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## OBSERVATIONS

If 2,000,000 people visit the Trans-mississippi Exposition, and spend only ten dollars apiece, which is a low estimate in view of the history of exposition visitors, and their expenditures, it will put into circulation 20,000,000 dollars in this and surrounding states. —Omaha after all is only fifty miles away and the circulatory system would bring it to Lincoln and the towns west before they had time to become jealous of the metropolis.

There is no doubt that the tidal wave of migration which turned westward in the 70's was induced by railway advertising in Europe and England. That the railroads appreciate this is shown by their large subscriptions of which the Burlington's is the largest, amounting to \$30,000.

The president of the United States is about to issue his proclamation announcing to the world that the Trans-mississippi and International Exposition is to be held in the city of Omaha between the 1st day of June and the 1st day of November, 1898. This Exposition is designed to afford an opportunity for the states west of the Mississippi to make an exhibit of their resources and productive industries. Twenty states and four territories are embraced as the Trans-mississippi region. These states and territories cover an area of more than two and a half million square miles, with an aggregate population of nearly 25,000,000. They represent fully twenty billions of wealth. They are the great granary of America, and contain within their boundaries practically all the gold and silver mines of the United States, besides deposits of iron, copper, lead, zinc and other minerals of incalculable volume and value. They embrace, furthermore, the greatest

bodies of timber on the North American continent, as well as a large portion of the cotton belt, and all of the sugar-producing lands within the boundaries of the union. The railroads within the Trans-mississippi states aggregate 65,000 miles and the navigable waterways include the greatest of American rivers—the Mississippi, Missouri and the Columbia.

In the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 the exhibits of the Trans-mississippi states were overshadowed by the exhibits of foreign countries. Of the millions who passed through its gates, comparatively few carried away with them a distinct impression of the productive resources of that vast empire. The purpose of the projectors of the Trans-mississippi Exposition is to acquaint the nation and visitors from other countries with the fabulous wealth and stupendous possibilities of the greater west.

Those who have nothing to do but to amuse themselves get very tired of functions, the theatre and the opera, even of sports, though the last remains a pleasure long after functions are dead and buried deep under fathoms of ennui. Artists, since time was, have been favorites in society, though frequently poor and of middleclass origin—the latter a felony even greater than poverty. But they are able to originate new amusements for the Johnnies who have nothing but a cane and a wicked reputation to make life worth living. Therefore a studio invitation is never answered with "regrets" by the most bored of the men and women of the world who make society in any of the large cities. In Paris the annual artist's ball is at once the wildest and the most celebrated revelry of the year. The dancers are masked and in fancy costume. When the inhabitant of the Latin Quartier is too poor to buy a costume he paints one using his old clothes or his skin as he pleases. The police in Paris know their place and only interfere when a frolic becomes a misdemeanor.

Anthony Comstock and the president of the society for the prevention of cruelty to children have taught the police of New York to insist, with the alternative of arrest, on sober and unexcited conduct at all times. This is all very well, if policemen were able to discriminate between spirituous intoxication and that produced by gaiety and congenial company. For instance—the wickedest, most fascinating atmosphere or mist envelopes Mr. Breese's studio. Yet so far as the millions who are crazy to know the doings of the 400 can find out Mr. Breese has only had a number of fancy dress parties in his studio and has offered his guests a Dutch lunch as the night wore on. At a recent jollification the light dress of one of the ladies caught on fire and there being no water handy it was put out with champagne. The morning papers were shocked and said so. Marie

Antoinette was not more severely condemned for enquiring why the peasantry did not eat cake then, when she was told that they had no bread, which recalls the American lady at the Castellane garden fete, who used two loaves of bread to keep her feet dry when the waiters could not find her a foot-stool. Both of these women will go down in history as heartless jades careless of a people's misery. The papers who reprimand the "Carbonites," as the habitués of the Breese studio are called, for putting out a fire with champagne, forget that it was to save a human life that the precious liquid was poured out so freely. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Beckwith have just sent out invitations to a party which state that only infants and children under ten are expected, which, being interpreted, means that the same party of well known people who assembled in Mr. Breese's studio two weeks ago will repair to the Beckwith studio attired as infants or as little boys and girls. Mr. Duncan Cameron who impersonated the "Yellow Kid" at the Breese affair is expected to repeat his success at the Beckwiths. The looker-on at such gayeties and gambols is apt to be led into sneers at frivolous society people. Yet if the looker-on had nothing to do and plenty of money he would do as they do. Still the fear of gossip restrains excess so the carping critic has a negative mission that keeps the social order from assassinating him.

The Governor's office is a pathetic sight these days. Around it sit men and women who have reason to hope that on account of relationship, partisanship or influence they, their sons or their daughters will be appointed or selected to a clerkship or to something else as remunerative and easy. They arrive before the governor's office is unlocked in the morning and when his ponderously solemn tread is heard approaching the expressions and attitudes of the waiting company is as interesting as the modern realistic novel. The pie is large but it can not be cut into enough pieces to go around. Those who sit about the room with expectations founded on their need will go hungry after all.

Nebraska is as New York was in the days of Tilden when the sage sat in his library and dictated the policy of his party and designated places and those who should fill them. Yet if any one asked him for that which he did not care to grant he sent him off with the answer that he was not in a place to do anything for any one however much he might wish to.

To applicants who have been turned down or who are going to be turned down Mr. Bryan says he has nothing to do with picking out the state's hired men, that he is very busy on an autobiography, that he is friendly to every one and partial to none and that the ap-

plicant would better see Governor Holcomb or the legislators who have appointments to burn. Then is the office seeker warmed by the transfigured, illuminating smile and hypnotized into leaving. Not until he is a block away from the people's shrine on D street has he a suspicion that the prophet of the Poor, the Jeremiah of the Rich, the Sincere, the Disinterested, the Inspired, may have told him only a literal truth. And just at that time Mr. Bryan loses popularity in an area large enough to contain one populist.

The national recuperation which apparently set in when McKinley was elected has given way to a sickness, partially caused by the Cameron resolutions and the sentiment of the Jingo element in regard to Cuba, and prolonged by the failure of the National Bank of Illinois, and the suspension of the St. Paul Bank of Minnesota. The Chicago institution was ruined by reckless lending and could not have lasted much longer in good times, while the St. Paul institution although the oldest bank in Minnesota, relying upon its age and reputation for business, was attacked by dry rot and fell to pieces. Containing within themselves the elements of disintegration their passing is of no especial significance to finance. In Nebraska we are innocuous having had our blood thinned by a four years plague and famine. We are convalescent and inoculated against any disaster caused by over-confidence. We understand the cry of distress in the east. We know what ails them but we can not help them any until they are willing to take the medicine which the country will have to swallow to be well again.

The Courier has received from the agricultural experiment station at Fort Collins, Colorado, a bulletin on alfalfa with eighteen plates showing the exceedingly tough long roots and the stocky plant. Also analyses of the value of alfalfa as a fodder and the manurial value of the stubble. Dr. Wm. P. Headen who is the author of the bulletin under consideration says that he has given the general results of his study of the alfalfa plant, mostly in numbers based upon hay. The plates are remarkably clear and show the size and character of the plant above and beneath the ground in the various soils of Colorado.

Among the friends of the University in the present legislature there is none stronger than Edson Rich of Douglas county who was graduated from the University in 1883. After which he took a two years course in Johns Hopkins University, selecting the course in economics, to which he had paid especial attention in the University. When his days as a student were past he was admitted to the bar. In 1890 he moved to Omaha where his career has been marked with