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SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor
DORA BACHELLER, Business Manager

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OBSERVATIONS.

The English and American people are two representatives of the same race. American or Englishman, it does not matter, they draw their constitutional and literary inspiration from the same source. The Frenchman, Russian, German, Spaniard, Turk, with his Semitic brothers, and all dwellers in the north European countries, God rest them all and give them peace, but they are not of us. We are bone of England's bone and flesh of her flesh. The English people themselves realize this truth more keenly than we do. Threatened by any other nation they are our natural allies. All Europe is not so near to England as America. And all Europe is opposed commercially and by racial antagonism to the English speaking people on two continents. In the recent avowal by a member of the British government of sympathy with America as against Spain or any other nation, the Englishman generously ignored recent disputes over the seals and the Canadian fish boats, and expressed his country's kinship with America and opposition to her foes. Perhaps much of the speech was diplomatic oratory, but it was founded on the logic of the situation. England is racially as well as geographically isolated from Europe. An alliance with the United States is indicated, as the astrologers say. And although it is against our policy to mix in European wars, mostly waged to acquire more territory, we can give to England our

moral support as against any triple or quadruple alliance which Europe may form against her. Should war be declared by the United States against Spain, and England refuse all aid to our enemies, should loan us money and sell us ships, the value of recognition of that which makes Englishmen and Americans essentially one people would be apparent.

A saloon keeper cannot adequately represent any ward even one which contains a score of saloons. In America a man who keeps a saloon must be without self respect. He can represent only the depraved and criminal classes. Most of the corruption in Chicago and New York is due to the fact that many councilmen are saloon keepers. Their saloons are the meeting places of the vicious, there the campaign is planned, between drinks, there those who can assist are invited and bribed by cheap, bad whiskey, to work for the saloon candidate. All students of American politics admit that the saloon is the greatest hindrance to an honest and efficient administration. The saloon keeper in the council will vote to protect and sustain the saloon as an institution regardless of the laws which have been made to protect the young from their influence. THE COURIER is opposed to the saloon in politics and to the saloon keeper. His influence is bad and opposed at all times to the interests of the city. Whether he comes from the first or any other, there is certainly in that ward a man to whom the interests of minors and the innocent and helpless women and children can much more safely be entrusted. A man who sells liquor in this country has blunted his moral sense until that department of a normal human being no longer exists in him. When upon such a man is conferred a representative office an injustice is done every man and woman in his district above his grade. The men of the first ward will soon have an opportunity to say whether they wish to be represented by an individual of a class which makes a living from other men's weaknesses. If the women of the First ward could vote, a saloon keeper would stand little chance of election. The wages which would keep their children decently clothed and fed, and themselves from "days work" in some other woman's house have been spent at the candidate's bar; and women, however poor, resent to the last the cause which has degraded them in the social scale. But the mothers have nothing to say about it, only their husbands, who are frequently in the saloon keeper's debt, are allowed to

ratify or reject the choice of the primaries.

The woman question is not without at least two sides to it, and there are those who claim to have proved that it has a fourth dimension. The principle objection to most women as clerks or as agents is their refusal to accept the ordinary rules of procedure as established by men in centuries of commercial experience. Women lack a sense of responsibility. They will frequently agree to perform a certain service, like making a report, and they mean to do it, but they will claim a headache, a dressmaker, or the absence of a servant prevented them. Moreover they will make no attempt to provide a substitute. Sunday school superintendants find that in consequence of this almost universal feminine trait the hour of the Sunday school arrives and a number of pupils are unsupplied with teachers whose place it is then too late to supply. The secretaries of state federations of women's clubs have found it nearly impossible to acquire accurate information about the number and character of the clubs from which to make up their report. Writing to the many secretaries has produced only a fractional reply. After many appeals, which record consumes provokingly the unrecompensed secretary's time, she has only succeeded in getting the information for a partial report which otherwise would become a valuable of the history and statistics of the club movement. A woman who has acquired a reputation for "great executive ability" more than likely has acquired it by learning what constitutes ordinary business procedure and putting it in practice. Promptness, reliable performance on each recurring occasion of a duty once undertaken, and accuracy, are accomplishments which are characteristics of the most commonplace little men and frequently underestimated by the most gifted women. But until the day comes when women recognize that steady performance accomplishes what brilliant sorties can not, man will continue to rule alone.

The Hatchet, a publication in the interest of a fund for the erection and maintenance of the Girls and Boys building of the Trans-Mississippi exposition, has at last been issued. It is called The Hatchet because it was intended to be in the hands of customers by the fourteenth of February. It is only a month late, and the tardiness is explained by the number of babies' pictures which form the larger part of the illustrations. It takes a long time to get the baby's picture. It takes a

longer time for the mother to select the proof she likes best. After she has the photograph and has sent it to the printer it must be exchanged for another which does the darling more justice, even if it be necessary to celebrate Washington's birthday on the fourteenth of March.

The paper typographically is very handsome. Its contents are stories of and for children, and their bright sayings. A short story by Mrs. Elca Matheson on the first page deserves the place of honor given it. No one who has not tried to write a children's story realizes that it takes a master hand to create the atmosphere of childhood. Mrs. Matheson has accomplished it with ease and the little sketch is a real story of a child to the little girl cradled in the arms of the story teller. The portraits of the infants on the cover and scattered through the inside pages are very attractive. The stories and poems for girls and boys by such able writers as Mrs. Peattie, James Whitcomb Riley and Will Maupin make it altogether the most attractive juvenile publication ever printed in Nebraska. The editors have assigned a thousand copies to Mrs. Allen W. Field to be disposed of in this district. She will be assisted by the children of the city schools, who control a more potent, direct, and with all legitimate influence than anybody else.

A correspondent in St. Louis says she thinks the women of that section are very much interested in the approaching June meeting of the General Federation of Women's clubs at Denver. Regarding the presidency she says that the St. Louis women are inclined to think the east entitled to a president this time and consequently Mrs. Breeze has the best chance. With a candidate in the west, Mrs. Platt, one from Louisville, Ky., one from the extreme east and one from the northwest, it may be necessary to compromise. "In that event our Mrs. Moore will undoubtedly win. She is a good representative of the courtesy of the south, the culture of the east and the alertness of the west and would be a most efficient officer. I had an opportunity at the Wednesday club reception to talk with representatives of the different sections of the country and this is the consensus of opinion. There are half a million of people in the General Federation—very few Nebraska clubs." My correspondent is a woman of good judgment and keen perceptions and can be trusted for a correct estimate of the field within her vision. It is to be regretted that more of the Ne-