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## CURRENT REMARK.

Now that the mud has dried up we can, without being accused of having lost rubbers, complain about the poor crossings of the city. Certainly, no place that pretends to be an enterprising city could have a more horrible lot of street-crossings; and if Lincoln does not wake up she will deserve the name of "small village."

The practice of "doctoring" up everything has become so common that one can place no dependence in anything. Every contest, whether of brain or muscle, is said to be fixed. Some people have so completely lost faith that they claim the base ball games of the Western League have been "fixed" so that the Lincoln nine will not get so badly beaten. Of course this is not true; but it does show that according to practice such an arrangement is to be expected.

The Ohio state senate is just now in a predicament quite unique. The Democratic senators, consisting of a majority, have refused to attend the sessions of that body, thus leaving the assembly without a quorum. The cause of this unexpected action is, the Democrats allege, that a scheme has been concocted between the president of the senate and the Republican members, according to which contesting members were to be given the positions for which they were striving, whether or not they were entitled to the places. In default of a better remedy, the Democrats have left the president with a number too small to transact any business, and have issued a manifesto explaining their actions to the people. We await with interest further developments in this queer contest.

It is but fair to mention here the improvements now being made by the city. We have before joined in the general clamor for paved streets, good sidewalks and a system of sewerage, and have said that Lincoln would be far behind the times if these improvements were not soon begun. The question of paving is being agitated, and the measures necessary for the work are now being taken. A system of sewerage is a thing of the near future. The Waring system has been adopted by the council as the most efficient and perfect system available here, and an election has been called for June 26th to vote bonds for its immediate construction. There is little or no danger of the people of this city voting against an improvement so greatly needed and so soon to become a necessity.

The decrease of denominational prejudice between the different divisions of the christian church is most gratifying to those who have at heart the spread of the christian religion. The frequent union meetings and exchange of pulpits shows a growing fraternal feeling between ministers of the gospel which cannot fail to benefit both the pastor and the church. The time has been when the feeling between certain denominations was almost fierce in its vehemence and neither sect would believe any good of the other. True Christianity is not possible where such animosities exist, and the churches

have begun to realize it. A committee has lately been appointed to adjust the differences between the northern and southern branches of the Methodist church. At the recent Southern Baptist Conference speeches were made regretting the division in that church and hoping for a speedy reconciliation. So the good work goes on, and we may soon hope to see all sectarian strife cease. It is perhaps well that the different denominations exist but let there be more harmony between them, and let them work in common for the same end, the elevation of humanity.

An account of a recent debate between deaf mutes brings to mind the wonderful progress made in the education of this unfortunate class. It is not many years since a deaf mute was considered almost an idiot, and no pains were taken to teach him anything. Then, a person born deaf and dumb, though every other faculty was perfect, lived a life but little better than the dog, with which, perhaps, the mute had a better understanding than with those of his own kind. Now, thanks to the beneficent hand of Science and her humane investigators, these unfortunates are severally fitted for an active, useful life. The difficulties to be overcome in this training are not at first so apparent. But when we consider how long it must take even to produce in the mind of the pupil an idea of what a word is, and how, after that fundamental idea is fixed, a conception of the relation between objects and the arbitrary signs necessarily used to represent them must be so slowly imparted, then it is that we begin to realize the arduous nature of the task. Many noble men and women are devoting their lives to this work, and though their labors are not appreciated by the general public, the thousands whom they have freed from the thralldom of this misfortune will rise up and call them blessed.

Some persons when writing under a *nom de plume* become exceedingly brave and consider themselves privileged to criticize as unfairly as they please. The University correspondent of the *Capital City Courier* seems to be of this description. In a recent batch of items there were two which are calculated to cast slurs upon the University and its Chancellor. That referring to the Chancellor was especially unjust, and we are surprised that any student should express himself in such a manner. The absences of the Chancellor have been either on account of sickness or of business connected with the University, and in either case the affairs of the University have not been allowed to suffer. Neither have these absences been so frequent nor so extended as the *Courier* correspondent would have it appear. The statement that there are "nearly as many professors and tutors as students" is too absurd to be believed but will nevertheless give a stranger a poor idea of the institution and its work. As long as half of the classes have to be divided into two divisions in order to accommodate the number of students, we have small reason to complain of a surplus of instructors. We are glad to see the papers of the city contain University news but hope that in the future misstatements and exaggerations of the defects of the University will be excluded.

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