

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1897.



RECEIVED IN THE POST OFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH M. HARRIS, Editor.

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$2 00
Six months.....	1 00
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

## OBSERVATIONS.

Young Mr. Rosewater, who is one of the directors of the Transmississippi exposition, sends out a circular letter every week to the country editors concerning the benefits that the exposition will confer upon the state. Perhaps it will. But the "per capita" is only a few cents now and more people would divide the per capita into still smaller fractions. The merchants do not want any more shops started here, the Lord knows there are enough lawyers, doctors and ministers, and with corn at ten cents a bushel we do not need any more undiversified farmers. Yet Mr. Rosewater, one of the editors of the "great dailies" of the metropolis, asks the editor to use his influence and his paper to induce the present legislature to vote a large-sized appropriation for an Omaha exposition to be expended as the directors see fit on the plea that it will bring people into the state. Some of the editors have been beguiled into exhorting the legislature to "help poor Omaha." Other remember that the part is not greater than the whole even if the part has forgotten natural philosophy.

Chicago is but just recovering from the evil effects of the World's Fair. Individuals borrowed money to put up hotels which did not pay. Real estate in the vicinity of the grounds rose in value as soon as the site was determined upon, and dropped below its starting point as soon as the fair was over. Reflecting upon the history of expositions there is no reason to suppose that the Omaha show would have any different influence upon real estate or business. An exposition is like an overdose of stimulants upon the human system, or like a balloon

ascension. Both experiences have exhilarating advantages but in the long run the stomach and the head suffer and the balloon hits the ground with a sickening and fatal thud. It may be the duty of the state legislature to keep Omaha from getting a financial jogg on that will ruin a naturally healthy constitution.

Meanwhile Omaha is a fine young city and it would be a pity to destroy potentialities that in fifty years may be a source of blessing to the state for the sake of a few men who want to sell dirt, dry goods, whiskey and hotel accommodations.

The Nebraskan, a paper published at the State University, printed last week a page containing the entire contents of "The Hesperian" another and a rival publication at the university. It is intimated on another page that the excerpt is printed in derision, but to the unbiased reader that particular page, which happens to be the fourth, contains the only matter of any literary merit in the paper. The poem signed by Annie Prey and entitled "Rachel," is sensuous, simple, and full of poetic feeling. The criticism on Kipling's "Captains Courageous" shows critical acumen and is very interesting. The rest of the page is made up of college news and witticisms. The other three pages contain dreary, commonplace sweetened with a self-complacency and self-consciousness that would nauseate everybody but the partisan readers of a college paper. The Hesperian, on the contrary, shows no traces of such crudeness. If the page reprinted by the Nebraskan is a fair sample of its issues the latter paper should study it with a humility that might improve its style. The following is Miss Prey's poem:

RACHEL.

"And Herod killed all the children that were in Bethlehem."

My arms are empty.  
See, when I roll the linen  
Back from my elbows' whiteness,  
One blue vein  
Within the hollow,  
There I feel the pressure  
Where a dead cheek has been.  
My arms are empty  
See, no harm can follow  
Now if I drop them idly  
Straight at my side  
Or lift them high to ease the pain that  
smothers  
Here where the first-born died.

—ANNIE PREY.

The Journal of Tuesday relates the case of a teacher who reads the Journal and informs her pupils of the current events contained therein. The editor is indignant and says the teacher has no business to purvey Police Gazette news to her pupils. In his sharp spasm of virtue the young man forgot what he was calling a "Police Gazette." The particular crime that the school teacher is charged with, is telling her small pupils about Daniel Osgood who took a handful of poison after he had aided in setting fire to a mill in Tecum-

seh. A full account of Daniel's doings was published in the Journal of Sunday with regular "Police Gazette" headlines as: A Handfull of Poison. That was Daniel Osgood's way out of Disgrace. Dared not Face a Charge of Aiding Arson at Tecumseh. Was Pumped Out Just in Time, etc., etc.

There is nothing more deplorable or discouraging to those who believe in the evolution of the race than the tendency to make crime, desperation and disease humorous. It is commonly asserted by the newspapers of this country that the American newspaper is the last expression of journalism, that American newspapers contain more news for the money than any other papers. Classes in journalism are taught that the European paper is the expression of an effete and unenterprising people, who are not interested in a burglar's tools or the latest methods of cracking a safe, in hangings, murders and suicides, which make up so large a part of the American newspaper. These crimes appear in daily print for a people who have reached the stage of civilization that Nero had attained when he played an adagio to burning Rome.

Although the telegraphic and editorial department of a "Great Daily" has no organic connection, still the editorial writer is supposed to be au courant with the first page. However, in the case referred to the young man apparently never reads anything but what he writes himself on the fourth page. There is a great risk in reading the works of an unknown writer. You never know what you may be getting into. It is better in your spare time to think. Mr. Jones knows good literature and classic, and he never ventures into the Tenderloin district of the first page. His round, pink cheeks would blanch with horror at the sight's there. Yet it would have been safer, would it not, to enquire of some of the people who are obliged to read that page, where the young teacher read the "Story of Daniel Osgood," before pointing so severe a moral?

"Juvenile Offenders" by W. Douglas Morrison is a study of juvenile criminality. After explaining that it is very difficult to formulate a body of percentages owing to imperfect statistics as well as to the fact that there are diverse ways of rating what is juvenile and what is not juvenile in the various nations. "For example in England the age of juvenility is often extended to eighteen or twenty, while in other places sixteen is the limit." Mr. Morrison's deduction is that "the percentage of juvenile offenders is increasing all over the world, and is likely to increase with the growth of cities, with the budding together of humanity and with the endless opportunities for theft offered by goods carelessly exposed. In the matter of juvenile crimes of violence, this country takes precedence, but an undue per-

centage of this sort of crime in the United States is due to the negro population, who mature early, are hot tempered and have a small regard for human life, as have also our large number of Italian emigrants, a people who learn the use of the knife in early boyhood. The most significant statistics given are those that relate to the relationship between crime and physique. In the English reformatories it is found that the stature of a criminal at the age of 16 is five inches less than that of an ordinary public school boy of the same age. It is distinctly shown that, although drink often leads to crime, the larger part of the aberrations of the criminal are due to physical unfitness to make a living by work. These poor weaklings get crowded out of the labor market and take to theft for a livelihood. It is very sad, and there seems to be no possible remedy at all competent to cope with the conditions."

The bill which either congress, or a committee from that body, is now considering, which proposes to remove the tax on the alcohol that is used in the arts, for heating purposes, and in short for everything except as a beverage, is wholly wise. In Germany when the tax was removed from the not-beverage alcohol, a wood alcohol was manufactured and added to the corn or potato product which made it bitter and of a very disagreeable odor. It was thus rendered entirely unfit for drinking and the government has had but little trouble with illicit distilling. As a household agent for cleaning purposes alcohol is excellent, but the price has prevented its free use. The alcohol flame is clean, free from smoke and very hot. The only disqualification is the price. Experts say corn alcohol can be manufactured for 7 or 8 cents a gallon, reaching the retail buyer with the usual additions. If the tax, which amounts to more than a dollar on every gallon, were removed, the demand for alcohol and the corn from which it is made would increase incalculably, and the Nebraska product would once more be King. If the thirty millions of corn in the state could be turned into alcohol to run engines and lamps, preserve bugs and provide the university students with the experimental fluid and flame, together with the hundreds of other uses that alcohol may be applied to, commerce would feel the impetus immediately, and the fifty-fifth congress be forever distinguished. There is much to learn from European countries. Americans can take a hint unless jingoism blinds them. The American bird might be trained to be much more useful than he is without interfering in the least with his freedom or hisscream.

There seems to be but one opinion in regard to the double primaries, so far as the expression of opinion in the newspapers is an evidence of what men really