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OBSERVATIONS.

The row between the two Kentucky girls over the selection of a sponsor to break the dedicatory bottle over the prow of the new battleship, Kentucky, reflects credit on only one of them. Miss Bradley, the governor's daughter, to all appearances, is indifferent. Miss Richardson, who posed before Secretary Herbert as a Kentucky belle, and persisted in taking his gallant speech at a theatre party as equivalent to an official notification that she had been selected to christen the Kentucky, is said to belong to an "old family." When it was thought best that the governor's pretty daughter should break the bottle of wine over the Kentucky's noble prow, Miss Richardson wrote the story of her wrongs to the newspapers and sent her picture. By such conduct she proved to everybody that she was not a fit person for such an honor. Her photograph was evidence enough that she would not decorate the occasion and her conduct has made the public aware that the secretary of the navy was right in offering the honor to somebody else, to anybody else. Even the newspapers which print her reproaches and evidence that she was invited, are shocked by her manners and her unwarrantable vanity. The way to the prow of a ship is won by beauty and grace, not by using the columns of the newspapers to vituperate a man who passed a compliment and forgot it. There is no doubt after reading the papers that Kentucky

will be pleased to have Miss Bradley act as sponsor for the Kentucky and disgusted if the secretary of the navy nominates Miss Richardson.

Section 13 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska reads: "No person elected to the legislature shall receive any civil appointment within this state from the governor and senate during the term for which he has been elected. And all appointments and all votes given for any such member, for any such office or appointment, shall be void." This is plain and explicit, yet the legislative committee appointed by the governor has drawn nearly ten thousand dollars since the adjournment of the legislature. This clause of the state constitution is intended to prevent legislators from passing bills whose effect will secure places and profit for themselves, or from creating any committee or office and filling it at the expense of the state. The reformers of the last legislature felt that they were there to prolong their period of service to the state as long as bills and gubernatorial appointments would serve.

Another instance of this disposition on the part of the late legislature is in the matter of the state printing. An act to provide for furnishing state stationery was introduced by legislator Sheldon, and Mr. Sheldon is now drawing a salary from the board. These instances of violation of the state constitution will multiply, unless the people realize what a grave danger such a precedent establishes. If Mutz, Beal, Moran, Wheeler, Zimmerman and Sheldon are allowed to introduce bills which prolong their period of usefulness from one hundred days to three hundred and sixty-five, there is no reason why the other one hundred and twenty-seven members of the house and senate should not provide themselves with a year's job also. Mr. Sheldon is drawing fifty dollars a month; one hundred and thirty-three times six hundred is \$79,800. And there is no guarantee that the legislators would restrict themselves to fifty dollars a month.

Mr. Sheldon's bill provides for the employment of a state printer at one thousand dollars a year. Having secured the passage of this bill in which he was the beneficiary, Mr. Sheldon felt that he had done all that was necessary to secure himself from want for one year at least. But he neglected to "influence" an appropriation to pay the state printer. The salary which he is now receiving is unauthorized by law. The printing board, which consists of the state

auditor, the state treasurer and the secretary of state, is rendering itself liable to legal proceedings, in paying Mr. Sheldon a salary out of a fund from which the legislature designated no such draft. It is less than three years ago that Mr. Morton Smith, then the editor of *The Courier*, began investigations which convinced him that the state treasurer was not complying with the law in regard to the placing of the state funds. *The Courier* was the first paper in the state to warn the people that the state treasurer was breaking the law and that when he came to turn over his trust to his successor, there would be a large deficit for the people to make up by increased taxation. At that time Mr. Smith pointed out that Mr. Bartley was using every means to secure the nomination of a fool who would not insist upon a strict account of the money supposed to be in his keeping. While no one suspected that the robbery amounted to half a million the very plain statements in regard to the illegal methods employed by the state treasurer crystallized the opposition to any Bartley nominee and made the success of such a candidate impossible.

The law is a wall around the people's property and rights. Any official who makes a breach in that wall, for whatever purpose, is unworthy of his trust and gives his enemies legitimate cause for impeachment. The present state administration shows an indifference to the state constitution. In the aforementioned instances the state officers have been willing to ignore the constitution for the sake of gaining access to a fund which they are forbidden to touch. With no realization of the meaning of a public office except as a means of private revenue, the reform movement of the present administration began and ended with "turning the rascals out." The clauses of the constitution are ignored, the departments are filled with cousins, sons, wives, sisters and more or less distant relatives of the elected officers, and the whole atmosphere of the state house is permeated by the sentiment: "Every man for himself and family and the devil take the state."

United States army officers are in the habit of deploring the laxity of military discipline in this country as compared with that in European countries. They say if it were not for the newspapers, which invariably take the part of the enlisted soldier when he has trouble with an officer, discipline would be much more severe and therefore, from the officer's point of view, more effective in producing an invin-

cible soldiery. If it had not been for the universal newspaper condemnation of Captain Lovering in his undignified and unwarrantable assault upon Private Hammond the officers who composed the court martial, might have recommended to secretary Alger that a letter of commendation and approval be sent to the brave Captain who kicked a prostrate man and prodded him with his sword while he was being dragged by the heels to the court room of the barracks. But Secretary Alger stands nearer to the people than army officers. He knows that the sentence found by the court martial that Captain Lovering be publicly reprimanded for "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline" will not satisfy either the privates in the army or the people outside it, that justice has been done. The secretary says: "It is disappointing that an offense so grave and as an example so far reaching as this should have been visited with so light a penalty. The history of great campaigns does not show that armies of men drilled to the point of mechanical perfection win when opposed to a soldiery inspired and stimulated and made patient by a love of country. The Swiss, the Dutch, the Colonial Americans were patriots as well as soldiers, and they conquered in every case the most highly disciplined armies at that time in existence. Emperor William's forces are said to be the best disciplined military in the possession of any government today. Yet it is a question, if their patriotism would stand the strain of a prolonged war. Absolutism is destroying the love of country and the soldiers fight like mercenaries. They lack the desperate courage of the man who fights for everything that makes life worth living. Why should they rally from a defeat when it is just as well to serve one master as another?"

In this connection, it is interesting to record the fact that German liberals prophesy that when William goes to war the Reichstag will seize the opportunity afforded that body as the source of supplies, to circumscribe the divine right of kings which William claims is reason enough for his arbitrary and preposterous conduct. In consideration of all these things it may be said that anything which makes the state, as represented by the officers, de'estable to a private soldier, decreases his efficiency as a fighting unit, and encourages desertion and treason. The newspapers and Secretary Alger have tried Captain Lovering and their sentence is indeterminate, but it exceeds a public reprimand. It is somewhere between being deprived

[Continued on Page 5.]