

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1900.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

THE COURIER,

Official Organ of the Nebraska State Federation of Women's Clubs.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—

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.

### Costly Churches.

During the past twenty years Lincoln has built ten expensive churches: a Methodist church of stone, an Episcopal church of stone, and a brick and stone Presbyterian, Congregational, Unitarian, Christian, Baptist, Catholic and Jewish church and another Methodist church. The congregations of these churches probably number less than six thousand people and each church has cost between twenty five and fifty thousand dollars. Not one less than the former price and only one or two have cost as much as the larger. The Christian church was unable to pay the mortgage on the building and it was sold. Another important church is quite likely to lose the beautiful building it has erected. The cost of these ten buildings has not all been borne by six thousand people, for many men who do not go to church have contributed liberally to the building of all of them. And many of the churches are still mortgaged. The six thousand have contributed ungrudgingly from their necessities and not from embarrassingly large bank accounts. Lincoln is settled by small tradespeople, modest professional people and laboring men. It is questionable if there are a hundred residents with an income of \$5,000 per annum. Therefore the ten

handsome churches are a tribute to the generosity of the people.

Not many of the churches hold more than five hundred people. Since the completion of the auditorium, it has been used for Sunday afternoon services and the multitude has come. Without especial urging or advertisement, the people have filled the building and listened with great satisfaction to the music and preaching. The problem of how to get the multitude within hearing of a sermon and of hymns seems not to exist on Sunday afternoon at the auditorium. "And seeing the multitudes he went up into a mountain and when he was set his disciples came unto him, and he opened his mouth and taught them." Jesus did not, on this occasion, go into a synagogue where only a small fraction of the people could accompany him, but he stayed with them, only going up onto a mount where all the people could see and hear him.

It may be better to build small, expensive churches where only a few can get in and only a few with the price and the clothes feel at home, but it is a fashion of the later church.

The Methodist church of Lincoln has accepted plans and will build another handsome stone church which will be a credit to the city and to the generosity of the membership. It may hold a thousand people. There are three thousand people who would be glad to hear Dr. Wharton preach every Sunday. For something under \$25,000 an auditorium holding three thousand people could be built. It would lack a spire, mullioned windows and the traditional, conventional appearance of a church but the multitude might feel at home under its unconventional, massive arches and the multitude might gradually be induced to become a contributing necessary part of the church and congregation. A crowd attracts a crowd and the mighty voice of three thousand in singing or responsive prayer would break down doubts and change the reckless mood of the desolate into respect for man and that is very near worship of the Cause. If the multitude should crowd into any Lincoln church as they crowded about Jesus of Nazarus when he began to preach, the Lincoln pewholders would begin to ask where the mob came from and what it wanted. Their advent is a subject of weekly supplication, but if they came, what church would hold them? The people that followed the Nazarene were not above walking in the streets. Their garments were dusty and possibly their presence could have been detected by a man born blind and deaf. The same sort of people live in Lincoln now, but not many of them ever saw the inside of a church. They go to the auditorium, for curiosity of a Sunday afternoon though.

A sloping floor which, the auditorium has not, would cost probably \$500 more. The first church which

builds an immense audience room and hires a minister with an original mind, a natural leader of men, like him whom the Methodists have the good fortune to listen to every Sunday now, is sure to make a great hit with the multitude, which does not care for steeples nor groined arches, nor even for stained glass windows. Such a man and such a church is worth more than steeples, glass, carvings and velvet carpets. A man is of more account than architecture. It is perhaps occasionally possible to have both. Where there is a choice it is better to take the man. A leader of men can command his price even in the ministry. But a congregation that prefers to spend its money on brick and put up with a commonplace preacher will go on wondering till the end of time why the people do not crowd the church.

• • •

### Picture Exhibits.

The Artist's club of Denver is now holding its annual exhibition of about two hundred pictures. Among them are two by Miss Sara Hayden, the head of the art department of the Nebraska State university. The Denver Times says that "one is a beautiful portrait study of a girl's head and a figure study in a lilac gown. They are both striking, but the head is particularly fine and expressive." Mrs. Emma Richardson Cherry who was the founder of this club and who was also a former head of the art department of the Nebraska university has sent several water colors from her home in Texas to this annual exhibit. The critic in The Times says that a fine scene under the pier at Galveston is very well done. It shows a fisherman at work in a boat, and the deeper shadows underneath the wharf fade into the sunlight shining on a sailing boat in the immediate distance. She also has a portrait of an old gentleman done in oil. "The Old Courtyard at New Orleans," is also an interesting and well handled subject. Many of the pictures are contributed by local artists and there is a sufficient number of real painters in Denver to make a very interesting exhibit. Among the foreign artists who have sent pictures there are J. H. Sharp, Robert W. Vonnoh, Leonard Ochtman, Edith Mitchell Prellwitz, and Alice Barber Stephens. Among the local artists, who have contributed to this exhibit, are Charles Partridge Adams, Mr. Frank Saurwen, Frank Read and many others. Miss Elsie Ward, a sculptor, has hung a number of bas reliefs and has a figure in the round, the "Manila Volunteer."

Such an annual exhibit is an inspiration if only for the time it is hung. It dims the fascination of silver and gold and insinuates that there are men and women who are conscious of the phenomena of light and line. These men and women use another language. After they have painted their pictures with great care

or modeled their statues the necessity of putting a price upon the intimate work of their hands is unpleasant. But as the artist lives partly on bread he is obliged to sell his product. But unless the artist or someone belonging to him is very hungry, he works without reference to pay. An exhibit of paintings brings an audience of idealists and dreamers together. It is good for the life of the city, for the men who six days in the week regulate their conduct according to the market based on a dollar, and on Sundays cast up their profit and loss, to be confronted with the evidences of experiments in light and shade. It is diversifying and spiritualizing. When the Western Art Association assembles an exhibit, it will need the help and sympathy of every member and of all Nebraska. Probably the board of directors will be able to make arrangements with the Artist's Club of Denver so that when pictures are shipped there from the east they may be exhibited here on their way back and thus perform a double mission. And artists are always evangelists. Born with an extra sense they are ever seeking the conversion of the heathen blind men that surround them. President Hall of the Western Art association and the able directorate who are weary of grubbing in the mire, have decided to hold an annual picture exhibit and to offer prizes to the pictures selected by a jury. The influence and effect of such an exhibit is incalculable. The Haydon Art club's exhibits have been stimulating. But the well-to-do burghers of Lincoln have refused to buy any pictures year after year when they have been offered for sale and artists who live on the Atlantic coast have given up Lincoln as hopelessly benighted. They are not to be blamed for refusing to send their pictures any longer to a place which has repeatedly declared itself no market for paintings and set up a corrugated iron statue of a helpless Lincoln on top of the court house. The prizes offered will change all this. The artists are willing to preach but they deserve a chance to earn the price of the oils and canvas, and partial payment for the agony of effort and of disappointment which every good picture costs.

• • •

### The Stotsenburg Fund

Contributions to the Stotsenburg fund are being slowly received at this office. A chain letter series has been started asking for a quarter from each correspondent. I hope no recipient of such a letter will allow his disapproval of chain letters in general to influence him against this one. California raised \$100,000.00 for Mrs. Lawton. Colonel Stotsenburg's death was peculiarly heroic and unselfish. His wife and two children are Nebraska's wards. The nation has so many heroes and hero's wives and children to care for that the share of