

nations. No sooner had Japan at a great cost demonstrated the paralytic condition of the Chinese giant before Russia, Germany and France commenced to lay plans for his dissection. Their interference in behalf of China had an object that became clear afterwards. Is there anything to secure Spain's colonies in the Pacific at least, from a fate similar to that apparently awaiting China? If not, Spain may have another war for honor on her hands. She would better settle the matter of her colonies now and then rise up from her lethargy and attend to home affairs.

There are several reasons why the Philippine Islands now should be retained by the United States. One among these is that the inhabitants may be given the benefit of religious liberty. Thousands interested in Christian missionary work are earnestly praying for this outcome of the war. Spain is far behind all civilized nations in this matter, even Japan. She has excluded Protestantism from her borders at home and abroad as far as possible, and presented to the pagan savages a caricature of the Gospel of Christ, accompanied by acts of cruelty and rapacity. The thunderbolts of Admiral Dewey have battered down the ramparts of Spanish intolerance and superstition. The sword of the Almighty has struck the man of sin. It would be a crime to heal his wounds and put him again in a position to bar the gateway in the tropic islands so as to prevent the entrance of the messengers of the Gospel.

There are Protestant missions all around the Philippines, and the various denominations are already making preparations for a rush to Manila at the close of the war. Presbyterians have raised a sum of money to send the first missionary there and the Methodists are agitating the matter. There will be rivalry among the Protestants to enter Manila. Deporable as such competition may be, it is infinitely better than the predominance of any single Christian church to the exclusion of all others, for gradually truth will be established wherever there is liberty. Our war, professedly one in the interest of humanity, would be a failure should it result in depriving the natives of Spain's colonies of the high class civilization which no country upon the face of the earth, except the United States and Great Britain, has it in its power to confer upon them.

#### ANXIETY ABOUT MORMONISM.

The "News" occasionally receives clippings from the press from various parts of the country, regarding Mormonism and the missionary work of the Elders. As a rule they profess to be true statements of what the system known as Mormonism "really" is although they resemble the truth no more than do, for instance, Col. Ingersoll's definitions of Christianity. It is impossible through the columns of the "News" to refute all such newspaper articles and even if it were practical to devote time and space to the work, it is a question whether it would answer the purpose, since the readers of the "News" constitute a circle almost entirely different from those reached by the local papers in the various states.

It is interesting to note, though, that in a great majority of instances the reverent gentlemen who conduct the campaign against Mormonism manifest much anxiety on account of the progress it has been making lately among the people. At the same time they represent its theology as the climax of absurdities and its practices as simply horrifying. Why are they then so timid about it? If they really believe that Mormonism is as full of gross errors, contradictions and im-

possibilities as they say it is, it would seem the best policy on their part would be to invite Mormon Elders to preach in their churches everywhere, inasmuch as a public statement of such nonsense ought to be its own refutation to the minds of the enlightened congregations that continually bask in the sunshine of modern Christian teachings. What is it that causes their anxiety? A theology that is the opposite of that of holy writ? Hardly, if we judge human nature right. The case of the celebrated Demetrius of Ephesus is one to the point. When he plead with his fellow citizens against the teachings of Paul and caused a vast multitude to cry out in chorus, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," he did not act under the impression that the new doctrine was false and would lower the morals of the people, but in the honest conviction that the Gospel was a menace to his trade, and human nature has not changed materially since then.

Another fact is also worthy of notice. Those who write elaborately of the alleged gross immorality of the Mormon people fail to point out the proofs of this in the lives of the Elders that go abroad to preach the Gospel. There are several hundreds of them in the field. With the rarest exception, they are spoken of as exemplary young men, humble, faithful, kind and gentlemanly. They attend to their duties with prayerful hearts, looking only to God for their reward. Were it true that Mormonism is moral corruption, why is this not manifested in the lives of those who represent it abroad? Let the moral conduct of the Mormon Elders be compared with that of the missionaries of any other denomination, and let the result speak for itself. It is perfectly fair to ask to be judged by the visible fruits. One result of the deeds of righteousness is to silence those who speak evil without cause; the force of the logic of such deeds is irresistible.

#### INCULCATING PATRIOTISM.

The consolidation of all the German states into an empire, which was accomplished during the Franco-Prussian war twenty-eight years ago, was at once a culmination and an inception of national policy. The federation of the entities had long been contemplated, but the proper time for its accomplishment seemed not to arrive until the segregated nation was engaged in a desperate struggle with its traditional foe, then came the consolidation and that too upon the enemy's soil. In order that all that was thus conserved and advanced, a policy of indoctrinating a high sense of regard for the fatherland was adopted and its application began at the place where of all places it would prove most effectual in the years to come—the public school; in no other nation is this carried on to such an extent.

In Germany the Kaiser's birthday, the anniversary of Sedan and other national landmarks are celebrated in the national schools. They have feasts and music and excursions; but the children have kept clearly before their eyes the reason for their rejoicings. Indeed, says the Fall Mall Gazette, the law impresses upon parents and children that all voluntary absence from these school feasts is an offense. There were parents who kept their children back, especially from the Sedan commemoration, and this on conscientious grounds. But now no longer; "for," says the magistrate, "any unexcused absence from patriotic festivals established by the school shall be considered as voluntary non-attendance, and inspectors, teachers and the authorities concerned are hereby instructed to this effect."

This is of course a decidedly peda-

gogic form of patriotism, but it is effective and thorough, so much so that the German yeomanry seldom complain of the vast burden which an enormous standing army entails upon them, nor in fact of any other burdens not of even the emperor's expensive peculiarities. The United States has greater days to commemorate than the Teutonic empire has, but their observance is always a matter of preference and convenience. The machine quality of patriotism is doubtless a good thing for nations dominated by absolute or nearly absolute rulers, but where every citizen is a sovereign and hereditary sway is not to be thought of, the case is vastly different. Our situation renders an immense standing army unnecessary; so spontaneous is the uprising when a call for troops is made that citizens become transformed into soldiers almost in the twinkling of an eye. Still, such a day as the Fourth of July should never be permitted to pass unnoticed.

#### OUR FLAG.

Probably at no time in the history of the United States has there been such a display of the national colors as there is at this time. They meet the eye everywhere, and their meaning is realized as never before.

It may therefore be of interest to know at this time that the Stars and Stripes is an older flag than that of many of the other great nations. The Union Jack, the present British emblem, dates from 1801. The French tricolor was adopted in recent years, and the German and Italian banners are no older than the existing administration of those countries. The Spanish flag was first established in 1785.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed its memorable resolution that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, and that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. It was afterward decided to add a star for every new state admitted to the Union, but this is the only change that has been made from the form adopted by those men who were prominent in establishing the government.

#### THE RAINBOW.

As a transportation ship laden with United States troops for Cuba was embarking from its harbor a few days ago, a beautiful rainbow suddenly appeared and hung over the gateway opening into the ocean. It remained there until the vessel had cleared the entrance, spanning the space beneath like a triumphal arch. Those whose dispositions are so charged with moroseness or whose minds are of so severely scientific a turn that sentiment can find no room for a lodgment with them, will be unable to see anything of special consequence in the phenomenon. These will say that rainbows are caused by the sun's rays falling obliquely upon the abundant spray of the atmosphere and naturally producing the prismatic effect spoken of, while its occurrence at such a time and under such circumstances was the merest coincidence, unworthy of special note; but the whole human family are not so constituted, and it is just as well that they are not. Poetry, beauty, symmetry, music, and all things which appear to the soulful in man have such indispensable uses in the splendor of their creation that without them nothing but what is animal would remain of our race.

The rainbow is the poetry of the sky, the inimitable picture whose presence takes the thoughtful mind away from sordid things and rests it for a time