

OMAHA ILLUSTRATED BEE.

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Pen and Picture Pointers

In the frontpiece of The Bee today most of our readers will recognize the features of the popular congressman from the Second Nebraska district, Hon. David H. Mercer, who has just been renominated for a fifth term in the lower house of the national legislature. In view of the extended sketch of Mr. Mercer's personal history and public career in another column it is unnecessary here to allude to his characteristics further than to note the strong hold which he has upon the people of his district, which has resulted in conferring upon him an honor never before enjoyed by any other Nebraskan—namely, that of being retained in congress for successive terms and renominated for a fifth. By reason of his seniority and long experience he has naturally been accorded recognition as head of the Nebraska delegation in the house, which brings him the chairmanship of an important committee and makes him a leader in the councils of the party. He will undoubtedly figure more prominently than ever in the Fifty-seventh congress when re-elected to membership in that body.

This week we print the picture of Mr. Abraham Castetter, the pioneer banker of Washington county, Nebraska, who died at his residence in Blair, April 23, 1900. Mr. Castetter located at DeSoto, Neb., in 1857, and was county clerk of Washington county several terms under the territorial govern-



LATE ABRAHAM CASTETTER—PIONEER BANKER OF BLAIR, NEB.

ment. In the spring of 1869 he moved to Blair and went into the banking business. He had great credit as a banker and was a man of wonderful resources. The banking house he left to his family stands as a monument to his memory, his energy and his good business judgment. He was public-spirited, generous and charitable. Hundreds of people received aid from Mr. Castetter which was given no publicity, as he was a man that had no desire for cheap notoriety. He was a very sociable, plain, humble man in his ways and always ready to help a friend, even though it required great personal sacrifice on his part. Mr. Castetter was born at East Liberty, O., February 13, 1831. He married Miss Helen Phelps at Williston, Vt., May 9, 1854. Six children were born to them and his wife and four children, Mrs. B. F. Haller, Frank Castetter, Mrs. H. F. Claridge and Mrs. J. N. Nash of Central City, Neb., survive him.

Prof. S. D. Beals, whose likeness is reproduced in this number, was the oldest of all Nebraska educators, having served continuously in the public schools of Omaha for thirty-nine years. Prof. Beals was born in Chenango county, New York, seventy-four years ago, and came to Omaha early in 1860. For some time he held the position of superintendent of schools of Omaha and was also engaged in a broader field as state superintendent of public instruction. Prof. Beals served for a short time as principal of the High school and was identified with the institution as one of its instructors during nearly all of his residence in Omaha. His branches were algebra and astronomy and he was later entrusted with all the records of the school, registering the attendance, scholarship and general standing of each pupil. His death occurred on April 27 at 11:30 p. m., the immediate cause being hemorrhage of the lungs resulting from over-exertion in his garden and from general feebleness.

One of the most appropriate and popular appointments made by Governor Shaw was that of W. H. Johnston as a member of the Iowa State Library commission, created by the Twenty-eighth general assembly. Mr. Johnston was born in New York state sixty-two years ago, and is at present a practicing attorney at Fort Dodge. He is also deputy clerk of the United States circuit and dis-

trict courts of the Northern district of Iowa. The Fort Dodge free public library, one of the largest and most successful in the state, was established in 1874, and since its establishment Mr. Johnston has been the guiding spirit of the institution. He has been prominent in state library work since 1890, at which time he was one of the prime movers and organizers of the Iowa State Library association, of which he was the first vice president. For the last four years he has been president of this association. He has compiled the statistics of Iowa libraries for



W. H. JOHNSTON OF FORT DODGE, IA.—RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION OF IOWA.

the Iowa Official Register ever since the figures of these institutions have found a place in this volume. It was largely through his efforts that free public libraries supplanted the association libraries in the north-central part of the state. As a result of the interest which he awakened in the work Fort Dodge is soon to secure a splendid library building to be erected at a cost of \$25,000, of which sum \$10,000 was contributed by Mrs. A. E. Haskell as a memorial to her husband. The appointment came without his knowledge or solicitation and is a worthy tribute to a deserving man. Mr. Johnston has as yet received no official notification of his appointment, and is loth to commit himself to any views regarding the work of the commission, preferring to wait until such notification has been officially given him.

For several years Omaha camp No. 120, Modern Woodmen of America, has held the banner as the largest camp of the order in Nebraska. Its membership at the present time is nearly 800 and the officers have set their mark at 1,000 by January 1, 1901. In this week's Bee is a photograph of the officers and Foresters of the camp. J. W. Barnett is the venerable consul and H. C. Martens is captain of the Foresters.

Among the monuments and testimonies to the liberality of Count John A. Creighton of Omaha is the Creighton Medical college, which was established by his gifts in 1893. A photograph of the graduating class for 1900 is printed in this issue of The Bee. Two women and eighteen men completed the four-years' course and received their diplomas April 26.

The Nebraska university basket ball team won the 1900 championship of Nebraska and Kansas by defeating the strong Young Men's Christian association teams at Omaha and Lincoln and trilling the colors of the Kansas university basket ball team in the dust by



CLASS THAT GRADUATED FROM THE CREIGHTON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OMAHA, APRIL 26, 1900.—Photo by Heyn.

the score of 4 to 0. We print a photograph of the champions with Dr. William W. Hastings, their physical director, and T. J. Hewitt, manager of the team.

About Noted People

George Frederick Williams of Boston, who is mentioned for the vice presidential nomination of the democratic party, is a blue-eyed, light-complexioned, well dressed bachelor of 44. His father, a German, came to America as George Weinigman, but changed his name to Williams.

General MacArthur escaped death at the battle of Konesaw, in the civil war, by means of a package of letters which he carried in his pocket. It is one of the few genuine cases of the many that are told of where letters from some one "dearer than a sister" saved the life of him who was carrying them.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich said the other day: "I find that I write best at night and in the early morning." Very frequently he sleeps during the day, works until 3 a. m., takes a nap of three hours, followed by a light breakfast, and works again until 10 or 11 o'clock.

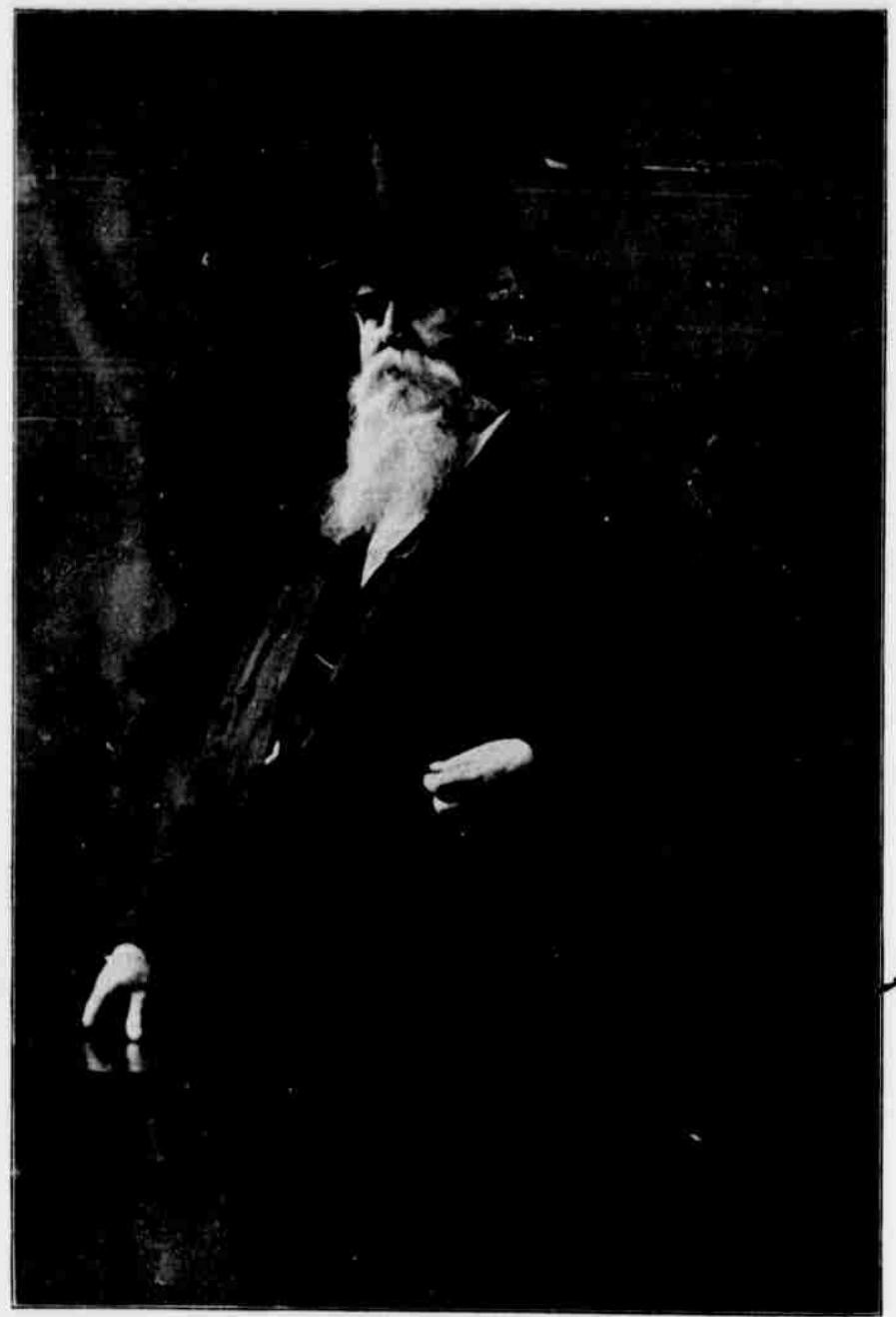
Captain Theodore Matheny, who died in Philadelphia last week, was intimately concerned in one of the most thrilling episodes of the civil war. A Hungarian, he was a lieutenant in General Fremont's bodyguard. September 26, 1861, this body of cavalry, numbering 300 men, was ordered to capture Springfield, Mo., which was held by 2,000 men. Matheny was ordered to take thirty men and attack 300. The charge was successful for its boldness.

Just before Miss Mary Kingsley left England to go to South Africa she gave a final lecture at the United Services Institution on



LATE PROF. SAMUEL D. BEALS—FOUNDER OF GRADED SCHOOL SYSTEM IN OMAHA.

"Imperialism" as she understood it. In the course of her address she dwelt at length on the work done by a great public servant in the Malay peninsula. After the lecture was over an old gentleman came up to Miss Kingsley, and, presenting his card, asked leave to shake hands with her. It was the man of whom she had spoken. In her surprise she said: "But I thought you were dead!" "I thought," replied the bullder of the empire, "that I was forgotten."



COUNT JOHN A. CREIGHTON OF OMAHA—RECIPIENT OF THE LAETARE MEDAL, CONFERRED BY THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME—Photo by Heyn.

Omaha's Recipient of The Laetare Medal

Doubtless few persons have understood the recent allusion of the Omaha press to the Laetare medal which has just been conferred upon one of our number—John A. Creighton. This medal is given yearly to some member of the Catholic laity, who has rendered distinguished services to religion, education or morality. Its object is the recognition and encouragement of lay activity. The practice of bestowing this medal originated some years ago from a discussion of a number of the faculty of Notre Dame university, Notre Dame, Ind.

Among the distinguished personages to receive this honor thus far are John Gilmory Shea, the historian and authority on Indian antiquities and dialects; Patrick Keeley, the famous church architect; Eliza Allen Starr, the well known lecturer and artist; General John Newton; P. V. Hickey, the veteran Catholic journalist; Mrs. Anna Hanson

Dorsey, the talented writer of chaste fiction; Dr. William J. Onahan of Chicago, chairman of the Catholic congress of 1889; Daniel Dougherty, the orator, whom many of our readers had the pleasure of hearing in this city some eight or ten years ago; Major Henry F. Brownson, the soldier-scholar of Detroit; Patrick Donahue, the founder of Donahue's Magazine, and for years a most able and active editor; Mr. Augustin Daly, the accomplished director, who did so much for the moral renovation of the stage and whose death occurred recently; General Rosecrans, who needs no eulogy in America; Mrs. Sadler, the author; Dr. Addis Emmet, one of the ablest physicians and surgeons of the country; Hon. Timothy E. Howard, the eminent jurist; Mary Gwendolen Caldwell, Marchioness de Meriville, the founder of the Catholic University of America, and last, but not least, Count John A. Creighton.

Mr. Creighton needs no introduction to Omahans. Every member of our community knows and reveres him for his magnificent gifts to charity. Creighton college, the only free college of arts and sciences in the United States, is much indebted to him for substantial aid. The scientific department and the astronomical observatory are his gifts. St. Joseph's hospital is a memorial of his wife, and had Mr. Creighton's generosity brought forth no fruit other than St. Joseph's the people of Omaha and especially the poor of the city would have ample reason to be grateful. The John A. Creighton Medical college, which closed a very successful year last Thursday evening, is at once one of the best medical colleges in the country, both in point of faculty and equipment, and a fitting monument to its noble founder.

On Twenty-ninth and Hamilton streets stands another witness to Mr. Creighton's generosity—a large, brick building peopled by the Poor Clares, an order of contemplative nuns, who have but three convents in the United States. The Omaha house is presided over by a niece of Pope Leo XIII, the present reigning pontiff.

These are but a few of the institutions that have received aid from generous Mr. Creighton. None but his secretary could tell of the thousands of dollars he has given to outside institutions and to alleviate private wants. A few years ago Mr. Creighton was honored by the present pope with the title of count, and all those who know or know of him, join on this occasion in wishing him length of years and an abundance of happiness. Long live Count Creighton, Omaha's distinguished son, in whom she is well pleased.

Sign of Spring

"Now, little Jim, tell the class what sure sign we have that spring is here."
"Yes'm: we know it's spring when we gits t' wear our Sunday clothes ev'ry day."