

was the only daily paper in the city that could be read. The very inferior and hurried press work on the other two Lincoln daily papers produces sheets which can be read only at the expense of eyesight and the liberal employment of a talent for rebus reading. The vertical line between each faint word on the pages of the morning and evening paper would disgust a publisher who possessed any pride or desire to give the subscribers their money's worth. A comparison of the Lincoln dailies with the Omaha or Chicago papers will convince those who doubt the fairness of this criticism, that the local publishing company is turning out a very cheap and ugly paper, the habitual reading of which must inevitably injure the eyesight. But the typographical illegibility of the dailies in question is not the only objection the subscribers make. The paucity of telegraphic news and the colorlessness and remoteness of the editorials are in direct contrast to the product of modern journalism produced by publishers of even the second class.

The Courier will continue to print a neat legible weekly paper and incidentally to occasionally point out the cheapness and the primitiveness of the daily papers now wholly in control of those who have made policy and the job office their guiding star in spite of the difficulty of constructing a guiding star out of the two aforesaid properties.

The convention of Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity which has just closed its annual session in this city, is the first Greek letter fraternity to hold its annual meeting here. The one hundred and fifty delegates represent most of the large coeducational schools in this country. The Kappa Kappa Gamma delegates have been quartered at the Lincoln hotel, whose dinginess, for a week, they have brightened. Hotels are used to conventions of men and occasionally of elderly and eleemosynary or literary women, but these national conventions of young college girls, whose manners and modes have the mark of distinction, and who, quite evidently, know what they are about and how to accomplish it, are new. The loungers about the hotel gaze upon the delegates, as they go to and fro, with wonder and enquire who they are and what they are doing. When these gentlemen of life-long leisure are informed that it is Kappa Kappa Gamma in annual session, they are no less puzzled. They do not see why the Greek letters wish to meet and arrange the business of the past year and elect officers and make arrangements for the coming year. In their day Greek was a dead language and was not represented by velvet eyes, pink cheeks, accomplishments and a distinction that secures its possessors from annoyance. Nevertheless the fraternity, for it is a fraternity, and not that awkward and uncalled for invention of a blundering Latin student—a sorority—has met and transacted a large amount of business, which we are unfortunately allowed to know nothing about, and adjourned for a year.

The General Federation of Women's clubs, as well as the state federation, might take a hint from Kappa Kappa Gamma's management of its annual conventions. The transportation and hotel bills of the delegates are paid by the annual assessment from each chapter in the fraternity. Therefore representatives at the annual meeting are not boarded around at the houses of inconspicuous local Kappas, but are accommodated at a hotel, and the

chapter which is represented by delegates pays for that representation, as it ought.

In common with all other societies and professional unions, these annual conventions where delegates from different parts of the country meet under conditions which encourage sympathy and acquaintance, fraternity meetings are of great value in strengthening the union and preventing future misunderstanding.

The young ladies from the Atlantic and Pacific coast were astonished at the size and character of the university, as well as at the size and beauty of Lincoln. The arrangements of the local chapter for the entertainment of the delegates were very complete and were successfully carried out. Considering the comparatively small membership and the numbers entertained by all forms of diversion possible in a waterless resort like Lincoln, the devotion and ability and organization of the local chapter is worthy of the commendation it has received from all who have reflected upon it.

There is a point where congenital incompetency of the kind shown by Secretary Alger is no longer sufferable in silence and General Miles, commander in chief of the American forces, has reached that point. The telegram which Secretary Alger ordered sent to General Shafter, in which the latter was informed that General Miles, on his arrival, would not supersede him, was an absurdity and in direct conflict with military precedent. The commander in chief is ranking officer at all times and in all places. He has no military superior or equal and unless it removes him the civil power at Washington cannot telegraph any lessening of his authority or rank. The fact, which appears to be established, that Secretary Alger sent such a foolish and unwarrantable telegram to General Shafter is proof enough of his unfitness for military affairs. His retirement from the position in which he has fully demonstrated his lack of judgment and foresight is demanded by members of all parties. The investigation into the blunders in the commissary at Chickamauga, on the transports, at Santiago and at Montauk Point may reveal the final cause of the death and starvation in those camps. It is more likely that the confusion resulting from an inefficient head will never be ascribed to the real source. Definiteness is seldom the result of investigations, especially if they are of legislative origin. The culprits are in charge, and they will employ all the machinery of mystification and confusion to defeat the court of inquiry. But the epistolary excuses of the secretary convict him of ignorance of the situation, an ignorance which has already resulted in the death of hundreds of men. His immediate resignation and the appointment of a man like General Miles or Admiral Dewey, or Rear Admiral Schley, who are each familiar with military affairs in a large way and who know the needs of large armies and how to supply them better than the best politician that ever maneuvered himself into place, should follow.

The curse of this country is the influence of politicians in departments of which they have no knowledge. The Courier, in common with other untrammelled papers, warned the public at the beginning of the war that political appointments of military ignoramuses would result in the sickness and death of the soldiers. What the Kansas City Star calls "the most

gigantic crime of this fading century" has occurred and "Algerism has laid its blight upon every state in this union."

After the investigation is concluded, before congress has considered the Philippines or Cuba or any new questions, our own American military system should be strengthened and made inviolate, so that on the next occasion when the country needs the flower of our youth there shall be no suspicion that the department at Washington may break faith with them as it has in this war, by the selection of Chickamauga and the appointment of a political commissary entirely ignorant of the fatal consequences of their inability to perform their duty. To the private soldiers who are about to be mustered out the duty of urging such action on their representatives in congress will be apparent as it never has been before. With the military gag removed they are at liberty to reveal the sufferings caused by Algerism and they will probably exercise the rights of an American citizen without being urged. In consequence of military discipline the storm has not yet broken over the head of the secretary of war, but that it is about to break is indicated by the interview with General Miles and his report of the confusion he found on his arrival in Cuba, and the approaching mustering out of the volunteers. The secretary's resignation would have the effect of a surrender and might influence congress to strengthen the military organization so that the incompetency of any secretary of war could no longer have such fatal results.

General Miles is anxious for an investigation, which, however loosely conducted, cannot but vindicate him. He it was who saved the day at Santiago and brought order out of chaos and he ought to have the credit his prompt performance deserves. The cheers of the soldiers that greeted his appearance before the army of Cuba was a spontaneous and professional tribute to the ability of the commander in chief, as well as a sign of relief that General Shafter was superseded. An investigation into the performance of his duty cannot but increase the confidence the public has in him, a public, which, until this war, was not sure that he deserved the rank he had acquired by the slow process of retirement and death of superiors.

The third paper on Mr. Gladstone by George V. Smalley which he calls Reminiscences, Anecdotes, and an Estimate, appears in Harper's Monthly for September. Mr. Smalley was near Mr. Gladstone but appears not to have been affected by the glory which shone about him for so many years. He appreciated his love of flattery, and his superficial knowledge of a great many things, knowledge which was just, accurate and technical enough to overawe a dinner table of people but not profound enough to impress a specialist on the subject he handled with such apparent ease. Posterity does a man justice and as in Mr. Gladstone's case, his own generation overestimated his genius, posterity in the person of Mr. Smalley has very promptly begun to show the generation its mistake. His biographer, (not biographer because he makes no pretensions to a systematic account of Mr. Gladstone) intimates that the Grand Old Man never really repented his encouragement of the southern confederacy, but eulogized Washington, as "one who in moral elevation and in greatness of character deserves

a place on a higher pedestal than any one else," while he was exalting the achievements of the southern leader who was endeavoring to undo Washington's work. An inconsistency of this sort which only a Gladstoneian with explains the satisfaction with which Mr Smalley's very fank analysis is being received. Such mysterious conduct created a prejudice, which, though softened by the spectacle of old age, never entirely regains confidence in the man whom it has seen trying to carry out two policies, the one diametrically opposed to the other, at the same time or too close together.

Mr. Smalley pays an unaccustomed tribute to Mrs. Gladstone. We, in America had always supposed Mrs. Gladstone to be a very faithful, and domestic woman, but withal rather a stupid one to whom the premier never dared to confide his important plans. If Mr. Smalley is to be believed quite the contrary was true. He says: "For her good sense sagacity, and unflinching and invariable discretion in all serious business she had less credit than she deserved. Mrs. Gladstone, during the whole of her husband's career, has known everything. She has always been trusted, always consulted. It is nothing to say that she never even inadvertently disclosed a secret. So perfect was her tact that few people even so much as suspected she knew the secrets. London is always talking about all sorts of things and comments about Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone were frequent. Whatever might be said on other points, there was an agreement on this—that nobody ever heard or even pretended to have heard from Mrs. Gladstone any hint of any purpose or thought or policy of his." A stupid woman would have made a blunder, if only for once, and this testimony places Mrs. Gladstone a part in that small cabinet of jewels whose price is far above rubies. It is gratifying that each of the notable pair is receiving justice, though the one is receiving less praise and the other more than before Mr. Gladstone died.

The discretion which Mrs. Gladstone possessed in greater perfection than is recorded of any other woman is one which may be cultivated. It is especially useful in small places where there is little to interrupt a story once started and the husband of a jeweled angel like Mrs. Gladstone would be sure of advice from a source so exalted that if he can only meet it half way he may become a grand old man himself in half the time it took Mr. Gladstone, if perchance he has the advantage of being an American and living in this country.

The electric wires which cross and recross every alley and street and down town roof in this city are certainly as great a menace to property as an incompetent chief of the fire department and an alleged scarcity of water. The last two causes are negative and the first is a positive and active agent in setting fires. It is a curious coincidence that Mr. Thompson who, it is said, has "given warning" that the fire department must be strengthened and the water supply, which in the last two fires has shown curious symptoms of exhaustion, must be increased or the insurance rates will be put up, is the one who objects to the municipal examination of the electric wires which carry his expensive lighting fluid over the highways and private roofs belonging to the citizens of Lincoln. In spite of the testimony of electricians who have repeatedly said that the wires were likely to set buildings on fire the president of an insurance company objects to a municipal examination of the wires.

We have given away a valuable franchise till 1900, but Lincoln, like every other city in this economically rather benighted country is awakening to the value of street rights and when the new century dawns, the city council, unless the elections are unusually well supervised, will not be in the generous mood of 1895. Selah.