

tives from all over the United States is running a dangerous risk of boring a great many people at once. It is safer for a speaker to confine herself to the concrete, the results of her own experience, etc. The audience, especially such a one as assembled at Denver, is quite capable of drawing conclusions and really prefers the intellectual exercise. In the days of old they stuffed capons for the market and they may yet, across the sea, we like our food prepared with greater simplicity.

The streets and alleys of Denver are free from paper and barrels of rubbish in the latter are emptied once a day. To the city improvement association in Denver this sanitary and aesthetic condition is due. But in Denver the women vote and when representatives of a large organization call upon the mayor to make recommendations they are listened to with the attention and consideration which any large body of voters receives from a politician worthy the name. No remedial action by women in city-keeping will have much effect until their approval or disapproval means votes gained or lost. When women vote, their good will, from a political as well as a sentimental standpoint, will be worth having. Their efforts to improve the appearance of this city have accomplished something for the neatness of Lincoln, but not much. Merchants are allowed to empty paper into the streets, restaurant keepers are allowed to keep barrels of swill standing in the alleys for days, and the billboard papers are not gathered up until the wet paste is no longer strong enough to hold them and they drop into the street. All these things, which a city officer is paid to prevent, make this city an unpleasant sight and smell. There are plenty of women who would be willing for the salary to inspect and improve the city. Such a woman would not be found in a saloon. She would conscientiously, it may be fussily, perform the duties of her position and the looks and odor of Lincoln would improve. The streets cannot be administered from a saloon window with any better result than the neglected, nasty streets and alleys of Lincoln show. The lesson of the streets of Denver to the women who live there and the women who went there is one of discouragement in attempting to better municipal conditions without the help of the ballot. The ballot is the only weapon the lazy and incapable city servants respect. The contemptuous jocular reception of "a lot of women" who wish to make the city a wholesome place for men, women and children to live in ought to direct the attention of the "lot" to the weakness of their position. With the influx of a body of good housekeepers into the voting strength of Lincoln, such a man as the present street commissioner or mayor would be impossible. Woman suffrage might not broaden or effect in any way the diplomatic business of the United States or change for the better pronouncedly the administration of the central government, but it would improve and purify the conditions of every town in this country. There is no sophistry which can make us believe that a man who has been unable to earn his living except by keeping a saloon or worse will make an honest or efficient street commissioner, if by our votes we give him the opportunity to try the experiment. Such a man could not get the votes of the women of his own party because they are mothers and wives first and hold the health and well being of the family above every other consideration. The history of municipal government in this country demonstrates that it is a failure.

Nominations are dictated by the saloon element and by rings of utterly selfish politicians who care nothing for the economic conduct of the business of the city, or for the welfare of the good—who are everywhere in the majority. This class of professional politician is in control of the municipal affairs of America. New York, Chicago, and even Lincoln has tried and is trying to dislodge them, but so far with incomplete success. Because women are in homes, because they are mothers and wives, evil men in an evil business will never be able to reach them or influence them. Therefore the entry of women into municipal affairs is a condition of the existence of democracy. It is now in the hands of those who would choke it for gain but who could never handle the woman's vote. The strenuousness and insistence upon conditions which are favorable to the development of moral character in her children is what will give character to the woman's vote and remove it from all corrupting influence. To be sure there are bribable women but the average woman has set her heart on moral greatness for her child and can not be bought off.

Richelieu said to Baradas, "Behind thee stalks the headsman." Judge Hastings by his decision said to Mayor Graham, "Before you stands the penitentiary." After an able and elaborate argument on behalf of the accused the district court has decided that if the state shall be able to convince a jury of the truth of the charges made against the chief executive of this city in the indictment that official will have to serve a term in the penitentiary, clad in prison garb, his hair cropped, his face shaved, walking with locked step and condemned to share the lot of a common criminal. In view of the near proximity of that public haven towards which the mayor appears to be drifting it will be the part of wisdom on his part to immediately tender his resignation and retire from public office. The city attorney has given it as his opinion that the person now occupying the position of street commissioner will hold the position until his successor is nominated and confirmed. Does the mayor dare to nominate for the position any man whom the city council will confirm? Were there any deals between the chief executive of this city and the gamblers which resulted in the immunity of the sporting fraternity from prosecuting while they plied their vocation? If there were who acted between the parties?

The time has arrived when the mayor should act in his own interest and save himself from the disgrace of a conviction of a felony and the subsequent incarceration in the state prison.

The republicans of Lancaster county held their convention last week. The action of that body discloses little that is worthy of commendation. Lawyer Billingsley was made chairman of the convention. His selection will not largely increase the vote of the party at the polls. The delegation to the state convention is headed by "Bud" Lindsey, who has been repeatedly arrested in this city on criminal charges. He is the appointee, intimate associate and warm personal friend of the mayor of this city, who is now out on bail under indictment on the charge of felony. For months it has been common report that Lindsey was the go-between who conducted negotiations which resulted in gambling houses being operated in this city. During the recent investigation of alleged corruption on the part of municipal authorities a wit-

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ness testified that it was general rumor and understanding among the gamblers that Lindsey went to South Omaha to interest a gambler there to come to Lincoln to open a house. His name appearing first on the list of delegates he will under precedents which have heretofore obtained be the chairman of the delegation and will be addressed as such by the judges and honorables whose names appear on the list below his.

The delegation to the congressional convention was not announced but the privilege of naming it was conceded to E. J. Burkett, whose principal claim to prominence is based upon the fact that two years ago he was selected as a representative in the state legislature and the notoriety he has secured by the energetic industry employed in his inane and driveling attempts to imitate W. J. Bryan in his personal actions and appearance. Chosen by a convention of the dominant political party of the county to represent the first district of Nebraska in congress where questions of vital importance are to be discussed and determined, he did not possess the ability to define his position upon any of those questions when called before

the convention after he had been awarded the honor of naming the district delegation but devoted his time to urging the delegates whom he was addressing to appear at the district convention and insist upon his nomination. He did not leave the impression that in his case the office was seeking the man. He will doubtless receive the nomination at the district convention and it is something more than probable that his opponent will be George W. Berge, who is seeking the nomination at the hands of three political parties which are expected to fuse. Like Burkett, Berge has for several years labored assiduously to imitate the expression, manner and methods of the recently commissioned colonel of the Third Nebraska regiment. Between these two illegible copies the voters of this district will have to decide in November.

The nomination of Mr. Beckman for county commissioner was a political mistake. Not because the nominee is a bad man or because his record as a public officer is particularly malodorous, but because he has twice been honored by his party with an office the term of which is three years and