

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1895.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE sympathy of the public will doubtless go out to Messrs. Dewesse and Hall in this hour of their loss. To cut their fee in the Fitzgerald-Mallory case from \$150,000 down to \$75,000, a mere bagatelle, is hard and cruel. It is enough to make strong men weep. What, forsooth, is \$75,000? Why, Messrs. Dewesse and Hall and the late T. M. Marquett may have put, all told, two whole months on this case; and a paltry \$75,000 is small recompense for so much of the time of these gentlemen. There is little inducement for young men to embrace the legal profession, or for those who have already embraced it, to continue, in this action of the supreme court. If modest fees like this one, \$150,000, are to be cut in half, where withal is the wolf to be kept from the lawyer's door; how, in heaven's name, are the children to be fed and clothed; and whence will come the money for the plates that pass in the morning on the Sabbath day?

The charge that Dr. Hay has been guilty of cruelty in his treatment of patients in the Lincoln hospital for the insane finds few believers; and there are many who protest against a change in the management of this institution. It is certainly to be regretted that politics should be allowed to enter into the management of institutions like the insane asylum in this city. Other states exercise the greatest care in selecting men to superintend their asylums, sending abroad in some cases for noted specialists. In Nebraska a superintendent is turned out because he is a republican while the governor is a democrat; and a democrat is appointed, who owes his appointment, not so much to his recognized fitness for the position as to the fact that he is a democrat. I do not know that there is anything against Dr. Abbott; but his appointment is political, and politicians are not always the best people to entrust with the lives of others. If Dr. Abbott had to be given an office, why couldn't some other job have been found for him? And if Dr. Hay had to be removed why couldn't some man have been found who is more celebrated for his knowledge of diseases of the mind than he is notorious as a democratic politician?

Probably no business in Lincoln has felt the effect of hard times so keenly as the undertaking business. People have been so hard up that they have, from time to time, been putting off dying till the first of the month or the first of the year; and Messrs. Heaton, Roberts, et al, have found business in their line mighty dull. Not much more than half as many people die now as died a couple of years ago, when everybody was flush. But with the general improvement that is now noticeable the undertaking business will probably pick up and soon be restored to its normal condition.

C. D. Gibson, the creator of the type of the "American girl," is much in demand just now. His drawings illustrate articles in the May number of two of the leading magazines. In the *Century* he has some particularly characteristic sketches in the novelette, "Princess Sonia," which Julia Magruder has just begun. Admirers of the skillful artist can find much to admire in the eight or nine drawings made to adorn this tale. Gibson's women are admired for their smart appearance. They are seldom beautiful; but there is a sort of French piquancy about them that is most attractive. They never appear in anything but the smartest gowns, and are aristocrats to the last

of her face. She is charming. Martha is a somewhat diminutive, plain featured girl; but she also has that air which can be adequately described by no other word than that which the French use to describe their smart women—*chic*. Her nose turns up saucily, and one can see that she is clever. Gibson is very Gibson-like and delightful in these sketches.

The bicycle is everyday making new conquests. It is becoming an important factor in business. The *State Journal* has called it into requisition for a Sunday morning delivery service to points within twenty-five miles not reached by train, and the new scheme

against J. A. Buckstaff that \$5,000 which Buckstaff claimed was spent for lobbying the Buckstaff-McDonald paving contract through the council, is again made a subject for conjecture as to who got the \$5,000. In what quantities was it paid? Mr. Buckstaff might be very interesting if he would—even more interesting than usual. As long as he keeps silent some skeptical people will believe that the element of myth is not entirely foreign to this alleged expenditure of \$5,000—not that they do not believe money was not spent in lobbying before the city council. But they remember the men that composed the city council at that time, and they know there were mighty cheap men in it. They are of the opinion that if it cost Buckstaff \$5,000 to get his contract through such a council he is not anything like as smooth as he is supposed to be.

The board of education has partially restored the salaries of teachers in the high school building, providing also for a slight increase of work. The teachers in the high school are doubtless entitled to the pay that the board has agreed to give them. But there are other teachers in the city who are just as deserving. They work, in many cases, harder than the high school teachers will have to work under the new dispensation; but their salaries are left as fixed by the board some weeks ago. These teachers are well qualified and notably loyal to their work; and they are conspicuously underpaid.

About the only persons who believe now that the state will be successful in the Hill case are the attorneys for the plaintiff; and their confidence may have subsided somewhat. The case has attracted a great deal of attention, and the various points have been followed closely by the lay public. And as the case progressed the opinion that nothing would come of it has steadily grown. Of late these state cases have furnished a rich field for the lawyers. Nothing important comes of them, but they furnish employment and fees, and they will doubtless be continued. But all this formality is useless. A more direct way would be to have the legislature appropriate \$25,000 or \$50,000 every two years, to be handed over, without ceremony, to a dozen or so prominent attorneys.

Only one person has been found who does not heartily approve of THE COURIER in its present form—and his name is on the list under the legend—"Dead Heads."

For some months there has been a promoter by the name of Sheibley in this town. He has pretended to represent the Harrison Telephone company, and his work here, apparently, has been the putting in of a competing telephone exchange. He has taken a number of contracts, and has given repeated assur-



EMILY BANCKER.

degree. Perhaps Gibson's greatest success is with the nose he gives to his women. His noses are unlike any other artist's noses. Most always they have a coquettish upturn. There is much character in them. On page 5 of the *Century* there is a particularly clever sketch, the Princess Sonia stepping back from her easel. This picture attracts one in much the same way that the princess herself attracts Martha in the story. On page 8 there is another representation of Sonia walking with Martha. Here the princess is enveloped in a wrap from head to foot. Her hat is jauntily placed on one side of her head, and her hair is playing around the sides

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Through the report of Judge W. G. Hastings in the case of J. T. McDonald