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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 17, 1904.

LET US BE REASONABLE!

"It is easy to find fault," has become a common adage. A public official or a public journal can readily achieve a certain kind of popularity by echoing a grumble, no matter how groundless it may be. There is one feature of the Mayor's comprehensive and otherwise admirable message that looks very much like play to the galleries, the repetition of a murmur, one of those kicks against corporations that find favor with the multitude, but are smiled at by thoughtful business men.

There may be some cause of complaint respecting the light furnished by the company that has just consolidated two important interests in this city. It is not so great a grievance, however, as some folks would make it appear. Efforts are being put forth to remedy every defect. Obstacles have been in the way that the weather and other agencies interposed, and these have been battled against with vigor. The street railroad has been similarly situated.

But, looking these affairs in the face squarely, where is there a city of the population of Salt Lake that can boast of as good a street car system and an electric light system as we have? Even granting all that can be fairly alleged against them, still that question remains. Are not the promoters of these systems entitled to public consideration, for the enterprise exhibited in the investment of large capital with a view to the public convenience? Have the grumblers ever inquired into the difficulties in the way of these projects, or learned what profits have accrued to the stockholders therein? We are of the opinion that those who declaim the most know the least of what they shout about.

We desire as much as anybody that our lighting and street car systems shall be thorough and complete, but we do not join in anything that is of an unjust faultfinding nature, with no consideration of the circumstances and the actual situation, and the heroic endeavors to accomplish, for a small community, that which would be really great and praiseworthy for one with double our present population. Let us be fair as well as ambitious, and not be unreasonably exacting!

A RIGHT AND A WRONG WAY.

We publish today a letter from a reliable resident of Brigham City, in reference to some scurrilous communications from that place which have appeared in our morning contemporaries. We paid no attention to them at the time except to read them, believing that the public, with the exception of a few uninformed persons, would readily perceive their falsity and absurdity. But since the matter is now brought forward we will make a few comments: That there has been some trouble with a few individuals in Brigham City over a matter of small moment except to them will not very probably be disputed. But to connect that with the "Mormon" Church is going as far out of the way as other devices and erratic movements of anti-"Mormon" publications. The difficulty is of the disgruntled persons' own fabrication. It is not a Church matter, except that some of them are members of the Church and have sought and rejected the advice of the local authorities there.

The people of the four wards of that city purchased and now own the Opera House, which is used as a place of amusement, for dances, etc. The musicians had a dispute with the managers about pay for their services, asking amounts which were considered too high, and they left the service and built a pavilion of their own, which they expected would be quite remunerative. At first many of the young people attended, but the influence of older people was of course in favor of their own building, and gradually the "opposition" place has receded from patronage. Hence those attacks upon the presiding authorities in Box Elder county.

All the stories about dictating men in reference to politics, the conduct of their own business, etc., are the sheerest fiction. Such proceedings have been narrated would not be permitted by the authorities of the Church, and officials who would take such a course as that charged by an anonymous writer, would very soon be moved out of their places. The purpose and animus of the concocter of those stories are evident upon their face. There is a proper way to bring charges against members of the Church and proper tribunals to hear and judge them, no matter what position the accused may hold in the Church.

In the management of a Stake or

Ward, it is necessary that there should be harmony between its officers. Changes have to be made, as circumstances require, in the personnel of the different organizations. But they do not affect the standing of the individuals nor the Priesthood they hold. If an Elder is appointed to take charge of some auxiliary organization, that is a temporary position, and when he is released or resigns, he is still an Elder, with all the authority that his office in the Priesthood embraces and implies. So in regard to any position of presidency; it is not necessarily a permanent appointment; but the Priesthood abides and continues, no matter whether its possessor presides for a period or not, and it is not affected by his continuance or his removal as a presiding officer.

The Deseret News does not support or condone arbitrary or oppressive conduct in anybody, in Church or in State. Nor does it take stock in the stories invented by disgruntled persons, the failure of whose personal schemes fill them with bitterness against the supposed or alleged cause of their misfortune. When good men are assailed in print, by persons who are ashamed or afraid to come out openly and substantiate their charges, sensible people will hold those attacks in deserved contempt. If anything wrong is done by a Church official, there is a remedy in every case, and the wrong can be rectified and the wrong-doer can be rebuked or removed. There is neither need nor excuse for newspaper abuse and vilification.

LENT.

The so-called season of Lent is at hand. It consists of six weeks preceding Easter Sunday, and this time has been set apart by some sections of the so-called Christian church, as one of self-abnegation and prayer. To a great many the season has no significance whatever. It is all the more pity, for if our age needs anything in particular, it is to stop a moment once in a while, and think and reflect. We are hurrying through life—hurrying from the bedroom, where we scarcely have time for repose; we are hurrying from the table, hurrying through the church services, hurrying through the papers, and social duties, hurrying everywhere. How can the Almighty ever get a word with us, when we are always in a hurry, and have no time for reflection, for meditation? As one writer so well says: "I have stood in the national gallery and seen people gallop round the chamber and glance at twelve of Turner's pictures in the space of five minutes. Surely we might say to such trippers, 'Be still and know Turner!' Gaze quietly at one little bit of cloud or at one branch or at one wave of the sea or at one ray of the drifting moon. 'Be still, and know Turner.' But God has difficulty in getting us still. That is perhaps why he has sometimes employed the ministry of dreams. Men have had 'visions in the night.' In the daytime I have a divine visitor in the shape of some worthy thought or noble impulse or hallowed suggestion, but I am in such feverish haste that I do not heed it and pass along. I do not turn aside to see this great thing; and so I lose the heavenly vision." We really need, to pause once in a while, as the season of Lent suggests to those who observe it in the right spirit, and consider the things that are of more value than the earthly things that perish.

THE JAPANESE COMMANDERS.

According to the latest war news, the land battles have commenced in Korea, and it does not appear that the Japanese have been quite as successful as in their first naval attacks. It has evidently been the purpose of Japan to make every day count, and deliver blow upon blow so rapidly, as to prevent the antagonist from recovering from his surprise. The indications are that the war will be a contest between celerity and bulk, with the chances in favor of the former. One thing is clear, Japan was thoroughly prepared, before the first blow was struck. Her plans were complete in every detail.

Some of the data published concerning the leaders of the Japanese army are not without interest at this time. The nominal chief, under the emperor, of the general staff, is Field Marshal Marquis Oyama, who was prominent in the field in 1894-95. But the real Moltke of the campaign is Lieutenant General Baron Kodama, recently appointed vice chief of the general staff. Baron Kodama has been for some years the governor general of Formosa, where he has shown exceptional ability and is looked to as a man of genius. The world will probably hear much of him. He is a young man, slight in physique but very alert, decisive and positive in bearing. Associated with Lieutenant General Kodama are two newly-made generals, Kuroki and Oku. Under the general staff are two grand bureaus. The director of the first bureau is Major General Ojishi. The second bureau is under the direction of Major General Pu-Kuchima, famous for his horseback ride across Siberia in 1893-4 and for his energy in the field in the Chinese-Japan war a year later.

The Imperial body guard is commanded by Lieutenant General Hasegawa. The first army division is under the command of a prince of the imperial house under whom General Nogu probably is the active executive. The second division is led by Lieutenant General Nishi. The third division has Lieutenant General Oshima at its head. Lieutenant General Ogawa leads the fourth division. And the fifth division is commanded by Lieutenant General Yamaguchi.

The navy also is controlled by a general staff, the chief of which is Admiral Ito, the distinguished commander of the fleet during the war with China. He is assisted by Admiral Kahayama. The executive officer is Vice Admiral Togo. His subordinates are Vice Admiral Hatakura and Rear Admiral Dewa.

These are some of the names that are likely to figure quite often in the war news. On the Russian side, Vice Roy Alexieff has been given full powers, to do whatever emergencies may require. He will be blamed for defeats and be honored, if successful.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

A pamphlet setting forth in full the Panama canal question has made its appearance. It is a "plea for Colombia." It contains a brief history of the canal question, the diplomatic notes between United States minister at Bogota and the Colombian minister of foreign affairs; the Hay-Herran treaty; the treaty of 1846, English opinion, and the diplomatic notes between Secretary Hay and General Reyes, the Colombian special envoy to the United States. It is a very full statement of the case from the Colombian point of view, and it is well worth studying, for a complete understanding of the question.

In the closing note of Secretary Hay, the suggestion is made, that the question whether the Panamanians prefer independence to allegiance to Colombia, be submitted to a plebiscite; also, that the settlement of claims, on one side or the other, be referred to a special court of arbitration. These suggestions are made at the special request of Gen. Reyes, that the United States government, as an alternative to the submission of the matter to the Hague tribunal, propose "some other means of doing Colombia justice in a manner compatible with her honor." It is a pity that the suggestions were not accepted, for it would certainly have been to the advantage of Colombia to cultivate good feelings toward Panama, since the stupid policy of the Bogota government alienated that territory from the rest of the country.

It is high time that the Panama question be settled for good. It has long enough been one of the problems of the world's commerce. Since the discovery of the western continents, the traders of the world have been searching for a waterway to the orient, shorter and safer than those generally followed. In 1761, a Scotchman tried to interest King William of England in the interoceanic canal. In 1795, a Spanish governor and engineer tried it. Charles III ordered an exploration in 1781. William Pitt seriously contemplated an isthmian canal in 1797. The cortes of Spain authorized the construction of the canal in 1814. Mexico surveyed a route in 1824. Central America asked for the co-operation of the United States in the enterprise in 1825. Bolivar completed surveys in 1827, and after that, Panama canal schemes, surveys, plans, concessions and syndicates came thick and fast. There was a new expedition about every other year from 1830 down to 1889, in which French, Dutch, American, Mexican, British or Central American companies were interested. In 1902 the United States government, with an appropriation of nearly \$200,000,000 and a Panama canal commission of experts took up the project, and proposed to build the canal. It is time that the project be carried out, if it is to be realized at all.

THROUGH THE STRAITS.

Logan, Utah, Feb. 15, 1904.
Editor of Deseret News:
Please answer in your Wednesday issue whether the Oregon, in making her memorable trip, passed through the Straits of Macellan or around the Horn, and very much oblige.

Yours truly,
F. C. M.

Answer—She passed through the Straits.

As Mr. Redmond remarked: "America seems to get on all right."

If Russia wants any bouquets she must throw them at herself.

The Russians find the Japs very engaging and quite irresistible.

Poohbah is executing the duties of his multitudinous offices in perfect style.

Thus far Admiral Alexieff has been unable to send anything but regrets.

May the war result in the abolishment of the yen and rubles system of money.

When the sweet south breathes upon a bank of snow, the snow gets into a melting mood every time.

As the czar surveys the situation in the Far East he cannot say, as did A. Selidrik, "I am monarch of all I survey."

There will be no Russian exhibition at St. Louis. The fact is that Russia is making an exhibition of herself at home.

A bench warrant has been issued for one Messenger charged with forgery. Like all messengers he will be slow to respond.

If what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, then what is sauce for the warden should be sauce for the guard.

It is said that the armies of both Russia and Japan are playing a waiting game. All things come to those who know how to wait.

Russian soldiers are perfectly able to beat Japanese refugees from Manchuria. On the sea or in the field, thus far, they have been unable to beat the Japanese.

"John D. Collison refused \$5,000 for a horse last Saturday, and the horse still lives," says the Kansas City World.

A case where a fool and his money were not soon parted.

The Mexican dollar has appreciated materially in the Orient of late. The Orientals seem to be about the only ones who have appreciated the Mexican dollar for some years past.

The most surprising thing developed by the Russo-Japanese war is the great sympathy, running currently, displayed by France and Germany for Russia. How it would make the Bear shake his sides with laughter were he not otherwise engaged.

President Roosevelt will not go to Cleveland to attend the funeral of Senator Hanna. When Vice President

Hendricks died President Cleveland did not go to Indianapolis to attend his funeral. And for this he was very severely criticised. In his case there was no one upon whom the presidency would fall were anything to happen to him. It is not so now. Then again a more common sense view of such matters prevails today than did then.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

Kansas City Star.

The initial successes of the Mikado's fleet, encouraging as they are to Japan, are simply a necessary preliminary to the real war which is to come. They do not affect Russia's main offensive weapon—its army. Russia could afford to lose a sea fight, while Japan could not. No predictions as to the final outcome can be based on these early naval engagements. It is not forgotten that for many months the Boers were overwhelmingly successful against England. Furthermore, the heavy fighting must be done on land. Can the Japanese, without cavalry, sustain the shock of the Cossacks? Can Russia maintain an effective army 5,000 miles from the base of supplies? Will the czar be able to mass an overwhelming force in Korea? Can both countries find the money necessary for a protracted struggle? Only time can show.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Japanese have already taught the world one naval lesson and here is another. The entire success of their attack with torpedo boats will tend to discredit those authorities in America and elsewhere who have held that type of craft in light esteem. It must be admitted, though, that success was won under the only conditions which it is agreed can make these boats effective—a rapid night attack by a swarm of craft upon an unwary enemy at anchor. It is interesting, however, to note that the first blow, and a heavy one, has been struck with a type of sea fighter that some of the world's most famous experts have declared to be next to useless.

Kansas City Times.

The real object in making this hasty attack was to cripple some of the big Russian ships without endangering any of the Japanese vessels of equal strength. This was the course pursued in the war with China. The undertaking seems to have been brilliantly carried out. If it proves true that two of Russia's most powerful battleships and one of its best cruisers have been so badly injured as to be out of service for a long time, a great victory already has been achieved by the "little enemy." The loss to Russia and the corresponding gain to Japan by this daring coup are very great in view of the possibility of a final trial of sea power. Russia's fleet was scarcely a match for Japan's navy to begin with, and the disabling of the czar's big vessels vastly increases the difference in favor of Japan.

New York Mail and Express.

Meantime, it is evident that the Japanese are overrunning Korea with their troops. Their mobility is astonishing the world. Diplomatically they have perhaps subjected themselves to the charge of striking unfairly, and without due notice. Yet when Baron Komura received his passports at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon last at St. Petersburg, he gave notice that Japan would immediately take such steps as it deemed proper for the protection of its interests. This was at least notice to the Russians to be on their guard.

Pueblo Chieftain.

From all accounts that have come thus far, including the official statements of the Russian admiral, the defense of the Russian ships appears to have been utterly inadequate. They were not only surprised, but they were ignominiously outgeneraled, and beaten without inflicting any serious injury upon their adversaries. It will be remembered that when Admiral Cervera was asked once concerning the guns of the Spanish fleet he said that they were in the pockets of the Spanish war ministry. In 1871, the French army, although it was perfectly organized and equipped according to the official reports, was found to be, under the tests of actual warfare, without proper clothing, food or equipment for war, and the blame for this condition was properly placed upon the contractors and imperial officials who had robbed the empire in order to fill their own pockets. It is not at all unlikely that something of this kind has been going on in Russia.

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It's A Common Practice

In many stores to "cut" the price on some standard article, the object being to attract the people with the bait, then sell them other goods at a big profit. It's all a part of the circus, like the flaring red and yellow billboards - the idea is to get you inside the tent.

WE DO NOT REDUCE PRICES

to use the reduction as a fish hook on our customers. Our goods are first marked at a small profit and reduced only when we can buy for less, when sizes are broken, or when we have some other sane, sensible reason. Thirty six years of experience have proven to us that quality is what counts and next to that, low price, and our policy always has been and ever will be to supply the most reliable goods at the lowest prices consistent with good merchandising. And our steadily increasing patronage shows that the careful buyers of Salt Lake City appreciate our policy.

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as well as old established housekeepers should not fail to see our display of **KITCHENWARE**. We carry a large, up-to-date line and are continually adding something new that will save you money or labor. Inspection invited.

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J. A. MURRAY, Vice President

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UP TO 6.50 FOR—75c. UP TO 8.50 FOR—\$2.75

Three lots that take in very nearly all the winter waists. Enough of some to last three days, but not of all. Will sell until gone like this:

Thirty-six shirt waists, wool and heavy cotton, mostly all large sizes. Some slightly soiled, formerly \$2 up to \$6.50 waists, choice—75c.

White silk waists, slightly soiled, but you can make any right easily and the price difference is sufficient inducement, surely, to do so; sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42; priced regularly \$6.75, \$8 and \$8.50 each, choice—\$2.75.

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GARDNER DAILY STORE NEWS

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As a rain or storm coat,
Or as a light-weight overcoat.

It's quite proper and very dressy for either purpose.

We have the genuine Cravenette,
And have them made up in the finest style,
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