

General Howard has not yet preached to an audience numbering less than 3,000 men.

"It is a remarkable coincidence that on this same field of Tampa, General Howard was converted, forty-one years ago. Here, in the First Methodist church of Tampa, he began his Christian work. He relates this circumstance to the men nightly—with most excellent results. I have seen as many as sixty soldiers march up to the altar at one time—when the general called for Christ's volunteers."

It speaks well for the moral qualities of the American boys that they gather in so large numbers for religious exercises. If in their meetings they learn to call on the Author of their being and the Ruler of nations, with faith and confidence, and to look to Him for wisdom, strength and endurance, they will be infinitely better qualified for the work required of them than those who spend their time in vice and revelry. It is a perfectly natural principle that the best Christian is the best soldier, as he is best fitted for every other walk of life. May the good work be prosecuted with untiring zeal for the benefit of the boys and the country.

#### HAWAII.

The resolutions passed by both houses of Congress, by which Hawaii became United States territory, are as follows:

"Whereas, the government of the republic of Hawaii having, in due form, signified its consent, in the manner provided by its constitution, to cede absolutely and without reserve to the United States of America all rights of sovereignty of whatsoever kind in and over the Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies, and to cede and transfer to the United States the absolute fee and ownership of all public, government or crown lands, public buildings or edifices, ports, harbors, military equipment, and all other public property of every kind and description belonging to the government of the Hawaiian Islands, together with every right and appurtenance thereunto appertaining; therefore

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That said cession is accepted, ratified and confirmed, and that the said Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies be and they are hereby annexed as a part of the territory of the United States and are subject to the sovereign dominion thereof, and that all and singular the property and rights hereinbefore mentioned are vested in the United States of America."

The resolutions provide further that the land laws of the United States shall apply to the islands, and that until Congress makes further provisions, the civil, judicial and military government shall be in the hands of persons appointed by President McKinley, who is empowered to select five commissioners, two of whom shall be residents of Hawaii, to recommend to Congress legislation for the islands. It is further provided that Chinese immigration to the islands shall cease, and that no Chinese shall be permitted to enter the United States from the annexed territory. Hawaiian treaties are replaced by the treaties that the United States has with foreign governments, but the existing customs laws are to be observed until such time as Congress decrees changes. Similar provision is made in regard to municipal ordinances that do not conflict with treaty or constitutional obligations. The public debt of the islands is assumed by the United States, but not to exceed \$4,-

000,000. This includes amounts due depositors in the Hawaiian Postal Savings bank. One hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to carry the annexation resolutions into effect.

By the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, the United States has added fifteen islands to her territory. Of these eight are inhabited and contain 6,740 square miles, an area about equal to the two states of Delaware and Connecticut. Compared to the immense Western states the figure is not large, but the situation of the island group is such that to this country its importance cannot be measured by its size. According to the census of 1897 the total population is 109,020 souls. Of these 31,019 were classed as Hawaiians and 8,485 as part Hawaiians. The remaining 69,516 are composed of Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Americans, British and other nationalities. The Japanese are most numerous, being 24,407; the Americans number 3,086.

A striking feature of the statistics for Hawaii is the evidence furnished by the figures of the gradual disappearance of the Hawaiians. In 1878 the native population was estimated at about 200,000. In 1890 it was put at 34,436 pure natives and 6,186 half-castes, and in 1897 the census showed a further decline in the pure native race to 31,000, while the half-castes had increased from 6,186 to 8,485. There must be something radically wrong in a system of government that permits foreign elements to crowd the natives to the wall, exterminating them in their own country, and it would seem necessary for this country, having assumed the control of affairs, to inquire into the causes of this gradual decline and, if possible, remedy the evil. A commission of five members, two of whom must be residents of Hawaii, is to be named, and their duty will be to devise a system of government suitable for the islands. It is to be hoped they will give this phase of the question sufficient attention and endeavor to advance the people in industry and civilization.

Originally each of the Hawaiian islands had its own chief, but shortly before the arrival of the American missionaries they were consolidated into one kingdom by Kamehameha I. Constitutions were granted in 1840, 1852 and 1887, each succeeding instrument being more liberal than its predecessors. Queen Liliuokalani, who became sovereign in 1891, it is charged, sought to overthrow the constitutional government and assume prerogatives not granted by the people, and she was therefore deposed in 1893 by a provisional government formed under the presidency of Sanford W. Dole, who subsequently offered to treat with the United States for annexation, but President Cleveland held that the revolution had been brought about by the improper use of U. S. marines in the harbor of Honolulu, and further negotiations were discontinued. On the 4th of July, 1894, a republic was proclaimed with Mr. Dole as president. It has been understood all along that this republic finally would come in under the protecting wings of the American eagle. The war with Spain hastened the issue, and it is now to be sincerely hoped that the annexation may prove a blessing alike to the Hawaiians and to the United States.

#### THE WORK OF PROVIDENCE.

The religious services yesterday, Sunday, July 10, in this city, as elsewhere, were devoted to thanksgivings for the victories won and prayers for the restoration of peace, as well as patriotic addresses on the war with Spain. It was felt everywhere that our nation has cause to acknowledge

the hand of Providence in the events that have taken place and at which the world stands still in wonder and amazement; and as the details of the engagement that annihilated Admiral Cervera's fleet become known the providential character of the battle seems to be clearly demonstrated.

Officers who participated in the engagement say that as the Colon ran by the Brooklyn, she fired on the American cruiser and no less than thirty shots took effect, some of them passing clear through the vessel. And yet she was not sunk or disabled, and there were hardly any fatalities. Another account states that a Spanish shell exploded in a compartment of the Indiana, but at the time there was not a soul in that particular compartment. Similar instances are numerous and point to Providence as the great protector of the American naval forces in this contest with Spain.

Centuries ago one of the inspired Seers on this continent, Nephi, in a vision comprising "many nations and kingdoms," saw the United States "delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations." In the records of this Seer it is stated that the Lord "will fortify this land against all other nations." The truth of these prophetic declarations shines forth through the entire history of the continent, but perhaps never with more intense clearness than in the naval engagements of this war.

It is all done for a purpose. To many this may not be clear at the present time, but those who read the Book of Mormon as an authentic record are familiar with the fact that a time will come when the isles of the sea shall be included in the privileges granted to the American continent. For there it is plainly stated (I Nephi 9: 16), that when the time is at hand for the gathering of the scattered descendants of Abraham, then the Almighty will remember also the isles of the sea; "yea, and all the people who are of the house of Israel, will I gather in, saith the Lord." At that time "all the earth shall see the salvation of the Lord; every nation, kindred, tongue and people shall be blessed." May we not see in the present war one of the preliminary steps toward the inauguration of the blessed era thus predicted by ancient American Prophets?

#### CHURCH CHRONOLOGY.

Through arrangements made with Elder Andrew Jensen, the Church has become the owner of the valuable work of reference known as Church Chronology, which was published by Elder Jensen a few years ago, and which gave universal satisfaction as a reliable work of dates pertaining to Church history. The first edition, consisting of 5,000 copies, has been out of print for some time; and a new edition, improved and enlarged, is about to be published from the Historian's office. It will contain an epitome of Church history from the beginning of the present century to date of publication, and an effort is being made by the Church historian and his assistants to make it as accurate and free from errors as close attention and diligent searching of original documents can make it. In all its details, so that in the absence of a more detailed history of the Church it may, as a book of dates, prove a valuable work of reference to the Latter-day Saints generally and to all who are interested in their history and doctrines.

In order to guard against possible mistakes, we desire the co-operation of all veterans and others in the Church who may possess dates of importance. The proposed edition of Church Chronology