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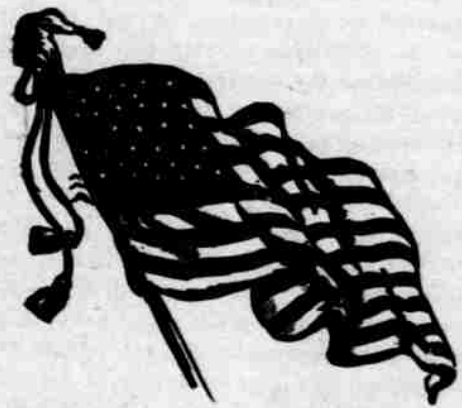
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OBSERVATIONS.

The shyness of the men invited by the president to serve on the committee of investigation is accounted for by the tiresome and perfunctory nature of the duties they will be called upon to perform. And no friend of the president cares to accept a position which may develop into an antagonism of the administration.

Qualities which make a successful general are very handy for a president or a king. That the American people consider success in war indicates good presidential ability. Washington, Jackson, Taylor, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Harrison and McKinley are sufficient proof.

Some of these gave up their com-

mands on being nominated for president. Others were in civil life when nominated by one party or the other. Military success is sometimes accidental but a pre-eminence like that of Washington's, Napoleon's, Wellington's or Grant's, is earned by the patience of a genius, inspiration, industry and an unaccountable predisposition for action as well as an aversion for chatter. All these the successful soldier must have and the country which accepts such a soldier for president on his record is safe.

Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and all the more or less distantly related series of uncles, aunts and cousins, will not accept Secretary Alger's reply to the criticism of his conduct of the war that the death of the young relative by typhoid fever, occasioned by bad water, unsuitable food for an invalid and unsanitary camp arrangements, was necessary. The morning paper when it insists that the lamentations of the bereaved for the boy who was starved to death or who died for lack of hospital care are unreasonable, if they censure the secretary of war, is following a policy inaugurated when the presses were first set up on these prairies. Never to criticize a republican institution or official, however venal incompetent, and fatally ignorant has been the policy of the paper in question. But the clamor of those who said good bye in the spring to the picked athletes, examined and pronounced perfect by government surgeons, is not to be silenced by excuses that a new commissary did not know how to distribute the plentiful supplies and that the volunteer officers did not know how to order a sanitary camp. The lives of hundreds of young men were sacrificed in order that this man and that one might have a place, when there were plenty of West Point men educated by the government for officers and anxious to put their trained faculties at the service of their countrymen. The system of political appointments is to blame more than the secretary of war for the supplies and nurses which never reached the sick soldiers. But the secretary of war is to blame for the selection of a miasmatic, isolated, poisonously watered camp like Chickamauga. The victims of Algerism buried in the National park, the fevered water-famished soldiers on the transports who died for lack of water and of proper food before they reached Montauk Point, are so many indictments of a system and a secretary, which insist on a hearing. Officers, eager for active service and thoroughly competent, have been suffered to re-

main idle, while the raw men with a pull have been put in a position where their ignorance was fatal to the men of their command. I can never forget the thoroughbred look of the young fellows who went from Lincoln. Clean-limbed, high-spirited, entirely devoted to their country, they marched into disease instead of on to the battlefield, condemned by a system unworthy of an intelligent people, to a fate worse than that of the felon sent by the Russian government to Siberia. These youths are not only a loss to their relatives but to the generation whose turn has just come. They were the best blood and culture of the nation, the most adventurous, the men who would have made the world better, inventors, scholars, financiers, and all idealists or they would not have enlisted. There are many left but America cannot afford to so wantonly deprive herself of new blood. The boys who fell on the battlefield died gloriously. Those who lingered and died in camps from fevers induced by the location, poisonous water and lack of palatable food, were martyrs to an imbecile system which only an imbecile people will suffer to exist any longer.

The Prince of Wales is said to be very much annoyed by the flirtation of Prince George, the Duke of York, with the beautiful Princess Pless. Her father-in-law is very fond of the Duchess of York and has told the Duke that his attentions to the Princess must cease. The Prince of Wales has been confined to an invalid chair for several months by his lame knee and has had time to reflect upon the vanity and foolishness of flirtations and he is really quite indignant that his son should venture to cause his faithful Duchess any jealous pangs. From a sickman's chair or bed the foibles of his children, even though suggested by a father's example, are inexcusable.

It appears Mr. Zangwill, the English critic and novelist, now visiting in this country, has come to bless, rather than to go home and write impressions and curses about us, as Arnold and Dickens and Mrs. Trollope, and scores of other Englishmen have done. When he arrived in New York he immediately visited the Jewish quarter, where the poor Jews live. There he found the same wretchedness and squalor which exists in the London Ghetto, his realistic description of which made Mr. Zangwill's reputation. He spent several days in the New York Ghetto, and was then invited to a dinner by the rich Jews. He accepted, and at the dinner, when

called upon to make a speech, he told them about the quarter, of the children, the old and the sick and starving. Like other rich men they were moved and proposed to endow a hospital bed, build a monument or do some other trifling and ornamental deed which would satisfy their sympathies and not cost much. Mr. Zangwill showed them how inadequate such propositions were for the needs of the people he had visited. He proposed a tenement house, with bath rooms and all the modern necessities (not conveniences.) Such is the power of an earnest soul with a mission that Mr. Zangwill secured a promise of \$500,000 and the tenement house is to be built immediately for the poor Jewish people. The rent of the rooms in the comfortable house will be no greater than what they have been paying. It will be sanitary and its clean floors and walls will encourage cleanliness in the poor women whose surroundings have mocked efforts at neatness. Mr. Zangwill's efforts to restore the native American quarter to decency might be fruitless, but his powers of description are so graphic and his heart throbs with such angelic pity that he would be successful where another might fail. Although the Jews take care of members of their faith with a brotherliness that should be emulated by the rest of the world, there are many rich men who are ready to help the poor, especially in a large way, if they are shown how. Lodging houses, well ventilated and lighted, with bath rooms, built in the slums, where the poor can afford to live, will not pauperise but help them to greater comfort, better health and more cleanly habits. Like the cheap hotels which have been built to help man and not to prey on his necessities, such charities are pointing the way to a twentieth century altruism that encourages us to hope for the days when competition shall have been diluted to a friendly rivalry which stimulates but does not crush. At the Tolstoi banquet given on the great socialist's birthday, it was agreed by the guests to send a cablegram to Mr. Tolstoi stating that a hundred men of New York gave themselves a dinner in his honor that day of the anniversary of his birth. After the message had been sent a speaker said he thought Tolstoi would have appreciated the memorial more if the message sent had been, "Today a hundred men of New York give a dinner to a hundred beggars in your name." The suggestion was received in silence. But it sounds like Zangwill. Mr. Zangwill's mission to this country, if it extends no further than New York, has already been