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OBSERVATIONS.**The Coronation.**

A feudal ceremony left over from
ages that have gone, a curiosity as
strange as the hairy elephant whose
sole survivor was imprisoned in a
block of ice, the coronation of King
Edward of England is a spectacle
worthy the attention of antiquarians.

When the retainers, serfs and vil-
lains of a hundred barons renewed
their vows and declarations of de-
votion as each new heir came into
his inheritance, the elaborate fealty-
service which is the meaning of the
coronation ceremony did not shock
Englishmen who, in spite of the royal
department in their government,
have attained self government.

Now there is nothing left in Eng-
land that corresponds to the corona-
tion. At the present day when the
heir to an old title and large estates
comes into his own, all that remains
of the ancient oath of life-long de-
votion to the young lord is the merry-
making and feasting which followed
and closed the mediaeval ceremonies.

The managers of King Edward's
coronation are perplexed to know
what to retain and what to leave out
from the old coronation regime.

A king belongs to the ancient order
of things. In a few hundred years a
king, princes and princesses will have
joined the company in fairyland. In
the scheme of things republican there
is no room and no appropriation for
them. And as sure as political free-
dom and constitutional equality pre-
vail, kings are doomed. But so long
as a king is supposed to rule England
he must be crowned, he must swear
to keep faith with the people, and
representatives of the people must do
homage to him. Nevertheless the
gentlemen of the bedchamber, the
keepers of this and that, equeries,

knight challengers, bearers of arti-
cles so obsolete that even a king
loaded down with a jeweled crown,
a sceptre, immense necklace, an er-
mine robe and orders of various kinds,
refuses to wear them, must be placed
in the procession and as near to the
royal personage as their grandfathers
were to Edward the Confessor when
he was crowned. In thus forcing the
twentieth century to adapt itself to
the ways of the eleventh century,
the management of the coronation
festival is puzzled. To incorporate a
mediaeval order of things and to sat-
isfy descendants of mediaeval func-
tionaries is a task equal in difficul-
ties to any one of the seven labors of
Hercules.

The guests who have no responsi-
bilities outside of those connected
with the preparation of suitable cos-
tumes, are perplexed by a request
from Queen Alexandra that all dresses
worn at the coronation ceremonies
and festivities be made of British
fabrics. It seems that for some un-
reckoned period England has been
entirely dependent upon Europe for
the finer dress materials. Irish pop-
lin is the only silky fabric manu-
factured in England. The recogni-
tion of the real state of things which
Queen Alexandra's request developed
has increased the misgivings of stu-
dents of England's commercial status
and a consternation unwarranted by
the actual conditions is apparent.
Meanwhile Queen Alexandra's patri-
otic determination has caused an in-
creased demand for English-made
goods and at least temporarily stimu-
lated manufactures and exports.

The Irish Redistribution Bill.

Of the three populations represent-
ed in the British house of commons,
the smallest, which is Ireland, re-
turns 103 members; Scotland, with a
somewhat larger population, returns
only 72 members; while the admin-
istrative county of London, to say
nothing of all the rest of England,
with a population considerably great-
er than the sum of Ireland's and
Scotland's, returns only 62. Taking
the three units, Scotland has one
member for every 62,000 inhabitants,
Ireland one for every 43,000 and Lon-
don only one for every 73,000. That
is to say, six Irishmen have as much
representation and legislative power
at Westminster as nine Scotchmen
or ten Englishmen.

The preponderance is unfair, and
besides it is a reflection on the Irish
members who can satisfactorily rep-
resent just as many constituents as
Englishmen or Scotchmen. And
inasmuch as representation is based
on the population, the discrimination
in favor of the Irish members is un-
conventional and unconstitutional.
Even the strongest Irish nationalists
cannot justify the arrangement
though, of course, when the bill is
before the house they will vote

against it. Messrs. Redmond, Dillon
and Healy declare that the Act of
Union forbids a reduction of Irish
representation. They contend also
that the depopulation of Ireland, in
the last sixty years, is due to Saxon
tyranny.

The Man on Horseback.

M. Fournier, the winner of the
automobile race from Paris to Berlin,
is the momentary idol of the French.
The Anglo Saxon cannot understand
the Latin, consequently there is ever-
lasting contempt on one side of the
channel for the people on the other
side. In this country which is Saxon
still, when Mr. Alfred Gwynne Van-
derbilt attempts to race his sixty-
horse power automobile in Newport,
he is arrested and fined. In the cen-
tre of Paris M. Fournier races his red
and black automobile through the
streets at what speed he chooses and
the Frenchmen, whose lives he en-
dangers, throw their caps in the air
and shout, "Voila Fournier, Vive
Fournier." To the Saxon mind M.
Fournier seems to be a good sports-
man, to possess very steady nerves
and an overwhelming appreciation of
the necessity and joys of winning a
race. M. Fournier has started for
America where it is likely he will be
lionized and unlikely that he will be
idolized. Prize fighters, marksmen,
owners of fast horses and fast ma-
chines excite our curiosity, some-
times our admiration, and from a
large portion of the community dis-
approval, but never enthusiastic de-
votion. The police keep a suspicious
eye on owners of fast horses and fast
gasoline carriages and if they are
sped faster than the law or than the
safety of the American pedestrian
allows, the owners are arrested and
fined and assessed the "costs" of their
own prosecution. A nation may be
known by its heroes as well as by its
songs. From Charlemagne to Na-
poleon there is not a Frenchman to
compare with Washington, Franklin,
Adams and Lincoln. To be sure en-
thusiasts are necessary to every peo-
ple. Apparently a little man on a
gasoline tank does for the French
members of the romance branch.
Our colder blood is not stirred by
spectacle and thus occasionally a
Washington or a Lincoln must occur
to prevent sluggishness.

"Shermanized."

The letters I have received since an
observation of last week in regard to
the comparatively new process to
which the University of Nebraska is
being treated, indicates that at least
the readers of The Courier are in-
terested in Professor Sherman's in-
vention. It has not been patented,
though the students of English at the
university have been subjected to the
perfected process for perhaps fifteen
years. Any other college is at lib-

erty to adopt the invention and it has
been well advertised in college circles.
They know in Columbia, in Michigan,
and at all universities how literature
is taught in the Nebraska institution,
but the method of instruction here
remains unique.

Although the process is not with-
out merit, its application to students
excludes from their view the broad
and fertile fields of English litera-
ture. It is Professor Sherman's hab-
it to go exploring in those fields him-
self and cull for his own and his
pupils' analysis flowers from Brown-
ing and Shakspeare, with a few weeds
from Barrie. But as Doctor G. Stan-
ley Hall says, this is a mediaeval
method and does not produce Catholic
scholarship. The didactic method
and the imposition of one lecturer's
invention upon students is in vogue
only at the University of Nebraska.

The process is so deeply rooted at
this university that only the most
energetic action by the regents can
disturb it. Professor Sherman is at
the head of the department of Eng-
lish, and with an inventor's enthu-
siasm for his own invention he in-
sists that all the professors and in-
structors learn his process and teach
it and nothing else. In the mean-
time graduates and under graduates
of the English department know
nothing of English literature, and in
the period when all the pores are
open to inspiration receive nothing
but the "Analytics of Literature,"
an unrecognized and undemonstrated
substitute for the study of English.

Besides being an inventor Professor
Sherman is a skillful politician with
a fine Italian hand, and professors and
instructors in English who do not
teach "Analytics" with all its sym-
bols, eagerly and faithfully, do not
remain members of the faculty, for
very long.

The department of English should
be investigated with a view to dis-
covering why English literature is no
longer taught in the English depart-
ment. It may be concluded that it is
worth while excluding the study of
the periods of English literature for
the sake of speculating for a term on
the hidden and lost meaning of Sor-
dello, and the subjectively silly
stories of Barrie. But the regents
owe it to their constituents, to the
under-graduates, and to the reputa-
tion the Nebraska State University
has won by the sound achievements
in letters, science, economics and
history of other professors, to inves-
tigate the system of teaching English.

Criticism of a man so well known
and highly respected as Professor
Sherman is an unwelcome, an un-
grateful task; but several hundred
students enter his classes every year.
If the system which Professor Sher-
man has established is ineffectual in
teaching literature and fails to con-
vey to the students the inspiration
of the most notable and vital vol-