

than in the summer time is generally approved. Let the county schools fall into line, too.

#### GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.

Thanksgiving day in the history of the American nation often has marked the culmination of great events, but never more so than this year. As pointed out in the President's proclamation, "few years in our history have afforded such cause for thanksgiving as this. We have been blessed by abundant harvests, our trade and commerce have been wonderfully increased, our public credit has been improved and strengthened, all sections of our common country have been brought together and knitted into closer bonds of national purpose and unity."

In addition to this the war clouds have been dispersed, and in the bright light of peace, the American people stand forth in glory among the nations of the earth as the victorious champions of the cause of humanity and the dispensers of justice. It is impossible to review the events of this year without profound gratitude to the supreme Ruler of nations for the manifestations of His power in the achievements of American patriots and heroes.

It is eminently proper to have a day set apart on which especially to remember and acknowledge the goodness and mercy of God. The significance of such a day should not be allowed to become lost. It would be a good deal better to go back to the old-fashioned notions of "thanksgiving" than to convert the day into one of sport and rowdiness.

To a great many of our readers the contemplation of God's dealings with His people in the past is a source of joy and spiritual strength. As in ancient times the devoted worshiper at the altar of Jehovah was directed to see in the wonderful works of the Almighty during past tribulations a pledge of future victories and final triumph over all enemies, so the faithful Saint in every age will find in past experiences encouragement and strength. If they, figuratively speaking, have seen the waves of the sea fall back before them; the hard rock give water, and sweet manna gather during the night; if they have seen the intended curse of Balaam turn into a blessing and the armies flee before the invisible hosts of heaven, they cannot but look into the future with perfect tranquility and peace, as long as they remain faithful to their God. They know for themselves that "happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, his God; which made heaven and earth, the sea and all that therein is: which keepeth truth forever." They know that "the Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations." Psalm 146.

#### A RUPTURE OR A CONCLUSION?

The news from Paris, so far as received, is of importance. It is in effect that the United States commissioners have offered the Spaniards \$20,000,000 as a settlement in full for the cession of the Philippines; this to be in lieu of all things else, indemnity for public or private losses since the outbreak of the last Cuban insurrection to be waived, and in short all things involved in the dispute to be closed up and out with the cession and the payment. One week's time is given for Spain's reply.

This would seem to be definite enough and pointing to a satisfactory and an early conclusion of the commission's labors; but on the heels of the dispatch noted comes a bulletin announcing that President Rios, of the Spanish commis-

sioners, has refused to continue the negotiations. Whether this means that he is acting on his own account and will take no further personal action, or that he acts in behalf of his colleagues as well as himself and their official labors are at an end, is not yet known; if the former, it may not be a matter of much concern, but if the latter it is very significant, and may precipitate new and grave issues into the situation.

If the Spanish peace commissioners refuse to continue the negotiations, they must take the ground that the offer of the United States regarding the Philippines is unacceptable. In this country the offer is generally considered a liberal one.

By the peace protocol, our government evidently acknowledged the fact that Spain's rights in the Philippines were different from those in the West Indian islands, and that it would be the business of the commissioners to define those rights, as well as those of the United States. Our commissioners have done so, and the result is that Spain has been offered a large sum of money as an equivalent for her improvements in the archipelago. In view of the fact that Spain actually has lost control over the islands and that she cannot hope to hold them against the natives, and certainly not against any European power that may take a fancy to them, the proposition of the United States to buy them at a reasonable price must be considered a liberal one.

The position of the Spanish peace commissioners, however, is a most difficult one. They must take Spanish unenlightened public opinion into consideration and make a brave stand, possibly to save themselves. The final outcome will be the acceptance of our terms.

The Cuban debt is entirely different from the Philippine question. With regard to Cuba the United States has bound itself not to assume sovereignty, and can, consequently, not assume financial responsibilities. Besides, our government having waived its undoubted right to enforce a war indemnity cannot be expected to assume a debt, which would mean to pay an indemnity to the vanquished nation. On this point there can be no discussion between the representatives of the two countries.

The next question is, what will Spain do? Are the negotiations to be continued through the French minister in Washington? Or, does the Spanish government prefer to sign the terms of peace after a bombardment of the Spanish coast cities by an American squadron? Spain seems to have forgotten the Maine entirely, but she should not also forget that her own interests demand peace on almost any condition.

#### NO "MORMON" CONSPIRACY.

Rumors have been circulated in Oregon that Mormons are preparing to establish heavy settlements in that state, and that the La Grande sugar factory is a beginning of such a scheme. These rumors are denied in an article published in the Portland Evening Telegram. The "News" has been requested to publish the article. It says in part:

"This undertaking at La Grande is one of great interest and value, not only to that locality, but to the whole state of Oregon, and not only is it unfair to its promoters but it is injurious to the interests of the state to endeavor to prejudice the public mind against men who come into Oregon to prosecute important industrial enterprises on any religious grounds.

"Mormons will never come into Oregon, or into any part of Oregon, in such numbers as to constitute any political power, or any noticeable power, civilly or socially. That is, we shall never have in Oregon any distinctively Mor-

mon communities. But men who are Mormons in their religious faith, or known as such, may be or may become important aids in our industrial development; and men who can do such things as have been set on foot at La Grande ought to be welcomed in Oregon, no matter what their religious associations may be. If Mormons come into Oregon and buy land, grow wheat, rear sheep and cattle, and in other ways add to the productive wealth of the state, they will do good; and there is no reason to fear that we shall get too many of them."

We have no further information regarding the enterprise referred to, but the views of the contributor to the Evening Telegram can be indorsed. People who come into any state with industrial enterprises ought to be encouraged, no matter what their religious views are, as long as they are law-abiding citizens. It is the element that lives on strife, and consequently is interested in stirring up strife continually, that is the enemy of any community.

#### DEAD TOGETHER.

John W. Keeley, the inventor, who died in Philadelphia on the 18th, was either the most unsubstantial among the visionaries of the day, a cunning impostor, or a man of such profound thought and vast research that the children of men could not keep pace with him. Of his alleged discoveries the only one that became conspicuous, and it almost entirely by the voluminous newspaper comment and prodding, what was known as the Keeley

motor. This was claimed to be a principle by means of which a high degree of propulsive pressure could be obtained through a volatile ether extracted from cold water, and upon it many years and thousands of dollars from the credulous and speculative who were "let in on the ground floor" were spent.

The first public exhibition of the motor took place on the 10th of November, 1874, before a gathering of scientists and investors, who then advanced \$100,000 to enable him to perfect his plans and make a practical application of the principle then apparently made partly manifest. Since that time work has gone on with tolerable steadiness. One design after another was taken up and discarded until something like 130 all told had been thus disposed of. The Keeley Motor company was incorporated, and when funds were needed, as they seemed to have been very frequently, it was only necessary to levy an assessment, the ground having previously been prepared by means of an exhibition disclosing some new feature or additional stage of progress.

So it went on to the end, and but for the recent complete substitution of a new principle entirely would have been somewhat monotonous toward the last. The vibratory forces of the air were to take the place of the occulted power resident in water—probably did so so far as the world knows or results showed—for the motor never performed any work or returned a cent out of the vast sums of money expended upon it, or at least upon its inventor. Among the victims who were most prominent was the well known society woman, Mrs. Bloomfield Moore, who invested heavily in the enterprise; and whether she looked with regret or approval upon the imprisonment of Keeley, which took place in 1888 for contempt of court in refusing to disclose his secret, is not known.

Undoubtedly there was something in the discovery made by Keeley, and al-