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OBSERVATIONS.

The city attorney's letter to Chief of Police Hoagland in which he asks the chief to give a demerit to the policeman whose beat includes the corner of Twelfth and N streets, for not notifying the vigilant street commissioner that part of the fence around the cellar on that corner was down is based on his ignorance of the fact that the patrolman has notified the street commissioner several times in regard to the dangerous condition of the fence around this deep excavation. The records of the police office are carefully kept and the several occasions on which the street commissioner has been notified of the absence of any protection around this cellar are recorded. It is encouraging that the city attorney has begun to notice that someone is to blame for our dangerous sidewalks. It does not require a special knowledge of the duties of the different functionaries to recognize that it is the street commissioner's business after being notified once of a particularly dangerous condition to remedy it instantly. Yet Mr. Lindsey has had his attention called to this particular place a number of times and he has allowed weeks to go by without ordering its repair. There is a still more dangerous cellar corner, because it is not lighted, on Fourteenth and P, which has no railing at all around it and where any one who wishes to break a limb may do so any night and have a sure case against the city for at least five thousand dollars. The street commissioner has the power and it is his duty rather than that of the chief of police to re-

pair such places. A valuable commissioner would not need to be informed by the police of such large pitfalls. Consider the present street commissioner as an applicant to a railroad company for the position of track inspector or common section hand. No railroad superintendent would seriously consider his application. Or if, through some sudden contingency, as, for instance, a strike or an epidemic, he should be employed, his fathomless ignorance and neglect of his duties, unless his work were supplemented by that of a competent and conscientious man, would cause so many catastrophes that he would be obliged to take his own life or run for it. Yet the city of Lincoln pays a man seventy-five dollars a month who, even when repeatedly notified, fails to correct a condition dangerous to life and limb and hence potentially costly to the city.

The learned city attorney is of course aware that the large damages awarded to plaintiffs against the city since his incumbency of the office might have been prevented by ordinary watchfulness on the part of the street commissioner. But having failed to advise the council how best to insure the city against future damage suits THE COURIER takes this occasion to remind the city attorney that the seventy-five dollars a month should represent services performed, that those duties are specified in the statutes, that the present incumbent does not perform them, and that in consequence judgements are piling up against the city much faster than the city can pay them.

If the street commissioner is really unable to improve dangerous conditions, why not discharge him and apply his salary to a judgment fund? As the city attorney is conversant with the law and the liability of a city which does not fence in pitfalls, it is his place to advise the council what to do in these lamentable circumstances in which the city finds herself, possessed of a commissioner who does not inspect, and when pitfalls are reported fails to act. If in the cases in which Mr. Webster has attempted to defend the city, and which have gone against him, it has been clearly shown that the accidents occurred because of a condition, to avert or modify which we pay an officer seventy-five dollars a month, is it not, as consequently, the attorney's place to notify the council that their man is costing the city in excess of his salary five thousand dollars or so several times a year in judgments?

General Webster would have almost the unanimous support of the taxpayers of this city if he would recommend the plan proposed by THE COURIER, viz.; the employment of a competent carpenter who would, from day to day, inspect the walks and repair what dangerous places he found. Such a man would prevent accidents and consequent damage suits. The

present man, or another with the same methods, cannot be much longer endured. Such service, intolerable to a private person or a corporation, is fast becoming so hateful to the citizens who pay the commissioner's salary and are still further assessed to pay the damages caused by the failure to perform his duties that, in the nature of things, a change must occur soon.

Edmond Demoulin's book, The Superiorite of the Anglo Saxon, ought to be adopted as a text book by every college in this country, (seems to me.) Not because it celebrates the Anglo Saxon and increases the self-satisfaction of every member of that haughty race at his most haughty period of life, nor because undergraduates need any additional reasons for self gratulation, but because the college student is tempted by an unfettered mind, he is without a boss, and his allowances drop upon him like manna, without any preliminary perspiration on his brow, he is not coerced to think so or to act so on account of the necessities of a job which probably influences his humble parent who supplies him with money. The undergraduate is given to soaring. There is little reason why he should not soar. He is in contact with life, but life is cloaked and gloved. Between him and the world there is perhaps a little man with a stubby beard, a turndown collar and baggy trousers, the hireling, it may be, of a corporation. In appearance he is not so attractive as the youngster in the tall collar, irreproachable linen and creased trousers. And mentally there is even a greater difference between the young man and his father. The latter has learned by struggling that conformity to convention and a system creates less friction than independent acting and thinking and hence he is obedient to the rules of a corporation if he happen to be working for one, or to the laws of commerce if he chance to be in business for himself. These rules are to his son as far-fetched and unnecessary as arithmetic rules to the little scholar who has not yet worked many sums by them. Thus the student contemplates the customs of society and commerce, which, by long agreement between man and man, are more binding than laws on the statute books, as matters which he can change when he goes out into the world if they happen to be out of harmony with things as they should be. Human rights, as expressed by the Declaration of Independence and various reformers and sociologists, have few correspondencies in real life. The modern political economist who writes the text books consulted by the undergraduate sees no remedy for the evils of competition but some kind of socialism or dependence upon society and the state to change the present system of "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost." M. Demoulin's recognition of the influence which the par-

ticularistic formation of Anglo Saxon society has had upon the predominance and spreading power of the Anglo Saxon in contradistinction to the influence of the socialistic formation of the Latin races makes his book valuable as an antidote or counter-agent to Karl Marx and other advocates of the benefits of socialism. The wealth of the world, the stores of science, literature and art have been made by individuals and not by society and the Tartars and Mongols among whom society is the most compact and paternal in the tribal form have the scantiest treasures of civilization. The Anglo Saxon on the contrary has developed the individual to the point of breaking away from all dependence upon society in the shape of the family, the community or the state. But to reconcile one to the evils of the formation particularistic, there is nothing better to contemplate than the ignorance and weakness of those portions of the human race which have adopted the formation sociale.

Mr. Oscar A. Mullan, who died in Lincoln on Monday, February 13, came to Lincoln in 1871, where he has since lived. He was born in Wakefield, England, in 1832. His early youth was spent working in a dye house for the support of his widowed mother. During this time he attended a mechanics' school and prepared himself for newspaper work. For fifteen years previous to his coming to America he was connected with the Bradford Observer, first as a reporter and finally as managing editor. In the summer of 1871, in company with the London agent of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad company, he met Mr. George S. Harris, the commissioner of B. & M. lands in Iowa and Nebraska, and he induced him to come to Nebraska. Mr. Mullan's fervid descriptions of the soil, climate and beauty of Nebraska were printed in the newspapers of England, they were translated into Dutch, Bohemian, Russian, Swedish, Norwegian and German. The large settlements of colonies from these nations along the line of the road were very largely due to Mr. Mullan's power of accurate description and his appreciation of the advantages and beauties of the boundless plains of Nebraska, at that time uncultivated, and to an unprophetic soul not especially promising. His English newspaper acquaintances were glad to print his letters descriptive of a land just ready to break into bloom of corn and wheat and rye, until they discovered that every letter contained information of a certain railroad company that had thousands of acres of land to sell on ten year's credit at six per cent interest. Then they wrote Mr. Mullan their advertising rates. The sale of the land was so rapid that advertising was soon unnecessary and Mr. Mullan accepted the position of court reporter of this district. He kept his position till a few years ago.