



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1900.

**THE COURIER,**

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

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS  
SECOND CLASS MATTER.

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.

## Mob Anarchy.

Two children were killed, one man fatally hurt and several men badly injured last week by a mob, not in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi or Kentucky, but in Ohio.

A large crowd gathered in the city of Akron, Ohio, for the purpose of lynching a negro who had assaulted a little girl. The officers heard the threats and sent their prisoner to Cleveland, and when the mob arrived, its prey was out of reach. The conduct of the mob shows that it was animated by a lust for blood, and that outraged humanity and the desire for vengeance had little to do with the murders which followed. The sheriff allowed a committee to search the city jail. After the members of the committee reported that they had looked in every cell, and had thoroughly searched every part of the city jail, the mob rushed to the county jail. There they started to batter down the doors, and the sheriff offered any committee which the mob might appoint, the same privilege of examining the jail, telling them that Peck, the man the ringleaders had decided to hang, was not there. They searched and did not find him. And because that world-old hunter's lust of blood was denied, the mob rushed back to the city prison and the men who concealed themselves behind

others began to shoot with rifles at prison officers who stood in the windows trying to calm a frenzy that when once aroused, and is unthreatened by death, is like that of Indians or cannibals who tie a prisoner to a tree and kill him by degrees.

A boy was shot, guns were fired continuously, many men were wounded, and as the dead and wounded were carried off, the crowd yelled exultantly. All the Akron ambulances were called out. The front of the city building was wrecked. At midnight the mob broke into a hardware store and stole guns, rifles, ammunition and pistols with which to fire upon the defenders of the city building. Then these avengers set fire to and burned the hall which adjoined the city building. One of the fireman who attempted to put out the fire, was shot.

Such lawlessness is planted and cultivated by cowardly mayors and governors like the mayor of St. Louis and the governor of Missouri, who profess to have a reverence for the rights of men engaged in an assault upon other people's property and life. The day will come when mayors and governors will order a disorderly mob to disperse or remain to be fired upon. Mobs are not made up of brave men, but of cowards, vicious tramps and ruffians whose lives should be no more sacred when they attack society, than the wild beast who prowls about a village looking for an unarmed man or woman.

No incident of recent date so plainly as this one, shows that it is neither revenge nor pity for the prisoner's victim, nor fear that the law may not adequately punish him, nor indignation at a brute who has committed the worst crime of all. This mob ascertained that the prisoner had escaped, and immediately recognizing that the cause of congregating was the desire to torture and kill someone, they fired on the innocent and destroyed public property. Since the days of Adam the lowest grade of society has not advanced one step from savagery. And the higher grades need only to get a taste of blood to feel the tigerish exultation of killing.

Therefore there is double need for men of character and bravery, men who would rather be right than be relected by large majorities, who are not afraid to punish street car strikers who denude women and destroy property. Instead of enlarging the limits of suffrage, I would see it restricted to men and women who pay at least a certain small rent or own property. The hoodlum or anarchistic element has too large a vote. The damage the Akron crowd did last week will be paid for by the reasonable, law-abiding men and women who deplore the conduct of their turbulent fellow-citizens, but would be very much shocked, if it were proposed to deprive them of their vote. There is a terrible injustice to good citizens in these lawless outbreaks

which will continue until millennial mayors are elected, who are not afraid to do their duty, though it involves unpopularity with the lowest classes.

## An Iridescent Dream.

Senator Ingalls lost his influence in Kansas, not wholly because of the rise of the populist party, but because his experience in politics at Washington and at his home in Kansas had taught him that reform in politics and in the heart and methods of a politician was "An iridescent dream." He had an excellent opportunity to observe the trading and the buying and selling between Kansas and Washington. It was, however, unpardonable that he should announce that reform was impossible. Parties must have platforms and principles and aspirations, and the candidate who announces the truth, gives away a trade secret, hurts the business, and no party can afford to carry such a figure head. Now Senator Ingalls may have been a trifle more conceited than the average politician, though that is a hard saying. At any rate, some quality gave him courage to say what he thought. And what he thought was the result of his observation, which was, that in the long run, the men who bleated about reform were the most approachable for buyers looking for a bargain in votes. A few people did not diagnose Senator Ingalls when he made this fatal speech as a bribe-taker and a bribe-giver, but only as a cynic who had been behind the scenes too long, wearing a pair of remarkably clear and unromantic glasses. It may have been just as well for him to retire when he did, for it is certain his illusions were all gone and his summary of human nature accurate enough for one life-time.

By instinct, the Anglo Saxon is devoted to high-sounding, conscience-satisfying phrases. It is unfortunately true that immoral practices do not shock us nearly so much as reckless, defiant denials of aspirations dear to us and deeply imbedded hopes of reaching finally an unearned, unprepared-for heaven. See for example the numerous trials for heresy of Presbyterian ministers who have led blameless lives, but whose studies have led them to doubt the verbal inspiration of the Bible, or the doctrine of predestination. The Frenchman, as the editor of Scribner's Magazine has just pointed out, leads an immoral life, knows it, admits it, and does not claim to have any principles superior to his practice, which would necessitate an accounting at once irritating, unsatisfactory and of daily recurrence.

But then, as the editor says, "the Frenchman ignores the fact that the exact agreement of practice with principle is of the highest ethical value, the converse proposition is not true at all."

To be a successful politician in America, it is necessary to have the

appearance and the sound of deep moral conviction, both as to the wisdom and the possibility of reform. Senator Ingalls was unwilling to belie his experience, so he told the people that reform was an iridescent dream and the people never got over the shock, and he never got his place back. But I have always thought him an honest cynic. All the more because, being a well read, a traveled and a worldly-wise man, he must have known how tenderly we regard the sound of things.

## Children's Libraries.

A Boston man, Mr. Charles Birtwell, designed a little book case, of white wood stained red, with a glass door and a yale lock. It has a shelf for fifteen books and above that another for juvenile periodicals. The book-case, the books and the periodicals cost only twenty-five dollars. The book-case and books were placed in a poverty stricken home in Boston and the child of the house, made custodian of the books. Two other book-cases were placed in homes under the care of responsible children. These children selected from among their playmates the other members of the library group. The books were very carefully handled by the seventeen children who read all the books and returned them to Mr. Birtwell who is the secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society. Receiving his loan back he exchanged it for seventeen new books and he hopes to keep up the supply till the groups are graduated into the Boston public library. Such a charity might be tried here. Most of the children who use the Lincoln library, I suppose, are from homes, the parents wherein have already contracted the reading habit. Modern librarians and library boards believe in expansion and extension. The old fashioned librarian's principal function was the guardianship of the books. The new librarian's business is to see that the books are read by an increasing number every year. There is something wrong somewhere if the increase of readers does not hold its own in relation to the population. If a certain class, which needs books most, will not come to the library, it is the library's duty and inspired mission to go to the people.

## Woman in the Paris Exposition.

Mrs. Potter Palmer and the other women commissioners sent by the United States to Paris were ignored by the French authorities. Mrs. John A. Logan, who is peculiarly sensitive to affronts and accustomed to take the highest seat in her neighborhood, says that not only is the work of women permitted no proper display but that the opposition of the Exposition managers to women commissioners has left even Mrs. Potter Palmer without recognition. The women commissioners have not been invited to