

enced much more than he cares to express. A vivid imagination carries Mr. McReynolds along over the difficulties of a restricted vocabulary and an imperfect understanding of the mysteries of would, could, should, might and seem. It is an indication of the strength of his inspiration that these technicalities are not sufficient to destroy the interest of his unpretending story. Although the plot is entirely a tour of the imagination, the geography and types of the story have the semblance of actuality, and Mr. McReynolds, in perpetuating disappearing types, has added to the scanty historical sources of Nebraska.

### I LOVE YOU.

EMILY GUIWITS.  
(For The Courier.)

I love you; but if you  
should never know  
How love of you has turned  
my night to day,  
How thought of you has made  
me strong to go  
The loneliest, hardest way:

If you should never know  
how just your smile  
Has nerved my hand for  
many a hated duty;  
How just your word has  
shortened many a mile,  
Turned ugliness to beauty:

If my poor, untrained lips  
can never say  
How your name always breathes  
into my prayer;  
And how your love has made  
me want to pray,  
And made all living fair:

It may be in some  
sweeter other land,  
In music tones which  
you will joy to hear,  
With touch and smile which  
you will understand  
I shall say softly,  
"How I love you, dear!"

### BRIEF CHAPTERS.

BY FLORA BULLOCK.  
For The Courier

The robins have nested in a nook of the old willow tree in the back yard. It was some time ago that the old folks came and sighted around for a location, and since then there have been great doings. Now there are hungry squawks from very long bills that gape over the edge of the nest, and Mrs. Robin can stretch her cramped legs. Things might not have prospered so well, however, had it not been for the watchfulness of Mr. Robin. Once while he was away the tired mother—no one has invented robin incubators yet—got up to take the air and look around. She seemed to enjoy the respite, but it proved a brief one. Up flew her lord and master, gave her a sharp whack and pushed her back on the nest, as much as to say, "There, I won't have you gadding off from home, going to women's clubs and political meetings. Attend to your business, which at this present moment is 'kinder.'"

"Chirp," said Mrs. Robin, meekly.

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If you see a member of the A. O. U. W. who attended the convention at Nebraska City last week you should treat him with respect. For it is certain that if he improved his advantages he is ahead of you in education. He knows what the State Institute for the Blind is. It is safe to assert that the visitors received more enlightenment in two days than is accorded most people. An entertainment was given by the pupils of the schools at the Overland theatre, and a few explanations by Superintendent Morey that evening set the auditors on the right track. When they saw and heard pupils read from raised points,

write numbers, solve, orally, difficult algebraic equations, present very satisfying orchestral music, and so on, it dawned upon them that the house up on the hill must really be a school, even if a governor, in his haste, had consigned it back to the indefinite and generally unsatisfactory title of "Institute." One interested spectator said to me: "Well, I think I can understand how they can follow algebraic problems, geometrical propositions and so on, but I confess that when that young lady came out and extracted the cube root, it rather staggered me."

So the much-badged gentlemen climbed the north hill to the institute set among the trees that have thrived since the first corner stone was laid. They came in droves and groups, went around the buildings, seeing the pupils at their classes in English, history, geography, music, hammock-making, weaving, broom-making. They wore out the "inmates" who guided them to the high tower from which they could look down on the green old town and away into three states. Everything was wonderful to them. The "inmates" felt like a menagerie, but were happy to think that here were more citizens of the great state of Nebraska who would not talk about the "blind asylum" henceforward, nor address letters to such a place, which, fortunately, the state has not provided. Our brooms sweep clean, our rag-carpets make you think of your mother's cozy corner long ago, our piano tuners are busy men and women, our pupils work at one thing or another nearly every hour of the day and go to their homes when June roses bloom. The A.O.U.W. knows this. They are the best educated gentlemen in Nebraska.

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Governor Savage and his wife, with Attorney-General Prout, came to the school a few days later and were "educated" also. After the impromptu entertainment given for them by the pupils the Governor made a brief speech that made one wonder where he had learned the art of saying just the fitting thing. He is one of these people who say, "I really am not much of a talker," and when they stop have only aroused a desire for more. The Attorney-General also must have gone to school in a college where they instruct youths ambitious to hold state positions in the art of making speeches to blind pupils. It is an art. The man who can do it is an exception. I have seen a whole conference of Methodist ministers make the attempt with the result that a general depression settled down on every body for a week. A revivalist tweaked shattered nerves as he would play on guitar strings. A blind speaker trying to encourage, aroused heart-break and rage. So it was very satisfying that the man from the sand-hills knew what chord to strike. I am sure the children smiled themselves to sleep over the pleasantries of the evening, and as they carry their experiences in their minds they are not likely soon to forget the "new governor." Years hence some of them may say, "You remember what Governor Savage said that night," and quote it verbatim. When you speak to such memories it is always well to say nothing that it will hurt to remember.

### A Queer Woman.

First Prison Missionary—That Mrs. De Goode is the most eccentric person I ever saw. You remember Mr. Brutie in cell No. 500, under sentence for killing his wife?

Second Prison Missionary—Yes, poor fellow.

First Prison Missionary—Well, I gave her a lot of flowers marked "Brutie," and she went off and put them on the woman's grave instead of bringing them here to cheer the poor husband.—The New York Weekly.

## CLUBS.

Edited by Miss Helen G. Harwood.

A farewell reception was given by the Fairbury Woman's club last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Showalter. The house was decorated with palms, ferns, roses and carnations, and the porch was supplied with cushions and lighted with Japanese lanterns. The guests were met at the door by Mr. and Mrs. Showalter and Miss Dorothy; in the drawing room they were received by the officers of the past year, Mesdames McDowell, Mendenhall, Alren and Leet. Fruit punch was served in the back parlor by Miss Colstance Sarbach, and ice cream, cake, chocolate and fruit were served in the dining room by Mesdames Andrews, Sarbach, Showalter, Steele and Leet, assisted by Misses Simpson, McCoy, Andrews and Keesterson. Music was furnished by Misses Powers, Boyle and Brown, Mr. McCoy and the high school quartette.

The annual meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs of South Dakota will begin on June 18 at Hot Springs and will continue three days.

The closing meeting of the Auburn Woman's club was held last week. Members of the school visiting committee gave favorable reports of the work under their supervision. Current topics were discussed under the leadership of Miss Alberta Campbell, and music was furnished by Mrs. J. S. McCathy and Miss Bertie Phippeney. Representative Armstrong then addressed the club, speaking of the rules governing the legislature, of the different committees and their work, and of the influence of women in public affairs, particularly in the departments relating to school work.

The Madison Woman's club closed its year's work last week with a meeting at the home of the president, Mrs. M. C. Garrett. The past year has been a very successful one. The open meetings in charge of the art and music committees were especially enjoyable. The officers elected for next years are: Pres., Mrs. C. W. Cram; rec. sec., Mrs. L. Tompkins; corr. sec., Mrs. T. F. Memminger; treas., Miss Della Oshner.

The members of the department of American history of the Omaha Woman's club have decided to continue the same plan of study during the coming year. Mrs. Sudborough was re-elected leader of the department, with Mrs. Hewitt assistant leader and Mrs. Vaill secretary. May 14 the department of ethics gave a club symposium at which the guests of honor were Dr. Mary Cogswell of Cedar Rapids, Mrs. N. O. Lawton and Miss Mary Fairbrother. The state president and secretary, Mrs. Draper Smith and Mrs. Neeley, and the president, Mrs. George Tilden, were present and made brief addresses. The leaders of the departments of household economics, science, oratory, English literature and the Mu Sigma club also contributed to the entertainment. Punch, cakes and ices were served by Mrs. Andrews, assisted by Mesdames Pugh, Wagner, Ray Wagner, Damon, Gault, Tracy and Rayley. The department of oratory gave a public recital on the afternoon of May 16. The program was under the direction of Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Dennis and Miss Jessup, and was furnished by Mesdames Andrews, Ellis, Watkins, Carpenter, Pratt, Schneider, Wagoner, Shields, Miss Day, Miss Bessie Dumont and Miss Jessup, assisted by Mrs. Porter Garrett, pianist, Miss Bookmeyer, pianist, Miss Ella Beach of Council Bluffs, pianist, Miss

Vera Allen, violinist, and Mesdames Sheets and Strang, vocalists. The musical department gave a May party on Monday evening in the First Congregational church to the members and friends who have assisted them during the year.

The city improvement committee met on Thursday afternoon to discuss plans for the summer campaign. It was decided to make this committee a branch of the department of social science and to work under the direction of that department. The new officers elected are, chairman, Mrs. Damon, and secretary, Mrs. Willis. Next week the various sub-committees will be appointed and active work will commence.

The Des Moines Froebel association elected the following officers for next year: Miss Della Tyson, pres.; Miss Mary Marsh, vice pres.; Miss Almeda Brenton, sec.; Miss Edna Dungan, treas. The executive committee will be composed of Misses Daisy Huntington, Maud Orwig, Lillian Weaver, Edna Dungan and Belle Barnard.

A vacation school for the benefit of children under fourteen will be opened June 17 in the Lincoln building. A principal and director alone will be regularly employed, the teachers in both kindergarten and grades volunteering their services. Half of the day will be spent in the school room and half in the parks and along the river. The Chauncey Depew club discussed "Vacation Schools" last week, under the leadership of the president, Mrs. Fletcher Howard.

The closing meetings for the year of the North Side club and the Review club of Des Moines were held last week. The Ideal club elected the following officers: Pres., Mrs. L. F. Smith; vice pres., Mrs. W. W. Powers; sec., Mrs. B. F. Dodson; treas., Mrs. L. H. Webb.

Mrs. Horatio N. May of Chicago has accepted the position of volunteer inspector of streets and alleys in her precinct. Miss May's long residence in the Twenty-first ward on the north side, and her interest in public affairs during the service of Mr. May as Lincoln park commissioner make it safe to predict that her work will result in decided improvements in the part of Chicago under her jurisdiction.

Mrs. James R. Hopley, president of the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs, writes in the Chicago Tribune of the mission of women's clubs. Said Mrs. Hopley:

"The mission of clubs is to inform, strengthen and test character. Each of us, unthinking and untrained, acquire falsities of mental attitudes. These we correct effectively and quickly by association. Because club life is capable of informing, strengthening and testing character, it gives the true value to conduct and results. The reason women have failed in the business field, if they have, as Mr. Bok, in the Ladies' Home Journal, tells us, is because the change was too great; there have been no familiar landmarks or guide-posts. Clubs train women morally as well as mentally. Working girls' clubs have here a splendid mission. Club life helps to form judgment, makes of women masters, but gentle ones, of all the situations in life.

"The club movement was inspired, organized, and has been carried on by mothers. I am more and more convinced that the tendency to publicity is not conducive to the real happiness of women. Home is the natural ambition, the inborn pride, the happiest sphere towards which a woman ever turns, and the club movement is a guardian of home. All we attempt here in Ohio has reference to the better building of the home. What are its safeguards? Education, religion, good food, healthful clothes, the suppression of child labor,