

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY JUNE 18, 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.

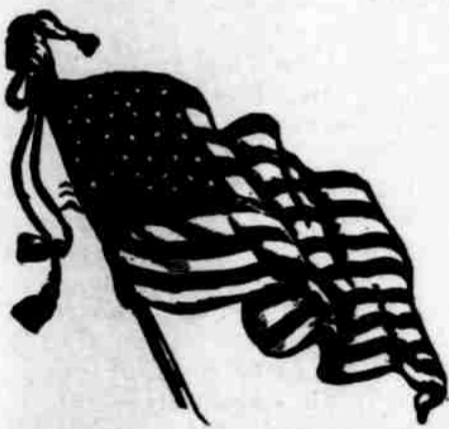
SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

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

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unaccompanied by return postage.

Communications to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.



OBSERVATIONS.

The occupation of the Kiaou Chou peninsula by Germany for no reason except that the location is highly strategic and would, in case of war, be of great importance to Germany, deprives the German empire of any consistent objections to the occupation of the Philippines by any other nation. But the arguments of a nation possessing a strong military and naval force are made of smokeless powder, Maxim guns and long rows of men completely equipped. If Germany objects to the United States occupying the Philippines the fact that with a less defensible reason she occupies the Kiaou Chou peninsula will have nothing to do with the case. The question

will be settled one way or the other, by might. It will be discussed by nations, newspapers and diplomats. It will be decided with strict reference to the force possessed by the European powers which object and those which consent and the probability of friend or foe or neutral being willing to go to war to enforce their views. The Goths invaded Rome because in the preliminary battles the former discovered that they were better fighters and because the Romans had treasure and territory which the Germans wanted. The relations between the people of the earth are not defined by ethics to day any more rigidly than in the days of Alaric. Poland has been divided, China is about to be, Emperor William is suzerain to the sultan, Egypt is England's and so is India. The rest of the world except the United States is held by England, Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Austria. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland have little influence upon the direction of international affairs and are protected by the balance of power agreement. The United States strictly in the course of events and according to the rules of development and expansion is about to acquire new territory. If Germany and France are able to confute the development theory they will doubtless try but in the delicately adjusted state of European affairs, frontiers can not be left unprotected for fear of watchful and unfriendly neighbors and the United States is protected by two mighty oceans, a friendly northern neighbor and a timid and weak one on the southern boundary. So the question of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines can be settled without the fear of European disapproval.

Ex-Auditor Eugene Moore is saved from the penitentiary because of the great difficulty of proving what every one, people, judge, jury and lawyers know has occurred. Mr. Moore is accused of applying the license money paid to him by the insurance companies for the state, to his own use. It had to be proven to the satisfaction of a jury, which was sworn to take cognizance only of the testimony presented in court. Primarily a court exists to prove guilt or innocence and enlarge the accused or pronounce sentence upon him. But such a huge growth of rules has gradually attached itself to testimony that much which appears direct and convincing to those unfamiliar with courts, the jury is not allowed to hear. All the mistakes which other courts and other judges have made are quoted by one side or the other to make another miscarriage

more certain. Justice having once tripped is made to stumble again and again on account of "precedent" and the authority of it. The prosecution had to prove that a crime was committed, that money was stolen from the state, that it belonged to the state as soon as it was paid and that whoever took it from the insurance companies and applied it to any other purpose whatever was a thief, that that thief was Eugene Moore and that his crime is designated by the statutes and the punishment allotted. The commission of the crime, the identification of the thief and the meaning and inclusion of the statute regarding it, had to be established beyond a doubt! The difficulty of penetrating these three barriers to the penitentiary has sent many a murderer and robber on his way rejoicing. Yet it is better that the advantage should be on the side of the accused. The conviction of an innocent man is an overwhelming injustice; the escape of a guilty one is of no special consequence to the community. In the former case the man and his family sink under the weight of the sentence, in the latter the community bears a burden distributed to the point of unconsciousness. It is also necessary that the law, made up as it is of Roman, English and American interpretations of justice, should be followed, even though the judge and jury know that the exact application of it is liberating a criminal. Many such instances cause a revision of the law and, in time, will result in its perfection. In the perfecting of an institution many human sacrifices are frequently necessary, but it is worth while, for institutions do not die.

The swarms of newspaper correspondents in Tampa and San Francisco will follow the army to Cuba and the Philippines. Leaving out of account correspondents, like Crane, who are employed because of a reputation undeserved and temporary, there is little worth knowing they will fail to report. If an epidemic of fever occurs in a camp whose bad sanitary conditions have been noted by the correspondents the officers responsible for it can expect short shrift from the girls and mothers and fathers the patients left behind them. The many devices learned by veteran officers encamped on the western plains, which protect their men and themselves from malaria and pneumonia, militia officers are ignorant of. Those whose sons and sweethearts have gone to the war are watching President McKinley's appointments with painful interest. So far he is not guilty of the sin

of the appointment of officers unfit to be in charge of the health of hundreds of boys who are willing to die for their country. Their heroism should be met with an equally patriotic resolution on the part of governors and president that their lives shall not be required of them for naught. One who has reflected upon this subject says:

For every drop of blood unnecessarily shed on the battlefield by America's soldiers led by incompetent commanders, and for every soldier invalidated as the result of inefficient staff officers, the people will hold the president alone responsible. That he is subjected to an almost resistless pressure from senators and members seeking appointments for their favorites or political supporters will not count with the country when it sums up its bereavements resulting from bad commanders in the field and ignorant or indifferent staff departments. The president makes the appointments. That he should listen to his party leaders and to senators and members in the matter of the usual government patronage is recognized by well established precedent, and, as a rule, is a wise and proper course to pursue. In the matter of appointments in the army and navy the question of favor or patronage to any senator or member, or any political "boss," should have no part in the president's deliberations. These appointments should be made on personal merit well established and thoroughly commended by the military and naval authorities, the only proper advisers of the executive in military and naval affairs.

President McKinley saw service in the last war and learned from experience and observation what grave disasters may follow incompetency in command. The people will expect more from him for this very reason.

City councils composed of men who represent the interests of certain wards rather than the whole city fail to accomplish the greatest good of the greatest number. The fourteen members of the council of this city represent seven wards whose interests are, apparently, antagonistic. A councilman who secures a large appropriation for any object whatever for the ward of his residence has a large credit mark to his account with his constituents. So long as his success in securing appropriations for his district or ward in the council, state legislature, or congress, is the standard by which the usefulness of a representative is measured, so long will a part be greater than the whole to him. Con-