

though it has united the country and invigorated it, we should possess from this time on a standing army of visible might, an invincible navy manned by American gunners, an obvious company of youths training for service in the United States army in every college in this country, from which a system of promotion to the regular army should be made inviolate from the sacrilegious, selfish, unpatriotic meddlesomeness of officious governors willing to make use of the country's extremity to drive their own political bargains. With such an army in the field and such a reserve force in training there is every prospect of centuries of peace for America.

The nomination of Judge Hayward of Nebraska City for governor of Nebraska is one of the best, made by any party for several years. When he is governor of the state Nebraska will be represented by a dignified, scholarly, sincere man and gentleman of whom we shall be proud. There is an ancient notion which still possesses the people that a governor of the state should be a king among men. In him the state is made flesh, and about him there is the sacredness of a sovereign. When this power is conferred upon a man of small intellect, selfish character and mean soul the effect is painful. Nebraska is producing men who are accepted by the nation at large as worthy of trust. The governor of Nebraska should be a representative of the culture we have attained and the progress we have made instead of the time when Nebraska was still a frontier state and only tenderfeet spoke good English or needed anything but the crudest ideas. Judge Hayward is a cultivated lawyer and farmer. He was one of the tenderfeet in the early days who spoke good English and who, although no longer young, has not fallen behind the age. He has made a modest fortune by the practice of his profession. He has the respect of his neighbors and fellow citizens, and take him for all in all there is no better representative of the best in Nebraska than Judge Hayward. Nebraska City is one of the few historic communities of the state. It was settled by unusually intelligent and cultivated young men, just graduated from eastern colleges. These men and their families have given a tone and character to Nebraska City which is at once apparent to a stranger. It was the home of Judge Mason and is the home of the next governor, of Mr. J. Sterling Morton and of many other distinguished citizens whose names do not so readily occur. Judge Hayward would undoubtedly make just as good a governor if he came from some other city, but considering the character and traditions of the city he has helped to build, there is a historical fitness about the nomination particularly pleasing to those who know the man and the stubborn virtues of the first settlers of Nebraska City.

Advance agents of obscure singers, readers or lecturers have been able to make a good living for themselves and the tyros whose appearance they precede, by getting some local charitable or musical organization to consent to accept a part of the proceeds. Then the agent sends out the professional young lady ticket sellers who approach everybody in the name of the organization which has consented to patronize the entertainment for a third of the proceeds. The Home for the Friendless can count upon a certain annual income from the city of Lincoln. It is good business policy, however, for the home to do its own collecting at a cost less than sixty-six and two thirds per cent of the amount donated. Charitably disposed people,

when approached by a wily agent seeking to sell a ticket for the benefit of any city charity, would help said charity by refusing to buy the ticket of the agent and by sending his contribution directly to the charity. For several seasons either the Woman's club, the Y. W. C. A. or one of the churches has been victimized and induced to give the larger part of the proceeds from their home field to one of these agents in advance of a worthless or second class "attraction," which would not play to a baker's dozen if it were not for the sympathy artfully traded upon by the agent and his assistants. That it is necessary to depend on something which has no real connection with the show, rather than upon the merit of the show itself, indicates the large impertinence of the agent. His real proposition is that he will see the clientele of the benevolent organization he is dealing with, collect the annual expression of approbation for and sympathy with it, and only charge it sixty-six and two thirds per cent of the amount collected. He and his force are expert collectors and when the real agents of the charity appear they find that their territory has been harvested and only gleanings offered by the very good natured are left for the institution. THE COURIER has exposed the methods of such advance agents several times before, but it takes a long time to warn everybody. Men are still buying gold bricks, cashing checks for strangers, taking freight receipts from railway acquaintances and picking out the wrong card at the invitation of three card monte men. All these tricks have been exposed innumerable times and we are a newspaper ridden people, but the exposures have very little effect upon the gulls who believe in mediums and buy gold bricks and blue tickets from confidence men and agents.

Moreover, an institution has no right to rent its reputation to a stranger who will go to those in the habit of contributing to it as the authorized agent who will turn over all contributions to the society. Such a policy will inevitably tend to destroy confidence in the society and cripple its resources.

A few months ago James Whitcomb Riley read his poems to standing room only under the auspices of the Woman's club of this city. In this instance the agent did not even provide ticket sellers but induced the club to agree to sell tickets for the reading. In this way the town was thoroughly searched and no man with the price got away. Mr. Riley is a pleasant poet, but after his separation from Bill Nye his own unaided fascinations would not pay his traveling expenses, not to speak of those of his really gifted advance agent, Mr. Dickey. "Under the auspices" system they are making a very handsome income and the audiences are generally well satisfied, but it is an extravagant way for an institution to raise funds.

On another page is printed an editorial from the Boston Transcript in regard to the Denver Biennial, Mrs. Breed's defeat for the presidency and the attitude of the Massachusetts women towards the general federation. Mrs. Breed replies to the Transcript in a communication to the Boston Herald, headed, "Mrs. Breed is Very Indignant." She declares the newspapers were not favorable to her candidacy.

"I ask you to kindly insert the following statement of facts concerning the recent Biennial convention of women's clubs held in Denver. It is not true, as was stated in a recent editorial of the Boston Transcript, 'that the newspapers of Denver invariably treated the visiting delegates with exceptional courtesy.'"

"Anyone who read the Denver papers,

and no one else has any right to make such a statement, knows this to be false.

"Not only was Massachusetts maligned, but some of the most refined women among the speakers were made to appear ridiculous, because they exercised their prerogative of refusing to be interviewed. Our part of the country was referred to as the 'effete east' in a sensational Denver paper. It was also stated that, because the majority of our Massachusetts delegation voted against extending an invitation for the Biennial to meet in Boston in 1901, we were angry, and so would return 'evil for evil,' whereas the decision was made, not only prior to the election, but before the report of the nominating committee. Whenever they could injure, before or after the election, they paraded my name before the public and, whenever there was danger of my appearing to advantage, my name was suppressed, and in more than one instance, another substituted. (Signed.)

"ALICE I. BREED"

The foregoing is worth consideration only from its unusualness. There are not many club women in this country who have not conscientiously trained themselves to look at all questions, even personal ones, in a large way. Mrs. Breed has shown in her letters and speeches a tendency which to all appearances, has become a fixed habit of considering all subjects as they disturb or please her. The Denver women, newspaper or otherwise, were in no conspiracy to defeat Mrs. Breed. The convention desired a woman of catholic culture, of catholic culture and of wide sympathies for president. Such a woman, a combination of Miss Jane Addams and Margaret Fuller Ossoli can be elected to the presidency of the General Federation of Women's clubs any time she cares to ask its suffrage. Such a woman may live in Georgia, California or even in Massachusetts, the locality would not effect the result one way or the other. Genuine interest in the race and a love for its achievements in art and literature, science and economics, combined with that inspiration which is called common sense, should characterize the president of the general federation. There are only a few whose inspiration never deserts them and who at the same time have learned what schools and travel and unselfish living can teach. But one of that company as president will sometime teach women a lesson they have not yet learned. It is not the mission of THE COURIER to deliver it, but when the hour is at hand, organized effort for others will have prepared the federation to hear and to do.

When war between America and Spain was finally determined upon, it was announced through the daily papers that Edison had inventions in his laboratory that would blow up the enemy by thousands. The Thousand and One Tales has no greater marvels than Edison promised. But our victories have been won by steady nerve and gunners whose aim was made sure by a machine invented by some humble wizard who has not comprehended the value of advertising, of admitting reporters with kodaks, who can take him thinking, with his hair in a tumble and his eyes fixed on something great and mysterious. Mr. Edison is the most celebrated electrician and inventor in this country thickly sprinkled with original investigators and inventors. Nobody else is looked upon as a wizard who can control the forces of nature at will. Men speak his name with deference and regard him as one of those colossal geniuses, born one a century. He has certainly made some curious playthings but he has not done as much for his time as Stevenson or McCormick, or Howe, or Mergenthaler. He owes his vogue to the newspapers and particularly to the yellow Sunday newspapers, who

have printed him and his house and his workshops hundreds of times. To so humble a medium as the patent inside Edison owes the awe they have created for him in the minds of Americans. He is really no more of a wizard than the stage Faust, who stands on a plate of metal and fights with Valentine, and when the electricity is turned on and his sword becomes a sheet of flame, the groundlings burst into uncontrollable applause at his mystic power. Edison is a good actor and he understands better than most investigators the money value of advertising. He has secured many thousands of dollars worth by posing for the reporters who are sent out periodically to do the wizard. Of course the rumors that he has many inventions stowed away which he does not dare to bring out in a hunch for fear of demoralizing certain industries, may be true, but compared to his actual output, the world has exaggerated its debt to Edison and his superhuman control of the elements and of the secrets of nature.

The feeling seems to be general that Admiral Sampson has been undeservedly promoted and that Schley has been as unjustly ignored and slighted. No charges of incompetency are made against Sampson and no action of unusual brilliancy has been urged for Schley, only it seems to be generally agreed upon that Sampson is a man of mediocre ability pushed forward for political reasons and that Schley is a naval genius against whom the authorities at Washington have conceived an unreasonable prejudice which they exercise by snubbing Schley whenever he has given his irrepressible sea gift free play. The people who do not know a schooner from an ocean greyhound say that they are convinced that Sampson would have let the harbored-up Cervera get away if it had not been for Schley's opportune arrival. They say that after all Sampson was not there when the fight came off, that he has a positive genius, equal to that of a policeman, for getting out of the way when an admiral is needed for anything but decorative purposes. Many other things are insinuated by the old salts in this port. It is surprising that so much intimate knowledge of the character and minds of the two commanders, so keen and correct an eye for sea maneuvers and the points of a man of war and the management of it, should be possessed by the men who cling to the sides of a sailboat in the act of rounding the waters of Burlington Beach. But all these criticisms on the mistakes of McKinley, all this secret history of the pees and aversions of the department at Washington may be gathered in a stroll from the guard of sharpshooters around the First National bank to Harley's staff, at the corner of Eleventh and O.

The meter ordinance would be received with less grumbling if the taxpayers were not suspicious that the flow of water in the east side wells had been purposely lessened in order to make the necessity for meters seem imperative and immediate. The water gave out, in an inexplicable an unusual way, at the Davis and Fitzgerald fires. The scanty flow was probably due to perfectly natural causes, but on account of the impeachability of Lincoln's mayor many citizens suspect that they are being worked to make a forty thousand dollar purchase. The curious persistence with which the ordinance has been pushed is suggestive of the enterprising patience of a meter manufacturer's agent who has made up his mind that the remedy for all our fires and water debt is meters made by the company he represents.