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For City Editor and Reporter, 355-5.
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REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.

A contributor to Modern Society re-
lates a somewhat remarkable story
about the Russian battleship, the Im-
perator Alexander III. He says it is
now six years since it was launched,
with impressive ceremonies.

Something unusual took place during
the day. It was midsummer, and sun-
shine flooded the palace and the gar-
dens, as the procession left for the
dockyard. By the time everything
was ready for the launching, the clouds
swept up into the sky, and ominous
gleams played on their tony fringes.
The court chaplains prayed their
prayers; incense was swung, and
"holy" water sprinkled; the cord,
wreathed with roses, which held the
lever in place was severed by the stroke
of a golden axe, and the huge vessel
began to glide slowly down the ways.

Then the storm broke. An awful peal
of thunder crashed overhead. A flash
of lightning, blue and vivid, came hurt-
ling through the air. The ship was
struck. A spar fell, hurled upon a
group of officers standing just behind
the star. Three were killed outright
and eight others were wounded. The
bystanders fled shrieking across the
dock.

The Carolina stood, white as death,
holding tightly her little girls, Olga and
Tatiana, as though to shield the chil-
dren. The emperor himself was calm
and collected. The Empress Dowager
could scarcely be comforted. She was
convinced that the thunder storm and
its fatal flash was the omen of ill for
the ship.

It is claimed that Father John of
Cronstadt, whom the Russians recog-
nize as a seer, was sent for, and that
he uttered this prediction:

"The ship will go down in its first
engagement, and counting one year
for each of the men on board, three years
from that day would see the end of the
Romanoffs."

Assuming that this prophecy was
actually uttered, the first part
has been fulfilled, and the lat-
ter part looks very much like
it was about to come true. The
battleship in question was the first of
the ill-fated *Roshevsky's* line, and
was almost the first to fall a prey to
the guns of the Japanese. Most cer-
tainly when that news reached *Tsarko-
vsk* it would cause in the minds of
the royal family a shiver of awe and
fear, and the prophecy of Father John,
presuming the story is true, it must
have reminded them of the probability of
a literal fulfillment of the prophecy,
which gives the Romanoffs three more
years to rule in Russia.

The present conditions of the inter-
nal affairs of the empire certainly point
to an imminent crash over the ship of
state. The clouds are darkening. Be-
yond the Caucasus Asiaticans, Kurds
and Tatars are in insurrection, and the
Cossack garrisons are unable to stop
the massacre. In Poland the whole
population seems ripe for violence and
bloodshed. Following riots and bomb-
throwing in Warsaw comes a general
uprising in Lodz against the authori-
ties. Two thousand victims make one
day's work for the mob and the Coss-
acks.

Rebellion is spreading to the navy,
and the army. No government can
long exist under such conditions. De-
feat heaped on defeat in the east and
the hatred of a whole people smarting
under unnumbered wrongs and filled
with aspirations for liberty—such is the
present condition.

The story of the ominous thunder-
bolt that interrupted the launching of
the Russian battleship reminds us of
the eclipse of the sun on Oct. 29, 1882,
the four hundredth anniversary of the
landing of Columbus in this, the "New
World." It was a gala day at the
world's fair. The country was gaily
decked in hunting. Music filled the
air, miles of humanity partook in the
parade, when, behold! the sun was
darkened. It was an eclipse, "without
scientific importance," the astronomers
said. But there was at least one ob-
server in the land who endeavored to
interpret the occurrence as a "sign."
We refer to Lieutenant Totten, who in
an interview with a representative of
the Associated Press, a few days later,
said, in part:

"Where were our Augusts then? And
where had Daniel been? Had such a
thing befallen the plains of Shushan
at a festival like that? Think you for
one moment that Heaven, which hath
recorded the number of your very hairs,

was ignorant of that eclipse? If so
ye do deceive yourselves, for in the
very nature of things there can be no
accidents, and certainly none like
that."

"Behold you, too, how such a sign
in the skies upon such a day, must
have severely struck the representatives
of nine out of every ten of the nations
who were gathered to the celebration!
For few of them are modern and broad-
minded in our own presumptuous way,
and all of them believe, or did Nehu-
d-nneer of old, that the Kingdom is
God's, whose ways are judgment, and
those who walk in pride He is able to
abase."

"The fact is, there is sin within the
door of the National Temple, and it
adds but new injury to the trespass to
belittle the facts! We cannot be living
up to the spirit of the Constitution in-
herited from our forefathers, and it lies
with each man to determine his own
share in the responsibility."

Those are sober words, even if they
were suggested by an eclipse. Heaven
has many ways of speaking to nations.

NOT AFRAID OF COMPETITION.

As will be remembered, when the
bitch in the negotiations for the sale
of the water bonds authorized by the
city occurred, an effort was made to
make it appear that the New York cor-
poration with which the negotiations
were carried on, refused to further con-
sider the matter, because of the forma-
tion here of a local insurance com-
pany. That assertion, however, is
halled down by the fact that the Mutu-
al Life now has signified its willing-
ness to take the bonds as soon as a
certified copy of the ordinance relating
to the matter, is received. The facts
seem to be, that the enemies of pro-
gress here hoped to delay the work of
enterprising citizens for an increase of
the city's water supply, by instituting
litigation. For that reason they sug-
gested to the company that the bond
issue was illegal. But in order to
conceal their tactics of obstruction,
they endeavored to place the blame on
the local insurance company.

We are able to state, on the authori-
ty of a gentleman representing an
eastern insurance company, and not
connected with Church that he, for
one, does not regard the formation of a
local insurance company as any detriment
to the business of other com-
panies. On the contrary, he thinks it
will benefit them all. His reasoning
appears very logical. He points out
that quite a few people here, as else-
where, are, on conscientious grounds,
opposed to life insurance. But, he
says, when influential local men enter
that field of business, much of that
opposition will fade away, and this
will benefit all the companies in the
field. That reasoning appears sound.

Legitimate competition is not feared
by anyone who is engaged in a legiti-
mate business. In many instances it is
true that competition stimulates trade,
and keeps it alive. One by one, the
falseness that form the stock-in-
trade of the slanders of Utah burst
like soap bubbles.

A VOICE FOR TRUTH.

The following item appears in *The
Dallas Post* of June 24. It is of
considerable local interest, and needs
no comment. The publisher of the
Post is, we understand, an influential
member of the Methodist denomination.
Here is the item referred to.

"The non-Mormons of Utah have be-
come so incensed over the flagrant
falseness that have been circulated
throughout the entire world about af-
fairs in that State, that they have taken
the matter up and are publishing
and circulating literature to counteract
the effects of the slanders circulated
and to give the people of the Eastern
States the exact truth of conditions
there. Mr. V. S. Post of Salt Lake
City, who had some business in this
part of the country this week, was
requested to distribute a few thousand
copies of a special edition of 'Truth,'
a prominent gentle paper, while on his
way here. Mr. Post was formerly from
the Wyoming valley, but has lived for
several years in Salt Lake City, and
says he can vouch for the truth of
everything given in the copies of
'Truth' which he distributes. Any one
who wishes a copy of 'Truth' may have
one sent to them by sending a postal
card to *The Post*, Dallas, Pa."

ABSD STORIES.

In the good, old days of superstition,
some one in a company gathered around
the blazing fire, or the glowing embers
with their fantastic suggestions, would,
perhaps, tell a thrilling ghost story,
which he, or she, had heard of some re-
liable person who had heard it from
some friend, who had it on the authori-
ty of some one, etc. One story would
suggest another, more hair-raising than
the first, and the story-telling would be-
come general, until the children were
shivering with fright, and even older
persons would hesitate to step into the
next room, alone and without a lighted
candle. The stories of spooks and
apparitions, of rattling skeletons, head-
less bodies and grinning faces, and the
sudden appearance of limbs of sa-
tan, to carry off, bodily, some of his
most devoted friends, were, of course,
known to be fiction, by grown persons;
at least, but so strong were their influ-
ence upon the imagination of many, that
they were afraid of the gentle rustling
of the wind in the tree, or the mur-
muring of the brook, when the even-
ing shadows had silently fallen around
them. He who dared to go in among
the trees at night, or pass a grave-
yard, or even a church, at an untimely
hour, was considered a real hero.

General enlightenment has driven
away much of this superstitious fear,
and stories of ghosts and spooks are
no longer fascinating—at least in their
old, crude form. But when it comes to
talk about the "Mormons" and "Mor-
monism," many persons are as credu-
lous and superstitious, as any in the
generations that have passed away.
They are frightened as easily as
children, and they actually
have a craving for the sensation.
The principle still seems to hold good,
that the more absurd the tales are, the
more they are enjoyed by the crowd,
that will have something to make it
chill.

We are led to these reflections by
the absurd reports in New York, that
the Latter-day Saints were about to
build a "temple" in that city. The
story was absurd on its face, but it set
some of the religious ignoramus

trembling with fear, and they proceed-
ed to hold meetings to protest against
such an outrage. Another case of a
ghost-story without any other founda-
tion than a diseased imagination!

As will be seen from the statement of
the *Cleveland Plain Dealer's* New York
correspondent, printed in the "News"
on June 29, one of the Church members
had bought a building lot, 25 feet by
100, and around this nucleus of fact
was wound the story of a "Mormon"
temple, to be reared in New York. The
result was a panic and the subsequent
telegraphing of the terrible news to all
parts of the country. And to think of
a "Mormon" temple upon a Lilliputian
building lot, 25x100 feet!

But so utterly devoid of sense are
the stories about the "Mormons," with
which story-tellers are electrifying the
country. They remind one forcibly of
the old tales of superstition, who
made apocryphal tales of free stumps,
or rocks, which their own imagination
supplied with life, motion, and evil
intentions. Let common sense assert
itself against all stupid tales, that
serve no good purpose.

Warsaw simply isn't in it with Odes-
sa.

The *Kniaz Potemkin* may become
as famous as *Tracy*.

Tainted or untainted, Rockefeller's
gift of a million dollars to Yale "goes."

Engineer Wallace escaped while Sec-
retary Taft was temporarily off the lid.

The red flag in the Black sea sig-
nifies the same as the black flag in the
Red sea.

With Russia it is a case either of soup
in the navy or of the navy in the
soup.

The "flyers" don't seem to fly the
track any more frequently than the
non-flyers.

The mutineers of the *Bounty* are not
in it with the mutineers of the *Kniaz
Potemkin*.

Terrorize; mobilize; revolutionize.
In Russia the lie seem to have it; the
lie have it.

"What shall I do to be saved?" must
be running constantly through the
Czar's mind.

From all over the country comes the
demand for a national Fourth. May the
supply equal the demand.

A man has been arrested in New York
for conducting a poolroom in a syna-
gogue. A clear case of the hypocrite
in the synagogue.

Colonel Watterson writes from Paris:
"I can still get away with three square
meals a day." Evidently the Colonel
believes in a square meal.

"Lobbying is a deadly poison in the
welfare of legislation," says Gov-
ernor Herrick. The fly in the ointment
causing it to stink so to say.

That Yale, Congregational Yale,
should accept a million of money from
John D. Rockefeller will simply para-
lyze Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden.

If there was less alimony, might
there not be fewer divorces? asks an
exchange. If there were fewer di-
vorces, there certainly would be less
alimony.

In Kansas they call the college boys
who have gone there for the harvest-
ing "Hereforers" because of their pale
faces. At election time they would be
called "Poiled Angus."

It was the demand of a sailor on the
Kniaz Potemkin for more soup that
caused his death and the raising of
the red flag at the masthead. Had that
sailor known the story of Oliver Twist
and taken heed of it, all this would not
have happened.

Yesterday's railroad wreck record
was very deplorable. On an eastern,
middle western and a western road
there were wrecks, and deaths scored
in each one.

THE GREATEST ON EARTH.

Pittsburg Times.
Young King Alfonso is said to look
upon Kaiser Wilhelm as the greatest
monarch upon earth and to be anxious
to pattern after the German ruler. Evi-
dently the young man was not vastly
impressed by the bomb reception in
Paris nor by being taken to see the
monkeys and elephants in London.

AN OLD RELIC.

Tyone Herald.
J. P. Dillon, of Alexandria, while as-
sisting in the railroad excavations at
Hollidaysburg, found a deer in the
ground a stone shoe used with no doubt
was used by the Indians in making
moccasins. It was not very much un-
like in shape the modern shoe of today,
and in size was that of an average foot.

MEXICO'S INDIAN GOVERNOR.

Exchange.
Colonel Chantual, governor of the
Mexican state of Tlaxcala, is the only
full blooded Indian holding such a po-
sition in the republic on the other side
of the Rio Grande. It is the smallest
of the 27 states, but is rich in historic
interest. Colonel Chantual has been
governor for 20 years, and has ruled
with such a combination of tenderness,
simplicity and firmness as to win the
greatest respect from fellow citizens.

THE LATEST "TIPS."

British Medical Journal.
There are countless forms of "tips" that
urgently call for something to "al-
lay" them. Chief among them we should
place the rascalette which leads men to
sell, and the tonfollie which makes
others buy, quack medicine.

MAKING A REPUTATION.

Harford Courant.
If any one should come to the United
States today and judge of the credu-
lousness of this country by the articles
which he should find in our daily press
and our weekly and monthly publi-
cations, he could not wonder, would he
arrive at the conviction, with every ap-
pearance of justification, that we are
a nation of thieves and cheats. The
"New York Herald Tribune" begins an
article on the Equitable affair with the

following sentence. The remark is un-
fortunately not only literally true, but
it is also supplemented by the fact that
what we say of each other in a read-
aloud, very accurately and very gen-
erally by a host of intelligent European
students of world affairs, who judge us
by our own estimate of ourselves. The
duty of conducting the business affairs
of this great country on lines of honesty
and moderation is not measured solely
by a personal desire to keep out of
jail. It includes our national reputation
as well as individual reputation.

RESTORING LIFE AFTER HEART HAS STOPPED.

Leslie's Monthly.
The restoration of life after the heart
has actually stopped beating is an
other miracle of modern surgery,
though the claim cannot be made that
this accomplishment is of much general
value. In cases where the patient has
collapsed while under an anesthetic,
the chest has been hastily opened, a
hand thrust in, the still heart grasped
and manipulated, and circulation thus
artificially kept up till life flutters slow-
ly back.

THE CASE OF MARY ROGERS.

New York Evening Mail.
Every word that can be urged against
the execution of Mary Rogers in Ver-
mont is, if it is an argument at all, an
argument against capital punishment
itself. If public sentiment is more
deeply shocked in the case of the sen-
tence of a woman to death than that of
a man, it is because mere superficial
or sentimental sympathy is more readi-
ly aroused where the condemned person
is a woman. There is absolutely no
known or imaginable reason why a
penalty, in the case of a violation of a
general law, should be remitted when
the convicted person is a woman.

FIGHTING WOULD NOT DELAY PEACE.

New York Tribune.
The possible effect of another great
battle on the peace negotiations may
be pretty confidently forecast. If the
Russians should win there would
scarcely be abandonment of even de-
lay of the negotiations, but there would
probably be a stronger insistence by
Russia upon favorable terms. In the
more probable event of a Japanese vic-
tory, the necessity of prompt peace-
making would be all the more evident
to Russia, and there would be less dis-
position, or at any rate less ability, to
stand out for easy terms. That the
result of the battle would mean the
abandonment of negotiations and the
indefinite continuance of the war is
beyond the bounds of reasonable ex-
pectation.

TEA

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