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## TOWN TALK

A thrill of genuine sorrow swept out from the national capital. Tuesday morning and vibrated through every city, village and farm within the confines of this nation, at the announcement that Mrs. Harrison, the queenly consort of the president, had closed her eyes to the triumph and cares of earth to receive the crown eternal. Death was due to pulmonary troubles inherited, it is claimed, from the family of her mother. She had been ailing therewith only since April, when she was compelled to excuse herself at one of her popular receptions, since which time she has been seen by but few of her friends, as her malady had grown steadily more pronounced in spite of the most patient and tender care, frequent changes of climate and the best skill of the physician. Mrs. Harrison was born at Oxford, O., October 1st, 1832. Her maiden name was Carrie Scott, and she was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister who was also president of a female college. She married Benjamin Harrison October 29th, 1853. It was a happy marriage, crowned by a love that laughed at poverty and faced the future with confidence. It is said that she and her husband began their married life possessed of less than \$1,000, and that she was for years her own housekeeper, doing her own work and doing it well, even after her two children were born. From that time on until her death in spite of every surrounding that comes with fame and wealth Mrs. Harrison has remained a notable example of the most admirable qualities of womanhood, a true and loving wife, a kind and devoted mother and a Christian woman whose many superior graces were as well known and generally recognized before as after her demise.

She has been a popular hostess at the white house and even the most avowed political enemies of the president have ever praised in terms of evident sincerity the unvarying goodness of Mrs. Harrison. This nation is not unmindful of its great loss in the removal of this revered lady from the white house and expressions of genuine sorrow have poured in upon the stricken president from every state and city in the union, especially touching and impressive being the expressions from executive state officers. American royalty—the sovereign citizen—will share with President Harrison the sorrow of his great affliction in the loss of a helpmate who for nearly forty years had lovingly shared his rise from poverty and obscurity to fame, wealth and power. The funeral occurred Thursday, and was conducted as quietly and unceremoniously, according to the president's wishes, as if deceased had been merely a member of a private family. The remains did not even lie in state. A double service was held, however, one in the white house and one in the First Presbyterian church in Indianapolis, her home church, whither she was removed for interment.

The great Irvine trial is ended, and in the way that brings the greatest joy to the greatest number of people. The verdict of acquittal had been prayed for and anticipated by hundreds, but chiefly by the ladies of the city, who are ever rebellious against the stern demands of the law in criminal cases. The court room was daily thronged with ladies from the best circles of society, and though it was not the most refining place in the world, hundreds of young girls were attracted thither. Many of the ladies neglected no opportunity of letting the jurors, who were not blind, discover where their sympathies were, by means of divers and sundry nods and winking of heads, tears and ill-concealed anger or frowns. Of course their sympathy was with the defendant. It always is. It was so in the Shedy trial, and it was even so in the Ed Neil trial in Omaha, where a brutal murder was involved as was ever committed by human being. And Ed Neil had not \$100,000 or more behind him. He was simply dashing, handsome Ed Neil, a brutal murderer, but there was no time during his trial when the ladies present, and they were numerous and aristocratic, were not in full sympathy with his course. The jury in the Irvine case was not far behind the ladies, and unless one be so uncharitable to presume that they violated the oath they took to try the case on the law and the evidence, they reached the conclusion that Irvine was insane. Of course there is no way of determining upon just what ground they reached their verdict, but they could lawfully reach it only upon one condition, and that would be the defendant's insanity. While they might have thought him justified in killing Montgomery they could not get a question that would not pay the slightest regard for their oath, as they were sworn to decide the case according to law. Mania transitoria will doubtless become henceforth a popular find in medical jurisprudence. Poor old Hutchinson had to get out of court branded as a common, ordinary, every day lunatic, but he is probably the last of the species in local criminal tribunals. The transitory theory is so much more convenient, effective and desirable. Its victims need only to be crazy long enough to accomplish his purpose and there need be no necessity of his going to the lunatic asylum to escape responsibility for the consequences of his fury. Meantime insanity in either of its numerous types is likely to be an expensive luxury in point of money, as well as in respect to human life. The Irvine trial has probably cost the county \$3,000 or \$4,000. And it does seem as if there is no use of combatting before a jury the theory of a defendant's insanity. We can save money by frankly and readily acknowledging it to be the shining characteristic of every destroyer of human life and turn them loose as a matter of economy. The majesty of the law will not suffer half so severely as by some of the

trials we have been having. Or else we might acquit that there are personal or domestic wrongs which justify murder, catalogue them and save expense of trials.

The Irvine trial has not been so much an orderly proceeding in a temple of justice as a drama acted upon the boards of a theatre after numerous rehearsals. It was a great passion play, lasting two weeks. If the accessories of the stage, the glare of the footlights and fine scenic effects were absent, the play was not wanting in dramatic action. The range and compass of the theme was as broad as the passions of the human soul. The furious waves of feeling, sentiment and sympathy were now tossed aloft to the heavens, and again disclosed the profoundest depths. There was tragedy to begin with, comedy in the middle and a rattling farce at the end. The halo of red light at night and the black cloud by day about the central figure, and the collision between them when, in a fit of unconscious or "transitory" frenzy, Montgomery was killed, were worthy the genius of a Poe, or the author of the "Ancient Mariner." There was a touch of the fantastic in the dream of the hero, wherein Marguerite and Mephistopheles chased each other across the disorderly vision, while the reference to Grand Fre, where the scene of Longfellow's "Evangeline" was laid, was decidedly romantic and worthy the poetic genius of foreign counsel.

This great drama was only intended to be played to a select number, consisting of twelve persons, who were to pass upon the merits of the performance, but an impatient public and an impatient populace thronged the seats and aisles, and overfilled the sacred precincts of the judgment seat itself. There they sat, smiled and frowned, and cried in sympathy with the hero of the virtuous act—so that justice might be done. Little Flossie's unexpected advent into the court room, straight to the arms of her father; her dramatic presentation to the jury—just a trifle over-acted—and the appeal made in her behalf by eloquent counsel; the cheering and applause that followed a telling point in the speeches of advocates; the tears of the men, the sobs of the women and the manifestations of sympathy showered upon the accused at the end of each day's trial; the thunderous applause with which the verdict was greeted, followed by embraces and kisses bestowed upon the accused by the fair and virtuous, all led to the conclusion that the curtain was rung down on a great drama, and not upon the closing scene of a proceeding in a court of justice, where court, counsel and jury were engaged in the solemn duty of vindicating the law. The ordeal extended Irvine at the close of the trial and the subsequent reception were worthy tributes to his heroism in shooting down a man against whom he had no claim, he had no ill-will, without giving him a chance to tell his story or defend himself.

Byron speaks of the ecstasy of the first kiss of love, but that is not comparable to the unutterable delight experienced by the blushing maidens and the unblushing matrons who put up their lips for a kiss from the person who had shot his man. What a glow of conscious pride mantled the breasts of these women as they contemplated their own moral exaltation and exhibition of virtue! They were so surprised to find such novel sentiment and noble sympathy leaping to the front of being, demanding display and parade, that they became enamored of their own selves and actually suffered from excessive distention by reason of having gorged themselves with an overdose of morality and virtue. As the wild African hangs by some article of his apparel and worships it as a deity, so the people elevated themselves to a high moral pedestal and then prostrated themselves before it in self-laudation and worship, then went from the court room straight to their homes, patting themselves on the head, eager and covetous of praise for the high moral sentiment and action they had just exhibited.

The Lincoln Light Infantry has apparently reorganized with the design of staying this time. This company was organized almost a year ago, but a lack of interest in the work was encountered early and it fell by the wayside. But it fell only to rise again with renewed zeal. Considerable pains will be taken to see that none secure admission who have not a natural taste for military work, and as it is designed to be something of a small organization, further care will be exercised to conform to a high social standard as well. The boys have determined that they will be in no hurry in completing the company's muster roll. They propose to inaugurate some series of social entertainments that will give the organization a recognized place in society. Just what to do in these will take has not been definitely arranged, but it will probably be a series of grand balls in some public hall, or, were that not desirable, a series of dinners at the company with a number of the most interesting at the banquet, when it could be well presented "Innocent as a Lamb." Such an organization as is proposed would undoubtedly be a timely and valuable acquisition, not only in a social way, but there are frequent occasions when a well-dressed and nicely uniformed company of militia would be of great service in public demonstrations. Nothing that could be devised would afford a better way of attracting attention toward Lincoln than to have a crack militia company to send abroad occasionally.

All honor to the state university football team, and may it go on achieving new honors. Last Monday it conferred distinction upon the state of Nebraska by wrestling at Lincoln park, a decisive victory from the champions of the sucker state, who can represent the Illinois state university, located at Champaign. Few expected to see the Nebraska boys win, and the atmosphere was not without a touch of enthusiasm when they brought in the sucker scalps.

They will try to repeat their success in Denver today, where they meet the team from the university of Colorado. If they don't fall victims to the light atmosphere they may be relieved upon.

If there were a few more men in Lincoln like J. A. Buckstaff this city would not long occupy a back seat as a manufacturing and jobbing center. It inspires one with confidence and respect for the man's business genius to contemplate his numerous big enterprises now all in successful operation in this city, and the number of men to whom they furnish employment. The man must lay awake nights trying to discover new ways of putting another laboring man at work in a way that would be lucrative to himself and his employer, as his pay roll continues to increase. Not satisfied with enlarging his own pay roll, he is ever scheming to induce others to establish industries here.



The Late Mrs. Benjamin Harrison

and pay rolls to match. He has just fixed a big wholesale implement house at the corner of Sixth and L streets, one which will furnish work for fifty or sixty people, and has begun the erection of a big four-story brick block for its occupancy. He has several other big enterprises in view and will be heard from again in the spring. He believes in turning our own money over in our own hands as often and as long as possible, and establishing paying industries here at home.

TOOR L. OSSIE.

### Holiday Preparation.

Another year is about to go into history, the holidays are fast approaching and ere another sixty days rolls on Christmas of '92 will have also been added to the events of the past. Hallett, the jeweler, ever with a keen foresight has been laying his plans during the summer for a grand holiday trade and the result is now evident to the naked eye of all who enter his beautiful place of business at 113 North Eleventh street. At the recent auction sale nearly all of his old stock was disposed of, and in consequence thereof a complete line of new goods poured upon the shelves and showcases. Particularly in new watches, diamonds, opera glasses, souvenir spoons and goldheaded canes has his stock been improved. In these, well as the newest designs and novelties in silverware, does the stock show up magnificently. It would be useless for us in this limited space to enumerate or describe the hundred and one new things that are now being, or have lately been opened. Mr. Hallett requests us to say to all COURIER readers that he desires them to call and look through his cases, and though you may not wish to buy the sight seeing will afford you much pleasure.

First Rehearsal for "Ben Hur." Those that have been asked to take part will meet the drill master at the Masonic temple at three p. m. Monday next. School children at four.

Omaha's Leading Hotel. The Paxton hotel, for eight years under the management of Kitchen Bros., has been passed into their hands and is now being conducted in the same excellent manner that gave the house its reputation twenty years ago. Mr. Ralph Kitchen, was well known in Lincoln and throughout the state, having formerly had the management of the Capital hotel in this city. His management of the Paxton, Lincolnites and Nebraskans in general will find the Paxton fully in keeping with the leading hotels of the country and a most excellent place to stop at when in Omaha.

Beer For Family Use. For family trade the John Gaud Brewing Co. is now delivering a superior grade of extra pale beer in either pint or quart bottles. This beer for table use has no equal and is meeting with popular favor with all the best trade of the city. Prices as cheap as that charged for inferior beer. Leave orders at office, 211 North Third street. Oscar Beck, agent. Once tried no other beer will be used. Why not order a sample case of it.

Miss Alice Isaacs of Omaha has just returned from New York after a seven weeks purchasing visit. Her store at Omaha, 337 South Sixth street, contains all the latest novelties in pattern bonnets which are being offered at lowest prices with a guarantee that every hat is the correct style.

Our coal is well screened, full weight guaranteed and delivery always prompt. Call up Lincoln Coal Co. Phone 440.

## TIME TO KICK

Without intended disparagement of some of the numerous organizations of that nature now in the city, the Kicker can well growl at the fact that there is not a brass band in Lincoln that is in any way a credit to a city of 60,000. Nobody can tell just why, but it is a lamentable fact. And the bands that are here seem to get poorer each year, instead of better. With all the pleasure resorts, state meetings, celebrations and other demands for such an organization, one would think that Lincoln ought certainly to have a creditable band, at least as good as can be supported at York, Nebraska City or Archer. And yet the brass bands from those places can play all around anything in Lincoln. This situation is not due to any lack of excellent performers here. The woods are full of them.



Freddie Gray and his Aunt Helen

There are brass bands here "fill you can't rest," and the words are not designed to be interpreted figuratively either. They are so numerous, so changeable and so devoid of merit that one cannot distinguish one from the other. This is mostly due to lack of liberality on the part of the public though perhaps partly due to need of a capable business and professional manager. People in Lincoln are so firmly grounded in the habit of hiring bands of indifferent merit that a first-class band would ordinarily be deemed an expensive luxury. Even at the two parks, both of which realized handsome dividends, improvised bands were engaged the last season, bands which the management of either ought to have hesitated before placing in the public service. The time is ripe for some enterprising manager to organize a creditable band in Lincoln, one of which the people need not be ashamed either at home or abroad. Lincoln people will see to it that such an organization receives the patronage it merits, and those who expect to garner dividends from public amusements will be called to account if they ignore it.

It will be a remarkable freak of the blind goddess that no one need reasonably expect if this city is not soon mulcted in a good round sum for damages inflicted upon business interests in the vicinity of Twelfth and O streets by defective sewers. It has been demonstrated time and time again that the catch basins or the sewers at that point are not sufficient to carry away the water collecting there after a heavy rainfall, and every now and then a pretentious lake forms at one of the most prominent business corners in the entire city, flooding all cellars in the vicinity which are not built on stilts. Suits have been filed against the city by six firms who have suffered heavy damages from flooded cellars, and judgments are more than likely to be secured aggregating a large sum. Yet no one has heard any of the sapient city senators advocating measures to prevent a recurrence of the trouble and damage. 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