

THE COURIER

A Popular Paper of Modern Times

PUBLISHED SATURDAY

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WESSSEL & DOBBINS, Prop'rs.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The COURIER presents for the approval of its readers today its Christmas number. Without in the least venturing to boast we wish to say that in excellence of contents, make-up, illustrations and general attractiveness it is the finest paper ever printed in the city of Lincoln. Such well known local writers as Robert McReynolds, Walter Hoge, H. M. Bushnell, Walt Mason, J. D. Calhoun and others are represented by contributions from their able pens.

Miss Kate Van Norma Gibson gives a graphic pen picture of a Christmas in California in the early days of the gold excitement when even an onion was worth its own weight in gold. The well known writer, Olive Harper, contributes one of her excellent Christmas tales, "Mother's Menagerie," a story of how an almost starving woman made from the staple means at her command a few Christmas toys for her expectant little ones. Mr. John R. Paxton, famous as a writer of war stories, sends "On the Rappahannock," a graphic sketch of how the soldiers of the two armies spent Christmas day, 1862. Besides these the usual excellent miscellany, Dr. Talmage's sermon, Fashion department, Bill Nye's weekly letter, etc., etc., are given. Of the illustrations, it is not necessary to speak. Our readers are competent to judge for themselves of their merit or attractiveness.

This number is not published as an advertising or money-making scheme, but as a souvenir to our readers particularly and the public generally, inasmuch as with this issue the COURIER enters upon its third year. Only a limited number of advertisements have been admitted, just sufficient to defray the cost.

With these few words, as our old minister was wont to say in closing a sermon of an hour and a half in duration, we give it to the public. Wishing you one and all A MERRY CHRISTMAS, we remain,

THE PUBLISHERS.

VOL. III. NO. 1.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

The old saw of the green Christmas and fat graveyard has the call at present.

COPPER is now enjoying a great boom but the price of brass remains the same, probably on account of the over-production in Omaha.

NEBRASKA CITY claims to have discovered natural gas. We presume then that the vapors of the Times editor heretofore came under the head of artificial gas.

The corn crop in Kansas is almost a total failure this year, and if a sufficient quantity is not shipped there from Nebraska, Kansas whiskey next year will not be a nectar fit for the gods.

LINCOLN has several good things "on the string" at present, and if they materialize, another big boom will be inaugurated soon. There is little doubt but that the year 1888 will witness the largest growth it has ever experienced. Thousands of easterners will come westward next spring, and if the city is well advertised much more than our usual quota will be diverted hither.

COUNCIL BLUFFS now has a real, live so city paper in the Reflector, Leens & Waterman's new venture. If the people of that city don't give it good support, then they are not as enterprising as we have thought. Typographically handsome and intrinsically meritorious, it deserves good success.

A LOOK over the advertising columns of the Christmas COURIER will serve to guide our readers to the proper places to procure Christmas presents. The business houses represented are the most reliable in the city, and we commend a perusal of their bulletins to the consideration of all.

The holiday season in Lincoln promises much gaiety and social happiness. A number of dancing parties have been arranged for the several evenings and other events not fully arranged as yet, will make the holiday week, one of unusual enjoyment for Lincolnites and their numerous guests. Now if the fleecy whiteness would only fall in abundance for sleighing, what a time the young folks would have of it. With this object in view the COURIER has detailed a special reporter to interview the weather clerk and we hope still have succeeded to his effort, and that by the time or shortly after our readers have their number of the CHRISTMAS COURIER in hand that the snow will cover the earth and the merry sleigh bells will jingle to add joy to the happy season, for what is Christmas without snow and out door sport!

THE glorious Christmas time is close at hand. For many it will be a day of festivity and rejoicing, and to others it will be only another day in the span of existence. Year after year glides past, freighted alike with joy and sorrow, but at each recurring Christmas season our hearts and hands are brought into willing tribute to minister to the desires of loved ones. The busy brain of the designer and the tireless hands of the workmen and workwomen are brought more and more into play to enter to the demands of an art and treasure-loving world. The old tradition of a Santa Claus has been well nigh dispelled, and every one who masquerades in his costumes now has the world to select from to make glad the hearts of his good children.

The hallowed memories that cling round the natal day of our Saviour are with us once again. The remembrances of long-lost friends, and loved ones are brought back to mind as once more we gather around the festive board where all is gladness and rejoicing, save but for this tinge of sorrow—'for but a tinge it is. The beneficence of Christ has resignation rests upon and over us, for well we know, "He gives His beloved sleep."

The St. Paul Enterprise contains the startling information that "Christmas is coming." As the COURIER has been busy moving for some days past it had overlooked this important event and it promises the Enterprise that in event of its hanging up its stockings or rubber boots we will give a slight token of friendship for its kind promptings. P. S. We have discovered that about sixteen other of our exchanges have learned of the advent of Christmas and are heralding the good tidings abroad and we withdraw our offer of a present to the Enterprise as we would not like to slight our other brothers and finances will not permit us to celebrate Christmas on a grand scale and give anything away.

The COURIER is pleased to note that J. A. Vandenberg has purchased the railway News of Omaha and will hereafter conduct the enterprise personally. Mr. Vandenberg is an experienced newspaper man, a pithy writer and a hustler, and the COURIER predicts prosperity in abundance for the bright and newsy railway sheet. Messrs. Finlayson & Douglas deserve great credit for the able manner in which they have conducted the News in the past, and judging from appearances it was a success in every form. The COURIER cordially welcomes the new proprietor and wishes prosperity.

THE correspondents of the Chicago, St. Louis and New York dailies who make their headquarters here on account of Lincoln being a splendid news center, talk of removing to Nebraska City which now furnishes about all the most salacious items.

As will be seen by a close reading of the COURIER a portion of the matter in the last issue has been inserted in this. Our last edition run short and none at all were sent out of the city. As the matter duplicated is all appropriate no harm is done.

He Wanted a Pie Eater.

He was courting a mission girl and had been invited to dine with the family on Sunday. He noticed that his adored one did not eat much, and remarked to her that her appetite was light.

"O, yes, Mr. Yardcash," replied the fair one, "I am not a large eater. Ma says I cost less to keep than any of her children."

"You'd order seen her stuffin' down pie and cheese afore dinner," said her young brother. "She's giving you guzz."

The lady of the house arose in her place, and, looking the young man full in the eyes, said firmly: "Mr. Yardcash, my daughter told you the truth. She is not a large eater. Her brother, John Henry, has been reading the funny papers and thought he would try a joke on us. His father will have the kindness to attend to him upstairs. My son must not grow up to be a liar."

"Why, ma," ejaculated John Henry, "didn't I hear you tell Tillie to eat a good lunch and not give her appetite away before her young man?"

"No, my son, you did not!"

"Five seconds later boyish screams were heard from an upper room."

"Ma," said Tillie suddenly, "it's a shame to whip that boy. He told the truth, and I won't see him whipped for all the dry goods clerks on Kearney street—that I won't," and she flounced from the room, while Mr. Yardcash remarked to her mother: "It's a bad policy for a mother to meddle with her daughter's affairs. If you think I want a slim waisted, consumptive faced wife you are away off. Let her eat."—San Francisco Post.

He Started.

A rag peddler who was driving up Gratiot avenue yesterday had reached Hastings street when his horse balked. The usual number of smart Alecks were soon on hand with their advice, and one suggestion after another was tried in vain. The horse could neither be pulled nor pushed, and as he was blocking traffic the crowd began to grow very rapidly.

"What is it?" inquired a boy of 13 who pushed his way into the circle.

"Balky horse," answered some one.

"Where's the owner? Here, you man, can't you start this horse?"

"No, he don't start oop."

"Wait a minute."

The lad ran up the street half a block and pulled a handful of hay out of a bale at a feed store, and when he returned he cleared a space in front of the horse, stood off about five feet and extended his hand. The horse pricked up his ears, his eyes glistened, and he at once advanced and followed the boy around the corner.

"It's according to the horse," explained the boy as the crowd cheered. "When a hay fed horse balks he wants firecrackers under him; when a horse who is fed on scrap iron and gravel roof balls, a pinch of hay will lead him all over town."—Detroit Free Press.

Superstitions Regarding New Year's Day.
In England there is a popular idea that if an unmarried person trips accidentally while going upstairs on New Year's day, that person will be married before the year is out.

In Bulgaria it is believed that the child born on New Year's will never have to work for a living. Also, if any one, while eating a New Year's dinner, lets fall a piece of bread upon the floor, that person will come to want before the end of the year.

Among the Oriental races in general all the grown people endeavor to have in their pocket silver, gold and copper at the dawn of that day to insure abundance of money during the year.

Some of the eminent people who were born Jan. 1 were Baron Von Trenck, 1710; Edmund Burke, 1730, and Maria Edgeworth, 1767.

A FORGOTTEN BOOK.

Noah Webster's Translation of the New Testament—Some of the Changes.

Many of the younger members of the honorable guild of bookmen—both readers and writers—will doubtless regard it as quite a startling piece of literary intelligence to be told that Dr. Noah Webster, whose spelling books, half a century ago, carried so much light and language into our public schools, and whose unbridled dictionary at a later period rendered him so famous that the world often insisted upon buying the mantle of the "gentle Daniel" upon his shoulders, was the author of a corrected, amended and expurgated edition of the Scriptures, the New Testament of which was lettered on the back, "Webster's Testament." When one calls to mind the strong and widespread opposition to the revision of our day, although the work of a congress of the world's most pious and learned men, it does seem almost incredible that Dr. Webster was not the very outset carried backward from his purpose by a deep and virulent current of public opinion. There was some opposition, but apparently not enough to deter Webster from entering upon the task which he in after life pronounced the greatest result of his scholarship.

Starting out with the postulate that the beauty of many passages and the sense that others had suffered injury from the fact that the lapse of two or three centuries had wrought many changes in the meaning of many words, while it had permitted others to fall into disuse, he marked out for himself the following as the only logical course to pursue: (1) To substitute words and phrases now in general use for those now wholly obsolete or beneath the dignity of the subject. (2) To correct all errors of grammar. (3) To insert euphemisms in the place of words that cannot with propriety be uttered before a promiscuous audience. He bravely faced the charge of arrogance which was made against him, and proclaimed that the revision was undertaken upon his own responsibility.

In a ten page introduction Dr. Webster states and explains the alterations made by him. A few of the changes are noted, as follows: "Take no thought," becomes "Do not anxious." "Ship" of the New Testament is replaced by "boat." Festus tells Paul that he is "innocent" instead of "mad." Light under a "bushel" is made to read "under a close vessel." The "best" of the Apocalypse gives place to "living being." "Strain at a gnat," etc., is corrected to read "Strain out a gnat, etc." Recognizing the fact that the term "hell" stood for the Hades of antiquity, Dr. Webster would have most willingly drawn his pen through it, as did the revisors in our day; but he durst not. The time had not yet come for so radical an emendation, and therefore he contented himself with a footnote calling attention to the mistranslation of the term. The great lexicographer did his work thoroughly, carefully refraining, however, from altering the general style of the version.

The amended Bible—an octavo of 900 pages, printed by Hazell, Howe & Co. and published by Durrill & Peck, New Haven—appeared in 1833. Webster boldly set his name upon the title page as follows: "With amendments of the language by Noah Webster, LL.D."

In 1839 an octavo edition of the New Testament was published by S. Babcock, New Haven, intended for the use of schools and academies, the welfare of which always lay close to Webster's heart. In 1841 a pocket edition of his Bible, in pearl type, was published by Webster himself. How rare Webster Bibles may be the writer is unable to say, but certainly it would be hard to conceive of a more interesting addition to the bookshelves of dealer or amateur than one of these proofs of Noah Webster's piety, courage and erudition.—Book Lore.

A Learned Colored Man.

Edward Wilnot Blyden is perhaps the ablest negro in the world. He can read the Koran in Arabic, the Bible in Hebrew, Homer in Greek, Virgil in Latin, Shakespeare in English and Dante in Italian. Though a native of the island of St. Thomas, he was brought up in Monrovia, Liberia, and there, by his unusual literary ability, he has attracted attention to himself as the champion of a negro civilization that shall be coterminous with the limits of the dark continent. Blyden controverts the idea of Winwood Read that the natives in Africa will disappear before the whites, as the Indians did in America. The climate will save them, and instead of being destroyed by the Europeans, they will be civilized by the efforts now being made to open Africa to commerce and settlement. To Blyden the Anglo-Saxons are hard of heart and strong of will, while the negro is the child of love and suffering. Blyden is a complete know-nothing, and his cry is "Africa for the Africa." He is likely to have few to oppose him in this matter, for not even the children of Africans raised in America can be induced to remain there if they have the means to get away.—Globe-Democrat.

Cincinnati's New Affliction.

There is prevailing in Cincinnati a light type of what in the good old days before the physicians went crazy over bacteriology was known as "limbague." You are not sick enough to go to bed and yet feel about as mean as a man in active life can feel. You drag slowly to your place of business, worry through with it, go home hoping to feel better the next day and come back in exactly the same condition. The remedies, or what the physicians call the "indications," are these: Careful habits, careful diet, plenty of sleep, plenty of open air exercise and plenty of quinine.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The President Settling Down.

Those who watch President Cleveland closely say that he no longer seems to feel that he is a bridegroom, but considers himself an old married man. Says an observer: "He does not seem to take the same interest in pretty girls and fair young maidens he did just after his marriage. Those who have watched him lately at the receptions say that, while he still has a cordial greeting for all, yet there lacks that 'something' he used to thrust into the hand shaking of a newly married couple."—Cleveland Leader.

A Thief's Restitution.

When Mr. W. H. Henton, of Glassboro', N. J., was a guest at a Philadelphia hotel more than twenty years ago, a thief stole his watch. Last week he received by express a small parcel containing a handsome gold watch and a note which read: "In this box you will find a gold watch to be recognized as a substitute for the one taken from your room in a Philadelphia hotel in 1855."—New York Evening World.

The Negroes in Washington.

M. Blouet ("Max O'Reil") was much interested in the negroes in Washington. They were a new race to him and he admired them greatly. While there he attended a church frequented by colored people. "I was told," he said, "that I should be amused. But I was impressed. The eloquence of the preacher and the earnestness of his hearers were both striking and pleasing."—New York World.

Trick of Grand Army Men.

Of all the Yankee tricks I ever heard of during my twenty years' experience behind a hotel desk, where one is likely to learn all about human invention, there is none that will compare with one devised and successfully played by several members of an eastern delegation to the late Grand Army encampment in this city. The hotel was crowded and five or six of the New Hampshire boys were compelled to occupy one room. The department commander was one of the party, and a gay fellow he was. He and one other of the party used to go out and spend their evenings, leaving the others to tuck early.

The first night or two the boys had a picket out to see what time the commander got home. Then they dropped on a new plan of timing him. They got a candle and burning it an hour found out exactly how far it burned down. Then they marked it by hours and went to sleep, leaving the candle burning. When the commander got home he extinguished the light and retired. The next morning he was surprised to find that every man about the headquarters knew when he arrived home the night before. The candle trick was explained, and the commander enjoyed it hugely.—Thomas Parker in Globe-Democrat.

Story of a Swallow.

People have swallowed unpleasant creatures while incautiously drinking from brooks and springs, and it is said a mouse once ran down a dog's throat; but we never heard of a boy swallowing a bird. The Boston Record tells of one who narrowly escaped doing so. "I've heard of strange accidents befalling people," remarked a surgeon the other evening, "but the one I was called upon to attend the other afternoon beats anything for novelty that ever came under my notice. 'A little boy was flying a kite on the house-top. Another lad two or three houses away was engaged in the same diversion. One opened his mouth to call to the other, and just then a flock of swallows came flying by. One of the swallows, evidently confused, flew against the boy's face, driving his bill clean through his cheek. In his agony the lad closed his teeth hard and held the bird fast. The swallow was partly stunned by the shock, and with the bird sticking out from his cheek, the lad ran down stairs to his mother. She removed the bird and summoned me to attend the lad. That bird now occupies a handsome cage in the house, and the owner wouldn't part with it under any consideration.'—Exchange.

The Remains of an Explorer.

Gustav Nachtigal was one of the most famous German explorers of the interior of Africa. He died at his post of duty, in Africa, and his remains were deposited on Cape Palmas in Liberia. Herr von Soden, the governor of the German colony of Cameroon, has now received orders to go to Liberia and negotiate for the disinterment of the remains and their transportation to, and burial at, the German colony. The grave has been repeatedly desecrated in its present location, and the government of Liberia seems unable to prevent such outrages. The governor is to go there upon a commercial vessel first, and if the Liberians are stubborn and refuse giving up the dead man's ashes, he is to return there in a government vessel and renew his demand. Such demand being coupled with a display of guns and bayonets, as usual, there is no doubt the dorkies composing the Liberian government will be quick enough to see the wisdom of allowing some dry bones to be dug up rather than run the risk of having some more bones made dry in an attempt to prevent the German grave diggers doing their work.—Chicago News.

The Dahlia in France.

According to a communication made by M. de Cazanove to the National Acclimatization society at Paris, France, the beautiful flower dahlia was introduced into France in 1712. The father of the famous aeronauts, Montgolfier, in that year received from a friend residing on Ile-de-France (Mauritius), in the Indian ocean, some etable bulbs. He planted them, and, seeing the blossoms, was so charmed with their beauty that he forgot everything about their being etable, and took to cultivating them for the flowers. From Annam, where he lived, they rapidly spread over France and other countries.—Chicago News.

A Mutiny in Peru.

A mutiny broke out in the barracks of the Zepita battalion at Trujillo, in Peru, and two companies succeeded in escaping after mortally wounding the captain of the guard and killing the sentry. The mutiny was led by the sergeant, who directed his forces to the prefecture, shouting: "Long live liberty! Death to the squinting sub-prefect!" This attack was easily repulsed and the mutiny crushed. Fourteen men and their leader have been shot. It is said that the soldiers mutinied owing to only receiving three paper soles per day as ration money.

The Shah's Visit.

The news that the shah of Persia will visit England again is not welcomed by the court officials, but it will not do to offend him, and he must again be lodged in a palace and feted. However, it will please the managers of public entertainments, for the affable potentate is certain by his presence to draw a big crowd to any theatre or hall. The crowd which got such fun out of Nasred-Din in 1873 will be eager to repeat its old experience of monarch who rather liked to be surrounded by a crowd.—Boston Transcript.

Washington Girls Have News Classes.

The latest fad in social circles at Washington is news classes among young ladies. A large party meets twice a week in the afternoon, and the teacher, a lady of great culture, discusses with them the news of the day. She takes a newspaper, and, selecting matters of foreign and domestic interest, discusses and explains them in a most entertaining manner, the members of the class asking questions and making comments and suggestions.—Courier-Journal.

Frogs in Commerce.

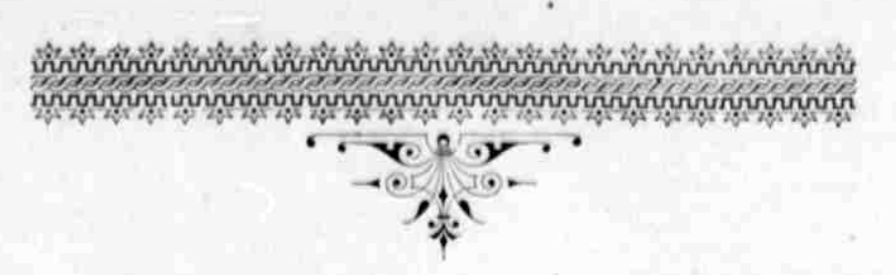
Almost all the frogs used for experiments in vivisection in the European universities are supplied by an old fisherman of Kopenich, who, for forty-five years past, has devoted himself to this pursuit. Sometimes he has succeeded in catching as many as 1,000 in one night. The traffic must be quite profitable, as the frogs sell for an average of two to four cents apiece.—Period. Espan.

Angry Old Ladies.

There were two very angry country ladies in New York the other night. They had come to visit a rather penurious relative, who the next morning presented them with a little red covered guide's book, with the legend, "The way to see New York in half your intended time," inscribed in gold letters across the frontispiece.—New York Letter.

The Fire Escape.

Guest—Have you a fire escape in this house? Landlord—Two of 'em, sir. Guest—I thought so. The fire all escaped in my room last night, and I came near freezing.—Lawrence American.



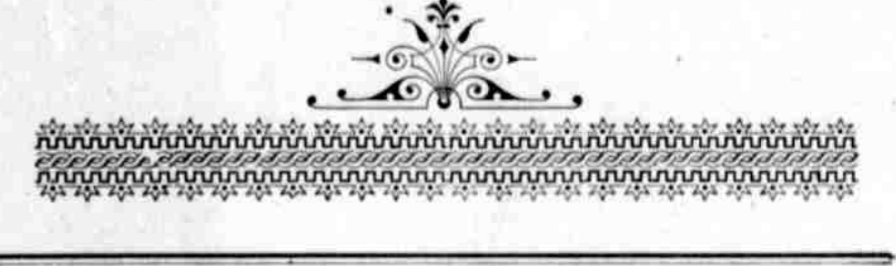
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