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SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor

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OBSERVATIONS.

When Chief of Police Hoagland was deputy sheriff, he attended to his business and did not confuse his duties with those of sheriff. But since he has been placed in control of the police he seems to believe that his function is judicial and that Police Judge Comstock is an upstart who has no right to an opinion of his own. Mr. Hoagland's continued attempt to force the judge to accept an arrest by a policeman as evidence of guilt is in very bad form and The Courier believes that the only result for the chief will be complete discomfiture and damage to the reputation for sense and discretion which led to his appointment as chief.

The Manila side of the campaign has a larger proportion of regular army officers and the result is apparent in the better health of the men. The result is doubtless aided by the distance of the Philippines from this country. The war correspondents are

a trifle slower in criticising systems by which they are entirely surrounded especially when the largest ocean on the map isolates them from everything but the system and the army they may be tempted to find fault with. Although no complaints have come from the west, it cannot all be butter and cheese in one ocean and all varieties of hardship in another. If discipline, climate, distance and regular army officers make the difference in the reports from the east and the west, where it is possible, let the eastern wing be supplied with officers educated for the job before the winter occupation begins in Cuba and Porto Rico.

Mrs. Belle M. Stoutenborough, president of the Nebraska state federation, is chairman of arrangements for the congress of Trans-mississippi clubs at Omaha the 12th and 13th of next month. Her assisting committee consists of the presidents of the state federations of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Utah and Oklahoma. Mrs. James Scammon will preside at the congress on the 13th, Mrs. Julia C. Lathrop of Rockford, Ill., will speak on state charities, Mrs. Lyndon Evanns of Chicago will give her experience in organizing working girls' clubs. Club life in California will be reported by Mrs. Willis Lord Moore, late of Santa Barbara, and Mrs. Selwyn Douglas, president of the Oklahoma and Indian territory federation, will present the dominating features of the club movement in those localities.

No despotism so complete as a military, and none so hard to overthrow. France has worshipped the man on horseback until he has come near to stamping the life out of courts and the constitution. It is said the French officers are uncertain of the sympathies of the soldiers if the military and civil authorities should both demand it from opposing camps. Or rather the officers are certain the soldiers would desert them if France, the France of homes, farms, schools, and churches, needed their help. It is dangerous for a republic to give the military the place of honor in its scheme of government. Such power destroys an officer's sense of proportion and menaces all peaceable convention and the real life that the military only exists to preserve. In acceding to the demand for the rehearing of the Dreyfus case President Faure, who puts his trust in the sword, showed that he appreciated the power of the people as a last resort and as the basis of all institutions. Something is the matter with the French people. It may not be fatal, but it is certainly chronic and hard to cure. The cause of degeneration may be a gross materialism aggravated by a sensual literature, but a diagnosis by a foreigner is as worthless as con-

sultation by letter and prescriptions from a soothsayer.

The parting between some volunteer officers and the privates will bear no resemblance to Washington's farewell to his army. No slave drivers or overseers were so cruel and tyrannical as the blacks who had been slaves. The volunteer officers who have had no previous military training, and who, for lack of ability and industry, have spent their time in loafing or in some inferior service until Uncle Sam gave them their commission, are answerable for much disaffection as well as disease among their men. The incompetents are thrust upon Uncle Sam by influential relatives who are wearied of giving advice and assistance to lazy young men who may be cousins or brothers or even sons, but who are incontestable burdens. Uncle Sam occasionally hires a good and clever man to do his work but our uncle has not much choice of employes. There are so many of the aforesaid exhausted relatives pleading in his ear all the time. Many of the volunteer officers who have had training under regular army officers, have been indefatigable in their efforts to deserve their rank and they will leave the army with the respect of their superior officers and of the private soldiers under them. There are others, first and second lieutenants, who looked upon their soldier straps as marks of distinction, removing them from all further effort—and from obligations of decency to privates. For all such mistakes of an atrocious system the day of reckoning is approaching. There will probably be few fatal casualties, but the ignorant, lazy, vain and tyrannical officer will have to run a gauntlet that will denude him of self satisfaction for some time.

Touching appeals have frequently been made by missionaries returned from China who describe the condition of the Chinese woman as being much worse than her English or American sisters. They say the better half of the great Chinese empire is not allowed to sit at meals with her lord but must wait upon him in silence, grateful that he condescends to eat the food prepared by her or by her orders. They have told us that she is always in imminent peril of being sent back to her mother, for trivial reasons by capricious husbands, that she is not taught even the ancient and useless lore they teach the lads in that impossible land, that, in short, she is despised and used as a proverb for all that is foolish and servile and has not even the rights granted by poetry, chivalry and concession to weakness, enjoyed by woman in the land of the free. Yet the son of Heaven, from whose glory all men shade their eyes when he leaves his palace grounds, whose authority is in theory and law unmitigated, has been thwarted by an ugly, little, old woman, the dowager empress of China.

There is no occidental female alive who could defy and perhaps dethrone a reigning prince, yet this old woman, in a country which binds and distorts a girl's natural rights as it does her natural feet, who sits behind a screen and gives orders through a shutter to ministers who have never seen her, can, if she think best, oust the sacred person of the son of Heaven from position in which he is surrounded by an homage, an incomprehensible and frightened awe not accorded any other human being. When the despised sex is able to triumph in spite of a system five thousand years old depriving it of freedom, physical and intellectual, of the respect of men and of access to affairs, it is a demonstration of intellectual supremacy which the new woman ought not to ignore when she is casting about for an answer to the sneers of unbelief.

It is customary for the drudges on the daily papers in this city to write at least a half column bi-monthly on Woman. This hemi-column is as dry as the tail of a rattle snake and rattles responsive to the will of the operator and with no more variation. It begins with seductive testimony to her charms of face and figure and her occasional ability to cook and to make man happy by staying at home and not belonging to clubs, by studying his moods and by keeping still when he is thinking and thereby showing reverence for the mysterious processes of thought, and it gradually draws to a complacent period expatiating upon Her emotional nature and uncontrollable habit of jumping at things including conclusions. These summaries of the character and narrow limitations of woman, though loose in language and thought, apparently satisfy their authors, whose taste is, quite as obviously, not fastidious. The object of their frequent reappearance is not quite clear. No knight has ever appeared to affirm what they denounce and deny, and the objects of attack are mostly too busy to read what is said about them in general.

The search for a national flower is still being prosecuted. It is one which is complicated by the various forms of hay fever suffered by a respectable fraction of the population. The unfortunate selection of golden rod as the state flower of Nebraska has been the cause of acute suffering to hundreds who have unwittingly been caught in an auditorium or a house banked up with this floral sunshine, which dusts everybody with an impalpable yellow flour that teases the mucus membrane of the pollen victims until their eyes are streams of water and their poor red noses are exhausted pumps. The sentimental gratification which many feel in the designation of a national or state flower is not to be weighed in the balance against the actual suffering which a flower with an abundance of light pollen inflicts upon a super-sensitive mucous mem-