

evil and urge each to contribute thereto, according to his judgment, his testimony, his example and his ballot.

"We call upon the administration to make use of its tremendous power in the military government of the Eastern islands that have come under our control, so that the people of those islands shall not be debauched by the introduction of the liquor traffic among them."

#### NEW MONROISM.

Secretary Root rather startled the nation by his recent after-dinner speech to the effect that if the United States would maintain her Monroe Doctrine she must fight for it, and maintain it she would. If this be true, the time may come when she shall need again, as she needed during the recent Spanish war, the sympathy and help of Britain, and it would be well to show some reciprocity of sympathy when the "tight little island" confronts the hostile sentiment of almost the whole of Europe, a sentiment which, nevertheless, could not crystallize into action without the help of the United States.

#### METHODIST UNION IN AUSTRALIA.

The Rev. H. T. Burgess, LL.D., writes thus in the *Independent*:

The first Conference of the united Methodist Churches in South Australia was held in March, and made the union both visible and real. A large amount of public interest was manifested in the event, which is not surprising when the position of Methodism in that colony is taken into account. South Australia was founded by men of liberal ideas and religious principles. They meant it to be a centre of moral and intellectual influence, and laid their plans accordingly. They wove into its constitution what at the time were advanced ideas, and at the same time took pains to select men of a superior type to take the leading positions. Thus it fell out that the captain of the first ship to arrive with emigrants was an old-type Methodist, the celebration on board when land was sighted took the form of a prayer-meeting, and the first man to step ashore as the manager of the South Australia Company, was the son of an English Wesleyan minister. Methodist local preachers conducted the earliest public services, and the first place of worship erected in the city of Adelaide was a Wesleyan chapel.

The initiative then taken has been fairly well maintained, not only by the older body, but by the younger branches—the Bible Christians and Primitive Methodists. The two latter were nearly equal in numerical strength, etc., and together were about equal to the Wesleys. Hence the union was necessarily an amalgamation and not an absorption, consequently presenting more than the average amount of difficulty. Collectively, as the result of sustained earnestness and self-denying toil, the united Church is much the largest religious organization in the land. It has 500 churches, and its property, altogether, has cost at least £500,000.

At the same time the influence wielded is due to other considerations than numbers. Among the lay representatives at the recent Conference were the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor; the Premier of the colony, and the chairmen of committees in the Legislative Assembly, while the rank and file contained many other leading public men. The Church has taken great interest in higher education. One of its colleges—Prince Alfred—is the most successful institution of its kind south of the equator, while the other—Way College—though much younger, is putting up an excellent record.

The union was resolved upon, provided certain conditions were fulfilled, last year, and it came into effect without much demonstration on January 1st, 1900. Ministers were admitted with lay representatives in equal proportions. From the outset there was a fusing and a blending that obliterated all divisional lines. These distinctions scarcely reappeared at all in any form. A spirit of genuine brotherliness prevailed, and was fostered by exceptionally earnest and profitable devotional exercises. There was literally no trace of the bitterness sometimes shown during the union controversy, and unbroken harmony ruled from beginning to end.

One result of the dominant conditions that created some gratified surprise was the celerity and smoothness with which the Conference work was done.

Never was "God Save the Queen" sung with greater enthusiasm, or amid warmer demonstrations of Christian patriotism, than in our several Conference gatherings.