



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

**THE COURIER,**

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

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**Subscription Rates.**

Per annum.....	\$1 50
Six months.....	1 00
Rebate of fifty cents on cash payments.	
Single copies.....	05

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**OBSERVATIONS.**

**St. Patrick's Day.**

The seventeenth day of March came on Sunday this year. The day in Lincoln was bright and warm with the unmistakable tenderness of Spring in the air. Irishmen were out in force, decorated with that peculiar green that recalls the Emerald Isle. It is the greenest green there is, so strong that if there is a bit of it fluttering anywhere, it is sure to catch the eye. St. Patrick is to the Irish what George Washington is to America and the hatchet story and the snake story correspond.

But Irish or American these national anniversaries are delightful. They strengthen love of country and respect for history and tradition. The brave green fluttering from the canes of millions of Irishmen all over America on the seventeenth day of March, indicates no lack of loyalty to their adopted country. Irishmen are quickest of all emigrants to take out their naturalization papers, and their participation in politics shows the interest they take in the country. The wearing of the green is simply an expression of affection for the old sod and a sign that American Irishmen do not forget their native land.

There are more Irishmen now in America than in Ireland. They are members of all professions. There are more Irish members of our congress than in the British parliament, more Irishmen prominent in every station of life in America than all the rest of the world. Although they have founded no nation for themselves they have aided in building up the two largest and most powerful nations on the earth. The fighting men whose victories have extended the empire, Wellington, and contemporaneous Roberts, Kitchener, Kelly-

Kenny, French and White, are all Irishmen.

Right Honorab'le James Bryce, a careful observer, and Mr. Seumas McManus, the Irish writer, agree that Ireland today is enjoying comparative prosperity. The people are living better, their food is of a higher grade, the bank deposits have increased, the farm rents are lower, and the returns from work are larger. The main reason why it does not take its place as one of the rich countries of the world is its lack of manufacturing. It exists mainly on its agriculture and its fisheries.

Ireland contains 32,337 square miles, not including the 196 little islands which add 240 square miles to the total. It is not quite so large as Indiana and is a little larger than South Carolina. The Philippine islands are four times the size of all Ireland. Less than five years ago a commission appointed by Parliament reported that there had been placed upon Ireland a taxation burden which it was unable to bear, and that something should be done. Thus came the new Land Law Act, which was a mitigation, but not a reform, of the evils.

A few days ago a member from Ireland arose in Parliament and tried to make a speech in Irish. He was duly rebuked. A phrase in Mr. Redmond's address was this: "The Irish language is almost dead." Figures support his statement. The Irish language is understood by less than a half million persons in Ireland, and only thirty thousand of them speak that and no other tongue. English is the language of Ireland. Sixty years ago the population was over 8,196,597; in 1891 it was 4,706,162; in 1881 it was over five millions.

**The Sky Pilot.**

The Sky Pilot is a story of a home missionary who selected his first parish in the foothills of the Rockies in Montana. His parishioners were hard-drinking, profane, gambling ranchmen, who drank, swore and gambled because, except hunting and fishing, these were the only recreations. When the minister arrived his church people christened him, the "Sky-Pilot" in cow-boy fashion. An all-pervading sentimentalism, and an evident enjoyment of touching situations, creates a prejudice and a suspicion that the book is a tract and written to "help humanity." Any such purpose, unless skillfully concealed places a book in sentimental tract-literature. The unsuspecting reader does not like to be exhorted or his emotions awakened by a novelist. It is like a book-agent who sends in his card to Mrs. Brown with the aspect of a caller. After the lady of the house has hastily repaired the effects of housekeeping on hair, face, hands and dress and arranged her features on a scale of neutral pleasantness, it is only the exceptional woman who can remain

calm when the strange gentleman whose card she holds in her hand, draws from somewhere between his vest and coat, a look. One of the reasons for the continued popularity of The Pilgrim's Progress is its absolutely colorless style. The Pilgrim does not seem to care how his narrative affects his hearers. He tells his tale as the Ancient Mariner tells his, but he does not appear to care to make converts. The style of the Bible is likewise an impartial relation of facts. The Sky Pilot is crudely written and the pose of the author is on every page. Except the style and the sentimentalism of the pose, the story is well told and illustrates the influence of a thoroughly good and unselfish man on a reckless community. The Pilot is a young man who is thoroughly possessed by the desire to do good. Not a great preacher, not especially learned and not at all anxious to show the ignorant men who surround him that he does know more than they do, he finally converts them by the force and purity of his love for them. In this respect, the influence of an elevated, unselfish character upon rough and unspiritual men, Mr. Connor has accomplished his demonstration very cleverly.

**Organization.**

The house-maids of Monett, Missouri have established a union and adopted these rules:

- "1. No restriction is to be placed upon the number of callers that a girl is allowed to entertain. She must be permitted to regulate her visiting list as the mistress regulates hers.
- "2. Every evening out, at the maid's pleasure, after 7:30.
- "3. No answering of the bell on wash days where there is only one servant in the house.
- "4. Every Sunday afternoon out.
- "Wages—Not less than \$3 25 a week, with board and room."

Whenever one of the members of the club loses her employment, or, as is more likely, determines to change her place of working, a meeting of the club is called. Her grievances are laid before the body, and a vote is taken. If she is sustained unanimously, the whole machinery of the club is set to work to find her a new position. The vote, however, must be unanimous. If there is a single vote against her, and she quits her position, she does so at her own risk. The club makes no effort to get work for her. One reason for the growth of the club lies in the fact that positions are found for new members as soon as they join the club. When a servant girl finds herself out of work her first move is to join the House-maids' club. The girls themselves take pride in keeping up the standard.

Organization has one slowly accomplished but inevitable effect. It teaches employes as well as employers that there are two sides to every question. Household labor is the very last to re-

spond to the tendencies of universal organization and, I believe that this is one reason why the domestic problem is still so mixed. Intelligent discussion—and the longer it is discussed by employers and employes the more intelligent it becomes—will define many of the misunderstandings which have devided mistress and maid. There are mistresses who consider a cook or a second-girl as a machine. They deprive her of her rights and subject her to affronts which make her rebellious. There are also maids who consider the mistress as a person to be outwitted and served as shabbily as possible. It will do the mistresses good to hear what the members of the maids' club think of them. It will benefit the shiftless maids to listen to the advice and reasoning of capable, trusted house-maids who compel respect and, consideration from poorly trained mistresses. Household service, however, can never be regulated exactly by the foregoing rules. Because of the emergencies always happening where three or four are gathered together into a family. There are sickness, water-pipes, unexpected guests, death, unexpected journeys and the innumerable accidents and incidents of a housekeeper's week, which will interfere with the maid's afternoon out every Sunday and Thursday. Where there are children the maid should at least share the evening's watchfulness, and if she were to go out every evening after 7:30 the mistress would be a perpetual prisoner.

**Maximilian or Diaz.**

For twenty years General Diaz has been president of Mexico. He is now over seventy years old. He was born in 1830. The elections which occur every two years are a matter of form so far as the president is concerned. He has been a wise and enlightened president. The president doubtless knows that the people of Mexico are ready for a republic only in name. When they killed Maximilian they were sure they wanted a republic, yet except for ten years after the assassination of Maximilian in 1867, Diaz has ruled Mexico absolutely. No European monarch has possessed and exercised such authority as characterizes the rule of President Diaz. He is a born ruler, and in his long administration Mexico has been at peace and has prospered. But the people are inconsistent. If Maximilian was killed on account of a national aversion to one man power then the twenty years of Diaz' absolutism is only another tribute to the power of a name. The Mexicans chose to submit to one man for twenty years because they called the form of his government a republic, and they killed a much milder, less masterful, less ambitious man because he was a monarch in name. To be sure he was an Austrian and Diaz is a Mexican of Mexicans. But they did not kill