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SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor

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OBSERVATIONS.

The Philharmonic orchestra, under the direction of Mr. August Hagenow, will give a series of five concerts this winter as they did last. The orchestra plays the best music and it is a credit to the musical taste of Lincoln that Mr. Hagenow's concerts are always crowded. In all ways musical he has done much for the education of western people and the response to his offer of a series of five concerts for this winter testifies that his efforts are appreciated.

The appointment of Colonel Stotzenburg of the regular army to the colonelcy of the First regiment is one for which Governor Holcomb should be unreservedly congratulated. The colonel is an officer par excellence. By his constant oversight and instruction the men in his command have been kept from sickness. His record in the few months of this war is flawless and the governor in recognizing it and ignoring politics has laid the men of the First and their relatives, not to speak of the colonel and his friends, under obligations which may induce them to forgive much.

If Mr. Bryan were inspired by the generosity which influenced the dying Sir Philip Sydney he would say to the officers and men of the First regiment, "Your need is greater than mine." Those boys on the other side of the Pacific ocean have fought and lived in camps for months longer than the Third regiment, which has seen no service at all. Mr. Bryan has pleaded the consideration due to a defeated presidential candidate with

success. President McKinley is naturally and magnanimously anxious to give his former antagonist whatever favor and precedence he is unwise enough to ask for on that account. In placing the responsibility upon Governor Holcomb of making the choice between the First and the Third regiments McKinley has embarrassed the governor, but there is little hope for the boys in Manila.

A list of strong verbs and preterite present verbs in Anglo Saxon by Miss Louise Pound is the result of research conducted at the Chicago university for two successive years. The introductory note states that the list is intended for use in the elementary classes in the university of Nebraska and further, it is not claimed, that it has been put together in a manner ideally complete or scientific, because Saxon MSS. were not accessible. The subsequent nineteen pages of Anglo Saxon verbs will be appreciated by the student who has spent many bootless hours searching for elusive verb forms. It will doubtless do just what Miss Pound intended it should, i. e.; make it easier for beginners to find the verb forms used in Anglo Saxon readings. Her defeat at Tennis is overshadowed by the result of her real quest in Chicago.

The virtues of the obscure when they die are illuminated and their failings are forgiven and forgotten, but when a man who in his lifetime sat in a high place and received the homage of mankind, dies, his faults receive the attention which men were too cautious to give them while his influence was a part of existence. The intimates of Bismarck and Gladstone are revealing opinions which they carefully concealed from these statesmen while they lived and moved the men on their chessboards. It appears from these friendly memoirs that neither the English nor the German statesman was free from egotism nor the habits of a poseur. It appears that they were more interested in their own position and their own fame than in the welfare of England or Germany. Dr. Schweminger's Boswellian biography of Bismarck shows that when the Kaiser accepted his resignation Bismarck was willing to print state secrets which would inevitably stir up strife in the nation in order to make the Kaiser trouble. And Gladstone was willing to help to dismember the British empire, ultimately, for his own popularity. Thus the near views of an idol through a magnifying glass held by a dear friend is invariably disappointing and consoles the obscure investigators for the lack of interest the public has in themselves.

Julian Ralph has begun a story in Harper's Monthly which reminds me in its treatment of the supernatural of an author who lived in so remote a part that his identity has never been

discovered. I mean the author of what we call The Arabian Nights or the Thousand and One Tales. Scheherazade's characters are under control of gentli who converse and scrap and plot and counterplot over them. Their own spiritual life and freedom from a body, its aches, demands and mortifications seems not to interest them, which is queer to one who has had a vision of the range a ghost has. Mr. Ralph's story is about An Angel in a Web, which describes a young girl ignorant, innocent and isolated from her kin. The etherians, as the author calls his ghosts, endeavor to keep her out of the traps the villain sets for her and to bring her to the home of her grandfather, an aged millionaire dying without an heir except the villain to whom he will not leave his money. That is, all but one of the etherians endeavor to help the angel, that one, the mother of the villain, guides the villain to the maiden and hints him full of wicked designs. The October number leaves the villain successful, with the lovely maiden lured to and locked up in a huge empty office building, in which he tells her she will be kept until she promises to marry him. The frank conversation between the ghosts, and their freedom from sepulchralness is the unique feature of the story. The etherians are the Greek chorus, or Hamlet's ghostly, suffering, revengeful father, but they are not shivery. They are like nothing but the geni of the Arabian Nights or like the prosaic ghosts of predestination that Calvin named and the Mussulman calls fate.

The carnival season in Denver, St. Louis, Omaha and Kansas City has begun. The bearded prophets of St. Louis, the slaves of the serpent in Denver, the Knights of Aksarben and the Priests of Pallas of Kansas City are making joyous procession through streets lighted by a double line of lights and fringed with crowds of people. The carnival spirit is undoubtedly encouraged by merchants because it helps trade, but it is none the less beneficial to Americans to pause and laugh and consent to be amused. The muscles bent and strained in the race for wealth are grateful for the rest of a laugh and the fall carnivals are the cause. They are the children of the annual county and state fairs which they have superceded in many states, though they still linger in Nebraska. They are amusing where the fair was tiresome and one of a countless number of its predecessors exactly like it. The carnival adapts itself to the spirit of the people who make it and the ingenuity of the various floats gives character to each city festival. Lincoln might inaugurate an annual festa that would signalize the opening of business and the beginning of the Indian summer in Nebraska which lasts till Christmas and is positively unmatched in balminess stimulating quality and healthfulness by any other state climate. Of tradition

there are Indians, cowboys, buffalo and frontier remains to construct a procession a mile long. There is only lacking the will, and the conviction that it is good for us. A visit to Denver or St. Louis or Omaha and an inquiry of the merchants will convince doubters that such a festival is profitable as well as amusing.

There was a time, and it is not wholly past, when upon the poor and friendless the law had no mercy. The law was for people who could pay judge and advocate and the penniless man, haled before its tribunal, was presupposed guilty. Legal convention has transposed the burden of proof to the accusing party. The innocence of the accused is assumed and he does not have to prove it. There is a wide difference between the two attitudes. Furthermore, this assumption applies equally to a man accused of robbing the state and one accused of stealing oranges. It should influence a police as well as a supreme judge.

Judge Comstock, like a good lawyer and a good man, insists upon treating the poor creatures brought before him, not with mercy, but with justice, such as defaulters, mayors accused of malfeasance in office, and policemen accused of theft from offices they are supposed to protect, receive. The efforts of philanthropists to improve the conditions of jails and penitentiaries, and to help those who have been clubbed by ignorant policemen into sodden resistance to a society which has refused them justice are often rendered ineffectual by police judges of the kind the News of this city urges Judge Comstock to become. A police judge is in direct contact with the most ignorant and the most helpless portion of society. He has opportunities of tyranny which the judges of the higher courts have not. It is necessary that he should be untrammled and he is. Everybody knows the usual procedure; a row of prisoners line up in his court every day, one by one they stand up and the policemen make whatever charge, truth or revenge, or prejudice, the result of an habitual authority over the wretched, demand. Then the accused is heard, but, in the majority of cases, his testimony is unheeded and he is sentenced to a fine and imprisonment in a reeking jail or ordered to leave town. This procedure has condemned many an impoverished man and woman to undeserved punishment who have chanced to pay scant courtesy to the man with a club. It is the universal testimony of economic students that the abuses of the lower courts create and encourage enemies to society. The police court is supposed to be a protection to society, but it often fails because of the lack of character in the judge. As a matter of fact in most of the large cities of this country the police judges are small bore politicians who discharge their duties according to routine and with no especial examination of the individual cases submitted daily. The