

dustry—the prosperity brought to the reliction colonized, its schools, resources and general advancement—all described by a correspondent of the Deming newspaper.

Accompanying the copy of the antipodean newspaper in which the article is reproduced, comes a letter from Elder Andrew Smith Jun., now on a mission in that land, dated Hobart, Tasmania, Feb. 25. We quote his remarks:

With this short note I send a Tasmanian News, with an article written about the Mormons in some of the settlements in Mexico. The reason for this article being in the paper, I will explain: A short time prior to our Christmas mail arriving from home, there was an article written in this same paper speaking very hard against our people in that part of the world (Mexico); and as I read this article in your valuable paper as referred to above, I said to my companion, L. C. Pond, "I wonder if the Tasmanian News would republish this article in their paper? I think it nothing but fair, as they have spoken evil against us, that they should also be given a chance to publish an article speaking well of us." We repaired to interview the editor, a very pleasant gentleman, and this is the result—the article in full from the DESERT NEWS. We esteem it a great benefit to have these people write well of us, and a great many read the article with much interest. Some of them have said to me it was truthful, that they did not believe all the bad reports they heard concerning the Mormons, etc.

The work is progressing favorably on this island, considering its being so far away. Thrift and enterprise are not extensively found here, the people not having much push as a general rule; and being so far away from current news, it naturally takes some time for any prejudice to die out.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-sixth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, just closed, has been a memorable one. Vast multitudes have been gathered from all parts of the State to enjoy the fellowship of one another, to worship the eternal Father and to receive instructions and other spiritual gifts and blessings. During the meetings the power of God rested on the speakers and the congregations, and the result cannot fail to be a firmer determination to serve God, a closer unity and more perfect harmony in the faith and renewed hope for the victory of the truth as revealed in the Gospel of our Lord.

Precious teachings were given on many important subjects, two of which were specially prominent, one referring to the duty of the Saints to send the Gospel to the nations of the earth, and the other to the necessity of subordinating the ordinary affairs of life to the service of the Lord. The two are so closely related as to be inseparable.

The mission of the Church in this world is to proclaim the eternal truth as revealed from heaven; to declare salvation to the uttermost ends of the earth. The officers and members engaged in the work are—to use the language of an ancient Apostle—ambassadors of Christ, charged with the duty

of bringing about reconciliation between earth and heaven. Every gift bestowed upon the Church, every organization within its boundaries, all the various experiences through which it has passed, are for the purpose of making its members capable of performing this high and holy calling, not only by way of explaining the truth theoretically, but by exhibiting it practically in all the affairs of life. The world at present needs a righteous people just as much as it did when ancient Israel was chosen to exemplify among the nations the principles of heaven in their national life in the land of promise. The Saints have been charged with the responsibility of building the connecting bridge between an era that is rapidly passing away and a new one, in which the human family shall attain to higher perfection than ever before in its history. The work of the Church is truly marvelous among the children of men.

It is evident that for the accomplishment of this work no less power is needed than that which followed the servants of heaven in former ages. To the little group of Nazarenes in the city of Jerusalem that faced the world in the beginning of the present era it was intimated that they should remain together, until they were endowed from on high, and it was also emphatically taught that in their unity of purpose—that unity which is a natural fruit of brotherly love, they should be made strong in their work. The influence of God's Spirit always was to preserve that harmony, while the efforts of the opposing power were put forth to destroy it. Much of the struggle during the early apostolic days was for the preservation of unity in faith and practice, and it is impossible to read the teachings of God in this age without noticing that the divine Spirit is still striving to preserve that indispensable factor in the missionary work of the Church, for the good of the world.

It need hardly be said that the greatest privilege bestowed upon any man or woman in a responsible position is that of having access to the counsel of those who are endowed with more experience and greater wisdom than his or her own. Nor does it need any argument to prove that without this privilege unity is impossible. What is an army without generals? A ship without a pilot? A family without a head? A church in which each individual has no more reliable authority, neither in heaven nor on earth, than his own wisdom and more or less correct logic is an abnormality, and he who doubts this will find abundant proofs on the pages of ecclesiastical history. When therefore the great work of the Church is considered, and the conditions necessary for its accomplishment understood, the teachings of the past Conference will be valued as among the most precious ever received through the inspired servants of the Lord.

Of course, those who ever watch with suspicion every word spoken by the leaders of the Church, and others who fail to comprehend the nature of the work to which those leaders have devoted their lives, and who always are anxious to discover something suitable for their own purposes of opposition, will raise objections to such principles,

no matter if their perfect soundness can be demonstrated by the highest authority recognized among all Christians. But this fact need cause no uneasiness, no alarm. The Saints who are faithful and willing to carry out the instructions given, will know, as they go along, that they are on the safe side, and the fact will ultimately be perfectly clear to all.

FOR CUBAN LIBERTY.

With practical unanimity the United States House of Representatives has expressed its official sympathy with the cause of the Cuban revolutionists. The resolutions adopted, only two in number and very brief at that, declare that the Cuban struggle is a war instead of an insurrection, as it is designated by the Spanish authorities, and while declaring neutrality express the opinion that the President of the United States should tender the "friendly offices" of the United States toward securing the independence of the Gem of the Antilles. This will surely be looked upon by the done as a pill whose sugar-coating is not only exceeding thin but not up to the Dutch standard.

To reiterate somewhat, Spain holds the Cubans who are in arms against it to be simply outlawed; it will recognize them on no other footing, and the acts of its present captain-general fully carry out the temper of the government. To be asked, therefore, to join with us in securing independence for the island must, from their standpoint, be regarded as adding insult to injury. Of course the entente at present existing between the two countries, and which for some months has been more in name than anything else, will now become merged into that diplomatic condition which always precedes a suspension of official intercourse altogether—strained relations; and just how far the strain will endure before a rupture occurs depends entirely upon what further tension it may be brought to bear.

The House of Representatives undoubtedly expressed the views and desires of the great body of the American people, whose sympathy for the Cubans has at all times been so pronounced that the official action taken by the House yesterday became merely the popular reflex, by no means the initiation of the subject. Spain is always disposed to be ugly when her toes are trodden upon or her interests assailed, and both of these are now visited upon her at once. She is a puerile nation at the best, one that has afforded the world the most striking example in existence of the decadence of a country whose sense of honor is so dwarfed that it will repudiate a national debt and whose system of statecraft is simply a network of prebterit. Spain's once splendid navy is now in the fifth class and its utter inability to carry on a war at home or abroad is illustrated in the first case by the prolonged and nearly successful contest which Don Carlos the pretender, with a handful of followers, made with the government forces some years ago, and the second is exemplified in the present attempt to suppress the Cuban uprising.