

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1898.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS,

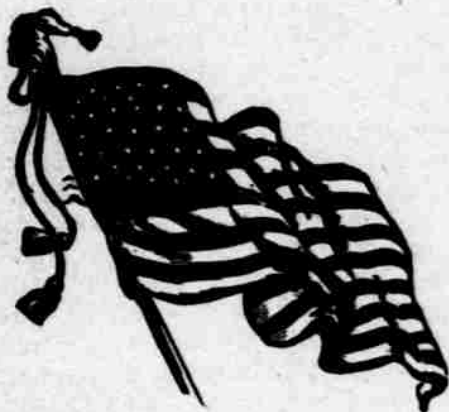
Editor

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 Scovil fellow who slapped General Shafter is receiving his deserts from the fraternity, who, without exception, condemn his impudence. The slapping was probably premeditated and his punishment was what he deserved, but not what he expected. He wanted to be photographed in the saffron papers in the act of slapping the general of the army at Santiago. Instead General Shafter ordered him to leave the army. The sentence is the same to Scovil as oblivion for life. No paper, not even the yellowest, will want his services any more. No general in the army will grant him the privileges of a correspondent. His

career, which he had thought to guild, is forever blighted. If General Shafter had tried him by martial law and he had received a sentence commensurate to his offense, he could have posed as a victim to military discipline and have retained a measure of dignity and consideration, but to be treated with contempt and to be spat upon by other correspondents (rhetorically) has destroyed his chances for the peculiar kind of notoriety he was anxious to gain.

The adulation of Hobson, who went out of his way to do a brave deed, the successful accomplishment of which might have prevented Schley's victory over the Spanish fleet, suggests by contrast the hundreds of brave private soldiers who lay scattered about in the dust and blistering heat, famishing for water after the battle of Santiago. Hobson's transfiguration suggests these wounded, dying soldiers who perished without complaining, because to the one is given glory and honor and to the others a trench and oblivion. There are very few soldiers or officers who would refuse a mission which, whether it failed or succeeded, would confer upon the officer in command immortal fame. Death is a small price to pay for immortality. The real heroes of this war are the private soldiers who bear hardship and suffering without complaint and who obey and die in herds. The young brave apple-cheeked mothers' sons who trotted up that awful lane mowed by shell at El Cano, who fell and complained not of neglect when twelve hours later found them still untended by surgeons, are heroes all the more because they died without hope of reward. To do a noble deed in the company of hundreds of other heroes deprives the deed of dramatic setting, yet the boys who died by hundreds were as brave as Hobson, who risked his life in company with six soldiers in sight of the world. It may be that it is unjust to blame him for his newspaper created cult, but he was so eager to take the place which led to fame and the New York people are gorging him with such large chunks of it that these reflections on the dead boys who lie buried in Cuban trenches may not be unwelcome to those whose own boys carry a gun and obey orders.

Civil service reform, like many others, has its draw backs. Many a competent man fails in the examination and just as many hoodoos take it with honors. Then a clerk or an employe cannot be dismissed without cause and the allegation of incompetency and inaptness in learning the

duties of the position and in performance is too general for the satisfaction of a board, through the other clerks who have to do the incompetent's work over again have items and exhibits of aching backs and overstrained eyes as proofs. Under the spoils system incompetents as well as competents went in and out of office. A fixture was unusual, fortunately for the good of the service. From the postoffices in different parts of the country there are many complaints of incompetent fixtures who were able to pass a technical examination but who lack common sense, tact and quickness and every quality which distinguishes a good clerk. No examination tests to determine the presence of common sense have yet been invented. In the meanwhile men whom no individual finds it profitable to employ pass a government examination and when once set to work by a representative of the government the operation of the civil service rules keeps them in to the manifest injustice of the other employes and the postmaster who must do the parasite's work.

Then the system creates an office-holding class whose only mitigating character consists in not being hereditary. Since the days of the forty days' wandering in the desert the Levites, or officeholders have had an eye and a hand for snaps. The spoils system involved an annual or biennial or quadrennial redistribution of place and sent out a lot of only partially atrophied men and women into the world to earn their own living without the aid of a system or a pull. In spite of these objections the civil service rules have accomplished a better performance by government clerks and is thus to be preferred to the old methods. The system is too rigid, but that is the way with systems.

As to the Philippines the United States owes the inhabitants of that unhappy group justice. Having destroyed Spanish misrule this government is under the strongest obligation to replace it by the best rule yet developed by man. The preachers and Harvard professors who have made it their mission to teach the rest of this country that it is un-American to keep what we have secured by valor, finesse and the expenditure of millions of dollars, ignore the rights of the oppressed natives of the islands. If it can be shown that the Spanish, French, English, German or Japanese have a better government or one more easily acclimated than the democracy of the United States, it would be magnanimous and high minded on our part to renounce our

claims. French and German colonizations in Africa are fairly prosperous, but Emperor William is an anachronism that evolution will not long endure. The beneficent effect of English influence has been shown, with some reservations, in India, but if we gave the Philippines to England, Germany, France, Russia, even Spain, would prefer that we kept them. Japan has not arrived at the period of adolescence in self government and is not ready, by hundreds of years, for colonization. An international congress for the purpose of considering what is best to do with the islands would result in a wrangle among the representatives of the powers in which considerations touching the real interests of the inhabitants of the islands would not be discussed. It is very difficult to decide what to do with the Philippines; but when it is fully and audibly recognized that humanity, and the obligations of a civilized people to primitive, oppressed natives, forbid returning the latter to the hands of a conquered, revengeful, cruel race, the answer is so clearly indicated that only a cowardly and distrustful congress can refuse to accept the logic of the situation. To transplant a bit of sound democracy into the orient will be like grafting a fragment of wholesome skin into the middle of a chronic sore. If the fragment can be connected with the vital forces underneath the surface that healthy spot will gradually spread until it is connected with the mainland and the whole round world become a democracy without czar or emperor or king or a system of caste which is worse than the tyranny of all three combined. When all other paths are impassably blocked it takes no particularly brilliant statesmanship to walk in the only one left open. The Philippines can not be returned to Spain or presented to any other nation without reflecting upon the flexibility of our own form of government and renouncing the obligations of victory. Renunciation would be cowardly, unworthy of our traditions, our forefathers and our place in the procession's van. President McKinley's sturdy Americanism can be depended upon. It is not of the thin, watery Harvard quality, that fancies everything American is vulgar and to be discouraged by all those who happen to occupy a rostrum or a pulpit. President McKinley likes this country and the people that live in it. He believes that American institutions can be grafted and bestow upon a foreign soil the blessings of freedom. To be a part of the United States will mean for the natives the establishment of a public school system, by no means