

ters and papers at the delivery window, but, instead, from some back office sends them their mail by south messengers.

The postoffice will become the shadow of a shade. It will no longer be the forum, the auditorium, the coliseum of the village, and the "post-office bookstore" will pass away. Ceasing to be a resort for the procurement of mail, politics will no longer make the postoffice a house of call, nor love appoint it a rendezvous. The social loss to the country will be quite as great as to the town. What will become of the faithful caller from the rural neighborhood who, after inquiring for "our folks," proceeds to demand the mail of all the Browns, Joneses and Robinsons in the school district?

The Call on Tuesday evening announced that that issue was the last. In a resume of the work which he, as editor and publisher of the paper had tried to do, Mr. Austin says that he has been against the politicians and for the people. Of course it all depends upon the point of view, but it has seemed to THE COURIER that Mr. Austin was tied up with Mayor Graham and the street commissioner who have not gained a reputation for disinterested love of the people. In all the efforts which good citizens have made to free themselves from these men who have gained control of the illiterate, vote-selling part of the community The Call has opposed them and stood by the administration or hoodling element.

On the other hand in his opposition to the principles and policy of Mr. Saylor, city superintendent of schools, Mr. Austin has been supported by the intelligent mothers and fathers who have examined the subjects of his criticism. In the matter of the system of arithmetic now in use the improved results of the Speers system is so apparent that there is no room for discussion and Mr. Austin was instrumental in securing the adoption of this system. The need of a superintendent of the city schools who holds the formation of good character above every other effect of training is indisputable. A man who has once countenanced cheating in order to get together creditable exhibits of the work of the pupils is unfit to direct the teachers of children. To permit, much more to direct a child to get up an exhibit by the aid of his parents or friends and sign his own name to it, is a crime which will appear in the records of this city or some other, in the shape of defalcations and broken trusts. Mental integrity it is said is acquired or lost before a child is eight years old. The effect of the methods of preparation for the exposition exhibit of the Lincoln schools upon the children themselves is incalculable. One of these little ones has a tender conscience and was he to him who sears it. The opinion of Mr. Austin upon school subjects is of great value and although much of his advice has been disregarded it does not affect its soundness.

No one can publish or edit a paper and escape the penalties of expressing his mind. Mr. Austin has made an unusually large collection of enemies. It is impossible to comment upon local affairs without involving the men who cause them. Thus THE COURIER's comments upon the nominations of the late county convention, comments made purely in the interest of the community, have added to THE COURIER's tolerably complete museum of enemies. But as between Mr. Austin's policy of always expressing a sincere opinion when it did not interfere with his advertising contracts, political "tie ups" or animosities engen-

dered by a refusal of a large advertiser to do business with the Call, and the policy of the other two republican city papers of not expressing any opinion at all on local issues, the former is preferable and will, in the long run, be of greater value to the community. But Mr. Austin has not had a long run and THE COURIER is sorry. Not that he has not made great mistakes in having at various times used his paper as a means of reprisal for private wrong—a temptation to which publishers are subjected and for yielding to which they are sometimes shot, but the editor in question is a man of unusual ability, and prosperity would have broadened his charity for other sinners without affecting the piquancy of his editorials. The publisher of THE COURIER has had experience of the temptations and hardships and toil of a publisher's life in Lincoln. She knows the bitterness of unrequited effort, the sting of jibes from "the profession," the hopelessness of the entire situation and realizes from all these how brave and cheerful a man must be to run so long and well, in spite of stumbles, as Mr. Austin has. He is defeated but his retreat is martial and his spirit is unconquerable as when he began the unequal contest.

Mr. Austin's style is pointed and clear. From a literary standpoint his withdrawal from the field of Lincoln newspaperdom is a distinct loss and I am very sorry that circumstances were unfavorable to the continued publication of The Call in this city.

Since the surrender of the Spanish forces under General Toral at Santiago, a general impression has prevailed that the war was virtually at an end and that peace would soon be declared. This expectation was based largely on the belief that Spain had little to fight for and less to fight with. The loss to Spain in its possessions in the West Indies and the Pacific is inevitable. It is doubtless true that those entrusted with the administration of public affairs at Madrid are well aware that to longer continue the contest with the United States can have but one result which is to entail upon Spain farther loss of life and property and increase the amount of war indemnity which will be demanded as one of the stipulations in the treaty of peace. It is more than possible that the Spanish authorities decline to advance proposals of peace because of the fear of internal dimensions and a possible revolution. The reigning dynasty fears both those who favor a republic and those who support Don Carlos.

The claims of the Carlists are not without foundation. In early times the Crown of Castile could descend to females. In 1713, when Philip V. mounted the Spanish throne, the law of succession was altered with the consent of the European nations and it was provided that so long as there was a male descendant, however remote, of Philip V, no female could be crowned. This law of succession, which had the approval of the cortes, obtained for one hundred and twenty years. When Charles IV came to the throne he desired to change the order of succession and leave the crown to his daughter, Maria Carlotta, rather than to his oldest son, Ferdinand, who was an object of dislike to his parents. With the view of accomplishing this object the king assembled the cortes and at a secret meeting of that body held in September, 1789, the deputies were informed of the desire of the king and they reluctantly petitioned the king to have enacted such a law as he desired. To the petition the

king answered that he had adopted a resolution pursuant to the petition but enjoined secrecy on the deputies. No new law was passed or published but the old law continued in force and under it Ferdinand succeeded to the throne. The petition and reply of Charles IV were forgotten until about 1830, when Ferdinand desired to exclude his brother, Don Carlos, from the throne and to make his daughter Isabel queen. To accomplish this result he sent for the papers relating to the change in the law of succession which had been prepared by his father in 1789, and ordered them published for the perpetual observance of a law of succession of the crown of Spain. The law was publicly proclaimed according to custom as the will of the king in April, 1830. Don Carlos the brother of the king, protested against this so called law, not only on his own account but on behalf of his three sons; every male descendant of Philip V in Europe protested as well. In September, 1832, Ferdinand abrogated this law and restored that of Philip V of 1713, by what was called an "act of derogation." In December 1832 he reversed this derogation. None of these changes in the law of succession subsequent to the act of 1713 received the approval of the cortes. The present Don Carlos is a descendant of the brother of Ferdinand and he, with no inconsiderable force of reason, insists that he is illegally kept from the throne.

If the twenty thousand or more Spanish soldiers captured at Santiago by General Shafter shall, upon their return to Spain, prove true to the ruling dynasty these soldiers will be armed and the authorities at Madrid will doubtless be able to cope not only with the Carlists but with those desirous of establishing a republic and then it may be expected that Spain will make proposals for peace. If on the other hand these soldiers, when they arrive in Spain, shall be induced to support a revolution, the government will be likely to refrain from peace negotiations for fear of results at home, until induced to end the war by the appearance of the American navy at Spanish ports. It is possible that in sending home the prisoners of war, captured at Santiago, this government is doing Spain a much greater injury than would have resulted from maintaining these men as prisoners of war in Cuba or in the United States.

One of the most fashionable churches in the east is called "The Church of the Carpenter," though in all likelihood no carpenter has been inside it, except to make repairs, since it was built. Carpenters, stonemasons, plasterers, and all workmen whose business is building, form a small per cent of the congregations of churches, with an exception in favor of the Catholic church. These men, who, when they die, will leave monuments of pine and stone and sand to show that they contributed their share of honest constructive work to the world, are almost unrepresented in the churches. What numerical proportion of the population they form I do not know but the community could more easily spare any other class. Without them the whole northern part of America would have to migrate south for five months in the year. Yet our debt to the builders is unrecognized. The bent shoulders and the hard hands which have toiled honestly to do a good job, are not paid by a day's wages. The community owes them still, for the construction work which was perfected for the work's sake and

not for pay. Over and above the dollars which the skilled workman receives for his handiwork is the consciousness of the monumental character of all constructive labor. This lightens his spirit and animates it. It connects the workman with all the rest of the world from now to the builders of the pyramids and from here to the antipodes (both ways.) Clergymen, as a rule, do not seem to be worried by the absence of representatives of the guild of builders, whose fellow craftsman was Christ, from their congregations so long as the rustle of silk and the squeak of patent leather and creak of laundered shirt bosoms accompany their gentle exhortations. The fact that they are reaching only that part of the world who add church going to their lives as a decoration and because for a long time it has been considered correct does not apparently annoy the average clergyman and deacons. Perhaps they reason that all men are sinners and need salvation equally and these can pay more for rescue than those who stay away. A soul is a soul when it leaves this world but while it is encased in flesh, cultivation of the imprisoned spirits with a commercial talent is more apt to bring the laborer the hire to which he is as justly entitled as the weary carpenters who will not accept Christ's invitation to the heavy-laden.

But Dr. William Riley Halstead has reflected on these things and his book, Christ in the Industries, is a result. He says, "The longest feature of religion is life—a week day life—which does not feel itself out of place with poverty and want, and can hear the world's cry of pain and despair. Any faith that is to command the respect of men in the future, must meet and master the issues of life on its sterner side. If religion is needed anywhere on earth, it is needed in this world of traffic and barter, with its competition and excitement, with its economic perplexities, with its heat of passion and exasperation of defeat.

In the introduction Dr. Halstead says his book "is a brief survey of the industrial field from the standpoint of the Christian believer. It is written for busy people who have no time for an extended treatise, etc." Any criticism of the book therefore as a contribution to sociology, except in the way of popularizing the subject, is idle. Dr. Halstead has addressed his readers as he has been in the habit of addressing his congregation and his book is lacking in the references and footnotes which specialists use. The style is at times of the pulpit, oratorical and professional, but on every page the love of an honest man for his kind and his conviction that the socialism of Christ as expressed in the New Testament is the answer to the industrial puzzle, which the socialists, anarchists, corporationists and capitalists have failed to work, is apparent. The sincere faith that christianity will regenerate and harmonize, the patience to wait for the fulfillment, the sympathy with the lives of the toilers, and the temperate treatment of aggression and intolerance are characteristics of Christ in the industries which make the reading a pleasure and a profit. It has a complete index and table of contents. At the beginning of every chapter is a chapter from the Bible containing statements of the answer we are a long time in accepting.

It is doubtless profitable for the street car company to distribute tracts on the train advising through passengers that their train stops in Lincoln fifty-five minutes and that they can take the street car, standing at the