

## The Nebraska Independent

Lincoln, Nebraska.

LIBERTY BUILDING. 1328 O STREET

Entered according to Act of Congress of March 3, 1879, at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.  
SIXTEENTH YEAR

\$1.00 PER YEAR

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Lincoln, Neb.

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According to President Eliot of Harvard college, the prize fight occupies an equal, if not higher moral level than football as it has been played in the interstate contests. Most people who have watched these games will agree with President Eliot.

The New York World says "the democratic party of the Empire state needs ideals, principles, initiative, more than it needs a leader." The ordinary observer of political affairs would be inclined to say that that is what it needs everywhere.

The first work of Burkett since his election to the United States senate is seen in the appointment of State Senator Tucker of Humboldt as justice of the supreme court of Arizona. It is the opinion of lawyers hereabouts, that if the whole pile of republican politicians in the state had been raked over, no more unfit or wholly unqualified candidate could have been found. He will turn out just as Ben Baker did.

The suffering in Cincinnati seems equal to that in any of the other large cities. The Times-Star says: "In January last year the bread line was instituted temporarily, and many were fed; but conditions have altered terribly for the worse, and this season sees men craving food and clothing who, in other years, were at least comfortably independent." Plutocratic prosperity is doing its perfect work all over the country.

The New York World announced that as Senator Depew has been retired from the position of chairman of the board of directors of the Vanderbilt roads, he will hereafter spend considerable of his time in Washington. Heretofore Depew has given almost the whole of his time to the railroads. He was only certain to be in Washington when the New York Central and allied roads wanted him there. Depew is a fair specimen of the corporation senators. Will that sort of thing go on forever?

The New Jersey authorities have recommended voice culture and instrumental music as one of the best means of reform. Some doctors of note in New York are also recommending music as a cure for disease. The papers do not say that they "are holding themselves out" to do that, but it is evident that the Gage county Solon who introduced the anti-Christian science bill in the Nebraska legislature, had better be looking after those fellows down east. He ought to provide some way to make those cranks down there stick to drugs and patent medicines. Using music as medicine is certainly as bad as any faith cure.

### The American Grand Dukes

The dailies have had a great deal to say about the corruption grafting and thieving of the bureaucrats of Russia, but the fact is that our grand dukes of the United States senate are just as corrupt as the grand dukes of Russia. Last week a paper was filed in the senate asking for the expulsion of Senator Platt, charging him with being at the head of the express trust that fixed charges everywhere in the United States and that he was there to legislate for the express companies and against the interest of the people. Everybody knows that the charge is true. It will be utterly impossible to get a bill through the senate for a postal check currency, a parcels post or any other legislation along that line as long as Platt is in the senate.

At the same time it has been announced that Platt has been sued for breach of promise. Everyone in Washington knows that the charges in that case are true also. He transferred a young woman from a government position in New York to one in Washington, wrote her a hundred or more passionate love letters, promised to marry her, and then when he got a chance to marry a rich widow jilted the girl. He made some sort of a settlement at the time of his marriage, but the young woman has now brought a more serious charge against him than breach of promise, although that is part of the charge.

Three of these grand dukes have been indicted during the year and charges of the most serious character have been made against others, including Senator Warren of Wyoming. Among the formal charges presented in the Wyoming legislature are the following:

That Charles M. Smith, brother-in-law of Senator Warren, was kept on the senate payroll at Washington as a clerk of the committee on claims (Senator Warren, chairman) at a salary of \$2,200 a year, while in fact he never served in such capacity in Washington, but stayed in Cheyenne all the time, turning his salary over to Senator Warren.

That Hiram Sapp similarly collected \$1,400 from the government as assistant clerk, and turned the money over to the senator, while remaining in Cheyenne.

That Frances E. Warren, son and namesake of the senator, is drawing pay as an assistant clerk of the committee on claims, although having been absent from Washington and a student at Harvard university.

That Senator Warren leased a building to the government to be used as a postoffice while a United States senator.

That Senator Warren has, in violation of the federal statutes, fenced in a vast area of government land.

That Senator Warren used his influence to secure from the federal government a contract for lighting Fort D. A. Russell, at Cheyenne, for the Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power company, of which he was incorporator and is a principal stockholder.

Every grand duke in Washington is guilty of some of the offenses charged in the above account against Senator Warren and everybody in Washington knows that they are guilty. Everyone who has traveled through the west and made any inquiries at all or even kept his eyes open, knows that Senator Warren has fenced in many thousands of acres of government land. The president knows that he has, for he was informed of that fact when he was swinging his big stick around and declaring that the fences on the government land had to come down. But Teddy laid away his big stick and the fences are there yet.

Even a summary of the grafting of the American grand dukes would fill every column in The Independent. Every man, especially every newspaper correspondent in Washington knows all about these things, but they keep silent. One of the most brilliant

newspaper men in Washington wrote to the editor of The Independent the other day that whenever he put a paragraph of that kind in his correspondence it was blue pencilled, and he was sure that if he put them in too often he would be bounced. The grand dukes would see to that.

### The Religious Press

The money power has used the religious press for twelve years for its own purposes, having subsidized it through advertising contracts, and finding now that it is no longer necessary, are withdrawing those contracts, in consequence of which there is an uproar among religious publishing houses. At a meeting of the managers of the Methodist book concern in New York the other day a special committee composed of five members was appointed to investigate the inclination of advertisers to withdraw from the religious press.

The religious press is as much or more responsible for the evil conditions that now exist as the daily press. It went over, with a few exceptions, to Wall street in 1892 and has been there ever since. For years when these "captains of industry" would not put an advertisement in The Independent at any price, the columns of the religious press were crowded with them. We hope these religious editors will look upon the withdrawal of advertisements as a direct chastisement of the Lord and that the editors will repent and do better in the future. While this thing has been going on, crime has increased far beyond the increase in population.

The scientists are claiming that ethics is simply what is best for man. That what is called "good" benefits man and what is called "evil" is an injury to man, and that is the reason, that it is called good and evil. That is nothing more than the old orthodox belief put into a new form. The religious press has assisted the evil for these many years, but its managers will find out that it has not been good for man, not even for those men who expected to profit by it. The clergy themselves constantly complain because the wage worker and the common people will not attend church. They complain because the educated classes are deserting the old beliefs, and they have good cause to complain. If things drift on in the same way, there will in a few decades be no church. Mr. Ghent's doctrine that economic force makes the morals of the people will be adopted, and after that there will be no use for preachers and churches.

What the ministers want to do is adopt the scientific basis of ethics and preach and practice it. No other basis for ethics can exist. If God is good, then it follows that righteousness and right living is the best thing for man. That wrong, robbery, extortion, and in fact, every thing immoral, is bad for man, and that too, whether the economic force tends to drive him that way or not.

There is not a church in Lincoln, or any other city that would hold the people who would flock to hear the preacher who would denounce the crimes of Wall street and the captains of industry. They would flock to hear him just as people buy Tom Lawson's articles by the hundred thousand. That would be preach "morality," the people would instinctively feel that it was "good," that it was "ethics," and that it was the best thing for them and all the world.

The house judiciary committee killed the anti-injunction bill quicker than one could say "scat." Will labor unions continue to "vote 'er straight?"

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