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Miscellaneous Mention.

Plattsmouth was recently connected with Lincoln by telephone. This connection makes Omaha, Plattsmouth and Lincoln near neighbors.

A Chinese chart of the heavens, made about 600 years B. C., giving correctly the position of about 14,000 stars, is preserved in the great Paris Library.

A new man on the Omaha police force was caught walking his beat the other night and was fined in the police court the next morning for somnambulism.

The present spell of severe cold weather will confirm others to the belief that Mr. Vennor does know something about the weather after all. Some of his prophesies are as remarkably true as Mother Shipmaus'. It is very true he must necessarily do some guessing in this great weather affair, but as long as the guessing generally comes out true, what does it matter to you? We must have a weather prophet any way.

The liquor interests of the State are being carefully watched by men of brains and money; all that is in their power will be done to see free whisky throughout the State. No doubt it will improve the general class of citizens, but when the city of Omaha makes 2354 arrests in one year under the Slocum law it is reasonable to believe that the number would increase under free whisky, and thus Omaha could afford a few more beer shops and an addition to her police force, which would make work more plenty all around. How lovely!

Some weeks ago Bob Ingersoll entertained a large audience in the opera house, and with his eloquence and sarcasm made many believe that his theory is superior to a hereafter. On hearing the lecture, Mr. Calhoun, of the *State Journal* staff, thinking it not the proper channel for the mind to follow, prepared a lecture opposing his theory, and delivered it before the citizens of Lincoln. Mr. Calhoun has been highly complimented, not only in this city, but by the press throughout the state, for the able manner in which he handled the subject.

The first ballot for United States Senator from this state was taken on the 16th inst. There were only 28 candidates for the office. The number soon rose to 32. Morton received the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot. Balloting has been going on every day since and the "child is still unborn," as it were. It looks at this writing (20) as if the successful man will be named before the end of the session, at least. The democrats and anti monopolists seem to be working together, and the republicans are watching every opportunity to lay fine wires to ensnare them.

Baxter wrote near the end of his life: "I see that good men are not so bad as I once thought they were, and I find that few are so bad as malicious enemies or censorious professors do imagine."

Of all buildings erected in the world, none should have more care exercised in the architecture than hotels. Every few weeks the terrible news comes to our ears of some large hotel burning and roasting in the flames its sleeping inmates. The terrible affair at Milwaukee is only another example of the many sad calamities that are continually befalling our people. These painful experiences are certainly evidence that more care should be exercised in the constructing and management of hotels.

Miss Mary Thomas, daughter of one of the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University, has taken the degree of Ph. D., *summa cum laude*, at the university of Zurich—a distinction rarely attained by male graduates. Miss Thomas is a graduate of Cornell, and studied three years in Leipzig. She took her examinations at Zurich, because the university at Leipzig does not grant degrees to women. Her subject was philology, a particularly difficult one in German.

An effort is being made to get a bill through the Nebraska legislature making it compulsory for teachers to attend teachers' institutes. While we are highly in favor of teachers' institutes, and have always advocated them, we doubt the propriety of compelling teachers to attend. If they are a good help to the teacher, which they are, those desiring to attain a high degree of excellence in the profession will improve such opportunities without compulsion. There are many instances in which teachers can not attend, and others possibly prefer to occupy their time otherwise than this. Therefore, we cannot see the utility of making that compulsory which should be a voluntary pleasure.

Some four years ago the Otoe Indians were actuated by some influential men to dispose of a portion of their Reservation, consisting of 115,200 acres of choice land. This was purchased by the government, surveyed, appraised and sold to actual settlers on two and three years time. A second time the Otoes were approached, this time concerning the disposal of the remainder of their land: this time they were advised to go to the Indian Territory. After some coaxing they consented to go, and sold the remainder of their Reservation consisting of nearly 40,000 acres to the Government, packed their ponies and wended their way to the last resort for the poor fallen American Indian. This last section is now being appraised and will come into market in the spring. Thus Nebraska has parted with her last tribe of Indians that are worthy of note, and soon their hunting grounds will be converted into homes for the white man.