

the honor of the French army! Ten years imposed on a man to whom the army has denied a fair trial and which has persecuted him already for many years both for being a Jew and because the establishment of his innocence would prove the staff officers guilty.

Although the French are singularly self sufficient and insensible to foreign criticism the disapproval of the sentence which English, German and American newspapers have expressed may affect them, especially if it have any real influence upon the attendance at the exposition. From the tone of German newspapers, it is likely that the opposition to any German exhibit is growing. The sentence is certainly a disgrace to the nation and the army, but inasmuch as the French do not care for the opinion of the rest of the world, it is only possible for the nations to express their indignation and disgust at the insult offered to Justice by having less commercial intercourse with France.

The Jewish citizens in France, America, England and Germany are the possessors of large capital. As a race they are not interested in politics and in a presidential convention the Jewish vote is never mentioned. They are democrats, populists, republicans and their race does not appear to influence their choice of party. In America they are patriotic Americans. In England they are loyal subjects of the Queen, and in Germany they are not arrested for *lese majeste*. Thus, although the race has retained its homogeneity, its groups speaking the language of the various countries in which they live, do not show much sympathy or interest in each other. If an Irishman's rights or even an Englishman's or American's had been trampled upon as Dreyfus' rights have been a storm of protest and reprisal from Irishmen or Englishmen or Americans the world over, would have beaten against the government inflicting the wrong. Even yet it is not improbable that the Jews of the world will refuse to traffic with the French, and it is no less improbable that Englishmen, Germans and Americans will inflict a punishment upon the thrifty French men by carrying out their threats regarding the exposition. Not being sensitive, as the decision has shown to losses in honor and self respect and having no conception whatever of the rights of man, the commercial loss is the only one by which Frenchmen can be induced to repent. The refusal of the French court to judge the prisoner by anything but Star Chamber rules, will have an immeasurable affect on Frenchmen. The result of the trial has already shown that the military is superior to the civil law and that therefore, civil law and the constitution exist on the sufferance of the military. This being so, the Republic exists until a Napoleon only as strong and as quick and as determined as Louis or a Bourbon brave and subtle get control of the army and at its head march on the Republic. The trial has shown the Bourbons, the Napoleonists and the revolutionaries of all kinds that France obeys the army. And the crowds which acclaim the verdict, announce that France cares not for justice or law but only for the army. Such a people is not ready for a republic, and the man who plans and executes the next coup d'etat and establishes a monarchy will be furnishing the French people with the only sort of government suited to an immature or degenerate nation.

* * * The Preparatory School.

A few years ago the preparatory school at the university was dispensed

with. But the year after it was found necessary to resume the preparatory work. The state is young and of such large acreage that the public schools affiliated with the university and prepared to fit students to enter the freshman year, are still comparatively few. The arrangement that the university authorities have made with the Lincoln high school to fit students for the university at the cost of only a dollar a semester where formerly the student paid four or five dollars to tutors for the preparation work. The preparatory school in the university has always been an awkward expedient though it was undoubtedly a temporary necessity. This arrangement will add to the high school a number of earnest pupils working with a definite purpose and it will relieve the university of a class of younger pupils not quite mature enough for undergraduates. It will also leave the university professors free to do university work entirely and the university funds will no longer be diverted for expenses of the preparatory work which is, strictly speaking, aside from its function.

* * * Jacob North.

In the death of Mr. North Lincoln loses a master printer of exceptional knowledge and ability. Mr. North belonged to a generation which was willing to learn in the school of the apprentice how to do good work. He learned his trade of book-maker and job-printer in England. I know of no man in Lincoln who can take his place. He was an exacting employer. He was capable of taking pains, and the books, pamphlets and papers that came from his establishment when he was himself, were so carefully scrutinized and corrected that the imprint of his publishing house has acquired an honorable and deserved fame.

Mr. North lived temperately and dealt justly with his fellowmen. He did his work well for the sake of doing good work. All who dealt with him are anxious to testify to his uprightness and to his respect for the craft he learned so patiently and thoroughly when he was a boy. He brought up his children with the same respect for work and he leaves to them the heritage of an honorable life and a spotless name. For Mr. North clung with an Englishman's tenacity to the tradition that has made England the greatest nation in the world. It is found in the Bible but it was said to the first man and the last man will obey it. It is, the command to labor.

* * * The Open Letter.

The habit of writing open letters to the newspapers is much more prevalent in the east than in the west. Readers of the New York Sun and of the Boston Transcript and other papers are in the habit of thinking and almost simultaneously sending off their thoughts to one of these newspapers. The Dewey parade is discussed by fathers and mothers anxiously and conscientiously. They desire their children of eight years and over to see Dewey. It is impossible, of course, for a father to hold up a child of eight years old and over for very long at a time, and a New York crowd will not permit a child of eight years old and over to scrooge his way to the curbstone. So it is very doubtful, unless some place is set apart for the eight year olds and overs, that they will get a sight of Dewey. Two parents, D. W. C. Ward and Hal Bell, suggest "that a large stand be erected on the Park side of fifty-ninth street, extending from fifth to eighth

avenue for the exclusive use of the children of our public schools" Another affectionate father asks that Dewey be compelled "by all means" to ride at the head of the line. This is F. D. Parsons, and he says he expects to have "five boys at the land parade and they will stand a poor chance of seeing the great Admiral unless some other way is arranged than to have him review the parade. Charles G. Hall wants to have the parade start in time so that persons from out of town can see it and get home before night. One of the Victims is suspicious and asks in a martyred tone: "Who is it with windows to let on University Place that had the pull necessary to induce the Plan and Scope committee to march us over a rough pavement with car tracks and a back street instead of down Fifth avenue with a good pavement and no car tracks? H. V. says, "that boxes when they are placed in the rear of sidewalks interfere with the rights of others, but when they are placed along the outer edge of the sidewalk, as has been done, they and the people occupying them are a nuisance and the police should be ordered to stop the practice." Then there are a half dozen or more communications in regard to the later beginning of school in the fall. There are other communications in last Sunday's edition of the Sun from the overburdened heart of the people to the editor on the subjects respectively of the waltz and the two step, protesting that the waltz has not been superseded by the two-step except by young people who can not learn to waltz, on a plea for fractional currency, on theatre ticket speculators by one who believes in them and who may be a ticket speculator himself though he signs his name (Mrs.) G. A. Wheelock, there is another on the madness of unionism commenting on the edict of the Bricklayers and Stone Mason's International Union which under the direction of President Gubbins declares that President McKinley must join the union before he can be allowed to lay the corner stone of the new federal building in Chicago as under its rules no one in Cook county can handle a trowel who is not a member of the union.

The examples are sufficient to show the interest everybody takes in current events. They indicate also that, far more than the editor's thoughts the people enjoy expressing their own and seeing them in print. It is a New England trait, this one of expressing one's mind, and the faith that the expression may abate a nuisance, accomplish a reform or make converts. The letters are invariably characterized by great earnestness and belief in their usefulness. This attitude of mind which seems to be universal, is complimentary to the editors of the papers and to the subscribers. In fact these communications take the place of the town meeting which Boston and New York have outgrown. The conscientious writers warn fathers and mothers of pitfalls laid for their children, they remonstrate against committees and councilmen who do not make suitable provision for the children, discuss politics, religion, and finance with a dignity proper to one addressing one hundred thousand people with the faith that their words instead of filling space will reach the discouraged and the tempted or the bribed with beneficial results.

A community which writes so many open letters is, if a trifle pharasaical, at least striving to improve and it is a healthful sign of interest and faith. In the west it is only occasionally that a strayed New Englander reverts to his type and writes a letter to the

newspapers. The man who does it habitually gets a reputation which he does not usually deserve of a desire for notoriety. It is not notoriety which urges him but the fever of reform which is the same that sent the Puritans to these shores.

If Lincoln and Omaha would but cultivate the open letter habit, the officers whose duty it is to protect the public and prevent it from being imposed upon by the savages who leave swill in alleys so long that the air is infected for miles around, or who extend signs into the street and cut off their neighbor's view. The open letter habit is a hearty, healthy habit and every newspaper man appreciates it.

* * * The First Nebraska.

Members of the First Nebraska have little liking for parade. As they filed into the dining room at the fair grounds they had a somewhat shamefaced expression as though they did not altogether relish the attention and applause their appearance created. Many of them were not to be seen in the parade of Thursday and although they were missed, the real soldierly distaste for display is another evidence of the integrity of their fame. As a regiment their's is a modesty that is appreciated. They will not make capital of their service in the Philippines and they object to forming part of a spectacle. But knowledge of what they have done will deepen the sympathy and appreciation the state feels for them. By one and another the story of the First will be told and it is hoped that it will receive the place in history its achievements merit. Because Colonel Stotzenburg is dead is no reason why he should not be granted the honors of the Philippine campaign which he surely captured. Compared with General Funston, Colonel Stotzenburg is as Wellington or Marlborough to one of their dashing reckless captains. Col. Stotzenburg had real military genius; the ability to make an army out of disunited elements and thereafter to place it in the field at the point where, and the moment when it can be most effective. He thought he knew at what place the Filipinos would begin the attack and he camped on that spot and a sentry of the First Nebraska fired the first shot of the war at a Filipino who refused to obey orders. It was not chance that the First Nebraska was always in the van and on the heels of the enemy. Colonel Stotzenburg drilled the men to the highest degree of efficiency and as a military tool Stotzenburg and his regiment were recognized as being the most serviceable of any in the Philippines. When history is written his work will be recognized, but in the mean time it is disappointing to see other officers and other men receiving the credit which belongs to the First Nebraska and its Colonel.

* * * The Street Fair.

The soldiers note the signs of quickened prosperity in Lincoln. Preparations for the booths and the street fair are proceeding rapidly and even rejoicing over the return of the soldiers and their fine appearance, did not interrupt the preparations for the street fair. The pretty booths are fast transforming the streets from a purely commercial aspect to a festival appearance. There is little doubt that the fair will be a success, with the streets full of people who have accepted the invitation to come and be amused. The city has never before been at home to everybody and the novelty and freedom of the intivations insure few regrets. Between the displays of merchandise contortionists, magicians and trained animals will amuse the populace. It is hoped that there