

be increased by additional rainfall or by developing the sources of natural supply, the farming lands of Utah cannot be very greatly extended and those portions now classed as arid will have to remain so. But the foregoing hypothesis is not correct, anywhere. There is much more water used in irrigation than is requisite or profitable to the crops themselves; there is every opportunity for constructing reservoirs in which to retain the surplus water until the advancing season makes its use necessary; and if there is no reliable artificial means of increasing the rainfall, there are various ways, such as tree-planting round about the sources of supply and developing these sources, in which the quantity of water coming down into the valleys for irrigation can be much increased. All these are matters that are of the utmost importance, and are deserving of the best thought and energy of the people.

#### WHAT MORE CAN THEY DO?

First it is for saying too much, and then it is for saying too little, that prominent men in the Church are criticised and called in question; and it has now gone so far that they are not only held responsible for what they say or do not say themselves, but also for what others choose to say or leave unsaid about them. Verily their path would be a hard and thorny one if they had to try to please their abusers, and should seek to make their course and utterances conform to those which the aspirants for political supremacy mark out for them.

Having tongues and hands of their own, and possessing the intelligence to know how and when to use them, it does seem that these men might be trusted to declare with their own lips or send out over their own signature whatever affecting themselves or the people over whom they preside that they think is appropriate and necessary. Time and again they have disclaimed responsibility for declarations made by others and cited as their desires; and no part of the political program as performed in this Territory has been more earnestly condemned by them than the use of their names by unwise, busy and unscrupulous partisans.

What more need be said or can be done to satisfy the extreme yearning of the critics? Probably the best and only thing to be done is to leave the latter unsatisfied. To those, however, who are apt to be misled by designing men either in the newspapers, the public addresses, or the private whisperings, these words of caution cannot be too frequently reiterated: The authorities of the Church are not sending any messages of an improper political purport by anybody or to anybody whatsoever; they are not interfering or meddling in politics; they are not attempting to use influence to elect any man or ticket or defeat any other man or ticket; they have no spokesmen out on the stump or working in the secret council chamber; they are trying to mind their own business, and crave to be permitted to continue to do so. Lastly, they have no thanks for any man who is trying to help either him-

self or his party by associating their names with his methods. This applies to politicians of every shade of belief, and does not exclude religionists of any creed.

#### THE "UNSPEAKABLE TURK" AGAIN.

Another massacre of Armenians is reported in today's dispatches. Several hundreds of them were killed under circumstances similar to those that attended the first outrages in Armenia. And these atrocities are likely to occur repeatedly, for the simple reason that the Turks have become emboldened by the apparent diplomatic triumph of their government over the representatives of the European powers. Their conceit may be expected to grow as long as Europe continues to accept promises of reform as equivalent to the protection they have pledged their honor to give to the persecuted people. Mr. Gladstone strongly expresses it when he says the sultan waves his flag in triumph, and the adversaries at his feet are Russia, France and England; the governments of these countries may rest assured that the Turk will dip his flag in Christian blood as long as these powers are content to divide among themselves the disgrace of the position they have assumed.

#### THE WAR SCARE.

Strange enough, eastern Asia has again and very suddenly become the center of interest of the world. Dispatches received in London the latter part of the past week conveyed the news that Russia had sent fifteen war ships to a point at the southeast extremity of Corea, and also that by a special treaty with China, Russia had obtained the right to use Port Arthur as a naval station and to build a railroad through Chinese territory connecting with the Siberian road. No official confirmation has as yet been received of this startling news, nor has it been officially denied, although one London paper claims to know by the "highest authority" that there is very little foundation for the alarming rumors.

The London Times states, however, that its correspondent in China is so well connected that even if an official denial appears, his statements cannot be ignored. And this is probably correct; for whatever explanation the czar's advisers may be able to give of the intended mission of the fifteen ships that were ordered to leave Vladivostok, and whatever representations they may make concerning Russia's latest diplomatic achievements in China, the fact cannot be concealed that Russia means to establish her influence in eastern Asia, and, at some time, obtain a port, from which she will be able to compete with England in the commercial field, if in no other. Russia, notwithstanding her dimensions and immense resources, is still hampered in her movements because of her small coast line, except in the frozen regions, and her statesmen are well aware of the fact. Hence their never ceasing efforts at advance, since the days of Czar Peter, towards the sea. The Baltic provinces were the first to be incorporated in the great

empire, and then attempts were made to reach the Dardanelles. For a century or more the northern parts of Norway have been a coveted goal, and now some Pacific seaport is to be purchased or otherwise secured, and if England really objects to this latter proceeding, she must act at once, or it will be too late. Russia has lately achieved some diplomatic victories in China, which indicate that her statesmen are brewing trouble in that part of the world.

Port Arthur is still in the hands of Japan. If Russia should claim access to the harbor under a concession from China, Japan might reasonably contend that this would be a breach of faith on the part of the Chinese government and perhaps a justification for reopening hostilities. It would then be Russia, China and probably France on the one side, and Japan and England on the other, with whatever further allies the two groups might be able to obtain. Altogether the news from Asia again commands an interest overshadowing that recently created by the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.

#### FROM THE ISLES OF THE SEA.

A letter in another column from Elder Eugene M. Cannon, written on June 17th from the Tuamotu Islands, and only this morning coming to hand, may be appropriately referred to as showing how widespread is the missionary work of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and how devoted are the messengers who leave home and family for a term of service in the Master's cause. Like many others now in the field, the writer of the letter referred to is still a mere youth in years; yet he now finds himself with but one companion in a land so remote that he can only be heard from and can only hear from his friends and loved ones about once in three or four months—a barbarous, uncivilized land, too, among a dark-skinned people who but lately were deemed savages in all that the term implies, and whose habits in many respects are still hideous and repulsive to white men. Our young friend and his co-laborers, however, utter no word of complaint and give way to no repining; but on the contrary express in every letter their gratitude for the honor conferred upon them in being chosen as bearers of so grand a message, and the sweet satisfaction derived from a fulfillment of duty.

The missionary scope of the Gospel is something the Saints are fond of talking about, but very few of them realize how great and far-reaching this phase of it is until some incident calls it particularly to their attention. In the present instance, we venture to say there are not many, even among those who call themselves educated as to the geography of the globe we inhabit, who ever heard of the islands from which this letter comes, a still fewer who are able to locate and describe them. That they are far distant, seldom visited by travelers, and out of the way of communication with the rest of the world will be seen from the facts above stated as to the infrequency and irregularity of the