

# THE COURIER

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## OBSERVATIONS.

### The Stotsenburg Fund.

If everyone in Nebraska who appreciates the services rendered the state by Colonel Stotsenburg will contribute to the fund for his widow and children the sum will doubtless be sufficient to support them. Up to the time that Colonel Stotsenburg went to the Philippines he was a lieutenant in the army receiving only a lieutenant's pay. His income was not large enough to permit him to lay aside much in case of death, but his qualifications as an officer justified him in hopes of future promotion. As soon as he was actually in command of a regiment in active service his unusually brilliant powers as a military commander were apparent. Stern and exacting with his men and officers, but sterner and more exacting with himself, the discipline in Colonel Stotsenburg's camp was that of a regular army in the neighborhood of a savage, treacherous enemy. His camp was never surprised, his soldiers were always alert and prepared. After a few months of Colonel Stotsenburg's training there was nothing in the camp of the First Nebraska to remind one of the ordinary laissez faire shiftlessness of a volunteer camp.

By his final charge at Quingua he saved the lives of his soldiers who had been led into a trap. Colonel

Stotsenburg after a glance at the situation and a few words with the officers, immediately on his arrival ordered a charge and the First Nebraska sprang to its feet and plunged over the rice fields cheering their colonel who was in the habit of carrying trenches this way and whom they were in the habit of following. He died doing his whole and first duty as an officer and soldier. The state whose citizens he led so gloriously, will doubtless accept the obligation to look after the helpless ones whom he supported. Since last week many have intimated a desire to contribute to a Stotsenburg fund, but have refrained on account of the insignificance of their contributions. The ninety eight thousand dollars contributed by Californians to the Lawton fund is made up of small sums from many thousands of people. There is no reason for believing California more generous than Nebraska. To Colonel Stotsenburg more than to anyone else is due the glorious record of the First Nebraska. The regiment responded intelligently to his leadership, but to his formative inspirations, educated military convictions and characteristic devotion to a single purpose the noble history of the First Nebraska in the Philippines, is really due.

Contributions to this fund will be received by The Courier and names and amounts published from week to week.

### Degenerates.

Philanthropists and criminologists have instructed us for years that crime was the result of degeneracy and that a degenerate could be easily distinguished by his imperfect ears, or his onesided head or his shovel or spatulate fingers and hopeless thumb. There is, therefore, nothing for sensible people to do when such a baby is born, but to kill it.

A writer in the current number of the Popular Science Monthly, the Rev. Samuel G. Smith says that the sense of personal responsibility is still the foundation of social order, and that if indeed there is no such thing the world is, at last, awake from its dream of morality." Mr. Smith asked the warden of a penitentiary to give him eleven pictures of criminals selected at random which were in turn submitted to a lawyer, a physician, a railway president, a criminal judge and a college professor. They were unable to designate, the accidental from the born criminal, or the most depraved from the milder criminals. While they were examining the types, Mr. Smith examined them and discovered, he says, more anomalies of organization in these distinguished citizens than were apparent in the photographs of the criminals they were examining. Only, by constant battles with suggestion they had been able to overcome the evil one or at least defeat his purpose in so far as to keep out of prison.

Confronted in their boyhood by the evil prophesy of a short thumb, a onesided head, or a "criminal" ear the possessors instead of yielding to predestination and thus strengthening the reputation of Lombroso, resolved to fight their, thumb, ear and head and become the president of a railway, a great advocate, or the president of a trust.

### D. A. R. Annual Convention.

The Daughters of the American Revolution adjourned at midnight last Saturday evening in Washington after a very exciting session. About half of the business was left unfinished. It was supposed that the session would be quiet because only ten vice-presidents general were to be elected. But a row inside the Warren chapter of Monmouth Illinois, was carried to Washington and its discussion occupied about one-half of the time of the congress. There were three delegates from Monmouth who clamored for recognition: Mrs. Besler, Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Porter. Mrs. Burns was finally recognized and admitted to the congress as the lawful delegate from the Warren chapter, but Mrs. Burns herself was not present and was represented by her alternate, Mrs. Besler. The latter says that on the first day when the roll was called she answered to the name of Mrs. Burns explaining that she was an alternate and acting in Mrs. Burns' place but no one heard her. The sergeant-at-arms of the congress and every one of the three or four pages on the floor knew Mrs. Besler and Mrs. Burns, and at least three members of the committee which investigated the Monmouth contest said Mrs. Burns appeared before them and made an argument in her own behalf.

Mrs. Besler appears to have been unconscious of the deception. She explains that she supposed her announcement was sufficient, and that everybody knew she was not Mrs. Burns, but her alternate. Nevertheless, the mistake has caused an indescribable amount of trouble and many delegates are not yet able to comprehend it.

Mr. Curtis, the able and very interesting Washington correspondent of The Chicago Record says that: "It is the unanimous opinion of those who have attended the congress, that while the Daughters of the American Revolution individually are nearly all intellectual, refined and attractive women, collectively they are an uncontrollable mob.

"I could control them if I was the presiding officer," declared one of the Illinois delegates to whom that remark was made. "I could keep order in that congress. The whole trouble is due to the president-general. She is not firm enough; she is too amiable. Every time anybody gets up to do anything she turns helplessly around to her parliamentary advisers to be prompted. As soon as we see the side

of her face we realize that she has no control over us, and then everybody breaks loose and the trouble begins and continues until we are exhausted."

It may be their thoroughly demonstrated warlike ancestry influences the daughters of the American Revolution never to haul down whatever flag, however insignificant they have cared to hoist, but certain it is they meet to scrap rather than to do business. It is very unfortunate for the name and reputation of clubs and assemblages composed of women that these dames of ancient lineage should have so little conception of the noble obligation principle.

Correspondents of every large paper in this country are stationed in Washington and the annual congress of the D. A. R. convening in Washington is excellent copy for the facetious correspondents. As there are chapters in every state the topic is interesting. The irrepressible comicality of several hundred women, come from all parts of this immense country to attend an annual meeting of the descendants of the minute men, wrangling half the week over unimportant points, amuses the correspondents and they send the reports of the meetings, just as they are conducted to their papers. And the world amuses itself for a half hour reading about the congress of the D. A. R.

### Feeders.

The authorities, and the alumni of the State university are naturally anxious that it should rank with other higher institutions of learning throughout the country. Yet this ambition has a tendency to force a different and not so useful a curriculum upon the high schools of the state from which a comparatively small fraction are graduated into the state university. The curriculum of the high schools and grade schools should be deduced from the attendance as it is, from the number of years ninety-eight per cent of the school children go to school, from the callings and place in society, those children, grown men and women, take. Since the Lincoln high school became an accredited school, that is, since its graduates entered as freshmen without examination into the university, the curriculum has been arranged not with reference to the needs of the large majority whose schooling ends with the high school, but for the small fraction preparing for the university. These circumstances are the same in every accredited high school in the state. The university is of course the completion of the school system. If it were not for the university the system would be headless and formless. But in striving to rank with institutions of other states, I think the university has left the state too far behind. At any rate, if the high schools of the state cannot fit for the uni-