

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1897.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.
Telephone 384.

SARAH V. HARRIS, Editor
DORA BACHELLER, Business Manager

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

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



OBSERVATIONS.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's book "The Heavenly Twins," is remarkable for many things, not the least of which is its title. Why the book should be the namesake of *ces enfants terribles*, who are merely the comedy motif of this protest, against the ethics of society is as mysterious as the all-feminine habit of putting the important part of a letter in the postscript. But there are so many books, and "The Heavenly Twins" excites the curiosity of a public which needs to be provoked into buying and reading by an extra bait. So Mrs. Ward named her book to distinguish it from the thousands of other books published the same year, after accessories to the plot and stars—as the madonnas of the old masters are named from a chair, a candle, a book, a scarf, or some minor property almost hidden by the draperies of the mother and the dazzling rays from the son, in order to identify Raphael's madonna of one period and locality from a Correggio or Paul Veronese. That Mrs. Ward's device was successful the sale of her book is sufficient evidence. But the reason for its publication, aside from literary ambition and ability, was a desire to protest against the injustice of judging men and women by different codes. Because it broke in upon the low

voices of good society, because it insisted that good society was bad in marrying cloister bred maidens to profligate peers, Mrs. Ward's book was not much talked about in that set from which her characters were drawn. But every one of them read it, and if the discussion it caused induced only one pair to refuse to give their daughter in marriage to a titled profligate, the book was well worth while. There are critics of THE COURIER who insist that its function is to record the doings of society and clubs without comment or criticism. These critics say that society is annoyed and shocked by references to scenes like that around the pallet of Laura Clarke in the station house, commented upon in these columns three weeks ago. They say that criticism of the mayoral tolerance of gambling is out of place in a society paper—and they are right. They say that the water question is in the hands of fourteen devoted citizens who are giving their time and thought to getting good water for the city, and that newspaper criticism

gathers up the events of a week in society, in city keeping and cleaning, in the drama and in music and literature. Prescribed by the law from casting a vote, the publisher of THE COURIER represents a large and increasing number of women who pay taxes, or who are raising sons whose good or evil life will be largely determined by the kind of city the mayor and council are making of Lincoln. Prescribed by a law which classes or declassifies women with Indians, the insane and idiots, the publisher of THE COURIER is not bound by party loyalty from the honest expression of the only opinion possible to an unprejudiced reader of the records of the city council, to an observer of the felonies which the city and county authorities do not punish and suppress and to a witness of the abuses practised by a brutal police. The comfort of most of the subscribers to THE COURIER depends directly upon the integrity and business ability of the mayor and council. The president and congress only re-

gamblers buy it and the only healthy location for the city water is impossible because a ring opposes it and a private water company wants the franchise for fifty years. For these reasons THE COURIER devotes its pages to city rather than to national affairs. There is another reason. Papers all over the country elucidate or darken the currency system, the tariff and international and foreign affairs every twelve hours—morning and evening. But no other paper in the country discusses the morale of the city of Lincoln without party prejudice or fear of losing patronage. There is no other paper in a position to know the motives which actuate the city officials and which is free to discuss them. The very disfranchisement of the publisher contributes to the freedom from obligation and clears the atmosphere from the personal and myopic obstacles to seeing things whole, which afflicts the ordinary publisher. Therefore by virtue of its isolation THE COURIER can and will express the communal rights of the people as opposed to political rings and outside companies. There is no other paper in the country which discusses the affairs of the city of Lincoln from such a point of view and the affairs of the city of Lincoln are of more consequence to the citizen of Lincoln than he ever so cosmopolitan, than the affairs of all the rest of the world.

PROF. NICHOLSON'S ANALYSIS.

South street.—62 grains.

F street.—25 grains.

Rice street.—12 grain.

The above diagram represents the exact proportions of salt found in one gallon of water from each of the three wells. As a basis for measurement the printer has substituted cms for grains and reduced to one-third.

only impedes a progress which is as impetuous as that of the frozen river called a glacier, which precipitates three feet (or thereabouts) of its volume into the ocean every year. The simile is a good one. The glacial indifference of the council to the desperate needs of the poor in the city was exasperating before THE COURIER began to print a weekly resume of the actions of the council on the water question. The well-to-do melt the artificial ice, which is made of distilled water, and in consequence their internal plumbing is kept in repair, while the household pipes are destroyed. The day laborers are forced to take the liquid that the city furnishes them. It is wet but it creates a thirst instead of quenching it. If Squire Wolfenbarger would interest the members of the prohibition party in the city water question he might prevent more cases of drunkenness than his pledges can cure in a decade. Yet municipal politics are no concern of a society paper, say the critics. True. THE COURIER is not exclusively and specifically a society paper. It

motely and sentimentally concern the citizens of Lincoln. If the city government is good the central government can do its worst and only oratorically interfere with the liberty of the citizen of Lincoln. The mayor's hand turns the faucet which lets either a poisonous or life restoring stream into the city mains. It is his character and principles our comfort and life depends upon, rather than upon the president's. For this reason the mayor's office should be exalted and only the best and wisest of citizens should fill it. For upon his probity and ability the health and happiness of 60,000 citizens depend. In the present regime any old politician who can secure the support of Bud Lindsey and D. G. Courtney is reasonably sure of the support of the voters of the city which has been so republican that the manipulators only need to consult their own private ends in nominating a candidate for the mayoralty. The majority of voters are incorruptible by money but they are blinded by a party allegiance which has brought the city into such a condition that

A visit to the F street, South street, A street and Rice wells will convince any one who thinks he understands the water question that the subject is underground and that the only safe knowledge is that gained from experience. We know from Prof. Nicholson's analysis, given in the Kendall & Smith case, that the South street well contains 95 grains of solid matter to the gallon, of which 62 grains is common salt. The F street well has only 40 grains of solid matter of which 25 grains are salt, the Rice well contains 16 grains of solid matter of which 12 grains is common salt. On this page is a diagram illustrating the height of the salt in three little phials:

Prof. Nicholson is a chemist whose analysis is to be relied upon. It was presented under oath in the Kendall & Smith case and is unimpeachable. The second lesson of experience is the taste of the water from the F street and South street wells. The third lesson is the effect of that water on all vegetation, especially blue grass—the fourth lesson of experience is the presence of alkali and salt on top of the ground in the Salt creek valley which, in many places, is encrusted with salt crystals, showing that salt water do rise and that the water of a