

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1899.



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 unless accompanied 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.

Justice to the Living.

On this Decoration Day the graves of the nation's heroes are strewn with the flowers of May. Eloquent words recount to listening thousands the noble deeds of those who risked and those who lost their lives in their country's service. What day more appropriate for justice to the living?

On the 12th day of last January, there was introduced in the state senate by Senator Crow of Douglas county, a resolution preceded by a preamble which recited that it was common report to the parents of Nebraska sons serving in the Philippines, that Colonel Stotsenburg had been guilty of unjust and unsoldierly treatment of the men in the First Nebraska then under his command; and that the charges had been officially filed with the secretary of war. The resolution demanded that our senators and representatives in congress request the secretary of war to detach Colonel Stotsenburg from the First Nebraska and return him to duty in the regular army. In representative Fisher of Dawes county, was found a man who possessed those qualifications which enabled him to introduce and champion a similar resolution in the house.

Cadet Taylor of Omaha was the active coward outside the legislature who led this dastardly attack upon an absent soldier then maintaining the flag of his country on the opposite side of the globe.

At the time fixed for consideration Representative Fisher who introduced the resolution called it up and the resulting legislative action is without parallel in the history of this

state. Charges of cruelty and ill treatment of the men under his command which if true would have compelled the discharge from the service of the commanding officer of the Nebraska regiment were made and repeated upon the floor of the house. Not a witness was called, not a word of testimony produced. It was charged that parents of members of the regiment had letters which detailed acts of cruelty on the part of the commanding officer, which letters had been exhibited to members of the house. As an excuse for not producing these letters, it was said that to make them public would injuriously effect the writers who were still under the command of the officer upon whose head the maledictions of these legislators were laid. At the same time a proposition to refer the matter to a committee where an investigation could be made and if necessary the names of the writers of the letters be concealed, was rejected. Men drawing pensions from the government sneaked about legislative halls claiming to have letters from relatives which formed the basis of the charges made, but who had not the manhood to exhibit the documents they claimed to possess.

Representative Fisher had been an officer in the second Nebraska and bore the title of Captain. A brave man who was worthy to bear such a title would have stood in the breach in defense of an absent officer then in service. On the contrary this man led the attack from a legislative ambush which he knew protected him from accountability for anything he then and there said. Possessing no personal knowledge of the facts, he proceeded to serve Cadet Taylor by denouncing Colonel Stotsenburg as a tyrant.

Representative Burns followed Representative Fisher in the attack upon the gallant soldier whose body now takes its place among the honored dead at Arlington. In a lachrymose manner he declared that boys who had been playmates of his boys were subject to the tyranny of the commanding officer of the regiment, yet he produced nothing in support of his charges. He had not the manhood to demand that an investigation be made; that Cadet Taylor who for weeks had pestered the war department with attempts to secure the removal of this officer, should be required to substantiate the charges he had uttered, and that at least an opportunity to be heard in his own defense be offered the officer. He is reported to have said he favored an investigation when the colonel was back. Is he aware that the colonel is is back?

Representatives Wilcox of Lincoln, Sturges of Douglas, Mann of Saline, and others followed the lead of Fisher and Burns in their cowardly attack upon a man ten thousand miles away. To the credit of the state there

were a few members of the house who stood against the cry, "crucify him, crucify him," and had the manhood to denounce condemnation without a hearing. Prominent among these were Representatives Haller of Washington, Jansen of Jefferson, Weaver of Richardson, Hardy of Polk, Wheeler of Furnas, and Easterling of Buffalo. There was a member of the Lancaster delegation who by reason of the position he occupied could have prevented legislative action which embittered the brief remaining period of the life of as brave a soldier as ever saluted the flag or drew a sword in its defense. That man was Paul F. Clark, Speaker of the house. A graduate of the State university at which Colonel Stotsenburg was stationed when the volunteer army was created; a lawyer by profession and presumably familiar with the principle that every man is entitled to a hearing before condemnation; in duty bound to see that the house took no action which should not remain a matter of public record, he raised not his voice against this attack, but when the roll was called voted for the adoption of the resolution. In the house not a member of the Lancaster delegation voted against this action. Anderson, Lane, Burns, Clark and Harkson, in the absence of a line or a word which warranted such action voted for the condemnation of the soldier whose body lay in state at the capitol building last Sunday. Such pusillanimity was not exhibited by either of the senators for this county, both of whom opposed the adoption of and voted against the resolution in the senate.

What followed? Without investigation to show that the charges made in legislative halls were false; the officer attacked not removed from his command; the apparent purpose of the resolutions not accomplished the entire record of this proceeding is expunged. Why? No resolutions was offered reciting that the legislature had acted upon misinformation. No apology was offered to the one injured. Like a criminal the legislature proceeded to destroy the evidence of the crime. It is said that on that fatal Sunday when the colonel of the First Nebraska fell at the head of his troops, after the battle was over men of his regiment sat down in the road and cried. For what? At the loss of an officer condemned without a hearing by the Nebraska legislature. With the burial of Colonel Stotsenburg the incident is closed save as it shall affect the future political career of those who accomplished his condemnation. Justice requires that they be not forgotten.

William the Mighty

Emperor William has a new visiting card. It is seven inches long, five inches wide and in great, fat letters in the centre is engraved the word, "Wilhelm." If the Emperor was a

private gentleman such a card would make him the jest of clubs and fasten upon him a suspicion of vulgarity hard to dispel. Because he is the emperor the Berlin bloods will begin to deposit pasteboards the size of a cabinet photograph at the homes of the young ladies they honor by a call. They will have to carry the cards in portfolios and the width of pockets must be increased. A gentlemen with a large visiting list would really need something like a caddie to carry his cards of an afternoon. Since William the funny ascended the throne of Germany he has been playing a game of follow your leader. There is evidence that he recognizes the absurdity of some of the pranks he amuses himself with, but he accomplishes them quickly and turns to watch the courtiers come tumbling after.

Two Men.

In a speech at Danville, Illinois, on the Twenty-sixth of this month, Mr. Bryan, according to the newspapers, devoted his attention to the farmers. He told them they were taxed beyond their just proportions, that they could not conceal a foot of ground or a head of stock, that there were few or no farmers, who were stockholders in large corporations and trusts, and the capitalists interested in trusts entirely escaped taxation under republican rule and would continue to do so. This last statement is direct, those preceding imply that the farmer is unfortunate because he can not hide his farm and his stock when the assessor, who is generally a farmer himself, visits him, that stockholders in banks, corporations and trusts, do conceal their stocks from the assessor and that the farmer has no chance to get even with stockholders because there are "few are no farmers who are stockholders and directors in large corporations and trusts." Most successful farmers, and the proportion of farmers who succeed is larger than in any other business, succeed by virtue of attending to their business and keeping out of that to which they are not bred. The farmers who can buy bank stock rarely do so, not because it is not offered them but because they know their own business has fewer risks and surer rewards than any other. As to farmers being assessed higher than stocks, the tax assessor's book can be offered as an exhibit in rebuttal to Mr. Bryan's statement.

It takes a brave politician to advocate doing simple justice to a corporation. It is more popular as well as cheaper and safer to appeal to a mob's prejudices, to mouth its catchwords, and to inflame its passions. Governor Roosevelt does none of these things, yet he is a clever politician. He has won recognition by sheer force of honesty and energy, and he has never broken faith with himself. More than any other soldier in politics he represents the new politician,