

## A WOMAN'S CRITICISM.

[Written for THE COURIER.]

The women's edition of the *Call*, dated Saturday March 30, came Sunday morning just as I was about starting for church. Interest in the work of these enterprising women kept me from attending church that day.

The paper was a surprise.

Knowing something of the difficulties under which it was prepared and issued, the apparent completeness of it seemed remarkable. I think the people of Lincoln will agree with me when I say that many much advertised special editions of Lincoln papers have not equalled it in interest. Some of the articles were notably able, and the result of the enterprise adds to the triumphs already achieved by the ladies of the W. C. A. Perhaps the ladies who assisted in this experiment in journalism will not object to the public expression of some thoughts that occurred to me as I enjoyed the novel experience of a Sunday spent in the persual of a paper that I could regard as peculiarly my own, while my husband had retired from view behind the leaves of the *Journal* and his Chicago paper.

Where in the ranks of the professional newspaper men of this city could be found ability like that of Mrs. Horton's which gave artistic value to this women's *Call*? Has any Lincoln paper ever contained as handsome an embellishment as that which adorned the first page of the *Call*?

I noticed that the type used in the different pages did not correspond. Inquiry among people better informed than myself elicited the fact that most of the type used was "brevier," but the "faces" were different, a consequence of the necessity of having other printing offices set up some of the pages. The women are not responsible for this.

There was a tendency to long essays, and a scarcity of brief, catchy pieces that some of the women could easily have furnished.

I know Mrs. Sawyer's article was very learned and interesting; I have not read it; the four columns frightened me.

Then that page about the educational institutions was awfully dreary. We have had too much of this sort of thing from the newspaper men.

The editorial page held my attention, but a little closer supervision on the part of the editor-in-chief might have unified these editorial expressions and prevented the *Journal's* saying that this page was wobbly.

Mrs. Green's book review impressed me as the view of person who had read the book, "Stories of the Foot-Hills" by Mrs. Graham, whom many of us know, intelligently and carefully.

When Mrs. Burton Harrison lately commenced a series of weekly articles in the *New York Herald* she signed her name, "Mrs. Burton Harrison." One or two of the critically inclined *New York* journals ridiculed Mrs. Harrison for this, and I noticed all her articles since the first have been signed "Constance C. Harrison." Mrs. F. S. Stein, Mrs. H. W. Hardy, Mrs. I. S. P. Weeks, Mrs. E. T. Hartley, Mrs. A. J. Sawyer and others are open to the same criticism bestowed on Mrs. Harrison.

My husband says he could have told the paper was written by women by the profuse use of italics. He says women cannot get away from the habit of underscoring and emphasizing things.

There are several women in this city who have had more or less experience in newspaper writing, Miss Manley, Miss Harris, Miss Cather, Miss Bullock, and others, and I looked in vain for anything that I could distinguish as coming from them, although the names of some of them appeared in the published list of the staff. Why were their services not enlisted?

But it is doubtless ungracious in me to criticize what everybody must acknowledge is a successful demonstration of women's ability to cope with the most difficult undertakings that are usually left to men. It isn't an easy matter to "get out" a twenty-four page newspaper. The women have done this, and done it well.

—RUTH.

## READING

MONDAY APRIL 8.

Mr. William Reed Dunroy

—WILL GIVE A—

... READING ...

From his poems and prose in the

chapel of the University of

Nebraska . . . . .

MONDAY EVENING, 8 O'CLOCK.

MUSIC



Admission, 25 cts.