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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 20, 1894.

THE CIVIC FEDERATION. A meeting of the executive committee of the civic federation was held this week. According to newspaper report four committees of three members each will be appointed in the near future to look into the matter of municipal administration. One will consider the question of water supply, one lighting, one paving, and one legal affairs. There will also be numerous sub committees. The civic federation started out to consider the different phases of municipal government with a view to general improvement and reform, but early in the campaign the organization dropped every consideration save that of morals, and by a singular combination of democrats, populists and mugwump office seekers, sought, under the leadership of the man from Brownville, to convince the people that its morality was the only proper kind of morality. Every other kind of morality was cried down. The apotheosis of the man from Brownville proceeded with much effect, Mr. Raymond and Mr. Hall made daily exhibitions of their own rectitude and pleaded zealously for the sanctification of the city, the churches echoed the smooth palavar of Mr. Bryan, and throughout the city there was much talking and scheming and planning—all under the guise of moral reform. But it soon developed that the federation instead of being managed by genuine moralists in the interest of genuine morality, was in fact manipulated by genuine democrats in the interest of genuine democrats; in other words, in the interest of the political twins, the man from Brownville and the man with the silver tongue. Having departed from its original purpose as a non-partisan organi-

zation to become the catspaw of two or three ambitious democrats, the federation lost favor in the eyes of the people and on election day was engulfed in the sweeping tide of republicanism. The federation by adhering to the purpose for which it was organized might have obtained the co-operation of the majority of good citizens and accomplished much good. But it allowed itself to be used, and the flickering torch of pseudo morality was snuffed out 'mid cries of derision. Citizens of Lincoln realize the necessity of a more economical policy in the expenditure of public money and of a radical reform in many of the business methods of the municipal corporation. They are, we believe, ready to lend hearty assistance to a proper effort to bring about these reforms. There is a field for an organization such as the civic federation at one time promised to become, and if, upon reorganization, it shall keep itself aloof from party politics and remain true to its purpose it ought to receive the aid of all good citizens. The civic federation can justify its existence by a general attempt to awaken the dormant public conscience, by trying to work inside of the political parties to the end that better men may be nominated for office by all parties, by maintaining a vigilant supervision over all public acts, by considering and discussing publicly such questions as municipal finance, paving, water supply, electric lighting, etc. etc. It must not lend itself to any scheme to further the personal ambitions of any man or set of men, whether they be republicans, democrats, populists or prohibitionists. It may be in a sense political, but if it is to be successful it must be strictly non-partisan.

AS TO CANFIELD'S SUCCESSOR Chancellor Canfield in resigning has imposed a serious task upon the board of regents of the state university. The university has made splendid progress in the last few years, and there must be no step backward now. It must not only not go backward, but it must do better than keep even. It must continue to advance. The success of the institution depends largely upon the chancellor, Where will the board of regents find a man with the ability and the energy to keep on in the good work already begun? The position is most difficult to fill. The regents have now to perform the most important duty they have ever been called upon to discharge. The selection of a chancellor is a much more serious and important undertaking now than it was at the time Professor Canfield was chosen. The university is a much bigger thing now than it was then. The present chancellor has lifted it up and placed it on a high plane. Some names have already been suggested in connection with the succession. They are the names of citizens of Lincoln and Omaha, men of undoubted ability; but there is little probability that the regents will select any one of those whose names have thus far been proposed. To do so would be unwise, as the selection of any of these men would stir up jealousy that would be prejudicial to the university. Probably the best result could be obtained by going outside the state and keeping clear of all local interests. Somewhere in the