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OBSERVATIONS.

Omaha is growing reckless and intends to blow herself. The society people of that town are already girding themselves for their carnival at which the chosen beauties of the state are to sit for several hours in an opera box beneath the critical gaze of the Omaha populace and under a heavy fire of opera glasses, until the king selects the fairest and claims her for his own. On this occasion His Royal Highness will present the favored maiden with a tiara and conduct her to her throne. The Omaha people lay great stress upon the fact that this tiara is to be of "real gold, set with a ruby and an emerald and a topaz, surmounted by a star of real pearls in the center of which sparkles a real diamond, and that the lady who receives it will be allowed to keep it." Alas, what bootless extravagance! I am worried about Omaha. I fear that as a result of this mad fete many of those mighty packing houses which are Omaha's pride and joy will bow their lofty heads in the dust before the month is over.

I don't doubt that it is a thing of beauty, this golden tiara with the real diamonds and the real pearls, which is to be the reward of the beautiful and the meed of the fair, but I should hate to be in the sandals of that daring youth who is going to bestow it. Not even a throne would tempt me. It recalls the story of another golden trinket which was thrown at a fete and it, too, was "for the most beautiful." Now that was claimed by only three women, yet it cost the donor his life, and his brothers' lives, there were some fifty of them

I believe, and various other of his relatives, and caused his city to be burned with fire. This golden ornament is claimed by thirty women, and what the result will be, heaven alone knows. If the rage of nine and twenty disappointed women cannot seal one youth's doom and "burn the topless towers of Omaha" I don't know what can. If that youth were wise, on the night of that carnival he would betake himself to his Tyrian galley or his trap or his bicycle or any other mode of locomotion that was handy and put space between him and the court ball with its

Mr. Flint's audacious insolence in using his audience to amuse his audience. When the great rock is placed on Miss Flint's delicate body and the sledge is raised to strike, a thrill passes like that when the black cap is drawn over the murderer's face. If bull and prize fights are suppressed then the Flints' show should be. Public hangings and bull fights are made illegal, not through consideration for the murderer or the bull but by offering, made a show of, deadens sensibilities which it has been the effort of the age to cultivate. I believe the breaking of the rock does not

the people; but all the noise that emanates from the steaming gubernatorial office fails to impress a cold public with his sincerity. There is a widely prevalent feeling that a properly restrained enthusiasm coupled with a simple, honest desire to enforce the law would accomplish more than the spectacular flourish that has thus far been Governor Holcomb's rule of conduct. The governor is doing yeoman's service in contributing to the burden of opprobrium resting on the populist party. It was a mistake for the populists to ever permit any of their candidates to be elected to office.

Governor Holcomb in his various public utterances on the penitentiary matter, has repeatedly taken the position that the contract system is expensive to the state. He claims that the state could much better afford to take care of the convicts than to pay a contractor. It may be interesting in this connection to refer to Governor Garber's message to the legislature of 1879. At this time the state authorities were considering the matter of entering into a contract with W. H. B. Stout for the maintenance of convicts. The governor, in discussing the proposed prison contract said there were 128 prisoners in the pen November 30, 1878. The average cost to the state was \$1.25 per day for each convict.

The contract system is open to many objections. The principle is wrong. But in this state, in recent years, the convicts have had good care under it, and while the contractor has doubtless made a good deal of money, the cost to the state has been small, 40 cents per day for each convict as against \$1.25 per day in 1878 when there was no contract. There is no reason why the state cannot run the penitentiary as economically as a contractor, but the state does not always do the best it can do. Under the contract with Mr. Beemer by which all profits in excess of \$3,000 are turned over to the state, the state will really run



thirty palpitating beauties, that the lasting wrath of nine and twenty cruel Junos may not be visited upon himself and his descendants.

It is a question if a performance such as the Flints give is not wholly brutalizing. The hypnotist amuses his audience by making fools of a part of it. His dupes do and say comic things. The things are funny enough to dull the all-the-time present consciousness of

hurt Miss Flint. But why is it done then? It is dangerous to expend sympathy for the sake of amusement. We are not yet far enough away from the brute to be carelessly extravagant with our emotions. The law should protect the populace from the robbery of its finest instincts—the gift of the ages.

Governor Holcomb has much success in remaining the center of turmoil. The governor is somewhat hysterical in his pretended anxiety for the welfare of

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