that promises to gather instead of reduce volume. It is, as before, on account of the Fashoda affair, and simmered down amounts to just this: France must withdraw and leave the disputed territory to the British, who put up the claim that without it their acquisitions in Africa will be incomplete, and that offer to France the crumb of doubtful comfort that Africa is big enough for both of them. Undoubtedly it ought to be, but that of itself does not seem to be addressed to the equities of the case, if, indeed, there be such a thing as equity in it. The French were at Fashoda first, by what right or title and in pursuance of what interest except their own aggrandisement has not been told. If it be a rule of international or any other kind of law that the one who first pilfers a thing must surrender it to the one who makes a greater sweep which includes the thing first pilfered, then the British title is the better; but the obtuseness of the French character will not permit them to agree to such a construction—with them the first rogue has the better right.

Of course it is not viewed by the nations immediately and remotely concerned in this way. The manner in which the "News" has stated the case is too much on the homespun, old-fashioned plan to be recognized or thought of in diplomatic circles. Undoubtedly Great Britain has achieved a great triumph in the Soudan, one that means the bringing into the great channels of her own and the world's commerce the products of a region rich in natural resources and peopled by millions, most of whom are utter barbarians and who will be compelled by the force of association and example to become industrious and creative. At present these are the merest creatures, living semi-nomadically, lazily and filthily, drowned in savagery and invested with the grossest superstitions. To drag them out of the mire, so to speak, to make them clean and enlarge the scope of their physical and mental powers will require a long period of time, constant effort and perhaps more killing, but it must come to pass. As cruel and unjust as seem the agencies by which the initial work is done, it must needs be done. It is not at all a case of bad beginning with worse remaining behind, but of a harsh commencement with widespread difficulties and responsibilities to follow. In order that the British program may be carried out in extenso, it is necessary that its occupation be full orb'd—ergo, the Frenchman, must go or take the consequences of not doing so.

That such consequences are understood and their magnitude appreciated by France is evidenced in the quiet but rapid and effective mobilization of military forces going on. War munitions and materials are being forwarded with reasonable dispatch to Toulon and Brest, and all officers out on leave of absence have been called in. Such