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OBSERVATIONS.

Unless a war occurs in this country soon the West Point output of army officers will exceed, in fact it already exceeds, the demand. The life of an army officer is attractive to youths of all countries. In America the military and naval schools bestow upon accepted applicants four years of training, board, lodging and clothes and graduate them with a second lieutenant's commission. The parents of eligible sons are eager to give them over to the charge and responsibility of the federal government during that most obnoxious period of a youth's life, when Carlyle said he should be barreled up and only allowed to communicate his opinions through a hole in the barrel which should be kept in a cool and secluded place. West Point is better for the boy than a barrel, it trains him while at the same time it feeds, clothes, and secludes him. In the last four years the pressure on the doors of the military school has been greater than ever, notwithstanding the fact that there are eleven cadets of last year's class still waiting commissions as regular lieutenants. This year's senior class at West Point numbers sixty two. Under the existing law they must all be appointed to the army as lieutenants in the various branches to which their merits entitle them. For the first time, the report says, in the history of the academy, there will not be a vacancy awaiting them. Besides the eleven cadets of last year who are entitled to a place before any of this year's class, there are only three places in

prospect between now and June 11. It is the superannuated captains of infantry in the service, of whom 108 are over fifty years of age, who are thus blocking the line. Of course the average man over fifty is not capable of performing the duties of foot officers in the field. Congress will have to retire the old men, or accept the alternative and discharge this year's graduates with a year's pay and a diploma, as they did at the Naval academy a year or two ago. Such a course as the latter would remove the incentive for study and soldierly conduct that has kept endeavor strong at West Point. The over supply of graduates also stops the promotion of non-commissioned officers, of whom there are now 15 who have passed their examinations and are waiting a commission. This possibility of promotion among enlisted men has done much to improve the service. Under the present conditions it will cease to exert an influence. Thus in the army and at the academy and among the young officers the conditions are discouraging. They can not be improved by increasing the number of officers because, under the present system, there are three commissioned officers to every sixty-five men. In the service of every other great power that number is able to handle four times as many men. A war would of course increase the demand for recruits and make a place for all the officers, young or old, who were able and willing to serve. Meanwhile the delights of a captain's life remain undisturbed, among which an assured income, in good times or bad, is not the least.

The recent unveiling of two monuments of great beauty and interest has taught that monument associations accomplish the object of their appointment even if it be twenty years after. In the case of the Washington monument the unveiling ceremonies were, nearly one hundred years after, the original committee was dust. But a monument which will last perhaps a thousand years had best not be constructed too rapidly.

The Washington monument, unveiled in Philadelphia, is an equestrian statue of conventional and classic model. Horse champing the bit, right fore foot raised, tail and mane blown by wind, Washington with continental cape and cocked hat, etc, etc, there are dozens in the country like it in many particulars.

In the fall of 1865 a meeting was held in Boston on the call of Governor Howe, Senator Sumner, Henry Lee and others, at which a committee of twenty-one was appointed to procure an equestrian statue of Robert G. Shaw, the commander of the Fifty fourth Massachusetts regiment, who fell at Fort Wagner. A year after that \$3,161 was placed in the treasurer's hands. He invested it and in 1883 the fund had increased by in-

vestment and reinvestment to \$16,656. This sum the committee deemed large enough to begin making plans for the monument. It was decided that it should be an equestrian statue of Colonel Shaw in alto relievo upon a large bronze tablet. St. Gaudens was selected as the sculptor and he spent twelve years in thinking over the subject, making many models and finally finishing a splendid work. Colonel Shaw appears riding at the head and side of his colored troops. The pictures of the tablet have appeared in all the illustrated papers, but the most satisfactory ones appear in the June Century. The letter press is by Edward Atkinson. As treasurer of the association, and as an able writer, he is able to give the important facts connected with the memorial. These facts should be of especial significance to Lincoln just now when the monument association is considering ways and means of erecting a statue to Lincoln. For the sake of all posterity let them not hurry. However small the fund be at first it will grow, and when it is large enough some sculptor as great as St. Gaudens can be paid to erect a monument to Abraham Lincoln that will be worth making a pilgrimage to see. Before which old men will take of their hats, and children will revere without knowing why. Boston's original contribution of \$3,000, in eighteen years grew by accretion to \$16,000. In the year of the completion of the statue the Massachusetts legislature appropriated \$20,000 for a suitable terrace and approach and last month the monument was unveiled in Boston common, thirty-two years after the governor of Massachusetts had called a committee to devise the means to erect a "monument intended not only to mark the public gratitude to the fallen hero who, at a critical moment, assumed a perilous responsibility, but also to commemorate that great event, wherein he was a leader, by which the title of colored men as citizen soldiers was fixed beyond recall." If the committee of our town rightly appreciate the importance of their position and the true relation of their function to time they will give the school children of several generations a chance to contribute to and to work for the Lincoln monument. The very best sculptor in the country is not too great or too high-priced for us. Just give us time to put by the money for something that the hungry generations will revere and not revile. St. Gaudens is the foremost sculptor in America. In sculpture, he has done the best and the most. His period of productivity shows no signs of exhaustion. It may be that the love of art which has reached a sturdy growth in Lincoln will stimulate the people to make sacrifices so that after a few years of saving and contributing St. Gaudens can be given an order for a

statue of Abraham Lincoln for the city of Lincoln.

In taking the management of the Home for the Friendless away from the board of women who have been in charge since they incorporated the institution, and in displacing the board of the Milford home which was also and most properly composed of women, the administration has snubbed women in general. Neither of these two institutions were in politics. Both boards served without compensation and both homes were managed economically and efficiently. No scandal has ever been circulated concerning the superintendents at either home. Though it will follow hard upon the new administration if the various asylum troubles are any indication of the lack of ability and fitness of Governor Holcomb's appointees. The populist party's warmest supporters are among the women. During the campaign they were urged to rally, to make speeches, to walk in processions, to wear very ugly silver capes and helmets, to carry brooms and to make more speeches. Many women did all these and more. The party managers accepted their work with thanks and urged them to press forward. Since the election, Governor Holcomb has snubbed them whenever he could. And in the case of the boards of the Milford home and the Home for the Friendless he has insisted that the boards should be composed of men. The interests of little children who are the wards at the Home of the Friendless and the unfortunate women who have fled to the Milford Home have not been considered. As soon as all the legitimate changes had been made the homes came within the range of the vision of the dispenser of patronage. True, the boards draw no pay; but it is an office and there are a few perquisites and a little power. Therefore the women who belong to no particular party, and who can't vote were dispossessed for men who can, and neither the interests of the inmates at the Milford nor at the Lincoln home were consulted. No complaint would be made if Republican or Democratic women had been ousted for Populist women, but irrespective of politics the natural guardians of little children, and of the weaker ones of her own sex the women as women were deprived of their positions.

In leaving the baseball field Mr. Sunday brought with him the language of the field. The profanity which, in the field was used as oburgation, in the pulpit is an oburgation still in spirit. The only difference is in the form of the sentence, which is hortatory. Like the converted white washer who soon after got a drop of whitewash in his eye and, after his ancient habit, swore hard, only ending the frenzy with "Thus saith the