

the inhabitants of that city. Success to those ships would in all probability mean the permanent establishment in the islands of a government suitable to the conditions there prevailing. Whether the island group be given independence or annexed to Japan, the taxation would be made easier, and life consequently become less of a burden. Schools would be established, manufactures erected, trade expanded and civilization become general. If only the natives and half-casts could be made to realize this, they would hail with joy the appearance of the Stars and Stripes as the emblem of liberty, a signal that a better day is dawning.

CONFERENCE PAMPHLET.

The Conference pamphlet, containing full accounts of the proceedings of the last Conference of the Latter-day Saints in this city, is about ready for the public. It contains 100 pages and costs only 15 cents, postage prepaid. This pamphlet is the most convenient form in which to send the proceedings of an interesting and important Conference to those abroad who may have a desire to receive the teachings conveyed to the people by the servants of the Lord, and it should be found in the libraries of all Latter-day Saints. It can be obtained at this office.

EUROPEAN INTERFERENCE.

The attitude of the European powers in the present controversy between the United States and Spain is a subject of much importance. In Great Britain, the sympathy is now said to be divided, although the government and prominent men generally, show a marked inclination toward the American side. Russia's position is rather uncertain. An English newspaper correspondent from Moscow thinks the suspected friendly relations between the two English-speaking nations is regarded as a "severe blow" to Russia, and that the feeling, therefore, is against us. But there is no public opinion in that country. The czar rules, and it is not probable that he will feel called upon to change the policy of his predecessors as regards this country.

Germany and Austria are known to be strongly pro-Spanish, while popular opinion in Italy is said to be in favor of free Cuba, although the government of necessity must strike a "strictly correct" attitude and avoid coming into collision with the other members of the Triple alliance. France is financially interested in the welfare of Spain but such interests can always be adjusted. Some French papers are ardent advocates of the American cause.

While public opinion in Europe appears to be against us at this time, the fact should not be one of immediate concern. It would be a reflection on the statesmanship and wisdom of our government to suppose that the work of freeing Cuba had been undertaken without a detailed calculation of the cost, as near as possible; and in this is included the attitude of foreign powers. An aggressive war, as this in one sense of the term is, is not entered upon without a due exchange of notes on the subject between all interested parties, and although the result of such negotiations necessarily must be kept a secret, it is not to be supposed that the government is in the dark regarding the views and sympathies of the foreign powers. Judging from the deliberation that marked every step leading up to the declaration that war

exists, and the confidence manifested in the ability of this country to carry out the program, it is a safe conclusion that Europe is not going to interpose any objection that cannot be overcome, as long as this country adheres strictly to the disinterested course marked out. Europe, convinced that the war is not one of conquest, but in behalf of an oppressed race, is not going to interfere merely for the sake of a weak dynasty or an antiquated principle.

BE PATIENT.

The New York World asks—"How soon will Admiral Sampson and General Miles be permitted to make war?—real war!" with the last "war" in capitals. Is war so enjoyable a performance that the Eastern press cannot restrain its impatience until the administration's program is fully developed? Haste is sometimes a very dangerous thing, and never more so than when we are on the verge of hostilities which once entered may not be emerged from until great numbers of lives have been lost and countless treasure squandered. It may also be a long struggle, and one of the elements necessary to victory for us is to let the plans of the committee having that matter in charge be followed. This committee sits at a place where conferences with the President and his cabinet can always be had, and when an order is issued the full consequences of its execution are understood and provided for in advance. Would the World or any other paper or any one of our patriotic citizens change this order of things and thereby inaugurate confusion which might become thrice confounded? We trust not.

The desire for more speedy action is heard in many places, Utah included. This is partly because the situation is not fully understood and partly because there is a fear which deepens as time advances that delays are favorable to the enemy. Those who so think sometimes express the belief that since Spain will not come out of her hiding place and give us battle, we should hunt her up and "force her hand," so to speak, by dealing a stunning blow at once. It is to be conceded that too much procrastination is not to be commended, in this or any other case; but the quiet confidence which all classes of our people have in those who are shaping the trend of events should not be withdrawn or even diminished. Let things go on in accordance with their judgment, which has so far shown itself to be good, and satisfied that those in charge at head-all of us possess our souls in patience, quarters understand their business fully and will deal out blows hard and fast when they do begin.

COMETS AND WARS.

Perrine's comet is cutting a flashy but at present not very big figure in the eastern sky early every morning. This revives an old superstition which we have all heard about comets being harbingers of wars and other calamities on the earth. Those who believe such things cannot have investigated very much, or are more or less weak-minded. Comets have no more to do with wars or vice versa than the aurora borealis has with famine or pestilence. That a comet, sometimes several comets, are almost invariably hovering about when there is an unusual disturbance going on upon the earth is not at all sig-

nificant. The eminent English astronomer, Prof. Proctor, once had his attention called to the fulfillment of a prediction by the notorious Wiggins of Canada, who had announced that there would be an earthquake at a certain time along the Atlantic seaboard, and the event came along as advertised. The only reply made by the astronomer was that Wiggins made so many predictions regarding such things that they couldn't always escape him. So with the comets; they are so very numerous that it would be almost out of the question for two or more nations to go to war and not be attended by one or perchance a few of the long-tailed, harmless wanderers of the upper deep. As an older astronomer than Proctor once remarked, "there are as many comets in the sky as fishes in the sea." Of course we don't see many of them with the naked eye; but the period within which none is to be seen with the aid of a telescope does not come very often nor remain very long.

A great deal is not known regarding the constituent elements of comets, and perhaps no more ever will be known. They answer no scientific purpose to speak of, and have no other apparent use in the celestial domain than to display their wondrous beauty when very large and comparatively near. They proceed at such an inconceivable rate of speed through space that none of them is visible for a great length of time. It is known, however, that they are extremely tenuous, so much so that even if they came nearer than they ever do they could inflict little if any injury and could scarcely exercise influence enough upon the human family to cause it to fight or do anything else it didn't intend to do anyway.

HEADED FOR MANILA.

The news comes that the American squadron in Asiatic waters is not expected to reach Manila before Saturday. This goes to show that it is expected there, and that therefore there is not likely to be opposition to its progress in that direction. The British neutrality proclamation drove our ships away from Hongkong, but immediately they were ordered to proceed to the Philippines and capture or destroy the Spanish fleet in those waters. Then came the report that the Spaniards had sailed to meet our ships, followed at once by a correction that there would be no such meeting, as the enemy were only on the lookout for American merchantmen, this in turn giving way to more or less scattering rumors, and now about all that is known of the situation is that Commodore Dewey's ships are headed for the Philippine capital.

It is generally conceded that the capture of Manila ought not to be a difficult undertaking even if left to Dewey alone. Its defenses, naval and military, are neither modern nor well manned; the forts are old and the heaviest vessel, the Reina Christina, is only a cruiser of about 3,000 tons, or the size of the Cincinnati or New Orleans. Nor is it certain that this vessel is still on the Philippine station, Tuesday's dispatches from Cadiz having reported her presence there, though possibly without accuracy. The Raleigh ought to dispose of her in the ordinary course of things without help from the others. As for Manila that city is said to be threatened by a powerful body of insurgents in the rear and to have but a small garrison, so its capitulation, once an attack begins, may easily be a matter of hours. The principal source of anxiety is the utter