



THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1898.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS
SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY
THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH P. HARRIS, Editor
DORA BACHELLER, Business Manager

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

OBSERVATIONS.

With the beginning of the new year the promoters of the Auditorium enterprise have begun again to urge and to secure subscriptions in order that when the spring season opens, the fund will be large enough to warrant the erection of a fine building. Subscriptions from the larger business houses have been generous, and in many cases unexpectedly large. The thousands of small subscriptions will more than double the amount already subscribed, and the people's auditorium can be a thing of beauty and convenience as well as a civic joy. If Senator Allen accomplishes his purpose finally in the senate, and the directors of the Auditorium continue to be successful in adding to the fund two public buildings will rise simultaneously this next season, giving, meanwhile, employment to many workmen of all degrees of skill. Their wages will be given to merchants and landlords and the delinquent tax list will lose some of its frightful proportions. Everybody who gives to the auditorium fund is but lending a few dollars at a usurious rate of interest, which will begin to make returns just as soon as the foundations are laid. The most cheerful part of the whole matter is that the contributions show that in spite of bickerings we are a united people. To erect so large and extensive a building requires self sacrifice, energy and united effort and we have shown that we possess all of these. Even the evening papers are outwardly harmonious in matters concerning the Audi-

torium. The wily and wary and pugnacious Call, the canny News and the Peeksniffian Post are all pushing and pulling hard on the Auditorium fund.

Councilman Mockett's crushed feelings have been stiffened up by the invitation to stand godfather to the new well. A "subsidized" press has also united in congratulating him upon the quantity and quality of the water at the A street station. It was largely through Mr. Mockett's belief in an Antelope location for the city water supply and his efforts in the council to spread that belief that the test of the well was finally accomplished. But if he had not been aided by what it pleases him to call "a subsidized press" it is very doubtful if Mr. Mockett would have been able to prevail against the saltwater side of the council. THE COURIER by keeping everlastingly at it convinced its readers (and the readers of THE COURIER are the most intelligent of the residents of Lincoln) that it was useless to expect a flow of fresh water from a salt deposit. Aroused to a knowledge in the council the opposition advised compliance with fresh-water plans. For very lonesomeness the "old salts" subsided and Mr. Mockett was allowed his A street well and his triumph is consummated and recognized by all the council presenting the christening honors to Mr. Mockett.

The gambling rooms are running again unrestrictedly. It is idle to expect that any law, however explicit, can be enforced without the aid of the executive. There are certain enthusiastic feminine theorists who think that the law is at fault, and that gambling would be exterminated if the laws were right. To be sure there are only a few who hold such opinions, for even women have been looking into the laws regulating saloons and gambling. They have found that gambling is a penitentiary offense. But when the mayor of the city says that he does not see any gambling, and at the same time the most superficial examination reveals gambling rooms in many down-town blocks, there is certainly reason for suspecting the mayor of collusion with the gamblers.

The disclosures of Melick have been curtailed by a civic appointment; otherwise the fear of the grand jury's investigations would restrain the mayor from open contempt of the law. There is doubt that since the fear of the grand jury was allayed, gambling has flourished more openly than ever. For a time, when Melick was out of a job and possessed of any amount of figures in regard to the arrangements the gamblers have been able to make with the "proper authorities," the latter

caused them to go into retirement and at night the gentlemen of the cloth were to be seen strolling about the streets in harmless leisure. But these same men are busy now. They are busy and at the same time secure from interruption. It is impossible to have friendly and profitable dealings with lawbreakers without becoming an accessory and this is why the gamblers can snap their fingers at the newspapers and the law. All the law in the world is negative until executed. And the gamblers know that on account of their previous dealings they need not fear prosecution. The grand jury with its liberties of secrecy and unlimited summoning power is the only danger that menaces both the gamblers and the city officials. Under the present circumstances there is no hope from anything else but the grand jury. Therefore there is a very general expression of the hope that the judges will assemble it before the next February term of court.

What has been called the higher criticism, appreciates beauties and meanings that the slaves of the Book are blind to. The scholars who compose the body called the higher critics are gradually bringing the Bible into relations with every day life from which zealous bigotry has always tried to exclude it. The higher criticism does not deny any essential truth. On the contrary it opens and lights the way so that the most practical and commonplace recognizes the unity between this life we are living and the wanderings of the children of Israel. Dr. Dunning has been endeavoring to show to a flock that would rather hear about Christ and his teachings, that the higher critics are blasphemous because their researches have convinced them that Moses did not write all the books of the Pentateuch and that many of the interpretations which the church has put upon passages in the Bible cannot be true unless by miraculous interposition. Christ's very parsimonious use of miracles showed that he regarded them only as a last resort. Yet in many cases a miracle is insisted upon by the old school where it is not so stated and where it is unnecessarily impertinent and ungodlike. The modern German and Scotch writers on the Bible have thought it worth while to study the mummied languages in order that they might read and understand the manuscripts of the Bible. From the ethnological research of a lifetime he has been able to rebuild Palestine as it was in the days before Christ. They have verified the wanderings of Abraham, they have established historical and ethnical proofs of the so-called books of Noah. Members of this class of scholars long

since discovered that if they expected to accomplish anything they must confine their study to one book of the Bible. No one who has elected to study modern commentaries, especially by the German scholars, on the books of the Bible, can say that his reverence for the wonderful book has been diminished. On the other hand the attention of scholars, who are notoriously indifferent to any subjects connected with the emotions, has been directed to the investigations of these divinely patient writers. They have begun to study the Bible for themselves, not in the flippant superficial Y. M. C. A. style but after the painstaking truth-seeking Teutonic method. The result in Germany is seen in the new reverence with which that nation of metaphysicians is reading the Bible. Criticism of the higher critics should take into account the estrangement that miraculous interpretation has caused between the ecclagian and the most valuable Book ever written and compare it with the new light thrown upon it by the learning of the higher critics.

The old colored man dragging a burlap bag and cramming it with scraps of rags and paper that he found on the streets, was "discontinued" at the last council meeting. He looked like Daddy Jack in the "Uncle Remus" stories. He appears like a very old man. He is bent and his small, sharp eyes are set very deep in his head, but he is not so feeble as he looks and he certainly picked up "a powerful lot of trash." He was earning a meagre living and at the same time he kept the city streets fairly free from papers. The doings of the council at one session are curious reading. Last Monday they voted, in spite of a vigorous opposition to buy 580,000 brick, 430,000 more than there is money to pay for. Such a flagrant contempt of economy deserves the condemnation it is receiving from all classes of citizens. The News of Tuesday evening suggested that the city be enjoined from carrying out a contract so unwarrantably entered upon. A certain faction, in the majority at present, in the council seems determined to bankrupt the city. Their plans for expenditure lack proper consideration of the limits of the income. It is surmised that feelings of revenge towards the republican party have induced certain members of the council to decide to do whatever will hurt the party in this city. This brick contract has all the earmarks of boodling. Mr. Webster reminded the council that they were now paying on a coal contract one dollar and fifty-nine cents per ton more than the coal is retailing for in the city. Mr. Webster

[Continued on Page 8.]