



THE COURIER

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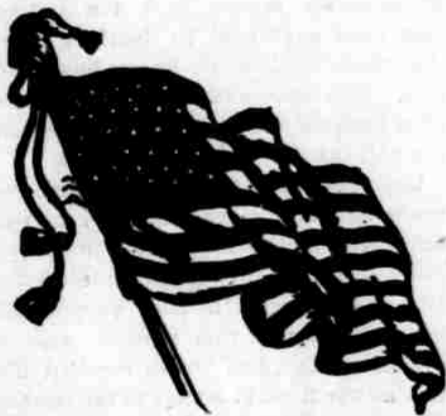
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OBSERVATIONS.

It has been frequently intimated to the publisher of THE COURIER that the printed matter appearing under the head "observations" is written at times by Mr. C. O. Whedon and at times by Mr. Frank Hall. The work on the first pages of THE COURIER is done by the publisher of THE COURIER and this statement is made in order that the criticism, of which there is a great deal, and the praise, if any should ever accrue, may be addressed where it belongs.

The passage of the Mockett sewer bill on Monday after the overwhelming vote against it the week before is an interesting example of Councilman

Mockett's versatility. There is more than one way to kill a cat and Councilman Mockett has found out that if a measure will not pass on its own merits he can make a trade of his vote on some other question with his colleagues and secure the coveted number of congratulations from the section for which he has secured the appropriation. The confirmation of the appointment of Bud Lindsey as street commissioner by those who have heretofore opposed him is a case in point.

The men and women on the streets who stop to read the war bulletins pasted on the shop windows and written on black boards by the courteous and obliging newspapers, illustrate the truthfulness of the appellation boorish as applied to Americans. Passersby who have read the news choose to pass between it and the readers when they might pass behind them, so that those who are trying to get the latest news of the war are continually interrupted by the shoulders of men who take no thought of those whose vision they cross. Yet when a college president says we are a nation of boors we are insulted and most of us call him prejudiced, bookish and unpatriotic, instead of acknowledging the truth of his criticism and seeking to cultivate sweetness and light.

The death of Remenyi on the stage of a San Francisco theatre will be especially felt by professional musicians. Remenyi was a genial violinist who loved the society of his professional brothers. He was a raconteur, a diner out and a dinner host of rare powers. As to his playing, he made concessions to an uncultivated taste that the profession condemned and his playing was apt to be tricky, but at his best he was a master. His improvisations were inspirations of genius. He died in the midst of a burst of applause from thousands of people for whose appreciation he was willing to incur the criticism of stricter musicians. For the warmth and color of his playing, we, the people who cannot appreciate the best music, are grateful. In order to give pleasure to the greatest number, Remenyi was willing to set aside his own musicianly preferences and play for us, and we are grateful.

It is a pity that the volunteers were allowed to leave the state without receiving their wages. Most of them are poor men and needed the money to buy handkerchiefs, socks and the many articles that the government does not furnish but which have become a necessity to everybody

who is not an Indian. Many were forced to discount their pay to usurers who, according to their habit, took off a large per cent. The soldiers have given their services and their lives on demand to the government and it is niggardly of the state administration not to pay its obligations to the soldiers. But after the Mutz committee, the governor's house rent and various other bills from the state administration to the state administration are paid, it suddenly sees the necessity of economising on other people's salaries. None the less it is a disgrace to send these soldiers off without paying them what we owe them.

The effectiveness of an army depends upon discipline. When a general in command of a part of the army tells a lot of irresponsible news hunters that he will go where the department has ordered him only when certain conditions, which he names, are complied with, he does more to impair discipline than the mutiny of any number of privates. General Wesley Merritt has the reputation of being a good soldier, but he lacks the better part of valor. The mouths of all great soldiers have been locked on such questions. Napoleon, Wellington, Washington, Grant, abhorred a chatterbox. It is very doubtful if a man who has shown such an unsoldierly lack of reserve at the beginning of a campaign is capable of conducting it successfully among an alien people surrounded by the espionage of Europe and the rest of Asia. It would have been correct for General Merritt to explain privately to the department at Washington that a force of 14,000 volunteers and 1,000 regulars was hardly enough to meet 60,000 Spanish veterans on an unfamiliar ground. But to tell the newspaper correspondents that he would not go where he has been ordered unless the department complied with his demands shows a dangerous lack of sense. The president and the secretary of war is the head of our military system and cannot afford, for the integrity of the system, to be bullied by one of its generals. There is only one system and there are plenty of generals ready to obey orders as well as to give them. It may be noted in passing that no reporter has yet caught Admiral Dewey talking in his sleep. A severe reprimand administered to General Merritt just at this time may be a valuable hint to other officers who have grown accustomed to regarding the civil authorities with the unconcealed military scorn and disgust for everything without straps.

As to the head of the army the

president is entitled to a uniform and glittering marks of rank as dazzling as that of any European sovereign. The outward marks of civil elevation are so simple and modest that the military whose whole training teaches the importance and significance of the looks of things, as a straight alignment, a spotless uniform, upright carriage, etc., is apt to underestimate the authority of a plain stout gentleman in a Prince Albert coat with a Roman nose and deep set eyes, elected by the people to boss generals and privates and civilians alike. If the commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States were to put on his uniform decorated with the signs of his unique military rank, get on horseback and appear before his generals occasionally the outward and visible signs of his real exaltation might appeal to some of the rather thick-headed generals and result in a more respectful attitude from those who wear gold braid. Such is the effect of an outward and visible sign of greatness.

The war news printed in long primer type in the afternoon papers discredits itself by its size and the width of its columns. It is difficult to believe news of so sensational an aspect is authentic. Sensationalism for the purpose of street sales is legitimate enough but it is very trying to an "old subscriber" who settles back in his chair after dinner and after his children have been suppressed by night and somnolence, to find out whether Sampson or Schley have found the Spanish fleet and where they are all at. He must move his head back and forth along the three or four column lines and he frequently loses his place and the immoderate size of the type hinders the comprehension of the situation it only serves to exaggerate. The morning statement of the News revised and corrected is much more satisfactory to the meditative citizen, who was taught to read brevier and who has been reading brevier all his life and objects to long primer or small pica as he would to chocolate creams and ice cream as a steady diet.

It is said the yellowest of the New York papers has begun to perfume its Sunday edition, whether as a disinfectant to its revolting pages or to be consistent with its barbarous pictures and letter press we are not informed.

That the Spanish are cruel and have fallen far behind the era there is no one except the Spanish will deny, but the Spanish people have been deceived and robbed by the grandees who have only pride to be proud of. The people