

the pope and reports to him every tenth year. The lower clergy support themselves mainly by their own labor.

If the Roman church undertakes in earnest to bring the creed of these Maronites in more perfect harmony with her own faith and also to establish more friendly relations with other eastern churches her efforts will probably be successful. Most of those religious bodies are now maintaining an existence in poverty and ignorance, oppressed by their still more ignorant Mohammedan neighbors. Their union with Rome would bring them better education, more liberal support and a degree of political protection they otherwise cannot enjoy. These advantages have long been discussed among churches located in Asia Minor and it is not probable that the invitation to join the great Catholic denomination would be rejected, if the change in rites were not too radical at first.

The chief importance of such a union would undoubtedly be in the increased interests achieved by the Roman Catholics in those eastern countries where so many sacred places are located—interests which France, Italy or Austria might some time be called upon to defend from encroachments. With the extension of ecclesiastical territory and jurisdiction over a country practically a highway of all nations, some political complications would be sure to arise. For this reason the statesmen of the world will be interested in the results of the conference now held at Rome.

THE SCHEME IS BREWING.

Last evening a gentleman who is in a position to guess closely at the facts, gave it as his confident opinion that a scheme was actually being matured by which it is hoped the waterworks of this city can be captured in private speculation. The plan is a simple one, and while it involves absolutely no risk of loss to its promoters, it gives them fair assurance of success, unless the taxpayers of this city shall develop an unexpected quantity and quality of backbone. It is this: The would-be owners of the waterworks will consolidate into their own hands all the outstanding obligations of the city, as far as possible. They will insist on payment according to contract. This will make the burden of taxation bear very heavily upon property owners, who are expected to perform their part of the program by "raising a big kick," and insisting upon something being done, for their relief. Then will come the plotters' *coup d'etat*. They will say, "Give us the waterworks and we'll call it square."

The temptation will be to part with this property in order to pay nearly all, or perhaps the whole, of the city's indebtedness at a single stroke. The argument will be: "See what enormous relief the taxpayers will receive, just by the sale of the waterworks. After that the city taxes will be almost nothing. It will be only necessary to raise enough money to run the city government 'economically administered.' Why, the license fees and fines will almost do it. If you don't accept our offer, the average city taxpayer

will be obliged to continue to carry a burden five, ten or even twenty times greater than any probable increase in his water rates would make, of which burden he might be relieved as well as not."

Beyond doubt there will be property owners in the city, perhaps many of them, who will favor the sale of the waterworks in order that their taxes may be reduced to the nominal amount which the schemers will represent as being all they will have to pay. The class of taxpayers who own much property but don't use much water, may be expected to favor the proposition. The question may even become a closely contested issue.

But the home owners, the heads of families, of the city, should prepare themselves to resist the execution of any scheme designed to place their domestic water supply under the control of private parties. Those who covet it should be given to understand that a price entirely too high for them to reach has been put upon it, and every man who seeks a place in the City Council should be thoroughly sounded as to his convictions and intended policy in respect to this subject; and if he even wavers, his election should be made impossible.

The NEWS has already sounded a note of warning on this great subject. Herewith is another. And we propose to keep on fighting it out on the same line if it takes all the winters and summers of the current decade.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NORMAL CLASS.

Another advance step is about to be taken in the direction of perfecting the machinery of the Sunday schools of this Stake. Arrangements have been made for the establishment, in connection with the Latter-day Saints' college, of a normal class for the training of Sunday school teachers, and the following circular letter has been sent to the superintendency of each Sunday school in the Stake:

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, LATTER-DAY
SAINTS' COLLEGE,
Salt Lake City, Oct. 24, 1894.
To the Superintendency of the ———
Sunday School:

Bear Brethren:—With the approval of the Presidency of the Stake, the Superintendent of Sunday schools and the General Sunday School Union Board, it has been decided to conduct a model Sunday school in connection with the Latter-day Saints' college, to meet each Sabbath at 10 a. m. You are permitted to send, free of charge, three teachers, or pupils preparing to become teachers, one to represent the theological, one the intermediate, and one the primary department of your school. It is the intention to organize in connection with this school a teachers' class, to meet for a half hour after each session, when lectures on methods of teaching, grading, discipline, etc., will be delivered by members of the college faculty and others.

The organization will be effected on Sunday, November 4, 1894, at 10 a. m., at which time your representatives are requested to be present. The place of meeting is the college building, 233 west First North.

Your brother and co-laborer,
WILLARD DONE.

This is a move which deserves

to meet with a cordial response. If properly supported it cannot but result in great good to the Sabbath school interests. It is confidently expected that this Sunday school normal class will soon become an institution of great interest and value in connection with the cause it is designed to aid.

RUSSIAN CZARS AND POLICY.

The hopeless condition of the health of the czar of all the Russias gives interest to every telegram and rumor from the capitals of Europe relating to the impending change in the person of the autocrat of that mighty empire. In none of the ruling families could the death of one sovereign and the accession of another cause so much disquiet and suspicion as in the case of Russia; for it is well known that had the now bedridden Alexander yielded to the war spirit in even the slightest degree, a great European conflict could hardly have been avoided. His peaceful policy has rendered the famous triple bond between Germany, Austria and Italy well-nigh anomalous and assuredly useless. The same policy removed the anxiety concerning a Russo-French alliance, which almost set the whole continent by the ears about the time of the Boulogne, Marseilles and Paris fetes in honor of the Muscovite fleet. French friendship and adoration were literally his to command—they were laid unreservedly at his feet; and the mercurial Gauls hoped that in the union of interest which they expected, there would be opportunity for glory if not for revenge. Even England detected something in the prospect to regard with alarm. But all had reckoned without the host: Russia responded coldly to French affection, the latter incident passed by without results, and Alexander, lonely among sovereigns, fairly won the title of peace-preserver of Europe.

No wonder there is concern as to the effect that his death may have on Russian policy, for there is a strong war party in the empire, and the heir-apparent is not reputed to be of stalwart mentality, even though his desires be peaceful. These fears, however, may prove to be as unfounded as were the others referred to. There may be even a great error in considering Nicholas the weakling that the heir of a great ruler is always accounted. People were disappointed in the present emperor of Germany, who was also regarded before his accession as incapable if not demented. Yet he has shown himself to be a good deal of a monarch and a war-lord after all. Given the same chance, the sense of his responsibilities may develop more good stuff in the young Russian than present critics give him credit for. The young man's future will be difficult enough at best; he deserves pity rather than contempt, and he ought to be accorded a fair and sympathetic trial, at least until he shows himself to be unworthy of it. The fate of his forefathers offers to him little that can be encouraging; a glance at the history of Russian rulers since Peter the Great ought to prove it:

1689 Peter I.....died Jan. 28, 1725
1725 Catherine I.....died May 17, 1727