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THE COURIER will not be responsible for vol-
untary communications unless accompanied by
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OBSERVATIONS.

First Books.

David Harum from the publisher's point of view has been the most successful book of the year. In March, 29,000 copies were sold and 90,000 copies have been printed and the last edition is nearly exhausted. Let the number of young writers in different parts of the country and especially in Lincoln take heart of courage, that this book the success of the year, was rejected with the usual printed slip by six different publishers, residing in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. If Mr. Edward Noyes Westcott, the author of David Harum had had less faith in himself and in the book revealed to him, he would have remained a private in the army of inspired ones who faint because of heretical publishers who will print any longwinded, tiresome, exploitation of his own adventures from Hobson and refuse to publish a book for which 90,000 people are pining. A new author must not only possess the ease and skill of an old hand at the business but he must possess a startling originality in order to overcome the prejudice existing in all publisher's minds against newness. Everybody who has occupied even the humblest editorial chair will understand why the manuscript reader abhors a new contributor. Pounds of wretched composition containing disjointed sentences that only grope for the ideas they are supposed to express, are received by obscure publishers of purely local papers. The manuscript readers on magazines must receive what become rejected manuscripts by the hundred weight. There is little wonder that after the

depression of examining the writings of those who can not write, for years the reader becomes convinced that the region of the unknown is inhabited by men and women who wear their heads in their stomachs and think with their fingers. Therefore must every reader open a manuscript to discover the address of its author and before reading it he takes a printed form of rejection which reads something like this:

EDITORIAL ROOMS.

Dear Madam or Sir:—We regret that we are compelled to decline the manuscript you kindly submitted to us for examination.

For various reasons a manuscript may not be adapted to The ——— and yet meet with acceptance elsewhere. We sometimes accept manuscripts declined by other publications, and often find that those we have declined are accepted by other periodicals. The return of a manuscript, therefore, does not necessarily imply lack of merit or unfitness for publication.

We esteem it a favor to be allowed to examine manuscripts, whether they prove acceptable or not. Please excuse the absence of specific criticism, which is rendered impossible by the great number of manuscripts submitted to us. Thanking you for your courtesy, we are

Very truly yours,
THE EDITORS.

He puts it in an envelope and writes upon it the name on the M. S. he is about to read. He is surprised by excellence only a few times in a year and because of the rarity, his intelligence goes to sleep and can only be awakened from the coma or trance to which all manuscript readers are subject by indications of imperative and imperial talent. All publishers deny these charges, but the number of rejected addresses by men of genius which they are only too glad to publish after a wide awake publisher has discovered them and the omnipotent people have signified their approval often confirms the contributor's plaint. They frequently publish denials of partiality in reply to the reproaches of rebuffed genius, saying that they are constantly on the lookout for a new genius. They may be but their comatose manuscript readers are only anxious to finish their day's work as quickly as possible and assume as little responsibility as possible. The publishers themselves neither see nor read the manuscripts which are delivered at their rooms by the sackfull.

Embarrassing Relatives.

Beatrice ministers have resented Walt Mason's good natured reproof to lachrymose Nebraska relatives who have wailed along after the First Nebraska. Importuning the secretary of war, the assistant secretary, and all others in authority to send the First Nebraska home to their affectionate but maudlin and inglorious relatives. Yet Mr. Mason's advice is sensible and would be offered by the boys themselves if it were not impossible for them to criticize anything, however silly, the folks at home choose

to do or advise.

From New York to California the papers are full of praises of the First Nebraska which has been in more battles and lost more men on the field and fewer by sickness than any other regiment. Yet here in Nebraska we pass resolutions censuring the colonel of the First, here in Nebraska the populist papers are clamoring for the regiment's return, and reviling a policy which has not yet been defined, and even republican papers do not fully recognize the distinction which the regiment has conferred upon the state, and Nebraska parents who sent their sons to war have not the Spartan virtue of rejoicing with them. Kansas and Nebraska have contributed to the war, officers and regiments whose achievements are being celebrated in every state but Nebraska. Kansas is aflame over Colonel Funston whose exploits have been of the single, hand-to-hand daredevil, knight-errant character. He is a brave man and the Kansans do well to celebrate their hero, to name hats, horses, towns and children after him, but as compared to Colonel Stotsenburg, Colonel Funston is as Lighthorse Harry or some other dashing leader in the civil war, to General Sheridan who prepared his soldiers for victory by indefatigable drilling, discipline and by being in complete and composed control of the situation in the midst of the battle. Such a man was Colonel Stotsenburg whom our stolid legislature rebuked for incessantly drilling his men and making soldiers out of the material which under less intelligent direction had remained a mob of adventurers, excursionists and tourists, finding fault with army discipline and acquiring a familiarity with the inside of the guard house. Do we not know, have we not heard that the First Nebraska, and its one time Colonel are admired by the English army and by all the life long soldiers of the armies of Europe? who naturally follow the men and moves of the Philippine campaign more closely than we do whose business is not fighting. When a soldier of England does a gallant deed, if he is only a scottish piper, the deed and the man are known all over England, and when he comes back he is met by an unbonneted crowd who cheer him and call him by a pet nickname. We let one of the most gallant soldiers and best officers be killed at the head of his company under the impression that his devotion to the colors he fought under was misunderstood. The parents who are now clamoring for the return of the First Nebraska are making another mistake of the same sort, only this time their own soldierly sons, who glory in the fame of the regiment are being discredited by their parent's outcries. For the sake of the men whose steadiness and obedience unto death has made the regiment known throughout the world it is hoped by the men of the First that their relations will cease

moaning and prepare to be dazzled when the regiment comes back. For the regiment is composed of men now, though only boys with damask cheeks and lips still puckered in infant curves were mustered in. However indifferent we may seem to what they have done in the Philippines, I fancy no one can look when they return, upon the young faces set in warrior grimness, without thanking God for them and what they have accomplished, undeterred by senile whining, in the Philippines.

Historical Plays.

Sir Henry Irving's success in Robespierre has produced a revival in England of the French Revolution in print. A month ago a name that the gamins of London had never heard and could not pronounce is now shouted by them in good theatre French and to a certain extent they have learned about the convention and its three divisions, the guillotine, and the committees. Such a tremendous effort made by a man of Sir Henry's age is remarkable and it is certain that after London has seen Robespierre, Sir Henry will bring his company to America.

Such historical plays as Robespierre and Cyrano de Bergerac, widen the horizon of men and women who either will not read or lack time and opportunity for reading, and the widening of the horizon means the adding of years, of experience, travel and acquaintance to a life. Dwellers in reeking tenements are suddenly transported by an influence they are accustomed to yield to, to a time of chivalry, and of fighting for aspirations, and for the first time become conscious of time and history. Even for the student Cyrano or Robespierre on the stage is a lesson of delight and of longer living. Nor can any imagination, however strong, conceive a character from reading and study as Richard Mansfield can portray it.

The Cyrano he plays here Monday night is the play of the year except for this Robespierre of Sir Henry Irving's which there is little chance to see for more than another year. For very love of literature and of life from the beginning, for nausea of problem plays, for indigestion of risque plays, the people of Lincoln and of the surrounding towns will go to see Richard Mansfield and he of the long nose valiant arm and death-faithful heart.

The St. Louis Convention.

The convention of amateur musical clubs which lately met in St. Louis was a very successful meeting and discovered a proficiency in music and an interest in the best music flattering to any people. There was one feature, however very trying to the business like western delegates who have grown accustomed to meetings which begin and close on time. The president of the association happens