

each one is very small. To this one man more than to any other is due the activity and the glorious record of the First Nebraska. The regiment was mainly composed of Nebraska farmer boys and I have it from Colonel Stotsenburg's own authority that never a finer regiment took the field. After it was rid of all the play soldier nonsense, after drilling, standing guard, and learning obedience and becoming reconciled to the etiquette of officer and private, the First took the field like veterans. And yet they were not veterans. They had all the fire and dash of youth. Under fire they were steady but impatient for the command to charge. And the charge of the First Nebraska was a saying in the Philippines. Once started nothing could stop them until the ditch was won, not even the habit of discipline. In spite of Colonel Stotsenburg's military genius he could not have trained and inspired a wooden lot of men to the deeds of the First Nebraska. The farmer boys that joined the regiment were anxious to learn their duty and do it. They were teachable and their quick response to discipline was the reason why the First was continually selected for the positions of the greatest danger and responsibility.

There are many thousands of people in Nebraska who will be glad to give to this fund. I know of no way of reaching them except by the chain letter. So far the response to the appeal has been limited. On last Saturday I received from Mrs. Charles Francis Roe of New York City, one hundred dollars. Mrs. Roe wrote that the money had been raised for this purpose by some women in New York City.

It is Nebraska's duty to look after this woman and her children. California has easily done it for Mrs. Lawton. Are we who sent out such a magnificent body of troops deficient in gratitude and appreciation? The few letters which have come to this office have expressed a generous hope that the series would be successful. It will fail, however, if only a few of the letters fall into the indifferent hands of men or women who disapprove of chain letters and have not reflected upon the fact that it is the only way yet discovered to ask a great many people for a small contribution to an exigent fund, at small expense. Blessed be those few simple-hearted childlike people, who are willing to give a little aid to many, those who are not distrustful of all the world, who rarely asking for help themselves are willing and anxious to put their own shoulders, however tiny against the wheel of mired wagons. And it is the united energy of these unnumbered tiny strengths that keeps the wheels moving, that helps the crippled and the widowed and the little children. The Carnegies and the Rockefellers give millions to libraries and schools, but their benefactions are trifling to the sum of the gifts of those poor in spirit and in pocket; the unsophisticated, the unsuspecting, who respond to appeals with the same born compliance to nature as a flower yields perfume.

#### The Army Canteen.

President McKinley procured more than a year ago an expression of opinion from every officer in the United States army in regard to the canteen. Of the whole number there were less than five who thought it should be suppressed. There is much less drunkenness than under the old system. Beer and the lighter wines are sold and it is against the regulations to sell an excessive amount to one soldier. Camps the world over, are

pestered by camp followers who set up grogeries and dives, that break down the constitutions of the men. Liquor is an evil, but it is surely better to control and limit its distribution. At any rate the testimony of officers of the army is surely reliable. The prohibitionists demand the suppression of the canteen while the practically unanimous report from the officers is that as an institution it has lessened drunkenness and vice and increased the comforts of the private soldier, by adding luxuries to his mess not included in the issue of rations, and by providing them with a reading room and periodicals. The Methodist ministers who were unwilling to accept this report from the officers and to whose reproaches President McKinley has yielded, undoubtedly believe that the army in a wide-open country can be prevented from drinking by suppression of the canteen. The conduct of soldiers, history says is never as seemly as that of men at home in the shadow or the light of woman's influence. But under the canteen drunkenness is rare. Temperance and self control are compulsory. If the ministers, good and holy as they are, could only have inspected the system in the divers camps of the United States, I believe they would not have so unanimously condemned the system.

#### City Improvement.

Lincoln has a luxurious and hopeful supply of children. The City Improvement society has decided to take advantage of the enthusiasms, the teachableness and responsiveness of the little children and enlist them in the beautifying of the city. Neatness and order is the first step towards beauty. No flowers or sward, no trees or shrubs can obscure the ugliness of a broken walk and of piles of rubbish in the alleys. It is proposed to organize neighborhoods into bands under the captains and lieutenants elected by the members of the band. The officers in each band are, the keeper of the hammer and nails, the keeper of the broom, the custodian of the saw, etc. The function of this band is to watch the walks in the neighborhood, if a board or walk is found broken or loose the keeper of the hammer and nails is notified and the damage is repaired. If the repairs are more complicated and extensive than the band is able to accomplish the householder is notified and reminded until the walk is safe and neat again. Such responsible duties placed upon the children will do more than improve the appearance of the whole city. It occupies children through vacation time and above all it prepares them for citizenship, enlightens them upon the burdens, responsibilities and interdependence of man in a community. It teaches them the value of property, and the labor which carelessness causes some one. Faithful workers in such a band will not throw pieces of paper into the street. Such organizations will tend to make the raids on All Hallows' less destructive. They will accomplish what the citizenship boys settlements are trying to teach. Boys and girls who have once thoroughly digested the truth that Lincoln is their city will make grown citizens who will in the next decade transform it into a clean, wholesome, pleasant city. Boys so instructed are not apt to grow up into the repulsive loafers who stand all day long in groups about the city, spitting on the walks and staring at the women for whom they have made the walk impassable.

The men of the next decade will not allow the billboard posters to

throw the old papers into the street or leave them to accumulate in a hole like that on N and Twelfth streets for the wind to whirl into the air and over the neighborhood.

#### Literary Crispness.

There is one phrase that appears in every club admonition or address from the national president of the G. F. W. C. It appears in the communications addressed to State Chairmen of correspondence by members of the local Biennial board who are preparing for the meeting at Milwaukee. It is used in nearly every summary made by club women. When women make speeches on philanthropic or religious subjects they lean upon it and reiterate it. It has got on my nerves, as it has upon the nerves of every editor of a woman's club department in this country. It is a vague, a slipshod phrase. Besides if it were the most telling and graphic, which it never was its triteness would long ago have put it out of use. The phrase is, "Along these lines" social, educational, religious, etc., etc. As a sex, I think, we are fond of vague high sounding phrases. This one has crept into so secure and central a place in club vernacular that it is most difficult to dislodge it. The M. S. reader on The Courier has for several years cut it out of club reports. Its recurrence is, however so incessant that occasionally it slips in.

Unless an adjective belongs to the noun it colors, limits or expands it is better to use none at all. Splendid, dainty, awful, horrible, fine, cute, magnificent, bowling, have been so often hitched to nouns they have no relation to, that discriminating and conscientious writers no longer care to use them to describe occasions, phenomena and feelings they were especially created for. In purifying the language club women should have a part. The simplest report may be written with nicety. So many club women write papers and reports in the midst of their family chattering about all sorts of things. "Select" writing cannot be thus accomplished. The legend of Harriet Beecher Stowe has induced many women to believe that it was their duty to write letters and reports in the midst of quarreling or frolicsome children. But there are few women who are Beechers and the sloppy English of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" emphasizes the need of seclusion while writing. Nothing worth while can be accomplished with a divided attention. The amateur essayist or reporter should either give her whole mind to her work or none of it.

#### Literature Per Se.

Writers and professors of belles lettres devote themselves to literature as a plumber to plumbing or as a farmer to agriculture. If a plumber devoted to agriculture all the time not actually occupied in soldering, hammering and making the extraordinary confusion and clamor that only a plumber can make, his profits would be small. And if the farmer took "The Plumber's Guide to Millions" instead of the "Barnyard Journal," his sons and daughters would have to return from the university and spend the rest of the semester in plowing, seeding, harvesting, milking and butter-making. It is quite as inconsistent for a man who does not make his living from literature to give a disproportionate part of his time and attention to the study of literature. Not many men in the west need to be reminded that novel and poetry reading is a dissipation and unprofitable. The booksellers of the west are obliged to sell drugs, sur-

gical instruments, and garden seeds, so little is the demand for anything but illustrated editions de luxe for wedding presents or as bric-a-brac for the centre table in the drawing room.

Mrs. Henrotin suggested to the members of a Chicago Woman's club, recently assembled in the rooms of the Fine Arts building in Chicago, that the men's clubs should have a little ante or waiting room where women who desired to see their relatives might be conducted instead of being obliged to wait in the halls stared at by the club servants or in the streets. Mrs. Henrotin also said that the new club houses women were building for themselves should make provision for the occasional rare man who might want to see his wife, his sister or his daughter. (No others need apply.) In the discussion which always follows Mrs. Henrotin's trenchant suggestions some of the women expressed the fear so often heard that women are devoting so much of their time to books that in a few generations they will far outstrip the men. The fear is an idle one. Competition whets men's minds and the struggle for the possession of the dollar hardens their muscles and keeps them in training for any sort of match. Men may not be able to pass a creditable examination on the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire or upon the latest Egyptian excavations but they know all about the Puerto Rican question. They talk intelligently upon and listen critically to discussions on national, state and city polity. They know the geography of the world the products of the principal countries. They have a working knowledge of all of these subjects. Some men have a highly vitalized command of all the knowledge necessary to make a million, and they have the determination and the muscle. Such an equipment wins and is because of its inspiration and initiative superior to mere book learning.

#### Thompson-Rosewater.

Mr. Thompson denies that he is tied to Mr. Rosewater, who, in turn says, that Mr. Thompson's ambitions are nothing to him. Meanwhile all the enemies of Mr. Rosewater's now include Mr. Thompson in plans of revenge and all the enemies which the latter has accumulated have become Mr. Rosewater's heritage. The alliance is not a popular one. Newspaper editors make enemies easily and permanently and an Omaha editor's enemies are particularly virulent and active. The long feud between the editors of the two Omaha daily papers has a Kentucky persistence and intensity that only stops short of shot gun ferocity. In assuming Mr. Rosewater's vendetta, Mr. Thompson is brave but scarcely discreet. Some of Mr. Thompson's friends have complained that The Courier's analysis of Mr. Thompson's life was severe. That analysis is as falling dew to the vitriol splashes Mr. Thompson's career will receive when Mr. Hitchcock begins to review the life of Rosewater's friend and ally.

#### Trades Unions.

The cruellest and most tyrannical of all trusts are the trades unions. They obstruct and delay business, hinder individual advancement and deepen distrust between employers and employes. In the struggle between the trades unions and employers of skilled labor now going on in Chicago the former have the sympathy of the most skillful laborers tired of being controlled and held down to a uniform product by the dull average, and of enterprising employers