

would be a reflection on our integrity, but it is asserted that such a step would plunge us into the vortex of European politics. On what grounds this fear is entertained is not clear, but it seems to be presumed that some of the Old-world powers consider American rule in those far-off islands more objectionable than that of Spain.

The opposite would seem to be probable. It is also probable that the abandonment of the Philippine Islands and the other occupied groups to Spain or to the leaders of the insurgents would be the shortest road to European complications. It is conceivable that the evacuation of these islands would be the signal of the commencement of intrigues between the land-grabbing powers with the view of annexation, and it would then be too late for this country to exercise a powerful influence, unless prepared to back her claims up with a fleet far more powerful than our present one. To avoid future foreign complications, our flag should be kept waving wherever Providence has placed it.

Our nation has never been, and was never intended to become a military nation after the pattern of Europe and Asia. Our national interests have centered, as they always should do, round industrial and domestic affairs. Even in the midst of victory we are not drunk with the spirit of war. Throughout the country there is regret at the necessity of destroying life and property. The policy of peace is still ours, and it must ultimately become that of the whole world. But in order to hasten the progress it may become necessary to demonstrate to the oppressed nations how comparatively short time it takes to lift a race up from degradation and oppression to liberty, prosperity and happiness. The experiment may be made in Cuba and the Philippines, and its success would be a complete refutation of all the claims of imperialism and militarism. The United States has a great work before her. To say she is unequal to the task is to be almost a traitor to the fundamental principles on which her government is founded.

SALT LAKE'S CELEBRATION.

The celebration yesterday, July 14, in this city, of the surrender of Santiago de Cuba and the hoisting of the Stars and Stripes over Cuban soil was a manifestation of patriotism not surpassed anywhere in this great country. From the moment the bulletins had announced the important event, the city was astir, and in the evening thousands thronged the principal streets. Bands played; there were fireworks, bonfires, noise everywhere. But a specially pleasing and unique feature of the celebration was the singing in the streets of patriotic songs by the celebrated Tabernacle choir, led by Prof. E. Stephens. As the roar of mighty waters, and yet sweet as the music of harps, the triumphant strains of the singers of Zion filled the air. There was genuine joy throughout the city because of the victory won.

And there was reason for joy. By the surrender of Santiago a territory of several thousand square miles and with a population not much smaller than half of the entire state of Utah was set free forever from mediaeval tyranny. And this was accomplished without further sacrifice of life. The courage and fortitude of our soldiers, volunteers and regulars, demonstrated at the beginning of the assault upon the fortifications of the city was finally crowned with success without any more bloodshed. Then the surrender of Santiago means much to this country. It is impossible to foresee the exact

turn of public opinion in Europe, where an inclination in favor of Spain has been but little concealed, had the result been different. Had our army suffered a reverse, even if owing to the ravages of yellow fever instead of to Spanish generalship and bravery, it is conceivable that the friends of Spain would have insisted on a cessation of hostilities on terms not contemplated by our government. The complete victory at Santiago leaves neither Germany nor France an excuse for espousing the Spanish cause. The Lord God Sabaoth is conducting this war, and His children have every cause to rejoice.

We sincerely hope Spain now is prepared to sue for peace and that her statesmen by this time have learnt to understand that she can obtain the most magnanimous terms and the quickest results by applying direct to Washington. It would be a grave mistake on the part of the Spanish government to persist in mixing European powers in the proceedings at the final stages. If this is done, it may become necessary to emphasize the fact that Cuba is not a Crete and that the United States is not a Balkan principality. The American people have no desire to take undue advantage of their conquered foe. The peace negotiations, if carried on directly with Washington, will lead to the concession to Spain of all she can reasonably expect, perhaps more, while an undue meddling in American affairs by Spain's alleged friends might prolong the hostilities.

GREAT IS UTAH.

All indications point to the most bountiful harvests on all lines that Utah has ever had. The seasons have been most propitious. There has been an unusual rainfall and it has mostly come at the times when it would do the most good; while the alternating sunshine has also been on time and sufficiently potent to develop all the latent forces engendered by the showers. Altogether it has been a most remarkable season for Utah; would have been for almost any place, and the results will soon be apparent in bins bursting with golden grain, storehouses and cellars stocked with potatoes, fruits and the many other things which our State produces in great abundance.

It is impossible to even estimate with any degree of accuracy the forthcoming crops, but it is assured that they will be greatly swollen in all departments, perhaps as much as fifty per cent in some, and that they will represent a money value wholly unprecedented in the history of Utah's agricultural career. With such a condition confronting us, with the labors of the husbandman assuring a great influx of monetary wealth, what might all not expect if the embargo could be taken from our mining resources and these be permitted to expand to their full capacity? We should then assuredly be in the enjoyment of a condition of things as nearly the ideal as any that mankind in any age or quarter has ever been in possession of. It is the general belief that the "good time coming" which has been so tardily-gaited is almost here at last; that the next session of the Legislature will devote some labor to forwarding our mining interests more actively than hitherto, and Congress at its next session, having no war questions to deal with, will be able to spare some little of its valuable time to this long-neglected subject. Let but such a condition of things prevail as a standard dollar being in readiness for every bushel of wheat, and another for ever hundred cents worth of other marketable things that our husbandmen have to offer, and all at once cries of distress, if there be any

now, would be changed into exclamations of delight.

Utah is truly a noble commonwealth. It began in the midst of the bleakest adversity and has been pulled along through the rough roads of grinding poverty step by step, overhurling for a time by clouds of sombre and disquieting cast until piece by piece, little by little, the obstructions have been overcome, and then the march of Empire began. Look at our State today and then take a retrospective glance at its early days. Can greater, more substantial and more diffusive progress along all proper lines be cited as the record of any other? And still its grandeur is but partly unfolded. Still is its wealth, its strength, its beauty but meagerly developed; while instead of frowns as before, the genius of enterprise and greatness smiling from his eminence extends an encouraging hand, bidding us to climb yet higher and make our footing yet more secure.

ELDER ANTHON H. LUND'S MISSION.

Elder Anton H. Lund, of the Council of the Twelve, has just returned from an important and successful mission to Asiatic Turkey. He has visited the noted places in the Holy Land and some Armenian cities where branches of the Church are located.

Elder Lund, at a meeting of Scandinavian Saints in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms last night, July 14, spoke of his mission to those distant parts of the earth. He had found that during the terrible massacres that decimated the Armenian Christians a few years ago, not one member of the Church had suffered death, though there were some narrow escapes. The Armenian Saints were full of faith and sincerity and had found much comfort in the administrations and teachings of the Apostle and his associates. He had also met several influential Turks who manifested great interest in the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints. The Christian sects, as a rule, evinced hostility to the Mormons, but the authorities seemed to be willing to protect them. It had been found necessary, however, not to call upon the authorities for protection but rather to suffer at the hands of the Christians, as the Mohammedan soldiers were but too anxious to embrace a pretext for wreaking vengeance upon the Christian population. The Saints, therefore, are willing rather to bear persecution than to cause further bloodshed.

Elder Lund expressed his conviction that in the Turkish empire there are many of the seed of Israel who will embrace the Gospel in the due time of the Lord.

GIVE THE ISLANDS LIBERTY.

If the latest dispatches referring to the probable peace overtures reflect the sentiment of the Spanish government, it is possible that the war will have to go on for some time yet. Sagasta appears to be willing to give up Cuba but insists on retaining Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands. It is evident that no negotiations can be commenced on that basis. Spain has proved herself utterly unable to govern those colonies, and almost ridiculously incapable of defending them. Why should the United States permit her again to subject the unfortunate islanders to the unspeakable misrule of the past, thus throwing away the results of the splendid achievements of our navy and army?

Such a course might not be of any advantage to Spain either. Some of her European neighbors have demonstrated lately that they are not over-conscientious as regards meum and tuum in territory occupied by weak