

the Kansas City fire department in Paris can perform for Kansas City in case of fire in the latter place the papers which advocate sending the department there neglect to say. The taxpayers, the large proportion of whom have never been out of the state, are to pay the expenses of these burly firemen, a million of whom could not teach the Parisians how to handle fire any better than they already do. If firemen and councilmen were not in the habit of junketing at the expense of the taxpayers, this proposition would be received with the amazement it deserves. As it is the Kansas City taxpayer sees no reason why he should not send a glittering fireman to Paris there to ride about on a fire engine and condole with the firemen of Paris, whose city council or correlative body, does not believe in sending men employed to put out fires to a foreign nation. Certain countries of the Orient have sacred animals. In India it is a cow, or a monkey, or a snake. In Persia it is an elephant. In the woolly part of America it is a fireman or a policeman, especially the former, who is shielded from labor and reserved for those occasions where, in blue cloth and brass buttons, he can make civic occasions resplendent by his presence. That large part of the community which neither holds office nor dictates nominations but just pays taxes, has not realized how irrelevant and impertinent the fireman is. Sometime it will learn that the diversion of the people's money to pay for an European tour for firemen is an absurdity that nothing but a democracy would be guilty of. A monarch would be assassinated if he proposed such a thing. The emperor of Germany was scarcely allowed to go to Turkey, though he obtained important concessions for the German citizens of Turkey while he was there. Kansas City cannot claim, however; that the ignorant firemen can be of any diplomatic service to France.

Around the senate of the United States hover always the agents and representatives of trusts who are selected for their knowledge of the world and their good fellowship. It is their business to be on dining terms with the senators and it is their business to prevent legislation tending to lessen the absolute power which a well organized and ably administered trust wields. In many cases, perhaps in most cases, the effect of the combination of the producers or manufacturers of any article has been to stop the waste of competitive production and to lessen the cost of the article to the consumer. It is only when the trust is able to procure extraordinary privileges that it becomes necessary to keep agents at the national capital to prevent the people from asserting themselves through their representatives.

An overweening respect for money reduces the real usefulness of a citizen, but "a business man" with this characteristic becomes dangerous to the ideals and the liberties of the whole people, when he gets into the senate of the United States. That legislative body is the temp'le of democracy, and the stalls for the money changers should be ripped down and they themselves should be driven out.

There is a great deal of talk about the advantages of sending "a business man" to the United States senate instead of a man who knows anything and cares anything for the history of this government and the development of constitutional liberty. It is the "business man" who can appreciate the money value of a vote or a concession. A good business man will not take into consideration the interests of a lot of plain people, whom he

has never seen and whose approval will not mean a dollar more or less to him. He cannot stop to consider unborn generations whose inheritance he may be asked to vote away. This man is no dreamer, no orator, no talker. He is concerned with dollars and cents. To be sure George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln were not good business men. None of them, had he been sent as senator to the United States senate from Nebraska, would have devoted his whole time to getting a government building for Lincoln or to getting on the inside of the Nicaragua canal schemes, or to manipulating appropriations primarily in his own interest, and secondly in the interest of the people who sent him there. Thank the Lord, none of these men were "business men." General Grant was so bad a business man that when the firm of Grant & Ward failed he sold all his personal property; the swords presented to him by a grateful people; the jewels given him by the kings and queens, all the voluntary tribute his genius and patriotism had levied from the world General Grant sold at auction in order that he might pay the debts his son had made. It was most unbusinesslike and showed that he was a man of ideals.

There is much depreciation of the dreamer, the orator, the poet, and yet this country is great because of their dreams. Mr. Bryan has conquered in spite of obscurity and poverty because he is a dreamer. What "business man" even in this commercial century has accomplished what Mr. Bryan has? Men of the Nebraska state legislature: ideas rule the world: A gifted orator, who is at once a good man and an idealist, can compel an homage that a "business man" can advertise for forever and not secure. Pulses respond not to appeals to the pocket, though votes do sometimes. Personal loyalty, such as James G. Blaine inspired, is not a matter of money. The obscure Bryan was attended by a genuinely devoted mob of believers wherever he went, and he never bought a man. The newspapers sneered at him and called him an orator, forgetting that since the days of Demosthenes oratory has fired the hearts of a people whom cupidity has failed to move. None of the men to whom the nation has built monuments and the lesson of whose life we are using to bring up our children were simply business men. If they were gifted with the commercial instinct they were far sighted enough to appreciate the greater importance of purity, integrity, a good name, and the love and gratitude of their kind. America is not the dry goods stores, gas companies and all kinds of commercial organizations, so much as it is the greatest democracy on the earth, the creation of dreamers and of non-conformists, who left their business interests in England that they might freeze and starve and be free in America.

The action of the directors of the Northwestern railroad in dismissing all female employes has been severely criticised by women's clubs and associations of women. Even Mrs. Herotin, who is a woman of large charity and accustomed to make deliberate judgments and to deny herself to prejudice, condemned the action of the directors of the road. But it seems to me that the directors in question are entitled to the consideration paid to those willing to sacrifice convenience and habit to consistency. The reason for giving the conge to all female employes is that the road has adopted in its entirety, the rules of the civil service. Promotions are only to be made strictly according to length

of service, faithfulness and proved ability. The management has announced that no exceptions to this rule are to be made. Therefore being unable to accept the idea of a woman division superintendent, general manager or president, they were obliged to dismiss all the women theretofore employed by the road. The only difference between the directors of the Northwestern and other corporations employing women is that the former had the courage to follow a false premise to its legitimate and logical conclusion. Other roads employ women in subordinate positions and make a practice of advancing men whom the women rank, in length of service, ability, and in all tests by which promotions are made, over them. If women are not capable of being division superintendents, general managers and presidents, they ought to be dismissed from the service in disgrace, as they have been on the Northwestern. It is cowardly and inconsistent to employ them and apply civil service rule to everybody but Woman. The question of equal pay for the same service would soon be settled if all employers had the courage of the Northwestern management. Women are either fit for everything or for nothing. They should be employed as individuals and the same rules applied to them as to men or they should not be employed at all. The Northwestern is the first corporation to publicly accept and act upon the inevitable result of the premise that women are incapable of holding positions of responsibility. The road ought not to be boycotted for a display of logic and sincerity as rare as it is admirable. If women are capable of the general manager act such a policy as the Northwestern has adopted will shorten her probation. If she is not the Northwestern is still right.

The Lincoln correspondent of the World-Herald gets up some lurid stuff for that paper. In last Sunday's edition Mr. Bradley said the ministers of Lincoln had been asked by some of the other senatorial candidates to preach sermons aimed against Mr. Thompson and the ministers were so indignant that two of them announced that they would preach sermons advocating for senator just the sort of man Mr. Thompson wants it supposed he is; for instance, a business man of long distance vision. As a matter of fact the Lincoln ministers have not been approached by Thompson or anti-Thompson. The yellowness of this particular correspondent's letters seems to be deepening with the senatorial situation.

If the women of this community could be united in an organization for the sanitary and aesthetic improvement of Lincoln and University Place there would doubtless be much good accomplished. The city federation fell apart from its own weight and the cohesiveness of a city union including all philanthropic, literary, religious and economic societies is likely to suffer the same fate. Much of the good work which has been accomplished is due to the inspiration of a devoted minister or teacher, or leader. Large and loose bodies composed of smaller bodies are apt to lack in harmony, grace and effectiveness. But only large bodies include enough representatives of the whole to accomplish large results. "You in your small corner, I in mine," may be doing our best, and when we come to judgment our motives will be taken into consideration, but so long as we are isolated and unorganized we shall live in a filthy city in which a pestilence does not break out for some reason unknown to a bacteriologist. An

effort to organize the women into a city union for the purpose of improving the appearance and healthfulness of the city is one in which every woman ought to help. A meeting for that purpose will be held at Mrs. A. J. Sawyer's on Monday morning at half past ten o'clock. All women are invited to be present.

I have received from Mrs. Sawyer some valuable suggestions in regard to the need and possibilities of such a union: To insure success it should have the support and membership of not less than thirty or forty organizations and 700 to 1,000 persons.

Some work cannot be done by individuals. E. G., "control of the cigarette habit." But suppose 5,000 mothers and sisters were to unite in demanding the enforcement of existing laws? Apply the same to charity work, reform work, city improvement, municipal affairs, city legislation, public schools, divorce reform, education in citizenship, social purity, sociological questions affecting domestic life, etc.

Some say "I cannot take up any new work. I am interested in such a line, if the council will do that work I will join, otherwise not." One object of a council is to emphasize the reciprocal obligations between all lines of moral and ethical work.

Those who come to the next meeting should be prepared to present a definite plan for a definite object, one on which all can unite.

Office of P. J. Kennedy.

St. Louis, Jan. 12, 1899.

To the Courier,

Lincoln, Neb.:

My Much Respected Courier—A dear friend of mine mailed me copies of your paper of December 3 and December 10. Some of the literature it contained nerved my conquered spirits and nature to a fighting heat, and the uniform goes once more to lay siege to the bitter end against a class of boodlers and destroyers of respectable and illustrious citizens' homes and their families.

Inclosed please find check for \$1.10, for one year to the Courier, the ten cents for collection. My paper is yet gilt edge, 100 cents on the dollar the world over. No matter how much the McShier gang of sand-baggers and bank-wreckers disfigured me financially, my credit is A No. 1, and my paper gilt edge—no matter who holds it.

Every tax-payer in the state of Nebraska should be a reader of the Courier. Why do I say this? No one can forget the vigorous, manly and humane fight for the people's rights, freedom and liberty made by the Courier in Omaha at the trial of the indicted cashier of the Capital National bank. The steps the Courier took incite the displeasure of Uncle Sam.

In this condition the people found in the Courier a vigorous ally, so able, so deliberate and so accurate was the gunner's fire on the federal arm of the strongest government in existence the Courier was escorted by the nation's marshal to appear for contempt before the federal tribunal.

Herod was on the throne. The manly and womanly fight made by Morton Smith and Miss Sarah B. Harris—I am informed that Mr. Smith has since lost his life by accident, and if such is the case I hope and trust that his spirit shines on the bosom of its heavenly Creator as bright and as brilliant as the planet Mars on a cloudless, starry night in a Nebraska sky—was worthy of their steel.

The weapons displayed by those two noble people in behalf of their plundered clients was far more stubborn and persistent than the resistence with which Dewey had to contend at