

fruitful. His efforts to mitigate the wretchedness of a part of one city is a continuation of his work in London. It was supposed he came to observe and get material for a new novel. He may be doing that too and meanwhile he is doing what he can for the needy.

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Chicago women are about to build a club house in which the gymnasium is to be the most important department. Men have said for a few hundred years that women had no real interest in athletics. The reproach is dying out for lack of examples. The club house contemplated by the Chicago women is a place of rest, refreshment and healthful and scientifically directed exercise. The women who conscientiously take lessons in swimming, and exercise with wands, dumbbells and Indian clubs, will be better mothers and wives and enjoy their own independent and unrelated existence far more. Nerves and morbid feelings yield to exercise, especially when stimulated by intelligent instruction and friendly rivalry. The university girls who have taken the gymnasium course are proofs, if any were needed, of the beneficial effects of regular exercise. In spite of the hard study, which used to leave the girls pale and somewhat blasé at the end of the year, the contemporary undergraduates finish with firm health and an interest in the current events of society and politics not in the least like the traditional heavy-eyed pale girl student.

Last winter in Lincoln many of the married women discovered the benefits of gymnasium practice three times a week. At the Union club building Miss Anne Spurek has again leased the gymnasium for the season and her classes will be made up in October.

Although there is plenty of room here for golf links, not one, so far as I know, has been laid out. Tennis devotees have a court or two but summer sports are not encouraged perceptibly by Lincolnites. That they would live longer and happier and more amiably if they played golf, tennis and croquet in social oblivion of business and social rivalries the experience of society in other places bears abundant testimony. Bicycle riding is not the recreation it is boasted. Pedaling requires attention and a conversation is apt to be interrupted by wagons, other bicyclers and long stretches of road. A game is social, because even if conversation is impossible, there must be one or more opponents who struggle against and stimulate each other.

It is peculiarly western (and we are not yet civilized beyond it) to despise golfing, tennis and the costume for the players. When the court on the corner of G and Sixteenth was laid out and young men in white flannels played tennis there, it was called derisively "the dudes' pasture," though the young men who ventured to brave western convention by playing tennis were not diletanti but hard working lawyers and newspaper men. It is the same spirit which shot a "biled" shirt on sight a half century ago in these parts. It has not been conquered by the ultimate supremacy of the biled shirt, only smothered into a contemptuous resentment of everything unwonted and imported in custom or costume. In spite of provincial disapproval the tennis players have continued to play and such players as Miss Pound and Mr. Geisthardt would be a credit to any community. The attitude towards tennis players is only mentioned here because the gymnasium class last winter suffered from the same provincial and ungenerous spirit. In the latter case the criticism

was a trifle more acid because the players were women and the critics seemed to take it for granted they had hung up the broom and the dust cloth in order to enjoy an hour or so of healthful and useless exercise, when they might be better employed at home working up a case of nerves for their husbands' and children's home-coming. The result of the season's lessons were perceptible in the better spirits and health of each member of the class, and it is a matter of which The Courier is distinctly proud that in the feminine revival of interest in athletics Lincoln women are up to date.

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There are certain ways of expressing admiration for heroes or sympathy for murderers which a certain type of emotional woman has fallen into the practice of, that brings reproach upon the sex. I mean kissing Hobson or wildly embracing the dazed soldiers who are just returning from the war. It is doubtful if the soldiers appreciate the somewhat hysterical, if really genuine, admiration which leads the women to this sort of expression. They must disapprove of the lack of repose and "dignity" and eventually it reflects upon the sex, for men, however moved, have too much regard for appearances to make themselves thus ridiculous. For the reputation of women who feel the necessity of doing homage to a momentary idol, whether he be soldier, sailor or murderer, The Courier ventures to suggest that they restrain any further expression of overwhelming admiration in public and work it off on the men belonging to them, or failing such property, to keep a diary on which are inscribed directions to executors to burn without reading. By the latter method all the nameless gush with which every normal woman is occasionally overloaded, is safely deposited in a receptacle which has no tating tongue or a taste which can be cloyed and the world is spared scenes and other women with a sense of humour, need no longer blush for the conduct of their undisciplined sisters.

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No other woman occupied quite the position of Miss Winnie Davis, "the daughter of the confederacy," who has just died. She was born in the last year of the civil war in the executive mansion at Richmond. When she was nine months old Mr. and Mrs. Davis and the "cheerful baby," as her mother called her, fled through the night to a house in Charlotte, North Carolina. The southern people have an unlimited capacity for hero-worship. Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee and their families more than anyone else, have been the objects of it. At reunions of confederate soldiers, Miss Winnie, as the south called her, was enthusiastically greeted. She herself felt that she was one set apart and broke her engagement because she wanted to maintain her father's name. The north has no corresponding reverence for members of the Lincoln or Grant families, and would not have had if Lincoln and Grant had failed instead of succeeding. The difference is in the peculiar hero-worshipping character of the people of the south. Miss Davis seems to have been a very bright and charming woman albeit possessed of an unreasonable estimate of the relative importance of the Davis name, which, under the peculiar circumstances referred to, are accounted for.

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Opposition by the carriage dealers to a pavement which prolongs the life of vehicles is too obviously self-interested to be of influence in thwarting

two thirds of the property owners on O street of their desire for asphalt paving. There are two sides to the question even from the dealer's point of view. In cities like Washington and Denver, where the paving is almost entirely of asphalt, the number of people in proportion to the population who own carriages is very much larger than in those places where the discomfort of driving over an unelastic, uneven surface, counterbalances the pleasures of driving. The level reaches of land in and around Lincoln are the first requisite to good roads. Then the equable climate of nine months in the year is another item for the encouragement of driving. When a good road bed is added the prospects of buggy dealers in this section, on examination, appear very good indeed. Even Mr. Humphrey ought to be satisfied, if his sales are increased, to have the life of his buggies slightly lengthened. At any rate those taxpayers who desire asphalt are so largely in the majority that one man's fears that his wares may not go to pieces as fast on the smooth paving, should not be allowed to interfere with the expressed wishes of a whole city full.

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Why the W. C. T. U. should object to wine as a christening fluid for ships has never been quite clear to The Courier. Nobody drinks the wine. When the bottle is broken the drops roll down the prow and fall into what was made for throats, it has slipped into an absolutely fire proof, prohibitionist ocean. If the fair young godmother were obliged to drink the wine I think myself such a custom should provoke a national outcry of horror. So long as they continue to pour it in the ocean it will continue to be a discouragement of intoxication. Grog is no longer served in the navy and doubtless the steady, sure hand and eye of the man behind the gun is due to temperance more than to any other cause, but Jacky is superstitious and the pretty christening services when the good ship is launched seem essential to its welfare. Courage and confidence is inspired by the launching ceremonies in the sailors and the officers hesitate before they ignore a traditional ceremony which the ignorant, but no less devoted and patriotic, sailors believe has a mysterious influence upon the fate of the ship.

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At the annual meeting of the members of the Haydon Art club on Monday night the reports presented showed the club in a most prosperous condition. Last year the club raised over two thousand dollars. About the same amount will need to be raised this winter. The loyalty of the members of the club to the purposes for which it was organized and has existed, is an encouraging sign of the love for art in this community and the willingness to work for its development. Doubtless no service has been so freely and unselfishly given as that undertaken by the membership of the Haydon Art club for the purpose of sustaining the art department in the university. Their efforts were pre-eminently successful, though the lack of a personal or selfish motive in any one of the workers might have presupposed a lukewarm service. On the contrary, the feeling that the regents, in dropping the department from the university course, had failed to comprehend the utilitarian character of drawing and the study of color, was so strong that the committee which was appointed to solicit aid for the disowned department, met with a sympathetic reception from the citizens whose support it asked.

But in spite of slights, an overcrowded room, a lack of studio furni-

ture, and no funds to hire models, the department registered eighty students last winter and already more than that number have registered for the current semester. Five of Miss Parker's students are now employed as teachers and illustrators. The commercial value of a knowledge of drawing and of light and shade is increasing and the regents, who are eminently practical men, cannot fail to be impressed by the results accomplished by a department they looked upon as purely ornamental and of no especial use to the student who must earn his living. If a tree should be judged by its fruit and growth in proportion to the quantity and amount of air, earth and water allotted it, then the art department of the university, squeezed into a hallway and a small studio, and costing the university nothing for two years and yet increasing in students, and sending out an unusually large proportion of experts, is worthy re-adoption by the regents, especially as the charter expressly provides for a college of fine arts.

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It has been frequently stated by historians and writers on political economy that the French republic cannot last because of the nature and education of the French people. The unwillingness on the part of the French government, called a republic, to do belated justice to a man condemned to solitary confinement on a desert island by testimony which the accused was not allowed to examine, reveals the real tyranny and the nominal character of the democratic name. The Dreyfusites claim with justice that such a government is an absolutism worse than the Bourbons dared for their necks to impose.

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The nomination of Abraham Lincoln Frost to the district judgeship vacated by the death of Judge C. L. Hall, is recognized as a strong one by all parties. Mr. Frost has every requisite of a good judge except age and experience. He has education, culture, judgment and an additional and congenial gift of keeping still and preserving an expressionless countenance, indicating that judgment is in suspension till all the evidence is in. So that Mr. Frost is qualified by natural gifts and education for the position to which he has been nominated.

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Catholic and protestant churches in the island territories of the United States will bear exactly the same relations to the central government as all religious bodies do here and now. Of course religious subsidies are not recognized by the constitution of the United States and the income which the Spanish government has granted to the Cuban Catholic church will be discontinued. The American custom, except in the case of missionary and mission churches, is for each parish to support a minister or priest or rector and build the house of worship, whether humble or magnificent. Such a custom, being based on common sense, is to be transplanted into our new islands. A few good Irish American priests distributed about here and there through the islands will Americanize them as rapidly as other influences. The relations between a priest and his parish are peculiarly suited to a tropical people unaccustomed to independence. No institution in this country is better fitted to gradually and harmoniously prepare the crude islanders for American citizenship than American priests. The transition from the most Jesuitical regime to the protestant church would result in confusion and the destruction of real religious life. The islanders need the personal supervision and authority, with penalties attached, of the Catholic church. President McKinley has a complete understanding with Cardinal Gibbons and other prominent members of the Catholic hierarchy in this country and as soon as the civil transfer is made the Spanish clergy will give place to clergymen sent from this country.