

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY JUNE 11, 1897



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

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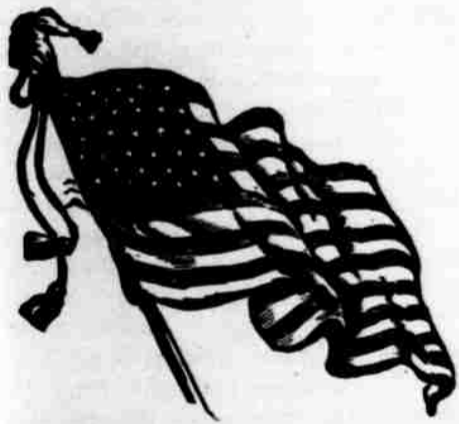
Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

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Communications to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.



OBSERVATIONS.

In the death of Thomas W. Keene the stage loses a tenacious believer in and actor of the old school; a school that in art is represented by Haydon, in literature by Dickens, Miss Austen and Scott. Their common possession is self-consciousness. Mr. Keene never forgot he was acting, that as were to be rolled and a quivering hand to be pointed when enraged and at all exits the villain must do the fiendish laugh. He was inspired by noble lines, but incommunicably, because he could not forget himself and the impression he should be making. The difference between him and Edwin Booth was one of character. Mr. Booth forgot himself for his lines. He knew the mean-

ing of literature and expressed it in his acting. Mr. Keene was fervid and at times picturesque, but to many he was always inadequate. It is unfortunate that a critic, however unworthy, can but express his own taste and the result of the application of his own standards of merit. There are competent and scholarly dramatic critics who have found much to praise in the dramatic work of Thomas W. Keene. Temperaments that find anything artistic—and there are many—in Clara Morris' methods like an evening with Keene and will pronounce my judgment unjust.

Mr. Keene between calls to the stage walks behind the scenes with bent head, rehearsing his lines. Mr. Booth chatted with his friends, smoked and only put on Othello or Hamlet when he was on the stage. He left Mr. Booth back in the wings. He imposed no stageries upon his friends, no Bootheries upon an audience. Herein is the difference between the two actors.

Richard Harding Davis and Poulney Bigelow are commenting quite frankly in their correspondence to the New York papers on the bad sanitary conditions of many of the camps officered by militia officers. Mr. Davis said he had inspected a number of camps but had failed to find one not officered by officers from the regular army or largely composed of regulars, with ditches dug about the tents and leading to a larger one through the centre of the company street through which the rain may be conducted away from the tents. The pneumonia which has appeared in the southern camps could be largely prevented by dry camp floors. Then in many cases the latrines are not dug far enough away from the camp and are not properly covered and the poisoned air threatens the soldiers with typhoid fever. The officers should be held responsible for the health and comfort of the men. The volunteers are ignorant of the dangers of camp life. But the officers draw much higher pay, not because they work harder, they do not work so hard, but on the theory that they know more and will use their knowledge in behalf of the men, both to protect them from unnecessary danger and to make them most effective fighters. As the large per cent of soldiers die of disease and not of bullets, it follows that it is an officer's duty to take extra precautions against the deadliest enemy. Officers who fail to secure their command from typhoid fever and pneumonia are in the war for ornamental purposes only and ought to be retired for the sake

of the men who are slaughtered by their negligence.

Those who have opposed adequate appropriations for the navy and army of the United States because of the cost of a standing army and of a large navy have failed to learn the lessons of the civil war and of all wars. It costs millions to maintain a fighting force on land and sea so large and splendidly equipped that it inspires European and Asiatic respect, but it costs billions to maintain an inadequate force. China is an example of a peaceful people, whose policy for centuries has been to maintain an army only large enough to resist aggression, out to be aggressive or to protect those of her citizens who chose to travel. In consequence Chinamen can be attacked with impunity by citizens of countries the size and wealth of which in comparison to China is insignificant. Today the peace-at-any-price policy in China has reached its inevitable climax and England, Germany and Russia are preparing to make a battleground of the Chinese empire and divide it among themselves. Neither will the agreement and hoisting of the separate flags be final. That will be only when each shall have a military force of such instant effectiveness as to make the result of a declaration of war dependant upon chance. Long continued peace in any nation is the result of its own ability to resist encroachment and aggression. Captain Mahan in an article on "Current Fallacies Upon Naval Subjects" says "that the most beneficial use of a military force is not to wage war, however successfully, but to prevent war, with all its suffering, expense and complication of embarrassments."

Captain Mahan shows the weakness of "a navy for defense only" if by that is meant a fleet only strong enough to protect our seacoast and not strong enough to injure the enemy. The former indeed involves the latter, for a navy large enough to patrol the Atlantic and Pacific coast line of the United States would be strong enough to dare the "ruler of the seas" to come out and fight.

There are few national methods so effective in lengthening and strengthening the chain of brotherhood between dwellers of different parts of the globe as colonization. Only those nations which have attained a degree of civilization worth engrafting are tempted to try it. The children of Israel were developed from savage nomads into beings with educated muscles and brains and souls by a series of enforced emigrations into

nations which enslaved and at the same time taught them. But in going about the Jews lost their capital and government, though not their nationality. The Romans learned the lesson and colonized the shores of the Mediterranean as radii of Rome. "Elements," says Captain Mahan, "long estranged, but of the same blood, can, in no way more surely attain to community interest and of view than by the development of an external policy, of which the benefits and the pride may be common to all. The virtues and the powers of the British and the German people may prove unequal to their ambitions, time alone can show; but it is a noble aim in their rulers to seek to extend their influence, to establish their positions, and to knit them together in such wise that as races they may play a mighty part in the world's history. The ambition is noble, even if it fail; if it succeed our posterity may take a different view of its folly, and of our own wisdom in this generation."

In order to protect ourselves and to ensure peace we must have a navy and army of a size and strength to injure the commerce and confront the battle ships of any first-class power sent against us. The state which in war relies simply upon defending itself instead of hurting the enemy, will incur disaster for the reason that the party which proposes to strike a blow has but one thing to do, whereas the defense has a dozen things, for he cannot know upon which of a dozen vulnerable points his enemy's blows may fall. A man's defense against a snake, when cornered, is not to protect himself but to kill the snake. Those who criticize the battle of Manila because of the distance from Cuba have failed to perceive the writhing of Spain from the blow dealt by Admiral Dewey.

The fallacy that improvements in battleship building make ships obsolete before they are launched Captain Mahan says is easily disproven. The revulsion from the monitor, or turreted style of battleship, "to the broadside battery analogous to that carried by the old style ships of Farragut and Nelson," shows that the newest designs are not always the best. The day can be recalled when the broadside battleship was considered as dead as Cock Robin. Yet most naval officers agree today that the broadside guns are of primary value in fighting.

It would not be necessary that the navy of the United States should equal that of England in order to be a naval power of consequence on our side of the ocean. We should need only ships enough to meet the fleet which can be spared by a foreign foe. No European country can send its whole force, "considering the ever-critical condition of European politics." So the outburst of horror which greets a proposition to make the American navy of equal strength to any European power is unreasonable.