

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.
State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
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1.	27,950
2.	27,700
3.	27,840
4.	27,990
5.	27,940
6.	28,340
7.	27,690
8.	27,650
9.	27,780
10.	27,400
11.	27,540
12.	27,500
13.	28,575
14.	27,420
15.	27,380
Total	857,600
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Net total sales	845,396
Net daily average	26,185

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 17th day of May, A. D. 1901.
M. B. HUNTER,
Notary Public.

The various powder works on the Pacific coast have consolidated. A match properly applied will break that combination.

The battleship Ohio took to the water as naturally and easily as an Ohio man to an office. The name is as good a mascot as the new ship could have.

There are but thirteen anti-democrat delegates in the Alabama constitutional convention. A convention constituted on those lines can be counted on to eliminate the negro vote to the satisfaction of democracy.

The best evidence that the aims of the Turkish government are peaceful is the fact that the importation of typewriters has been prohibited. No modern war can be successfully conducted without the assistance of this useful machine.

Now that China has conceded the grant of lands for legation sites, unless the powers can trump up some other excuse it looks as though the troops might soon be withdrawn. It is always difficult, however, to satisfy those who do not want to be satisfied.

Aguinaldo declines to discuss the question of the capabilities of his countrymen for self-government until after he is released from confinement. Possibly Aguinaldo thinks it doubtful whether they are fitted to rule themselves when deprived of his leadership.

When the Chicago & Great Western makes its entry into Omaha this city will have all the railroad facilities to Chicago that may be required for the next ten generations. With six direct trunk lines to Chicago, and most of them double-track, Omaha cannot complain of her facilities for reaching the metropolises of the west.

The annoyance caused President McKinley by persistent kodakers intent on trying for photographic snapshots raises the question again as to how far a person's likeness belongs to himself and whether he has not the right to select his own photographer. The public man belongs to the public more these days than ever before.

A prominent steel magnate, testifying before the industrial commission, stated that he anticipated no hardship to independent operators from the big combine, because anyone with from \$200,000 to \$300,000 capital could engage in the business with a profit. If this is all that is required steel plants will of course soon grow on every corner lot.

Young Mr. Phillips has closed out his deal in May corn with a large profit, and the old speculators who a short time ago were talking about how they were going to crush the youngster can figure up their losses. That he successfully executed one big deal was credited to accident. The fact that he was able to repeat it stamps him as a man at least some abilities.

The striking street car men in Albany and the company managers finally got together and settled their differences. How much better it would have been if both parties had been willing to make the concessions in the first place which finally stopped the conflict. In such cases both parties seem to forget that the public has rights, and unless a more general disposition is manifested to recognize this the public may enforce its rights by means of compulsory arbitration laws in spite of their doubtful expediency.

The fickleness of women stock speculators has been strikingly exhibited by a Philadelphia woman who purchased 2000 shares of Northern Pacific for \$20,000 and when her broker remitted a check for \$120,000 for the sale of the stock returned the check with the explanation that conscientious scruples prevented her from accepting such an enormous profit and as she feared that someone might be wronged by the transaction. Had this piece of good luck befallen a male stock speculator we feel sure no such exhibition of conscientious scruples would have been made.

BLACKLIST AND BOYCOTT.

In February, 1900, the women employed in one of the Chicago packing houses went out on a strike because of repeated reductions in wages. Later the women tried to secure employment with other firms, but were refused on account of their having been strikers. In a test case made by two of the blacklisted women the court has just ruled that the various firms engaged in the meat packing industry had a legal right to take protective measures against persons who had quit the employment of other firms without valid reasons. In other words, the court upholds the right of employers to use the blacklist as a defensive weapon against strikers.

This decision is repugnant to the spirit of American institutions. It would if carried into effect re-establish human slavery in a new form. The right to enjoy the fruit of one's labor is among the inalienable rights of man. The right of every man or woman to put a price upon his labor is as inviolable as the right of the farmer to put a price on the products of the farm or the merchant to put a price upon his wares.

It is a natural right of every man to withhold his labor if he cannot get the wages he demands or believes to be reasonable. This right can be exercised either individually or collectively, unless he hires out for a fixed time at specific wages. A denial of this right would place in the hands of employers the power to compel involuntary service at such wages as they might see fit to pay regardless of the wants and necessities of their employes.

Applied in all its vigor the blacklist would place both skilled and unskilled labor at the mercy of capital. It would absolutely deprive workmen of free choice of employers and freedom to seek employment where they can get the highest wages and best treatment. With the blacklist held over his head the workman could not hope to better his condition and would not dare to assert himself as against the most tyrannical oppression.

On the other hand, the boycott as a weapon against employers who for any reason come in conflict with organized labor is equally un-American and contrary to the spirit of our institutions. While a workman has a right to withhold his own labor he has no right to deprive others of the opportunity to labor or the opportunity to sell the products of their labor. Every American citizen is entitled to unrestricted traffic in property of every description so long as his trade is not harmful to the public. It should be as unlawful for a labor organization to injure his business by the use of the boycott as it should be for the employer to bar workmen from employment by the use of the blacklist.

Only by free and untrammelled action on the part of the men who labor and the men who hire labor can republican institutions be maintained and the broadest freedom enjoyed by all classes of our citizens.

KEEPING UP THE RECORD.

The latest report regarding the foreign commerce of the country shows that in exports the record is being kept up. A few months ago it was thought by some of the experts that they discovered in the official figures a tendency toward reaction, and they ventured to predict that we should not make in the fiscal year that ends June 30 as fine a record as was made in the preceding fiscal year. But the latest figures reported from Washington make it clear that there need no longer be apprehension on that point. There would need to be very heavy, almost impossible, falling away in the foreign commerce for May and June, if we are not to exceed the record made last year. Already our exports for the ten months of the current fiscal year are nearly \$600,000,000 in excess of imports and all the indications point to an excess of exports for the year approximating \$700,000,000. If we merely hold our own in the months of May and June we shall have a total of exports for this fiscal year of about \$1,500,000,000 and probably a total foreign commerce of not far from \$2,400,000,000. As now promised the gain in exports over last year will be fully \$200,000,000.

This is a great commerce and the prospects are favorable to its further increase, particularly as to agricultural exports. There is every reason to expect that the foreign demand for the products of American farms will at least be as large and probably larger during the next twelve months than it has been for the last year. The crops in Europe are generally said to be not up to the average, and if this shall prove to be the fact a larger movement of American agricultural products abroad is assured. For this we should be well prepared, all conditions promising abundant crops this year. As to exports of manufactures, there seems to be good reason to expect they will continue to increase. There is, of course, the danger of European tariffs designed to check the American competition, but this may be a less serious danger than some apprehended. There are few European countries, we think, that will be disposed to discriminate against our manufactures to an extent to invite retaliation, for there is not one of them that would be a gainer by such a policy. Some interests, undoubtedly, would profit by it and it is these which are agitating for discriminating tariffs against American products and for some sort of combination or alliance between European countries for mutual protection against American competition, but the governments would sacrifice revenue by such a policy, while injury would be done to the great body of consumers. Therefore we do not think that the threat of anti-American tariffs is likely to have any practical result materially to the detriment of our European trade. In any event, however, other markets are opening to us which in the near future should make a large demand for our manufactures. The markets of Asia and of South Africa should be within the next few years liberal customers of the United States, while there is a field in South America that invites industrious cultivation.

The present condition of our foreign commerce appears to be wholly satisfactory and the outlook seems to be as

favorable as could be wished. With abundant crops the continuance of prosperity in the United States is assured.

ARRANGING INDEMNITY PAYMENT.

It may be several weeks before the powers can reach an understanding as to what measures China shall adopt for the payment of the indemnity. The proposition submitted by the Chinese envoys is not altogether satisfactory to any of the governments, though advice from Berlin a few days ago stated that Germany would probably agree to an increase of customs duties, since the only other possibility of increasing China's revenues is the reform of internal taxation, which it is desirable to avoid because it would require too much mixing by the powers in the domestic affairs of China. It is the understanding that Great Britain is not favorable to increasing the customs duties and is reported to have submitted a proposal to the foreign ministers to the effect that China pay the indemnity out of her own native resources.

The position of the United States in the matter has not yet been fully defined. It was reported from Washington a short time ago that our government does not object to the increase of the trifling duties now levied upon imports into China. These now amount to only about 2 1/2 per cent ad valorem in gold. It was stated that the United States would not favor a heavy increase, but if an increase to 5 per cent gold, or even something above this amount, would simplify the problem of Chinese finance and provide for the indemnities no opposition would be made by the United States. It is understood to be the opinion at the State department that the internal taxes of China cannot be arbitrarily abolished, as some of the foreign ministers have urged should be done, but it is felt that steps should at least be inaugurated which will bring them to a uniform and intelligible scale and pave the way for their final abolition.

One of the chief difficulties encountered by foreign merchants and by Chinese merchants has been the uncertainty of these taxes. Whether a given provincial governor or customs officers would levy 20 per cent or 50 per cent, or could be bought off with a smaller personal bribe, has been such an element of doubt that it has been impossible to fix the price of goods or to determine whether a given shipment would prove profitable or would be liquidated at a loss. What our government is said to desire is an arrangement which will put internal taxation in China upon a sound basis and relieve commerce in the interior from the present annoying restrictions. Doubtless it will in due time be prepared to suggest such an arrangement.

This question of providing for the payment of the indemnity by China is anything but a simple problem, involving as it does some radical changes in the long-established fiscal policy of the empire, the effect of which upon the people cannot be foreseen. It is a matter that calls for very careful consideration and for conservative action on the part of the powers.

THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL.

The contest for the control of the transcontinental railroads has attracted world-wide attention. Whatever may be the final outcome, the consensus of opinion is that the warring powers have aroused popular apprehension and alarm at the stupendous amount of capital concentrated in the hands of a few men. The most conservative thinkers, among whom are included many public men and men prominent in commercial and financial circles, express grave fears that the battle for control will stimulate the spread of socialism and force to the front the issue of government ownership or government supervision. The New York Independent, which is classed among the most conservative publications, points out the danger to the public of the pretended effort to harmonize the railways of the United States by a community of interests based on a community of ownership. The Independent very pertinently calls attention to the promises of the harmonizers as compared with their performances, as follows:

For the benefit of investors, the promotion of profitable trade and the good of the general public, the people were informed, our country's 40 per cent of the world's railway mileage was thus to be brought under a kind of common control. The roads would naturally fall into a few groups, but the ruling stockholders in one group would have influential pecuniary interests in the others. Uniformity of rates would thus be assured, injurious competition would be prevented, and peace would reign in the railway world. Failure to acquire the St. Paul road was followed by a successful attempt to obtain control of the Burlington system, which now awaits formal transfer to the two northern transcontinental lines on their joint account.

The harmonizers had quarreled among themselves. The battle of Standard Oil interests—were battling against the millions of the northwest group, controlled by J. J. Hill and J. Pierpont Morgan.

But what has become of that harmony which was to be the fruit of the community of interest and the grouping of the railways? And what impression has been made on the public mind by this reckless battle of financial giant for control of great properties which the harmonizers, they said, were to administer for the public good? How can these great capitalists hope to win the confidence and respect of the American people if they cannot avoid a bitter quarrel at the very beginning of their operations and cannot be restrained from using their enormous power as they did use it last week, with a disregard for all interests except their own? Is the projected grouping of American railways to be accompanied by frequent battles of this kind for the control of properties on the border lines? Will the master of any group be satisfied with his possessions? Would not the Burlington road be more useful to the people under its old conservative management and in the hands of ambitious

capitalists who quarrel and slash about in the securities market like bulls in a china shop?

These are some of the questions which the American people will now be asking themselves. We do not see how they can perceive in these transactions a spirit favorable to the grouping and management of railroads for any but a purely selfish purpose.

Concluding its dispassionate review of the combat the Independent says: All who engaged in the grouping project must suffer in public estimation by reason of this sharp collision of leading interests, and they ought not to be surprised if the number of those calling for the public ownership of railroads is perceptibly increased by this costly battle for control.

While it is not likely that anything the press may say concerning the course of the warring railroad magnates will have any perceptible effect upon their future policy, it is only due to the public to point out the almost inevitable consequences of the consolidation of the transcontinental railroads.

THE BENEFIT MANIA.

The people of Omaha are of a beneficial turn of mind. Almost anybody who has played a part on the stage or off the stage is conceded the privilege of considering himself entitled to a complimentary performance with compulsory contributions solicited under pressure. We have not only had benefits for sufferers from food, fire, famine and war, but for sufferers from overwork and underwork, from dyspepsia and the gout. We have had benefits for base ball players and basso singers, for men who have lost their fortunes and for men who have lost their heads or legs.

So long as a suffering and patient community is willing to contribute to the benefit of somebody who has never benefited anybody in particular except possibly himself the benefit mania will receive encouragement as a profitable industry that works as well for the professional benefit promoter as it does for the beneficiary.

For the benefit of the public we venture to remark that a community, like an individual, may get too much of a good thing and that the benefit business may be overdone.

THE PREFERRED ROUTE.

According to the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, enough is known regarding the forthcoming report of the Isthmian Canal commission to warrant the assertion that it will recommend the Nicaragua route in strong terms. There is nothing really new in this statement, for it has been pretty well understood from the outset that a majority of the commission, if not all its members, were in favor of that route. It was said, when the present commission was made up, having as its nucleus the former Walker commission, that it was no purpose to require it to investigate the Panama or any other than the Nicaragua route, because it was certain to report in favor of the latter. However, the commission appears to have carefully and faithfully performed the duty assigned it and until it submits its report, giving the reasons for recommending the Nicaragua route, no criticism of its preference can properly be made.

In the meantime, however, the public will continue to take an interest in the subject and to consider such facts as are known in regard to the relative merits of the two routes, financially, commercially and in respect to international conditions. These known facts are that the Panama route, its feasibility being admitted, can be completed at much less cost—no one can confidently say just how much—than a canal over the Nicaragua route, that commercially it would be an equally serviceable waterway, and its construction and control by the United States would be free from any such international complication as that in connection with the Nicaragua project. These are certainly quite important considerations, but it is possible that the commission will be able to show that they are overbalanced by others favorable to the Nicaragua route.

No single agency is working more to make rural life attractive than the Post-office department. For many years the small postoffices and star route mails have been conducted at a loss by the government in order to give to rural communities good mail facilities. The first great improvement was the rural free mail delivery, but from its very nature this is only practicable under the existing system where the country is thickly settled. The department contemplates a still further extension of the system by compelling the drivers of star routes to deliver individual mail along their routes wherever boxes are provided by the people. This innovation will give many thousands of people the benefit of free delivery who would otherwise be deprived of it for years. The bringing home to farmers the benefits of city life without its disadvantages will contribute to solve the problem of the undue drift of population from the farm to the city.

H. C. FRICK, WHO IS BEST KNOWN AS THE FORMER PARTNER OF ANDREW CARNEGIE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF STEEL AT HOMESTEAD, HAS ORGANIZED A \$15,000,000 OIL COMPANY IN TEXAS. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ENTIRE CAPITAL HAS BEEN PAID IN COMES ALSO THE FORECAST THAT THIS IS TO BE THE NUCLEUS OF A TEXAS OIL OCTOPUS CAPITALIZED AT \$200,000,000. A NEW IMPETUS IS THUS GIVEN TO THE TEXAS OIL BOOM AND PREDICTIONS ARE CONFIDENTLY MADE THAT A "COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS" WILL COMPEL THE STANDARD OIL TRUST TO ABSORB THE FRICK OCTOPUS—OIL, WATER AND ALL. BEFORE THIS HAPPENS INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO GET THEIR HANDS BURNED. WATERED OIL STOCKS ARE MORE INFLAMMABLE THAN THE GENUINE RAW MATERIAL.

STATISTICS OF ENGLISH GRAIN AVERAGE SHOW THAT COUNTRY IS YEAR BY YEAR BECOMING MORE DEPENDENT UPON THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR ITS FOOD SUPPLY. YEAR BY YEAR THE UNITED STATES IS PRODUCING MORE, AND WHILE OUR DEPENDENCE UPON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR NECESSITIES AND MANY OF THE LUXURIES OF LIFE IS LESSENING WE ARE BECOMING MORE OF A NECESSITY TO THE OLD WORLD. THIS IS THE BEST PROTECTION THE

United States has against any possible European industrial combination. All the American farmer, mechanic and manufacturer have to do is to push along and make it an object for the world to trade with us.

County Attorney Shields' volunteer champion is said to be much disappointed because he was deprived of the privilege to deliver himself of a scathing arraignment of The Bee and its editor. In order that the piece of magnetized eloquence may not be lost to posterity we move that he be given leave to print in the popular organ he loves so much.

HINDSIGHT OF MANAGERS.

American managers are still scouring London for plays in which American actors can appear, still oblivious of the fact that American audiences are tolerably fond of American plays.

ANOTHER KICK IN THE BUTT.

There's no question about the trust principle taking great liberties with the people. A perfume tray takes it by the nose and along comes one in the music line to take it by the ear.

NOT TO BE TRIED WITH.

The gentle sex is meeting the emergencies of the time with praiseworthy courage. In several recent instances burglars and other ruffians have been put to flight or turned over to the officers of the law by stout-hearted and energetic women. The self-reliance and heroism exhibited in such exploits deserve the warmest acclaim.

GOOD RIDDANCE.

A War department clerk who tried to sell government secrets has been summarily dismissed from office. He made the mistake of trying to sell to an honest man; but before proceeding to moralize about it, we ought to know whether the case is one of exceptional rarity on one side or exceptional honesty on the other.

SOBBING THROUGH HIS WHISKERS.

What a touching spectacle: James J. Hill shaking with grief and the tears rolling down his cheeks because comparatively poor friends of his, who had confidence in him and his properties, invested in Northern Pacific and were financially ruined by being "caught in the vortex of a gamble," as he expressed it. What will his feelings be if further harrowed by confirmation of the latest report that the Morgan-Hill combination was defeated in the struggle?

THE ATHLETIC GIRL.

A Boston school official has done a real service to education in denouncing rough sports for girls in gymnasium practice, and in declaring that athletics for them should be closely guarded to prevent such training as makes girls loud, bold and rough. The athletic girl is better, brighter and healthier than those of her sex who are debased from this kind of exercise, but it should always be borne in mind that the object of her training is to develop health and not manliness. When attention is now drawn to the necessity of modifying athletic sports for men it is certainly time to put a wise preventive check to the overdoing of a good thing by women.

NO SHOW FOR LIMITED CAPITAL.

The official head of the steel trust unwittingly discloses in a single sentence the pith and marrow of public objection to trust methods: "Combination," he said before the industrial commission, "makes it difficult for the man with small capital to go into business, but it greatly increases the demand for practical men of brains who will accept high salaries." Exactly so. The man of small capital, who under a competitive system would be enabled to make his brains count for his own interest, must serve a giant corporation at a salary or abandon the field. What is to become of his descendants under such conditions is a question not within trust purview.

PENMANSHIP IN THE SCHOOLS.

We believe that people generally will heartily approve the action of the Board of Education of this city in abolishing the teaching of upright or so-called vertical handwriting in our public schools. About a year ago the superintendents of the school board passed resolutions to the effect that the penmanship which involved a slanting of characters, which was right, seemed to them to meet most fully the requirements of every-day business life and recommended that such a system be taught in all the boroughs of the Greater New York. The board did not, however, make the teaching of that system absolutely compulsory, but virtually left the matter to the discretion of the various principals, in the hope that all the latter would voluntarily adopt the plan suggested and that uniform slanted writing would result. It appears that some of the instructors have been reluctant to discard what they call the "beautiful copper-plate" writing produced by upright strokes, and in view of that fact the school authorities have lately taken more rigorous steps toward its abolition. Briefly, the principals have been ordered to teach but one method, which is described as a compromise between the upright and the old slant system, but which amounts really to what is commonly called slant penmanship. In explanation of the new order Assistant Superintendent Mealey says:

"Several objections have been found to the vertical system in practice, among them being the attitude that the pupil has to assume at the desk. The pupil bends too far over the desk and gets his eyes too near the paper, and gets into a position quite as objectionable as he did under the old system. Presently the vertical writing developed into a back hand, which is awkward and in many cases illegible."

Views upon the two systems in question for all-around practical use differ somewhat, even outside the halls of elementary instruction. Unquestionably, however, the weight of opinion, based on close observation and experience, is on the side of slanted writing. Of course, the slant system, if abused, may degenerate into a hand so decidedly inclined as to be ridiculous, inasmuch as any good method may be exaggerated and overdone. But it is safe to say that in nine-tenths of the business houses of today, where rapidity and legibility in penmanship are required, the oblique method is the one used. Beautiful hands with which members of the "vertical hobby" defend their system, are of course very desirable, but in these days of typewriters adapted to all ordinary uses, wasting time in the execution of ultra-fine penmanship doesn't pay. Henceforth the most valuable qualification for penmen to possess will be neatness and speed, speed particularly.

It is to be regretted that pupils, while learning to write properly, assume positions to be held, and perhaps injurious to their health. In this regard more sound advice than at first appears is contained in the counsel once given by a veteran stenographer to an inquisitive pupil concerning the posture desirable in writing: "Speak," "My boy," said he, "never write shorthand standing on your head."

BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

A little balm may hold much blessing. You may always suspect the suspicious man when the devil preaches leave your purse at home.

Thunder in the pulpit does not lighten the world. He is poor indeed who cannot live without riches.

The roots are refreshed by the rain released by the leaves. There can be a cheerful face only where there is a faithful heart.

God gives riches to our hands when our hearts are not fixed on them. The dividends of sin come back in the same coin as the investment.

Heaven will involve much hardship to those who have not learned to worship without a book.

The heretic hunter tries to make the flowers of truth grow by blowing the dirt from their roots. When you keep your preacher worrying over his grocery bills you can hardly expect him to feed you with the bread of life.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

It is still safe and profitable to go around Wall street. At last accounts Nipper Hill's gun had not persuaded the Kuba to come down.

New Yorkers are now disposed to believe that driving an ice wagon is a safer route to fortune than Wall street. No investment in sight pays as well as advertising. A Missouri man advertised for a wife and caught a widow with five children.

The Paris exposition is reported to have a deficit of \$400,000. Communities anxious to make a success of expositions should draw on Omaha talent.

It is confidently believed that King Edward will make both ends meet on a salary of \$2,500,000 a year. At least he shows no sign of throwing up the job on account of the salary.

The most remarkable story that has come from New York recently is the report that Governor Odell will start on a week's tour of the state in a special train at his own expense.

Chicago's Board of Education will not permit floral bouquets at commencement exercises. The members expect to toss a few oratorical bouquets to the graduates and will not tolerate hot house competition.

Mr. Buchanan, director general of the Pan-American show, hails from Sioux City. Here he put a few artistic frills on the corn palace and the real estate boom. His experience will enable him to give the Buffalo exposition a Transmissourian glow that will attract and fascinate.

THIS WAS A HERO.

The Greatest Sacrifice Man Can Make for Man. San Francisco Call.

All the heroes are not in uniform, their action quickened by war drums and influenced by all mankind as an audience, and history as a recorder.

The negro in Indianapolis who was caught by steam carelessly let into a boiler where he and a companion were working was of real heroic fiber. As the destroying acid poured upon them they ran for the ladder to the manhole in their chamber of torture and death. Phelps reached it, but drew back and cried to his mate, "You're first, Jim; you're married," and Jim went first and was saved, while the deady steam cooked Phelps' flesh as he followed, and he was drawn out of the hole to die. With his last breath he said, quietly, "It was Jim's right to go first; he is married." The man who in such peril could remember the wife of his mate and her mourning, and die willingly rather than bring widowhood and sorrow into a humble home, was a greater hero than all the commandments that have led armies. Greater love than this hath no man, to die for his friend. There was no glory in sight, no renown; none of that reward in history which enter into the motives of some. There was nothing but awful death that another might see.

Let all men remember this lovely laborer. His place is in the great company of martyrs who have patiently tasted death that men might live or principles be promoted. He was of that race we call inferior, but his black skin covered a heroic soul.

In the center of the city of his sacrifice rises a stately monument to the soldier dead of Indiana. It perpetuates the memory of George Rogers Clark and the high action at old Vincennes and reminds the beholder of the defenders of the flag in many wars. It is right that it is there. But let us trust Indianapolis to rear another less lofty shaft over the dust of this dusky hero, and carve upon its base: "It was right for Jim to go first; he is married."

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Boston Globe: A Lowell clergyman has made the statement that "the old New England practice of reading the bible has almost entirely passed away in New England." The bible is still printed, however.

Zion's Herald (Boston): In no way has the modern pulpit so greatly discredited itself with the thoughtful public as in advertising sensational subjects. So grave an abuse has this become in one of our cities that the daily press protests against it.

New York Tribune: Last week Rev. W. E. Karns, pastor of the Methodist church of Jersey Shore, Pa., announced that he would pay a cash bonus to every one who went to church last Sunday. As it was rumored that he might give each person \$20 there was a large congregation present.

At the close of the service a sealed envelope was handed to each person containing 1 cent and the following admonition: "This is your talent. Don't wrap it in a napkin, but use it. Your love for the success of the cause will determine your efforts. Harness up this talent and make it pull in others." Mr. Karns explained that he expected each penny to be invested so that it would bring a return of \$3 to \$10.

St. Paul Pioneer Press: If the Methodist preachers in Massachusetts, who are denouncing President McKinley because of a report that he was seen to drink a glass of champagne on board a battleship, could realize how utterly ridiculous they make themselves, and how much they impair their own usefulness by such an exhibition of narrowness they would blush for their "denunciations." Every word hurled at the president strikes most of the noblest figures in American history as well—strikes also the Divine Master whom these ministers assume to serve, and who, because He came eating and drinking, was greeted by the Pharisees with the exclamation: "Behold a gluttonous man and a winebibber!" The Master was an exemplar, not of total abstinence, but of temperance just such as President McKinley practices.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Brooklyn Life: "Are you going to marry Sister Ruth?" "Why—er—I really don't know, you know."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Do you think Miss Mary Wilkers is married?" "I never knew a Miss Wilkers who was married."

Atlanta Constitution: "Who married you?" asked the justice of a colored citizen, who had been brought before him for some domestic trouble. "You did, suh," was the reply, "but I ain't never voted for you sense!"

Philadelphia Press: "I don't see why you should engage herself to young Snaffles. He's a regular mule." "Jess—You're wrong. He's a good catch. She has discovered that he has money."

Town Topics: Crawford—Come around to the house and have dinner, old boy. Crabs—Not on your life. I brought you home when you were drunk the other night, and your wife got a black eye at me.

Somerville Journal: Ethel—He telegraphed his proposal to her. Maude—And did she accept him? Ethel—No; she said that she had no use for a man who would waste his money on telegraph tolls instead of spending it for carnals.

Detroit Journal: There was an infinite pathos in it all. "I am weary, oh, how weary," exclaimed the man, "of having no home in the true sense, no place where I can't smoke for fear of scolding up the lace curtains!" She pitted him in her heart, but as for marrying him, that was quite another matter.

AN EVENING PRAYER.

Francis E. Pope in Boston Transcript. Life's opening voyage, Lord, Thou didst safely keep. O'er childhood's sheltered bay; As now the tides of age around me creep, Protect my shortening days.