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SARAH B. HARRIS,

Editor

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OBSERVATIONS.

Justice to the Living.

Throughout a type written letter of something more than three pages, of date June 5th, addressed to the editor of this journal, Cadet Taylor of Omaha winces under a just and well merited rebuke administered through these columns two weeks ago. He suggests that the article written on Decoration Day, the truth of which he does not deny, had for its object the renewal of a controversy which he writes "had been settled by the parties interested." Not at all. The object was to inform the reading public who were some of the principal actors and the part they took in an unwarranted and cowardly attack upon a brave soldier then engaged in the discharge of his duty, and in insisting upon the adoption by the legislature of a resolution of condemnation without a word of evidence in support of charges and that without giving him an opportunity to be heard. It was intended that the future political career of those actors should be effected by the acts recited. A further object was to furnish a mirror in which the parties designated from the eminence of infamy upon which their voluntary acts in advocating and securing condemnation without a hearing had placed them, might view themselves. Cadet Taylor has taken his view and is mad at the mirror.

The party most deeply interested in the controversy which is said to have been settled was the late commanding officer of the First Nebraska. The resolution which Cadet Taylor admits he caused to be introduced in

the legislature had for its purpose the disgracing of that officer and his removal from the command of the regiment because of alleged unworthy conduct. The adoption of that resolution was a matter of public record. In the settlement of such a controversy certainly the officer was deeply interested. When and where was the alleged settlement made? In making it who represented the absent officer and who the "Thurston Rifles Associate Members" of which Cadet Taylor claims to be president? That a resolution condemning the action of the officer was presented to the legislature is admitted. That in advocating the adoption of that resolution charges were made against the officer which if true would have prevented his farther promotion and caused his discharge in disgrace from the army is true. That no opportunity to be heard in his own defense either in person or by representative was afforded the soldier charged with offense is conceded. That a motion to defer action on the resolution until the charges could be investigated and the truth ascertained was voted down, will not be denied. And now it is said the controversy was settled by the parties interested. In that settlement and as a part thereof did the commanding officer of the First Nebraska indicate or agree that expunging the record of the injustice done him was all that he required? What were the terms of this settlement and where may a record of it be found?

In the letter above referred to Cadet Taylor says: "I did what I considered to be my duty in behalf of the private soldiers, in answer to the appeal of the fathers and mothers of boys 10,000 miles away from home." And this man's conception of duty led him to make an attack from the rear upon the army of his country in time of war by endeavoring to secure the removal from that army, when it faced the enemy, of one of its most efficient and bravest officers who later fell in battle when leading a charge. An officer whose death caused bearded men in his command to weep. How many fathers and mothers of members of the First Nebraska are willing to admit that they appealed to Cadet Taylor, President of the "Thurston Rifles Associate Members" to secure the condemnation of the Colonel of that regiment without a hearing? Let them stand up and be counted.

The letter referred to contains this interrogatory: "What personal interest have you in the First Nebraska that qualifies you to sit in judgement?" Is it necessary that the editor of the paper which contains these observations shall have a relative in the First Nebraska in order to qualify her to criticize the public acts of the Nebraska legislature or to denounce the cowardice of one who by false representations induces those acts? If an officer of that regiment should murder one of the men under

his command is the right of criticism of that act reserved to those who have relatives in the regiment? The interest which the editor has in the First Nebraska that qualifies her to sit in judgement upon the action of the legislature is the interest which every lover of justice has in justice. It is the natural abhorrence, which every decent person feels for the acts of which Cadet Taylor admits he has been guilty. To quote farther from this letter: "Let me say to you madam, that we do not recognize your right to criticize unless you have a family interest." How presumptuous it is in one not having a "family interest" to criticize the acts of the Nebraska legislature.

Repeatedly in this letter reference is made to the sons of the writer who are members of the First Nebraska. The affection expressed for them is commendable but it is somewhat remarkable that one possessing such powerful parental affection should have been so regardless of the affection which another father had for his son. Did it never occur to Cadet Taylor that Colonel Stotsenburg had a father and that the reputation and good name of his son was dear to him? When that father wrote a letter to the State senate and requested an investigation of the charges made against his son did Cadet Taylor urge any member of the senate to take the necessary steps to grant the request?

I forbear reference to those portions of the letter which refer to the bravery of the First Nebraska. The bravery of the regiment as a regiment, as well as its efficiency was born largely of the capability and courage of its commanding officer whose removal was sought to be encompassed by legislative condemnation at the behest of the author of the letter to which reference has been made. The courage and character of the regiment has been proved but it remains to be seen whether that character and courage are sufficient to enable it to withstand the withering blight of a compliment from those who attempted to destroy its efficiency.

Women Sculptors.

The noble head of Mrs. Emma Willard, founder of the Troy Seminary and one of the first women to promote the higher education of women has been modeled by Mrs. Enid Yandell. The bust will be placed in the State library at Albany, and is presented by the Emma Willard association to the State library. The sculptor is the first woman allowed to become a member of the National Sculptor's Association. Several of the illustrated weeklies have published pictures of the bust. I would all cavillers at woman's work and genius, all rhymesters of the new woman, all Harry Thurston Pecks and all uninspired, jealous scribblers who dread the increasing competition from those whom they inconsistently argue, have

no duties to the race except that of renewing and rearing it, might study this bust or picture. Broadly modeled, the bust bears the marks of an inspired thumb. The grace, strength, and repose of the face suggest George Washington as he might have looked when he first fell in love or as he might have looked if the messenger with beautiful feet had approached him with the tidings of a new born son, so suffused with tenderness and faith and fulfilled hope is this woman's face. It pleases all the women of the world who believe that woman has an intellect and that some women have genius to be so overwhelmingly confirmed by portrait busts such as this by Enid Yandell or those Bessie Potter makes. They are unanswerable and if the spiteful penny-a-liners and book reviewers of Grub street are depressingly insistent on the inferiority of women and her ridiculous aspirations to accomplish the end of the road she has started to travel they are discouraged hereby.

Higher Education.

The State university address delivered last week by President Cyrus W. Northrup was a surprise to those who have been brought up to believe that the education of the masses is the answer to the political and social problems that no nation or community has yet answered. Between socialism that weakens self reliance, on the one hand, and unrestricted individualism on the other which gives the clever, the unscrupulous or the rich an unfair advantage over the stupid, the scrupulous or the poor, there is doubtless a system or theory of association which reconciles liberty with restriction but nobody has discovered it. Not Mr. Bryan nor Professor Herron nor President McKinley, and the last does not pretend that he has.

President Northrup thinks that the education our country needs is one which will fit the farmers, mechanics and professional men to think and vote on the questions of civil government as well as to plow, run machinery and practice medicine, law or theology. The only excuse the state has for taxing every body to provide the children of a few with a higher education is that these few raise the average and return more than the value of their education to the state; that in effect a diploma received from a state institution is a promissory note in which the holder promises to pay to the state (time not specified) the value of four years' instruction, in philosophy, chemistry, biology, mathematics, dead and modern languages, history, literature and in all the other knowledge slowly accumulating since the discovery of writing. If the holder of such a diploma does not pay back to the state a devoted citizenship, then he is insolvent and becomes a dead loss to the state and the system is discredited. For instance, when a university