

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN NEB., SATURDAY, APRIL 11 1896



ENTERED IN THE POST OFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 217 North Eleventh St.

Telephone 384

W. MORTON SMITH Editor and Manager  
SARAH B. HARRIS Associate Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum .....	\$2.00
Six months .....	1.00
Three months .....	50
One month .....	20
Single copies .....	5

## OBSERVATIONS

The future of Lincoln! What of it? Just now, in this critical period when depression has deposited its heavy burden on the people, when poverty is overtaking the prosperous, and Hard Times are tracing hard lines on human faces, we are looking into the future, and each man is an interrogation point.

The future of Lincoln! Undoubtedly brick blocks will be built and streets will be paved, and men will resume their interrupted race for wealth. Business will be restored to something like its accustomed activity, and prosperity will come to the enterprising and to the avaricious and the unprincipled.

But there is something better than brick blocks and street paving and bank accounts in the sum total of incidents that constitute success. Lincoln may have a thousand brick blocks and a thousand miles of street paving, and a thousand Wealthy Men, and yet be a place to be shunned by orderly respectable people with children of tender age and youthful impressionability. There is a certain sort of prosperity in the region of the diamond fields of South Africa; there is a certain sort of prosperity in the stimulated, struggling, sinful city of Cripple Creek. Yet these are not desirable places for people who would live in a wholesome atmosphere, and rear their children under proper influences.

It is much more certain that brick blocks will be built and that streets will be paved and that men will get rich in Lincoln than that the moral sentiment of the community will so improve as to justify the statements of those enthusiastic persons who are wont to dilate on the social advantages of citizenship in this modern Athens.

There is no public conscience in Lincoln. The moral sentiment of the community is vitiated with viciousness. It

is so impregnated that it makes scarcely any discrimination between right and wrong. It accepts without a murmur the evil conditions thrust upon the people. It condones crime and exalts base and unprincipled men.

There is something radically wrong with the people of a community who are never stirred to revolt or protest by the commission of great wrongs. There is something lacking in a community where crime is excused and vice allowed to assert itself unrestrained. In a community where there is no public conscience and little or no moral sentiment there must be a woful lack of individual moral health and sturdiness.

Is there to be any change? Are we to go on condoning monstrous crimes; extending the hand of fellowship and sympathy to embezzlers, defaulters, financial confidence men of various degrees; patronizing law breakers and encouraging open outlawry; exalting to high positions men of degraded lives, rewarding with honor deeds of infamy? Is this condition of things going to continue to render ridiculous the claim that Lincoln is a cultured moral community? It may occur to some people with old fashioned ideas that it is important that Lincoln should cultivate a healthier moral sentiment.

It has been said many times in these columns that the curse of Lincoln is politics, and this is the truth. Politics and the State Journal are largely responsible for the low state of public sentiment. The Journal is improving a little of late. Politics is, if anything, getting worse.

The following from the Bee is apropos. Here in Nebraska we greatly need a "quickened conscience."

The constitution of Nebraska bars from public office of trust or profit every man who is in default as collector or custodian of public money or property. Embezzlement and defalcation are thus singled out by the framers of our constitution among all the crimes in the calendar whose commission works ineligibility to public office without conviction. It is only by reason of a demoralized public sentiment that not only has this provision of the constitution been ignored, but self-confessed defaulters and embezzlers have been granted immunity from civil as well as criminal prosecution. Thus we have seen state, county and city defrauded of large sums of money by custodians of public funds. The more flagrant the offense, the less seems to be the disposition to vindicate the law.

Twenty years ago, when General Grant, then president of the United States, made the discovery that members of his own political household were involved in whisky ring swindles and star route frauds he planted himself firmly upon the impregnable position of absolute honesty in public office by declaring, "Let no guilty man escape." It was in response to this historic utterance that the republican national convention of 1876 enunciated in its platform the following pledge.

We rejoice in the quickened conscience of the people concerning political affairs and will hold all public officers to a rigid responsibility and engage that the prosecution and punishment of all who betray official trusts

shall be swift, thorough and unsparring.

Only by living up to this high standard of official integrity can our government be guarded against corruption and dishonesty in public office. Nowhere and at no time has there been a greater demand for enforcing the penalties of official delinquency than in this city and state at the present time, when criminal indifference to the requirements of the law seems to permeate so many branches of the public service.

It is said that plans are now making in this city looking toward the pardon of C. W. Mosher. The scheme is to work up public sympathy and then induce the people to sign petitions in such large numbers that the president of the United States would be justified in pardoning the fallen Napoleon.

The fact that the republican county convention refused to endorse the candidacy of the editor emeritus of the "greatest republican newspaper in the state" for delegate to the national republican convention was a trifle pathetic. Mr. Gere was unceremoniously turned down. It would seem that a newspaper that is unable to secure an endorsement for its editor emeritus for an empty honor like that of delegateship has but a small hold on the community.

Judge Erraticus Sockdolager Dundy with his interesting family is still among the towering temples and multitudinous gods and small-eyed women of Japan, and it is reported that he will spend the remainder of this month in that highly colored country. The Dundys recently made a tour of China and Erraticus Sockdolager was delighted with it. He found it, if anything, more interesting than Japan, and it is said he went so far as to make a tentative proposition to the natives to bring over Scip and Elmer Frank and set up his celebrated court on Chinese soil. But the natives were indifferent. They made the Honorable Erraticus Sockdolager understand that they get about all the excitement they can stand, and a Dundy court, even with such fancy trimmings as Scip and Elmer, had no attractions for them. So the judge abandoned the idea of going to China to grow up with the country.

The Omaha Excelsior, in speaking of the Dundys' trip, says: "Judge Dundy is reported as quite anxious to see a Chinese beheading, but whether the judicial inquisitiveness was gratified or not we have not heard." I hope not. There's no telling what effect such a spectacle would have on the delicate sensibilities of Erraticus Sockdolager. A nature like his might be permanently wounded by the sight of a Chinese beheading, and it would be too bad to have the beloved judge come back to us in any wise changed from his old self—all gentleness and almost feminine sensitiveness. Seeing a Chinese beheading might ruin the judge for life. Better far that he should content himself with admiring the beautiful petite women and the Chinese lanterns and exploding Chinese fire crackers, or hunt-

ing Chinese bear. But as they do not run Union Pacific Pullman trains in China he could hardly have enjoyed hunting bear. It will be several weeks before this most just and upright judge is restored to us. Meantime an anxious people waits midway between fear and hope.

A rainy forenoon spoiled the millinery department of the Easter ceremonial. Disappointment, dire and distressing, settled over fashionable femininity as the fine rain fell softly last Sabbath. But there is yet time for the birds of plumage to show their fine feathers. Lent has come and gone, and now the papers are according to frivolous humanity the privilege of disporting in the realm of fashion with renewed zeal. Just as if Lent made any difference with the majority of people. In Lincoln there are a few old fashioned people who stopped to think of the real significance of Lent and conducted themselves with a due regard for the proprieties. But Lent had no special meaning for the greater number and through this period they made no sensible change in their way of living—even those connected with the Church. Sack cloth and ashes indeed! In Lincoln the supply of sack cloth has apparently given out and the ashes have been dissipated to the four winds. Frivolity instead of fasting, pleasure instead of prayer marked the local observance of Lent, and abstinence wasn't even a name. So that, so far as the majority is concerned, there is no condition of self-denial to emerge from, no renewal of interrupted gaiety. The chief significance of Easter is the annual depletion of millinery stores and tailor shops.

The public generally has grown so accustomed to passing the Journal's editorials unnoticed that, probably, only a small number of people read the amazing editorial published in that paper Sunday morning. The few that read it sustained a severe shock. The Journal should not make such sudden changes in its policy. From a quarter of a century of the most able silence the morning paper unexpectedly comes out into the open, and lifts up its voice. And what a surprise! The Oldest Inhabitant says there was never anything like it in this city. The Journal said, in part:

Some resolute men went out yesterday afternoon and began the work of clearing Lincoln of open gambling houses and other places where the law has been defied during the past year. They promise to keep up the work until the job is completed, and then they will ask the people to take some action to prevent a return to the conditions that have prevailed since the present city administration came into power last April.

We believe they will receive substantial support from the business men of Lincoln and also from the general public. The people have waited patiently for the city officers to act. They have listened indulgently, if not approvingly, to the explanation that "reasonable and practical control" of gambling houses and similar places would prove more satisfactory than harsh repressive meas-