

the two belligerent powers. Christian missionaries and humanitarians generally earnestly desire the victory of the progressive Japanese as a means of breaking down the Chinese wall and opening that country to all the influences of civilization. They long for the time when all the world shall be looking with reverence to the banner of the cross, and regard the subjugation of China as one great step in that direction. On the other hand, many clear-seeing statesmen fear the results of the war. They look upon the disruption of the vast Mongolian empire as a disaster to the world. They point out that the imitative Chinese, if once awakened from their lethargy might be able to do the manufacturing for all mankind, and as they are in a position to labor for five or ten cents a day, competition would be utterly useless. On this ground they think Japan should by the European powers be prevented from breaking up China. Her exclusiveness should be maintained and perpetuated, by armed interference if need be.

It will not be denied that there is some plausibility in this argument, and that the forcing of western civilization on China might be fraught with grave possibilities. Yet the dangers should not be exaggerated. The earth is hardly yet too small to maintain comfortably its inhabitants, provided some are not given undue advantages to the detriment of others. When the time comes for the Mongolian races to walk in the paths of Caucasians, the roads will naturally be widened so as to give room enough for all. As civilization penetrates China, the possibilities of that country alone to maintain the population will be doubled several times. It is true that some provinces of the empire are crowded to a degree hardly conceivable, yet there are vast provinces with comparatively few inhabitants, and with modern means of communication and scientific methods of utilizing the resources of the soil, there is no reason why the country should not be capable of sustaining eight hundred million people instead of half that number. Then there is the immense country of Siberia to the north, only waiting for settlers. Millions of human beings will some time build their homes there. It is safe to suppose that as civilization expands, the necessities of the family of mankind will grow in an equal ratio, which means that the demands for the productions of manufacturing will increase proportionately. For this reason it seems inconsistent to argue that the prosperity of the world demands that Asiatic nations be kept where they are, in a state of barbarism. If this is so, it might be equally true, that barbarism would have to be forced upon some western nations for the benefit of the rest.

On the whole, armed interference in Asia by the great powers of the world would probably not result in the benefit contemplated. Japan is evidently bent on establishing herself as the queen of Asia. Centuries of misrule has bred a rebellious spirit in the heart of China, ready to break out at any moment. China must ultimately either reform or fall to pieces. The catastrophe may be delayed by the

navies of Europe, but it cannot be averted. On this ground it is maintained that the best policy to pursue is to let Japan and China fight their differences out between themselves and then lay a strong foundation for a long and prosperous regime of peace.

GRATUITOUS EXPLANATIONS.

Every few days some political speaker or writer, or some one who thinks the people are looking straight at him for information, rises up to declare what the First Presidency desire, and to give a definition of something the First Presidency have said. Press and platform have been made fairly to hum with explanations of this sort, and with appeals to the people not to be misled by some other paper's or person's or party's interpretation of the attitude of the leaders referred to.

All this is very amusing so long as it does no greater harm than seems to have resulted up to the present. Yet it is more to be commended for its zeal than for its good taste or its necessity. It gives us genuine pleasure to be able to say that the First Presidency are still alive and well, they are of legal age, they have minds with which to think, tongues with which to speak, and hands with which to write. They are as yet neither deaf, blind nor dumb; and it requires no great stretch of faith to believe that if they have anything to say to the people they will know how and when to say it, without aid or prompting from those who seem so fearfully solicitous that they may be misunderstood.

MADAGASCAR IMBROGLIO.

Before long it will be known definitely whether France is going to the trouble of armed interference in the affairs of Madagascar. A messenger has been dispatched with an ultimatum and with authority to enforce his demands, if necessary. The strained relations between the dusky queen of the island and the French government are ascribed to various causes, the former claiming that the way she has been treated by the French is outrageous, while the latter alleges that the trouble is brought about through English intrigues aiming at a disruption of the peaceful relations with France. There may be some truth in both these statements.

Great Britain has a double interest in Madagascar. The trade with the island is considerable, and to this comes the fear that France may contemplate the building of a kind of Gibraltar in the Indian ocean, a fort that would in times of war be a serious menace to her commerce with India, Australia and the Cape settlements. At the northern extremity of the island the French now hold a harbor, almost impregnable. The British say that the proposition of France to establish a naval station here is a direct violation of existing treaties, by the terms

of which the influence of the French government is confined to the foreign affairs of the natives. When, therefore, advances are made looking to the occupation of land and assumption of the control of the finances of the country, it is more than likely that the people will resist with all the fierce determination of which they are capable, and that they will have at least the moral support of England in the possible struggle.

It is interesting to know that the United States cannot be wholly indifferent to the developments in this far off part of the world. Our country controls not less than three-tenths of the whole trade of that island, which in area is nearly that of France. The trade of the latter country with Madagascar amounts only to one-tenth, while England controls four-tenths. Large quantities of "Yankee notions" are yearly shipped to Queen Ranavale's subjects and exchanged for Indian rubber, hides and tropical fruits, and it is therefore probable that Uncle Sam will find it necessary to make himself heard, should the quarrel about Madagascar become too one-sided. Germany also claims a voice in the matter.

However, France, it is thought, will not hastily engage in another colonial war. The sport costs too much, considering the benefits derived. She already has more colonies than she can manage profitably, and it would only be to maintain the honor of the republic, that money and soldiers would be sacrificed in the perilous climate of Madagascar.

AN INSURANCE newspaper makes the following remarks, which are of especial appropriateness and applicability during political campaigns: "There are two sorts of staticians: one works to find out the facts; the other, to make appear certain particular conclusions which he is interested in beforehand. There are a few of the former kind of figurers, and there are thousands of the latter. They suit their method to the end sought, and they can make impregnable demonstration of that end if only their assumptions are granted them. They are figure-twisters who investigate to find particular things, and, of course, find them."

EVERY READER knows at least one man who stammers. How many know a woman who has an impediment in her speech?

Written for the NEWS.

LAKE MARY.

With mountain peaks of granite for a frame;
You seem a mirror, lifted high in air,
As if the shining stars had placed you there
That they might have a glass to match their
fame;
Or—careless of the wealth which they contain
Indifferent to all their beauty rare,
As if their sunset tints they well could spare
And yet be sure their prestige to maintain,—
Have these old Wasatch peaks, rejecting gold,
Selected you as their most precious gem,
And lifted you in granite arms on high
Above the clouds to bid the stars behold
The gem bestowed on earth, and challenge
them

To find its counterpart in all the sky?

FRANK QUALTROUGH.