



THE COURIER

LINCOLN NEB., SATURDAY, APRIL 18 1896



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

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—
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

That great and good man, the editor emeritus of the State Journal, continues to be an object of especial commiseration and concern. Mr. Gere's beautiful whiskers are drawn and gnarled and twisted with wrath. His erstwhile kindly eyes flash the fire of vengeance. His countenance that, in the days of peace and concord, beamed benignantly on all mankind, has now become a beacon of distress, a sign board of misery. The great and good man is changed, wonderfully and fearfully changed, and his friends are troubled.

Mr. Gere, in the mellow days of his life, when honor should be stacked in wreaths on his lofty brow, when happiness and content should come to him in steady, mellifluous flow, when dignity should encircle him with her flowing robes, and peace attend and caress him with her soothing palms, is suddenly and unexpectedly ejected from his niche of comfort and eminence to become the butt of brutal men, the sport of prejudice and irreverence, the victim of a cruel fate.

Mr. Gere entered the late republican county convention stirred by a noble ambition to go to St. Louis on a pass, and add a stately impetus to the McKinley whoop. On the placid sea of his serenity there was not one fleck of doubt. Conscious of his deserts he was sure of his desideratum. But the great and good man was made to bite the dust. Men jeered at his ambition, and cast him out with scorn, cast him out that they might heap honor on a venerable, white-whiskered patriot who for years was a conspicuous adversary of the good and great man. There was cruelty in the refusal to endorse Mr. Gere. The acceptance of Mr. Kennard added the bitterness of gall to the overrunning chalice of despair. Humiliation, dire and keen, enveloped him, and on the Pelion of his chagrin at his repulse, was

piled the Ossa of ignominy in the accompanying glorification of the redolent Lindsey. The great and good Mr. Gere trampled on while burly Bud Lindey was raised to the shoulders of delegates and exploited in triumph! Was ever a good and great man treated thus?

While we all feel for Mr. Gere the feeling is not of unmixed sorrow. As we read the Journal in these post-convention days and note the independent air now observable for the first time in its editorial columns we are pleased to admit that at last good has come out of Nazareth; and our regret for the humiliation of the editor emeritus is tempered by a feeling of thankfulness that the Journal has been aroused from its quarter century nap. The morning newspaper, since the impalement of Mr. Gere, has denounced modern political methods in the roundest terms; has spoken out against corruption, and threatened the lawless; has criticised the city council and demanded charter revision; has told plain truths about politicians. In short, the very next day after the desecration of Mr. Gere the Journal commenced to whoop it up for reform, and it has continued to whoop. The Journal advocating purity in politics! This sudden change of front on the part of the morning paper is the greatest shock the community has sustained in twenty-five years. Had any one been told a month ago that in a few weeks the Journal would be denouncing its long accustomed political bed fellows, and pleading for better things, incredulity would have met the statement and amazement laughed it to scorn. It is to be hoped that the Journal's reform policy will not be done for while we are still explaining what it was begun for.

What shall it profit a man if he shall do for the vampires and cormorants of politics all his life, and at the end be done by them? Mr. Gere in his present plight is a pitiable example of the futility of politics, a warning to those who assist in turning the wheels of the machine in the hope that the machine will in the end move for them.

The reason Mr. Gere was repudiated is well known. The men who controlled the convention were Manderson men, and they had it in for every man who was known as an "original McKinley man." Mr. O. W. Webster was the choice of the rank and file of delegates for chairman, but he was turned down by the leaders because he had been an out-spoken McKinley man from the start. The Manderson men who are, it is hardly necessary to state, the men who constitute the Well Known Influence in Nebraska politics, were incensed at Mr. Gere because the paper of which he was for so many years the editor, refused to fall in line in the Manderson procession which a few people attempted to start a couple of months ago. This newspaper had always before answered every demand of the Well Known Influence, but this time it refused to com-

mit itself to the policy of foolishness demanded by these men. While they were shouting for Manderson the Journal was daily helping to inflate the McKinley boom. The insubordination was not pleasing to the Well Known Influence, and Mr. Gere was marked for slaughter. The county convention afforded the opportunity. The Influence took up Tom Kennard and used him to club Mr. Gere with.

For years, ever since Lincoln was a town Mr. Gere has been the votary of these men, who a couple of weeks ago spurned him. The practical politicians concocted their schemes, and Mr. Gere fostered them. The railroad companies had their wants, and Mr. Gere helped them to get what they wanted. The machine turned out its product and Mr. Gere pushed it along. Mr. Gere had an organ and he was willing to lend its influence to any scheme of politicians of his own party. He rendered faithful and able service. Asking no questions he obeyed commands. With Lindsey and the rest whom he now condemns, he for years affiliated, and when they wanted editorial assistance from the Journal they got it. And then, when this too accommodating man, after a quarter century of subservience, ventured to voice his own sentiment rather than the will of the machine, his old associates turn on him, and, regardless of past services, heap humiliation upon him. It is a sad spectacle—that of Mr. Gere betrayed by his friends, a good and great man reduced to ignominy by the men whose fortunes he helped establish. Mr. Gere is too good and too great for the work he has been doing all these years, and now that he has got loose from the entanglements it is to be hoped that he will stay loose. Mr. Gere repudiated and downtrodden is much more interesting than Mr. Gere hand-in-glove.

The Lincoln Courier says: "In all probability Corbett will be renominated." Is it so? Then it is because women may cast no vote for such an office as his, or no political party would dare to put him up as a candidate. It seems surprising, at worst, that the men of the republican party would venture to again put before the people of this state, a man who, from first to last, has been false to his promises; a man whose deliberately broken word precipitated one of the most fearful tragedies which this state ever knew; a man who delegates the work he is supposed to do to others, and one who suffers unpopularity among those with whom he comes in contact. But setting all of these matters aside, there is one offense of his women find hardest to condone. He said gravely and deliberately that he would be compromised by being associated in the same office with a woman assistant. He insinuated, though he did not say so, that women could not properly be employed in offices with men. And notwithstanding that, he may again be nominated for the highest position in our co-educational school system! Can it be that men, any more than women, wish to place at the head of that system a man who does not believe in the free, honest and democratic association of boys and girls, men and women? Can they want there a man

whose mind entertains putrid and prurient suspicions? The public schools, the university of Nebraska, the offices and business places of this state are a denial of his contemptible insinuations.—Elia W. Peattie in the World-Herald.

Mrs. Peattie has been severe in her denunciation of Mr. Corbett ever since the suicide of Mrs. Notson. She is honestly annoyed at the idea that the man whom she holds responsible for the death of Mrs. Notson and her children should be given further honor by the republican party and the people of Nebraska. If Mr. Corbett is chargeable with the death of the unfortunate woman and her children he is, of course, unfit to hold the office of superintendent of public instruction, and he should not only not be renominated, but he should be publicly branded and held in loathing by the people of this state.

But it is more than possible that Mrs. Peattie, who is certainly sincere, is mistaken in her understanding of the facts. If she is then Mr. Corbett is the victim of a great injustice. The superintendent is in a very hard position. He should not be judged off hand, without investigation. It is not my purpose to go into the Notson tragedy in detail, but in the interest of fairness I will state that Mr. Corbett has repeatedly said he had made no promise of an appointment to Mrs. Notson, and there is no evidence, save the reporter's declaration of the woman who is now dead, that he ever did make such a promise. It is a matter of record that Mr. Corbett refused to appoint her his deputy, and this refusal, it is claimed, led to her suicide. These are the bare outlines of facts which should be carefully weighed by the public before condemning Mr. Corbett. If he is guilty Mrs. Peattie's condemnation is not one whit too severe. If he is innocent he is being wronged by such accusations. Has it been made clear that he is guilty?

But in this article from the World-Herald Mrs. Peattie confines herself chiefly to a general statement which she alleges Mr. Corbett made. If Mr. Corbett said what Mrs. Peattie evidently thinks he said, then he deserves to be unceremoniously kicked out of office. The man who believes he would be compromised by reason of the fact that he has a woman as an office associate deserves to the last degree the opprobrium Mrs. Peattie heaps upon the superintendent. But did Mr. Corbett ever say that he would be compromised by having a woman in the office?

Mrs. Peattie evidently has in mind the letter which Mr. Corbett wrote to Mrs. Notson in which he said there were reasons why it would be inadvisable for him to give her a place in his office. He did not say in this letter, and I cannot find that he has anywhere said that he would be compromised by being associated in the same office with a woman assistant. If Mrs. Peattie can justify her statements THE COURIER will promptly join the World-Herald in demanding