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OBSERVATIONS.

Now that the excellence of the water tapped by the A street well has obtained general recognition the *Call* claims that it is all because of its arguments and opposition to the wells in the salt valley. As a matter of fact easily proved by an examination of all the papers, THE COURIER called the attention of the public to the fact that part of the council was opposed to testing the A street well in an article entitled "The Council and the City Water," which appeared in the issue of July 17. From that date to the present this paper has been a champion of the Antelope valley as the source of the water supply of Lincoln. The opposition to the A street well by certain members of the city council, grew as citizens insisted that the well be tested. Finally, seeing that these members were hopelessly prejudiced against fresh water, a deputation of republicans visited Mr. George Woods and insisted, threatening a withdrawal of their support, that he get on the right side of the water question. These citizens were incited to an investigation of the water question by the charges which THE COURIER made and which have never yet been disproved or even contradicted. During this time the *Journal* was non-committal, the *News* was opposed to laying pipes for the purpose of connecting the A street well with the city mains, the *Call*, for many weeks after THE COURIER began the investigation of the water

supply, had nothing in its columns on the water question and the *Post* has never taken any interest in it except for politics' sake. If the salt valley is finally abandoned it will be due primarily to the converts to an Antelope water system, secured by the discussion in these pages of the water question on its merits. That discussion induced the popular clamor which resolved itself into the committee that visited George Woods. The results of that discussion has more influence in the present campaign than the Salt creek valley men will admit. No paper which supports the present mayor, as the *Call* has done, can have the reputation of honesty and sincerity. The claim that the editor of the *Call* makes to having accomplished the recognition of the A street well is unsupported by the facts. Week after week THE COURIER reported the real condition of the water question in Lincoln. The publisher visited the wells and examined the reports as they appeared from time to time. From this examination it developed that the opposition was a question of politics and not of water. It was only by persistence and by the freedom afforded by the peculiarly isolated position of THE COURIER that it was finally enabled to be of assistance to those councilmen who have been working with a single eye to securing fresh water and plenty of it. It was only after the council had refused to vote more money to the South street station, after the majority of the influential people had made up their minds that the salt valley would never supply fresh water that *The Call* advocated letting the water from the A street well into the city mains. The pioneer work of popularizing the A street well has been done by THE COURIER and THE COURIER alone. After it was accomplished, *The Call* was found to be on the creditable side, but it was afterwards.

No one in this country can help rejoicing that Miss Cisneros, the Cuban prisoner was set free. Yet, the manner and means of her rescue are scarcely reputable. To be sure, we are in sympathy with the Cuban struggle for autonomy, but Cuba is still a part of Spain and still recognized as such by the United States government. If a section of this country in rebellion against the central power should imprison an individual who was plotting against it, and this individual should be released by a citizen of a nation which still recognized the authority of the central government; think of the out-burst of red hot Americanism that would break out on the streets in halls and in the newspapers.

Spain has fallen behind in the progress of nations. She is not a first class power. The young King is threatened by a revolutionary party of nearly the strength of his own support. He has not money enough to crush the Cuban insurrection and, at the same time keep enough money and men at home to secure his own safety. Therefore outsiders dare not interfere. If Cuba belonged to England, Germany, Russia or even France, such an act as the rescue of a state prisoner and the ensuing forgery of the necessary official's name on the passport, would never have been contemplated. The rescue was nothing more nor less than a very clever advertising scheme on the part of the *New York Journal* and from that point of view is justifiable to the *Journal*. But as for calling for any congratulations on any other ground, the claim is silly. What is Miss Cisneros to a New York paper, unless she can be utilized to its own glory? The two reporters were assigned to rescue Miss Cisneros in order that the name of *The Journal* should be telegraphed over the world and the recording angle had, and will have nothing to do with it.

As for the young lady herself, the reporters testify that her quarters in the Cuban jail were comfortable, and that she was treated with respect. Miss Cisneros is not a donna in the strict Spanish sense of the word i. e. she is not of noble blood. Her father was a small dealer in leather, and she lived in no better a home than her prison quarters. Her beauty is of the ordinary Cuban type and she arrived in New York without any traces of having been subjected to hardships. She was escorted to the Waldorf by the Junta in New York where she has held receptions ever since to which the great have come for the privilege of seeing her and doing homage. Now Miss Cisneros has not any money, she has not done anything worthy of homage, and the Junta needs all its money for Cuba. Notoriety has, to be sure, opened several gates to her, closed to the unknown. First, there is the musee—which would be derogatory, there is the lecture platform, but she cannot talk English well enough to address an English speaking audience and there are not Cubans enough in this country to pay the rent of a hall. She might write her views on Cuban women, their dress and need of clubs as well as her impressions of the United States so far, for the paper which rescued her; but it would need translation. Her escape in itself, over roofs and down ladders, and on the streets jostling Spanish soldiers is yellow journalism itself.

and needs no touching up. But if any of these means of gaining a livelihood are to be followed, she must be quick about it for the fame which she has acquired is of the most volatile kind, and is daily decreasing in value to a manager or publisher. Living at the Waldorf in a magnificence which requires an income of many thousands a year to pay for, is likely to deceive Miss Cisneros into thinking that luxury in this country is dispensed for some other consideration than "the price." The longer she lives in the Waldorf, the harder it will be to leave it and go to work.

In this number of THE COURIER, Miss Willa Cather, now the dramatic critic of the *Pittsburg Leader* begins her dramatic and literary critique under the familiar title of "The Passing Show." Her weekly contributions to THE COURIER will be in the nature of interviews with distinguished men and women who visit Pittsburg and criticisms—appreciative—of the art, manners, morals, and Women's Clubs of Pittsburg. In particular there is Anthony Hope Hawkins who will soon lecture in Pittsburg and as he will not come to see us, it will be a rare pleasure to hear how the author of "The Prisoner of Zenda" looks to a friend and what he says.

Army officers call the newspaper comment on the man dragging incident at Fort Sheridan "Mawkish sentimentality" and say it proceeds from ignorance, on the part of the civilian, of the friendly relations which exist between the private soldier and his officers. This plea, when considered with the confession of Lieutenant Lovering that the details of the incident took place as reported, sounds a little like that of the slave holders before the war, who said in reply to anti-slavery protests that their "niggers" were the happiest people in the world and that northern people could not understand the affectionate relations existing between masters and slaves, etc., and that the "mawkish sentimentality" exhibited by the abolitionists was dangerous to the divine institution of slavery. History shows that mawkishness finally triumphed to the ultimate, benefit even of the south. If the discussion in the newspapers of such bad tempered brutality as Lieutenant Lovering exhibited makes the United States officers afraid to great private soldiers except with justice, it will increase the efficiency of the army by attracting self-respecting men into the ranks. Not that this incident proves that privates are habitually treated with severity. The clamor shows rather