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W. MORTON SMITH Editor and Manager  
SARAH B. HARRIS Associate Editor

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## OBSERVATIONS

The Trans-Mississippi exposition! It will be the greatest show on earth. It will be a glittering aggregation of marvels and magnificence. It will not be held until 1898. In the meantime some will die. Just think of dying without gazing on the great Omaha spectacle! Fate is unkind. Omaha hasn't any railway depot, and it is a few chips shy in several other directions. But the Trans-Mississippi exposition will dazzle the eyes of 32,000,000 people who, according to the World-Herald, are in the country tributary to Omaha. These 32,000,000 people are worth \$49,000,000,000. Great Scott! Why, that exposition ought to be greater even than the Douglas county fair. A population of 32,000,000 people worth \$49,000,000,000 to draw from! Stupendous! No exposition could be anything but a magnificent success that has such a constituency. But why stop at 32,000,000 people? There are 38,000,000 more people in the United States, all of whom ought to attend the Trans-Mississippi exposition, and these 70,000,000 people are worth, probably, \$100,000,000,000. There ought to be lots of money spent in Omaha for lemonade and Fred Krug's beer. There are a good many people in the North American continent in addition to the 70,000,000 inhabitants of the United States. There are at least 20,000,000 of these. That would make a constituency of 90,000,000 for the Omaha exposition. And then the people down in South America ought to be glad to attend the Omaha show. The South Americans number 36,420,000, not including births in the last thirty days. Thus we are staggered as we consider the immense possibilities of the Trans-Mississippi exposition. But this is not all. There is Europe. Drs. Wagner and Supan estimate the population of Europe, without Ireland, Nova Zembla,

Atlantic Islands, etc., at 357,379,000, or with scattering settlements, 380,200,000. In Asia, according to a recent count, there are 851,000,001 persons. And in Africa there are not less than 127,000,000 people. In brief the Omaha show, with all its pomp and panoply, will appeal to 1,487,901,001 persons, worth, approximately, \$694,476,347,333,413,107,413,749,000,000,017. Of course there will be a number of children born between now and September 1898, but most of them will not care to attend the Omaha exposition—by that time every town in Nebraska will have the curfew. But is not the field immense and ought not the Trans-Mississippi show, with a tributary population such as is here indicated, the said population possessing wealth almost beyond computation, to measure up to the Barnum standard, and prove to be the greatest and grandest show the world has ever seen?

The respected Journal once more discusses the law of libel. It cites a case in the United Kingdom wherein the printing of the sentence, "What I Think About it," followed by a white space, was alleged to be libellous. The Journal has for years been leaving blank spaces under its editorial captions, and it would be distressing if this careful contemporary should be legally held for what somebody thought it might have said if it had said anything about anything.

Speaking of presidential politics in this state the Journal says: "The Journal has its preference and has expressed it, but it fully realizes that no one is bound to be governed in his action by the opinion of any other man, be he editor, senator or congressman." The editor emeritus must have dropped in and written that. It has all the familiar earmarks. The files of the Journal are accessible, and I invite investigators and discoverers to peruse recent issues. Anyone finding an expression of the Journal's preference for president will be given a paid up subscription to The Courier for life.

The present congress is not much of a success in voting tariff laws and affording financial relief to the country, but talking war is its long suit.

How calloused Mayor Graham must be! Every evening the curfew sends out its warning, clear and shrill, penetrating every nook and corner of the city. Every evening the whistle proclaims the sweep of virtue, the flux of purity, and the little children are held in check as the angry billows held back King Cnut. But the mayor, as he sits by his fireside and listens to the sound of the curfew feels no tremor of regret, no twinge of conscience, no pain of repentance. The curfew every night directs his attention to things pure and clean and lawful. But he makes no sign. Down town gamblers ply their unlawful trade, and the night is made hideous by sinful revels. The mayor

is not disturbed. It was taken for granted when the curfew was adopted that the mayor would follow it up by a general reform all along the line. But for some reason he does not act. Young boys were infinitely safer on the streets than in the gambling hells whither many of them are driven by the curfew. If the mayor cannot bring himself to closing the gambling places he might at least see that they are not frequented by boys under 21. At present these form the largest part of the patronage of these resorts.

The curfew can be heard all the way to Fremont. Ross Hammond is impressed by the noise and remarks in the Tribune: "Lincoln is getting so moral that it will soon be too good a place to hold the legislature." This might be if the virtuous Mr. Lawlor were not held in check by the wicked Mr. Graham. Notice is hereby served on all candidates for the legislature throughout the state that the town is still wide open. This town, by the grace of the mayor, can provide any variety of irregular entertainment that may be asked for.

Congressman Hailer is not a dull man. He is more than ordinarily clever. His letter explaining his connection with the peculiar exploitation known as the Manderson Boom is one of the most interesting personal statements that have been given to the Nebraska public since Dan Cook wrote of the democracy and himself a year ago. The letter is well put together. It is beautifully phrased. There is just enough righteous indignation to give it spice.

"Is my reputation so low that any sane persons believe I would barter my convictions for a place on a committee" asks the congressman with fine fire, "and is the reputation of our entire delegation in the house of representatives and the reputation of General Manderson so much lower that it would be believed they would lend themselves to anyone in such a political prostitution?" Any apologies that Nebraska republicans may feel called upon to make may be addressed to "E. J. Hainer, M. C. Washington, D. C." Excess postage will be paid at the other end.

The congressman is insinuating. He says: "We all agree that no man—I care not what may be his position—has the authority to deliver our state to any presidential candidate. No man has been invested with authority to place Nebraska on the presidential bargain counter or in the delivery wagon to be hawked about to appease the vanity or vaulting ambition of anyone. No man has the right to foreclose the right of any other eligible citizen to aspire to the presidency, and to deny him the right to make his announcement of a candidacy unless more than four months prior to the nominating convention, is an attempt to fix a statute of limitations—which is simply ridiculous." This is the retort discourteous. Mr. Hainer has lived many years in the jungles of

Hamilton county, and any remissness on his part in that respect which a congressman should show to a senator should not be construed as a wilful insult. Senator Thurston, having twisted the British lion's tail into festoons will not be daunted by the scrumptious congressman from the Fourth district.

Some reckless disputant might answer Mr. Hainer and ask if any chairman of the republican state central committee, no matter if he be a congressman and the holder of a Committee Appointment, has the right to force the committee to take a position in opposition to the will of three-fourths of the members of the party; or, if any chairman or congressman is invested with the authority to place Nebraska on the presidential bargain counter or in the delivery wagon to be hawked about to appease the vanity or vaulting ambition of those most worthy patriots, Matt Quay and Tom Platt? But such an inquiry would be in bad taste, and in the interest of harmony in the republican party in this state, I hope no one will make it.

But Mr. Hainer's letter is a great production.

There is no good reason why the McKinley and Manderson followers in Nebraska should not come together. Mr. Manderson's friends contend that there is no possibility of McKinley being nominated. They say he will be disposed of in two or three ballots; and that then a man like Allison or Manderson will be nominated. Now, any delegation that may be chosen will be glad to secure any recognition or honor for Manderson that may be possible, and the minute it is demonstrated that McKinley is out of the race the sixteen Nebraska votes would be gladly turned over to the ex-senator. Some such arrangement as this ought to be satisfactory to both sides. It would end a most unseemly contention.

By the way, Mr. Hainer has been conspicuous in the fight in congress against the appropriation of public money for sectarian schools. He has exhibited considerable ability and force in his controversy, and he is to be heartily commended for the stand he has taken. It is worthy of note that the congressman denies that he is in any way connected with the A. P. A. and states that his parents were Catholics and that he, himself, was baptized a Catholic.

General Manderson, following Mr. Hainer, has written a long letter. He asserts that his candidacy is not in the interest of any other candidate, and concludes by saying that he is still in the hands of his friends. The ex-senator has the respect of the republicans of the state, and he is in a position to restore harmony within the party without any sacrifice on his part. He owes it to the party to do this, and he should act while he can act with good grace. Let