

ideal, but better than education for the rich alone, a system of law more or less imperfect, but supposed to apply to the rich and poor impartially, a system of religion consisting of denominational interpretations of the teachings of Christ, and a system of limited suffrage. None of these institutions are perfect and into all have crept abuses, but take them all in all they are the best in the world. The people, who have developed them, find fault with their institutions and are competent to change what becomes useless. The discontent and spirit of contradiction and criticism characteristic of the American type is not the least useful of the fashions of thought we intend to introduce into Manila. Probably the natives will not be so happy, but the birth of a soul is painful and happiness yielded place a long time ago to development as the chief end of man.

As a postscript, it seems to me very inconsistent that the preachers who have insisted that the *rationale existendi* of foreign missions is the spread of Christianity and its accompanying phases of mental freedom should be the first to resist the wholesale salvation, political and moral, of the Philippines, through the agency of the United States.

It is not clear that meters will relieve the water department to the degree expected by a hopeful council. The same number of men will be required at each station, and the coal saved will not equal the decrease in the revenues. The meters will cost forty thousand dollars but the council passed this item over lightly because the meters are to be paid for in monthly assessments on the individual consumer. It is questionable if the city can enforce payment for meters which it undertakes to keep in repair. The consumer who objects to paying fifty cents a month for the meters which the council insists upon ordering has a fair chance to have his objection sustained by the court. The council was unable to resist the temptation to do the thing in a large way so long as the people were to pay for the meters directly and the sum was not going to be subtracted from the next year's city budget. This princely disregard for expense is not confined to the Lincoln city council. The board of directors of all the large cities is nothing if not lavish. What are they there for if not to buy, to build, and to create employment for voters? A patronage and importance, which, in their unofficial capacity, they do not enjoy, has suddenly been conferred upon them by trusting citizens and they feel that it would be a disgrace to leave any money in the treasury from one year to another. Most of the people who have been obliged to relinquish their holdings on account of their inability to pay taxes move away, so that their criticism is not to be dreaded by the councilmen who have a duty to themselves, families and neighbors to perform.

The series of stories celebrating the exposition by Elta Matheson published by the World-Herald, are very clever and readable sketches. They are written with keen humor devided so thinly from a pathos which is never obtruded that the moisture which occasionally gathers near, if not in the reader's eyes cannot be categorically accounted for. The dramatist personal of the stories are three young ladies, Jess, who tells the tale, Jack, her brother, a cub whom Jess jibes at, yet manages to convey the impression of existing for, and Louise, her cousin, all all three work for a living and keep house for comfort's, seclusion's and com-

pany's sake. The author has the real story telling gift that makes the reading unconscious and her exposition saga is a spirited impression of the show and its audience

The defeat of Alderman Powers, of the Hull House ward, in the democratic convention in Chicago, is one of the many proofs of Miss Addam's influence. "The Commons," Dr. Graham Taylor's oasis, is also planting seeds whose fruit is integrity and manliness and involves rejection of such men as Powers for representatives. Christ did not set his disciples to work on the velvet lawns but in the highways and hedges, not because the lawns did not need attention, but because of the meagre results of soul-culture among the rich. Christ felt that labor among the rich and self-satisfied was not worth while considering the results to be obtained among the poor in thirty years. Modern disciples are apt to be discouraged at the results of their work but most of them have chosen rich parishes and they must accept a scanty yield. Camels are no smaller and the eyes of needles no wider than in the days when the doctrine of love was first preached.

Alderman Powers had a strong hold in the Hull House ward. He is a practical politician who distributes patronage with sagacity. His ear was always open to the cry of a voter and on election day he could point them to the advantages of being his constituents. All the more credit to the work and to the influence of Miss Addams and Dr. Graham Taylor that their neighbors were able to ignore the material advantages received from Alderman Powers and nominate a higher type of man who would not steal even for the benefit of the ward. The Chicago papers say that Powers grew almost uncontrollably angry when he discovered that he was "beaten, whipped, defeated, crushed in the most complete and humiliating manner possible." A few years ago Alderman Powers' position was unassailable. He was king of his ward. But the healthy public sentiment planted by Hull House has finally defeated him. Miss Addams herself is an inspired politician and she wields an influence that Alderman Powers, cute as he is, underestimated.

When THE CAPITAL CITY COURIER was first established in 1886 by Mr. Lew Wessel it was a six column eight page paper with pages of the ordinary newspaper size. It has passed through many changes since then in character, shape, size and name. In 1886 a heading "Talk of the Town" permitted the editor to comment on people and events without incurring the responsibility or being forced to accept the dignity of an editorial writer. This title was later shortened to "Observations" by Mr. Smith when he purchased the paper from Mr. Wessel. Many can make an observation on men, manners and books who would hesitate to commit the same opinions to an editorial. Yet in spite of the modesty of the editors of THE COURIER contemporary scribblers insist upon designating the observations on this page as editorials. According to the practice followed by the oldest paper in Lincoln, a paper which should, by this time, have acquired some authority in politics and journalism, an editorial which deals with the affairs of the city of Lincoln or of the people of Nebraska is no editorial at all. That word, to all the members of the editorial staff of the paper, except one who drapes his local allusions in verse, means something a yard long, opaque,

apropos of nothing in the state or city, and having a diffused air of superiority to, and an aloofness from the immediate affairs of the people who subscribe for the paper and advertise in it. In insisting upon such a definition of an editorial the publishers have sacrificed the influence which would naturally accrue to them in the sphere of life which they have elected to surround themselves with, to the job office which they operate. I presume it was because of the Lincoln variety of editorial that Mr. Smith preferred to call the contents of this page something else. The present editor also does not aspire to the dignity nor aloofness, nor consummate precaution of a leader writer on the republican daily papers of this city, but only to set down from week to week a few plain direct observations on the life we live, and the reasons why.

The Kansas City Star says in regard to the Round Robin from the troops at Santiago, what everybody thinks, viz:

The war department ought to be in charge of a man with sufficient energy and judgment to perform, of his own accord, the duties which the present secretary overlooks until his attention is called to them by the disastrous results attending their neglect.

When the companies are disbanded at the conclusion of the war and Johnny comes marching home again without having struck a blow or fired a gun for the country he was willing to die for, he will be disappointed perhaps and discontented. Nevertheless, the prompt enlistment of the young men of this country has given us a new conception of the dynamic strength of this country and of the devotion of its citizens. Many of the youths who enlisted were college boys, gently bred and luxuriously reared. These boys have endured the hardships of a private's life without complaint. They were idealists prepared to give up their innocent, hopeful young lives for the country to whose first call they responded with a loyalty that has given every American worthy to belong to the same nation with these boys a new and deeper love for America—for they are America. They have had to content themselves with a service of endless drills, in cheerfully eating food against which their gorge rose, in camping, day after day in the alternate rain and sun, in being sick of a fever and in obedience and deference to superior officers of the same social grade (or perhaps lower) as themselves. In battle they would have done a brave man's part. But they were not sent into battle. Instead these velvet handed boys have done police duty, made hostlers of themselves and carried wood and water, till their spines were columns of pain and all in the name of America. So that when they come back they will never be reproached for not fighting. Let no one dare to call their service inglorious. Such devotion and self sacrifice is not offered in vain. It has united the north and the south, the east and west, and enlarged the vision and the hearts of the men and women who have stayed at home. The discipline and self-denial have also made men of the boys who marched away a few months ago. They will never again complain of "Ma's cooking," and they will be better men all the rest of their lives for having been such good soldiers but now.

Promoter Hooley is not yet through with his testimony, but he is ill and those who are gloating over his betrayal of the peers who sold their friendship to him, are obliged to wait for further revelations. As a successful promoter Hooley had crowds com-

posed of English peers about him eager for a hint of the way leading to a fortune. He has evidently determined that in losing his fortune he will not lose his lords. They are going with him into ruin and disgrace. His confession has caused the withdrawal of several from clubs attended by the Prince of Wales. All the noble lords can say is that Hooley is a cad and is not telling the truth. Without additional evidence, of course Hooley's word is discredited, but such documents do exist and heirs to titles dating from the Norman conquest are about to be convicted of schemes which would disgrace a hostler. Hooley is doing just what everybody in Nebraska expected Messrs. Mosher and Bartley to do. And if they had, this little city would have been shaken to its centre even as London is now.

The boys exported from Omaha to sell the Omaha papers have a lung capacity and brassy, resonant voices that drown out the local newsboys and seriously annoy the local publishers. The Bee's bearded agent has the voice of a professional announcer. His extra resonant notes turn corners and fill the air to the entire exclusion of the iceman's yell, which, until this man's arrival, has been bloodcurdling. Now that the local papers are entirely outyelled they begin to realize the nuisance of the newsboy's really ear-splitting cries. An ordinance regulating the amount of noise allowed to any one person would be greatly appreciated by the residents of the downtown district. Considering that newsboys of two of the city papers have done their vocal leather-lunged best to submerge all other noises in their cries, the protest of these papers against the efforts of the Bee and the "Wurl Hurl" to sell papers here by the same method is comic.

The distance between words and phrases called idiomatic and those dispised as slang or argot is one of time rather than quantity. For instance, that which was slang in Shakspeare's time though he hesitated not to use it, is classic now and the formal pedant and ultra purist linger lovingly on the syllables coined by the gamins of the sixteenth century. "Every word we speak," quotes Brander Matthews of Doctor Holmes in the July Harper's Monthly, "Every word we speak is the medal of a dead thought or feeling, struck in the dye of some human experience, worn smooth by innumerable contacts, and always transferred warm from one to another." According to Dr. Holmes' definition slang is only new made language with the marks of a crude mint and a cruder machinist still upon it. There is a thorough winnowing of every season's harvest of words and very few slip through the last fine sieve held by stylists such as Lowell, Emerson, Holmes, Longfellow and the scant score of living American writers whose approval is almost always necessary before a word can have any standing in society (the society of writers). It is somewhat surprising to read in this article by Mr. Matthews on "New Words and Old," that such words as mob from *mobile vulgus*, clumsy, inflate, strenuous and many other half-breed words now cheerfully used by Brander Matthews and the rest of the faculty were once only affected by the vulgar who could not tell a thoroughbred from a mongrel. In the opinion of an unauthoritative newspaper scribbler the writer who discards from his vocabulary all of the new symbols of the life of today, called slang, will do at the cost of being thought colorless by the next generation, please God he reaches it at all.