



# THE COURIER

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## OBSERVATIONS.

### Expansion.

The Swiss people can see the advantages of becoming one of the American federation of states. The editor of the Allgemeine Schweizer Zeitung says: In spite of dark sides which are also found there, the United States is full of the air of freedom. Switzerland would lose nothing if she should become a state of the United States of America. It is a well known fact that the several states of the American union are much more independent than the several cantons of Switzerland, and our country, by such an alliance would sacrifice none of her liberties. All she would have to do would be to send her representatives to Washington. Economically and politically she would gain everything. It remains to be seen what the Americans would say about an alliance with Switzerland. For a long time they have tried to gain a foothold in Europe. Every citizen in Switzerland who has the welfare of his country at heart should ponder this alliance."

Democracy among the Swiss is highly developed. It has been growing since the beginning of the confederacy in 1315, when the mountaineers concluded a successful rebellion against the Austrian tyrant. Since then the Swiss republic has grown by mutual agreement and by armed conquest. Realizing that the oriental people are about to be compelled to accept liberty of the kind that is grown in Switzerland and developed in America this Swiss editor got the idea that it is not impossible for the people of the Alps and the Jura to join the federated states of America.

The democratic stronghold north of Italy, west of Austria, south of Germany, and east of France, would be amalgamated with the biggest experiment in democracy ever attempted.

### How to Preach.

The determined refusal of Chicago employers of boys to accept the sleepy, red-eyed kind that smoke cigarettes is having more influence in suppressing the sale of cigarettes than all the laws ever passed and all the anti-cigarette leagues ever formed. The Chicago boys have discovered that they cannot be employed in counting room, office or store if their fingers are discolored by the yellow stain of the cigarette. The cigarette fiend has heard from his mother and his teacher and a sister or two, the evils of cigarettes. His mirror has shown him red eyes and the daily lassitude of the victim of a narcotic has made him more and more indolent, but none of these arguments has had any effect. When the time comes that he must earn his living, or help earn it, and the uninterested, business man, to whom he applies, examines his yellowed fingers, or takes a whiff of his hair and clothes and declines his services, the cigarette smoker begins to think that, there may be valid objections to the habit. If Lincoln employers who are served by boys whose wits are dulled and whose energies are relaxed by cigarettes, would do what the Chicago employers have, such concerted action would do more to lessen cigarette smoking here than weeks of preaching and dozens of leagues.

### The City and Corporations.

In granting to any corporations or any individual a right or franchise to use the streets of this city as though they were the private property of corporation or individual, the council represents the city alone. The streets belong to the citizens. They have been heretofore leased without rental to various companies. The companies have provided certain services for which the citizens have paid the full price. The companies have charged what price they could get without reference to their own free occupancy of the people's premises. It is not expected that any company will pay for a franchise that can be procured at the price of a little argument with councilman. No man and no collection of men will pay for a franchise when talk and influence will get it for nothing a year.

The notion is an old one that the citizens of a town must give a bonus to a man who will supply them with artificial light at so much much per foot, or to the man who digs a well and erects a pump to supply them with water at so much per gallon, or to the man who lays rails in the street and places cars on them to carry passengers at five cents per passenger, or

to the man who weaves a network of wire over the city and puts in a telephone service at four dollars a telephone per month. Citizens might more properly pay a bonus to the grocer whose carts bring them groceries or to the dry goods merchant who arranges rest rooms in his store and incurs large expense just to please that part of the public which passes by or enters his establishment. The merchants and the manufacturers support a town. They make it a good place to live in. Their enterprise, which receives no municipal encouragement or recognition, largely supports the schools and churches of this city. They are doing business for what money there is in it. They charge for their goods or service what price, a fluctuating market, the law of supply and demand, and their competitors fix. They ask no favors from the city whose healthy functional activity depends on them. The gas company, the traction company, and the telephone company fix their unfluctuating prices without reference to competition and with no special or onerous reference to the good will or convenience of the public. The wires of the gas and electric light company, of the telephone company and of the traction company are a menace to the lives of the people whose streets and alleys they occupy. The ugly poles of all three companies disfigure the city. Yet we suffer these things from purveyors of transportation, sound and light because of an aboriginal notion that the man who sells light, sound or heat is entitled to more consideration than the man who sells flour by the pound or calico by the yard.

The company which occupies the middle of the street or the sides of the streets and alleys should pay a yearly rental to the city. The poles and wires would be no less ugly and dangerous if their owners paid a ground rental, but the price of spoiling a view is apt to lessen the complaints from abutting property owners.

Merchants must buy or rent ground and erect or rent buildings in which to sell their produce. We do not allow a fruit or shoe-string merchant with his whole stock in a basket or tied about his person to sell his wares on the highways without first procuring a license, which is, in effect, a rent to use the highway as a place of business. Even the expressmen who make a precarious living by moving heavy articles from one part of the city to another and thereby "serve the people" and "enhance the value of property," pay a license.

Yet since Lincoln was first settled, the council, in accordance with custom, has given first to the gas company, then to the street car company and last to the telephone company, the free occupation of the streets.

Would it not be wise for the council now, before any other company applies for the free use of the streets, to serve notice on old mendicants and

new ones that the streets are the city's and the franchises thereof are for sale. The city needs the money. Taxes are burdensome because those who enjoy the largest privileges get them for nothing. But each new general manager or board of directors that desires to sell something to the citizens through a pipe in the streets or to convey them from place to place by means of wires and poles and a track in the middle of the street naturally expects to be given the privilege because Lincoln always has been piped, tracked, poled and wired without rental or consideration of any sort.

### Sophomore Oratory.

As a matter of current experience sophomores in any college or university of the first class no longer use extravagant or hyper-poetic forms of speech. Mr. Bryan has studied the oratorical models of a generation that is gone and he still uses a phraseology which scholars and modern orators have discarded. But Mr. Bryan is a magnetic speaker, he has a wonderful voice, smooth, melodious, tender, that effortlessly carries his syllables to the furthest corner of large auditoriums. He has a frank, manly, American, open-hearted, open-minded way about him that, I know no definition for except "temperament." May Irwin has the same temperament: When she appears before an audience, she takes for granted she has seen all the people before, takes for granted that they like her, and in a second, they know that she likes them. She is not upon the stage and they in the seats. Whatever impassable, nameless barrier there is between them, May Irwin tears down and immediately, before she has spoken, she is with friends. Americans like this. The humblest prefers that his humility should be ignored. Mr. Bryan has exactly this effect upon an audience. His smile includes the humblest and his presence is cheerful and stimulating. The opening words of his speech are always simple. He is on a level with those he speaks to. It is said that in a conference with the fusion governor and other state officials of Nebraska, he is haughty, isolate and dictatorial, but no republicans have ever seen him otherwise than cheerful, convinced of a high destiny, and sure of his understanding of the needs of the people and of his ability to cure all their ills by some legislation either for silver or against expansion and trusts. No other actress possesses May Irwin's instantaneous gift of conquering an audience though she may have no more than the usual allotment of private friends. Mr. Bryan is the only politician whose smile and greeting from the platform creates an immediate response. Other men and orators have to convince an audience of their sanity by logical and statesmenlike arguments. Other political orators must demonstrate their good