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## A TOWER OF STRENGTH.

The Deseret News but feebly voices the sentiment of the whole Church in congratulating President John R. Winder on reaching the 83rd anniversary of his natal day. He is truly a remarkable man, a living object lesson to all, on the benefits of a temperate, active, consistent, religious career. No one unacquainted with this vigorous veteran would imagine for a moment that he is an octogenarian, well on the road to the nineties. His step is as quick, his mind as bright, his voice as strong and his judgment as reliable, as when years ago he was engaged in various affairs that demanded both mental and physical force of no common character. His life has been chiefly spent in the service of the Church and of the public, and in every capacity he has exhibited marked ability, and that devotion to sincere conviction that commands respect even from those who differ in belief. Everybody who knows him loves him, and regards him as thoroughly reliable and capable. When appointed one of the Presiding Bishops, the selection was unanimously approved. And when President Joseph F. Smith chose him for First Counselor, there was a universal expression of pleasure and approbation. His work as First Assistant in the Salt Lake Temple demands much of his time and attention and administrations that would ordinarily be a tax on a much younger man, but he is always at his post in time, and yet attends daily on his constant duties in the First Presidency, and is truly a marvel of indefatigable zeal and labor and cheerful service. All Israel unite in saying, "God bless President John R. Winder, and continue to him joy and peace and strength to the utmost limit of his own desires. May he have yet many, many happy returns of the day!"

## AS OTHERS SEE IT.

While there may be honest difference of opinion as to the right of the course pursued by the United States in the hasty recognition of the Panama republic, it is not fair to assert, without some definite evidence to support the allegation, that this government joined with the so-called "rebels" in conspiring to revolt against the domination of Colombia. In the discussions that have taken place, that has been recklessly assumed without offering any proof. Another weak point in the opposition is the utter ignorance of the right of the Panama people to Republican liberty, and of withdrawing from a coalition that was alike oppressive to their freedom and injurious to their prosperity. That President Roosevelt did not recognize the new government until it was really established, and had shown its ability to act for itself as an independent commonwealth, is clear from the history of the event. The fact that the London Times takes this view of the situation, and the recognition of the new republic by so many of the European powers, strengthen the position taken with reference to this matter by the government of the United States. We have already quoted from the great London daily on this subject and now add the following:

"But there are other very important aspects of the matter besides, which arrest the attention of observers of American Development. Correctly as the United States may construe the limitations of her authorized position, the Isthmus will be, as our correspondent has pointed out, henceforth in all essentials under her protectorate. It will be interesting to watch the influence of this fact upon American imperialism, and to see whether it will intensify the draw the United States into relations of fuller responsibility not merely toward Central but toward South America."

The resolution introduced by Senator Hoar seems eminently proper and not to be viewed as unfriendly. Notwithstanding the explanation given in the President's message to Congress, full particulars, with the documents relating to the action of the government in reference to the new republic, will cast

further light on the matter. If the Hoar proposition shall prevail they will be placed in possession of the Senate, and the public will have the opportunity to pass judgment after becoming better acquainted with the facts. The republic is established, however, and is numbered with the nations.

## AN IMPERCEPTIBLE DANGER.

Gen. MacArthur may have information not known to the general public, or he may have mental field-glasses which enable him to see war clouds where to others there is a clear sky, or he may have wishes that are parental to the thought expressed in his prediction of an imminent war with Germany. But we think his utterance on the subject will be viewed more with regret at his rashness in talking so freely upon matters of national importance, than with belief in his prophetic powers. There may be, possibly, some clashing of interests between the German empire and the United States, both as to possessions in the Pacific and to trade nearer home; but we do not think they are of such a character as to provoke recourse to arms, nor so formidable that they cannot be settled by mutual consent, and without even submission to international arbitration. At present we are at peace with all nations, and it will take superstitious nostrils to scent war fumes in the air of Germany. Time will show whether the gallant general has become unduly excited from some cause not apparent to the public, or whether he is destined to shine as a war prophet as well as a military leader.

## JAPAN'S MILITARY POWER.

The announcement that the great struggle in eastern Asia is about to commence, may be previous. But under the present tension, a catastrophe might easily be precipitated. The rumor that the Russians are sending a strong squadron to the coast of the Korean capital comes from Japan, and may be without foundation in fact, but it is nevertheless causing anxiety in European capitals.

The Japanese government evidently appreciates the power of Russia, and therefore hesitates at assuming the responsibility of the initiative in the conflict that seems inevitable. But if Russia would commit the first act of hostility, Japan would no doubt accept the challenge. For years she has devoted about one-half of the public expenditure upon the army and navy, and defenses. The result is that she has an army estimated at over 600,000 men, which, in case of necessity, could be still further augmented. The soldiers are obtained by conscription, the lowest height being four and one-half feet. As a whole, the troops are said to be rather small, but the cavalry and the artillery contain men of good average height. Each soldier must spend three years under the flag, four years in the first reserve, five in the second, and then to the age of forty-one years he is a member of the territorial reserve. The emperor is the commander-in-chief, and his military council consists of four marshals.

The Japanese navy consists of eight battleships of a total tonnage of \$85,000 tons and an average speed of 18 to 19 knots; six first-class protected cruisers, each of 5,000 to 10,000 tons and with a speed of 22 knots; one protected cruiser of the third class; nine protected cruisers of the second class, varying from 3,710 to 4,900 tons, and with a speed of from 17 to 22 knots per hour; four protected cruisers of the third class; four dispatch boats; 16 gun boats; 18 torpedo-boat destroyers, with a speed of 31 knots; 100 torpedo boats, and many transports, and boats of supply. The armament of the fleet has been selected from the most perfect products of Europe. The war ports of Japan, Yokohama—organized by the French—and Kure and Sasebo, are provided with well-equipped arsenals, with yards for refitting vessels, and also with yards for the construction of ships, where at present many vessels of the second class are being completed.

The Japanese are inspired by a military spirit, more so than any of their kin in Asia. Whether their civilization has had that result, or whether the civilization itself is the result, is a puzzling question, but the Japanese certainly are warriors. Could they arouse the Asiatics and lead them, they would dictate terms to Russia instead of prolonging the agony by negotiations.

O the beautiful snow!  
After all Judge Kohlsaat proved to be Dowle's real "angel."

No matter what the adage says, turn-about is usually foul play.

Football players are not necessarily at the foot of their classes.

If Colombia lands troops on Panama Uncle Sam will land on Colombia.

General Arthur MacArthur is a man of valor but he lacks the better part of valor—discretion.

Senator Hoar wants to know if the Administration had prenatal knowledge of the Panama revolution.

Grand Rapids is not by any means the biggest town in the United States but it is easily the rottenest.

Only two men in the United States do not want to be President. They are Mr. Cleveland and Senator Hanna.

Mr. Carnegie exemplifies in his own person as no one else does that it is better to be born lucky than rich.

General Reyes' mission has not been entirely fruitless. He has received a splendid specimen of the marble heart.

Emperor William appreciates American sympathy in his illness. Such appreciation draws closer the ties that bind.

Senator W. A. Clark's ear has been operated on but it is a woman who is trying to get a "graft" on him for half a million dollars.

President Harper expects Santa

Claus to give the University of Chicago a million dollar Christmas present. The doctor seems to have forgotten that saying about the best laid schemes of men and mice.

A correspondent of the London Times thinks that soap is responsible for the deterioration of the English race. Strange conclusion when it is well known that there is more deterioration among the "great unwashed" than among the better classes.

"While Mr. Bryan is wearing a top hat in England it is believed that he is still sufficiently democratic to refer to it as a 'stovepipe,' and to touch it with his coat-sleeve or a silk handkerchief," says the Kansas City Star. Mr. Bryan could hardly wear a bottom hat in England or elsewhere.

A broad general classification of the graduates of the military academy up to date shows that West Point has given us one president and two candidates for president, eight presidential electors and four members of the cabinet, 25 diplomatic representatives, 34 members of Congress, 122 other federal officers, 18 governors and lieutenant-governors, 85 members of state legislatures, 121 civil and 178 military officers of states, 64 city officials, 230 educators, 236 railroad officials, 233 civil engineers, 214 judges and lawyers, 22 clergymen and 50 members of other professions, 268 business men, 239 farmers and planters, and 172 authors.

What the "civilized" nations—or some of them—spend yearly on their armies and navies is seen in the following figures prepared by an official statistician at Berlin:

	Army and Navy Budget.	Charge per Inhabitant.
England	\$531,177,000	\$12.57
United States	376,450,000	4.43
Russia	270,050,000	1.87
Germany	256,275,000	4.25
France	231,800,000	5.95
Austria	162,200,000	2.22
Italy	63,000,000	2.75

How different would not the world be, were this money spent on education, commercial, and industrial enterprises! When will the world come to its senses?

## PUBLIC MORALS.

The Rev. Morgan Dix wants to know what can be done to stop the grafting, the divorces, the beating down of values of properties in which those of modest fortunes have invested all they have, the strikers from violent acts, the demagogues who set class against class, the fools who run after each new gospel, likewise women talkers, women preachers, women agitators, clamorers for women's rights, and many other breeds of sinners and peace disturbers who infect the world in general, and the country of the United States of America in particular. There are others who join the distinguished divine in wanting to know. It may be pessimistic to say so, but it does sometimes look as if, as a nation and a people, we are getting farther and farther away from the good old principles of equity, honesty, high thinking and clean living. The press teems with tales of grafting, tales of marital infidelity, tales of corporation wrecking, tales of strikes, tales of riot and insurrection, tales of new doctrines with the names thereof blown in the bottles and goods come in, tales of public debauchery and private shame until the heart sickens, the spirit is discouraged, the soul ashamed.

New York World.

But upon the social side of public morals how true rings Dr. Dix's indictment! Something of the profligacy which he condemns has grown out of the stock-jobbing orgy and is passing with it. But human nature is not changed. The Tillman trial still illustrates our "contempt law" and the "insecurity of life" it fosters. The recent marriage in Newport of a woman high in social rank, on the very day of her divorce, to a man also divorced, may well have inspired Dr. Dix's reference to the "breaking up of homes by divorce and adulterous remarriage." Before the civil war so shrewd an observer as Mr. Lowell wrote that America was to be the land of "great workers and small estates." If it is to be instead a land of insolent wealth, of low morals in high places, and of declining respect for the law, the Republic must inevitably suffer. Against such tendencies the guardians of public morals do well to fight.

Kansas City World.

One of the most serious charges against the fashionable life is that it in no way teaches or aids that marriage is a permanent contract. In the humber-homed separation of a man and woman is a tragedy. In "society" it is often the result of a whim. In the course of a divorce means tears and bleeding hearts, and sometimes a deep and lasting sense of disgrace. In the palace, madam introduces her new husband to the cast-off one, and there is much merry-making and laughter. Do you wonder that humanity sneers at the wisdom of courts and at the integrity of some of those who wear judicial robes?

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Ainslie's for January opens with a novelette by Francis Prevost, who made his first appearance in October. It is called "The Hypothesis of Fate," and marks a departure from what has hitherto been chiefly characteristic of Ainslie's novelettes. O. Henry has a story, "Journey's End," made the reputation of Justus Miles Forman, and his new story "Amelle de Colonne," will add to it as that of a writer of strong fiction. Dorothy Dix combines her own sense with a delightfully humorous fancy in her essay, "Why Do Men Love Us?" There are several other notable contributions. The poetry is by Arline Stricker, Richard Burton, Charlotte Becker, Charles Hanson Towne, Annie C. Mulhead, W. D. Nesbit, Lauchlin MacLean Watt and others. Ainslie Magazine Co., 154 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Christmas National Magazine is packed with attractive pictures. In "Our Southern Rival," Geo. M. L. Brown discusses the rapid rise of the Argentine Republic. Among topics of immediate interest dealt with in "Affairs at Washington," by Joe Mitchell Chapple, the Panama canal and Cuban reciprocity stand first. In "The Timely Topics of the Stage," Mr. Richardson presents what is best worth while in the dramatic world. "Marconi and the Cables" is a treatise on the place of the cables in the business world and the probable future of the Marconi system. Among the seven poems of this issue Partheno-Genesis is the most original. The eight short stories are "McIntyre's Way," by Frank H. Sweet; "At Long Range," by E. W. Williams; "Malone Comrades," by Frank Hall Tracy; "Chickadee," by Dallas Lore Sharp; "A Christmas Dish of Crow," by Annie Booth McKimney; "When Mercy Woke," by F. M. Moorhead; "Timothy Lane's Reward of Virtue," by Edward

M. Woolley; and the fourth story of "June Winston," by Carrie Hunt Latta. Not least, interesting in this issue are "Hints for Home-Made Christmas Gifts,"—Boston, Mass.

In the Christmas number of Leslie's Weekly, splendid in color and rich in decoration, the frontispiece represents a little boy being given a Christmas basket by his grandmother, with a Christmas message to a poverty-stricken family. It is a beautifully suggestive picture. Perhaps the best feature of the number is the supplement, an ideal American girl's head, with a church calendar attached. The stories are of the highest class, and the Christmas poems will delight the young and the old.—New York.

The December number of the National Geographic Magazine is an unusually interesting number. It contains articles on many subjects, rendered still more interesting by fine illustrations. The subjects treated are: "The Value on Arctic Exploration," by Commander Peary; "Surveying the Philippine Islands," "Muir Glacier," "Cape Growing Industry of the United States," "Precious Stones," "Notes on Panama and Colombia," "The Signal Corps," "Davidson's Book on the Island of Formosa," and "Geographic Literature." The number closes with an index to volume XIV.—Hubbard Memorial Hall, Washington, D. C.

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