

and adjusts the lens, that we can see what he has seen and know what he knows. The chronicles of Minervy Ann Perdue are running in Scribner's Monthly. Compared with Minervy Ann, Uncle Remus is a vague story-book, old negro. Minervy Ann's drawing vowels and syncopated consonants and her brave, self-sacrificing devotion to "Marse Tumlin" are so convincingly recorded that nobody thinks of his prejudice against a dialect story or against Sunday school tales of heroism and devotion to duty. Yet when the tales are told and made into a book the reviewers who commonly pay no attention to serial stories will herald another accomplishment by which the nineteenth century will be remembered. This creation of Minervy Ann is really one of the notable discoveries of the century. She is flesh and blood and has all the peculiar charm and loveliness of the negro character; compound of tact, devotion, ingenuity and the primitive keenness of observation and deduction that unfinished races possess. Readers of the Century know already that Minervy Ann will make a sensation among the sleeping and indifferent critics when it appears in book form. But as in the case of Trilby, which originally appeared as a serial in Harpers, only when it has become a book between two stiff pasteboard covers, upholstered in some of the fashionable shades of light green or terra cotta will the critics become aware of the "Chronicles of Minervy Ann."

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#### Judge Reese.

Never was a nomination more unanimous than that of Judge M. B. Reese. If elected, he will leave a large practice and will resign his position as dean of the university law school which he has filled with honor. He neither sought the nomination nor accepted it without much urging. He believes that the office is one which should be bestowed by the people, and he will not make an aggressive attempt to secure his election. He is a man of spotless integrity, of wide learning, and especially learned in the law. Republicans are united in support of him, while many fusionists are still unreconciled to Mr. Holcomb, and unconvinced that his integrity in the matter of house rent was beyond criticism.

Judge Reese possesses judicial attributes and accomplishments. As a Nebraska judge his decisions would become a very valuable addition to the body of records which as applications and interpretations of the law have as much bearing on decisions as the law itself.

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#### The Boers.

All the learned international correspondents, all the profound leader writers on the thousands of papers in this country and in England express the opinion that the Dutch in Africa will be conquered when England gives the word. It is not so certain that England will come off first in a contest with the Dutch. The rise of the Dutch Republic and the banishment of Spain from the Netherlands occurred when Spain was a first-class power and Holland only an aspiration. The Dutch in Africa are stronger and more united now than in the days they fought Spain behind the dikes. With the Orange Free State to help them and Emperor William jealously watching England for a chance to interfere and help the Boers the result is not so certain. The Dutch are still the Dutch, and more obstinate, tenacious fighters never were born. In their fighting there is something of Indian tactics. They take advan-

tage of darkness, of hiding places in the hills, they will turn South Africa on the redcoats, taking advantage of jungle, climate and conformation and reinforcing their geographical and climatic allies at unexpected times and places. The Widow knows that a fight with the Dutch is not the snap the Egyptian campaign has been. The Dutch are not Zulus, nor Indians, nor Egyptians; they are uncompromising, rather thick headed, protestant Dutch, with a belief in foreordination and convictions as strong as the Presbyterians of Scotland. Oom Paul Kruger is a typical Dutchman and his heavy face is lined with the mental habits of a lifetime. It would be easier to convince and easier to conquer a cleverer man. Faith in him is so deeply imbedded in the Boer heart, that the army will be entirely at his command. There will be no criticism of the administration and the Dutch will only have to fight England with what aid the Orange Free State, Holland, and the Emperor William can give them, and only diplomatic help is expected from the last.

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#### The Public Library.

No institution of the city has been conducted with so much economy and wisdom as the city library. The board has met regularly and although its members serve without pay, there are very few absences in the year's record.

The burning of the library was a great calamity. It furnished books to the bookless, and the self-culture it made possible is inestimable. No thoughtful tax payer ever begrudged the per cent of the tax which went to the city library. The city library is one of the reasons why we can get along with so few policemen. Its quiet rooms filled with books and papers were filled every afternoon, and with all sorts of men, women, and youth. Teachers, students, clerks, day laborers, club women, lawyers; every profession, trade, and business was represented by the borrowers and readers.

There is no suitable room for their accommodation now. To keep people out of mischief is not one of the acknowledged functions of a city library. That it is an actual preventative of crime and misdemeanors the records of disreputable and disorderly districts in large cities both before and after libraries have been established there will demonstrate. Lincoln is a quiet and orderly city. Even on carnival evening there was very little harm done. The influence which the city library has had in effecting this good order it is impossible to measure. That it has been considerable no one who has watched the patrons of the city library come and go will deny.

The project of erecting a city library on the high school grounds seems to me unwise. The location is out of the way. It should be in the central part of the city. If it were on the high school grounds it would be overrun with noisy children, and the other people who have been in the habit of reading the papers and books would be driven away. The school children do not need the library as these others do. The children are being instructed by teachers. The other patrons are teaching themselves. Locating the library on the high school grounds and giving teachers and scholars special privileges would set it apart for a class and destroy its universality. And its democratic rules and use is its chiefest claim to favor. One building a year is doubtless all that the city of Lincoln can erect and the auditorium has been begun. If some public spirited citizens, who appreciate the commercial value of a quiet and orderly city, not to mention the other

benefits conferred by a good public library, would but add to the auditorium fund enough to erect a wing for a city library they would deserve the gratitude of posterity, though they might not receive it—so forgetful are beneficiaries.

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#### Meagre Telegraphic Reports.

In recording Admiral Dewey's arrival in New York it was stated in the State Journal of the 28th of September on the first page and top of the seventh column, counting from the left,

"New York, Sept. 27—Through frolicking white caps the Olympia moved majestically up the lower bay today and passed through the picturesque strait guarded by Forts Wadsworth and Hamilton."

A reader who had not read in The Journal of the preceding day the foregoing explicit statement of the time of the Admiral's arrival in New York would conclude, if he had no other source of information, that the Admiral arrived in the harbor on the twenty-seventh. As a matter of fact The Journal of the 27th contained an account of the arrival of the Olympia and interviews with the Admiral, though neither interviews nor descriptions were as full as in other western daily papers published in cities no more important than Lincoln.

Mr. W. O. Jones, the managing editor of The Journal, patiently explained to me the other day that it was the policy of the paper he has the honor to manage, not to print full reports of anything. He said that in his opinion newspaper readers were given too many particulars of storms, murders, arrivals of the great, etcetera, etcetera, and that he was seeking to correct the taste of the subscribers to The Journal. The Professor of Journalism in the State University said further that his ideal of a newspaper was the New York Sun and that in a modest western way, The Journal was doing the shining for Nebraska.

Those people who prefer metropolitan papers whose management has no educational aspirations for their subscribers take another daily paper wherein the news is printed and not assorted and selected for them by a professor who knows oh, so much better, what is best for them to read. Nevertheless the local news in and about Lincoln is found in detail, and in the main, with reliable accuracy in The Journal. Therefore the exigent who take a Chicago paper for unexpurgated telegraphic reports take, and will continue to take, the local paper for its record of current local events.

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#### Narrower Streets.

The streets of Lincoln are at least a third too wide. I hope City Attorney Webster's suggestion that they be narrowed before any more paving is done, will be adopted. The most disagreeable feature of this climate is the dryness and the everlasting wind which blows it all over the parlor furniture, destroys the most carefully arranged coiffures and permanently injures naturally cheerful dispositions. The expansive pioneer who laid out Lincoln, saw a city crammed with people and traffic interfering with each other and blocking business for lack of room. He was a man with a Colonel Sellers' imagination to whose opulence the tax payers and "abutting property owners" owe the tax assessments which in the last ten years have transferred so much property into the keeping of the sheriff.

There are many reasons why the streets should be narrowed before they are repaved. Most of them have

been very succinctly and forcibly stated by the city attorney and the subject is only referred to here in order to help the project along in so far as one of the papers published in Lincoln may. The abutting property owners will be much more likely to choose the smooth and less noisy asphalt if the area to be paved is reduced by one half. A street sixty or seventy feet broad between buildings only two stories high is an absurdity and an extravagance. We do not need it and when the dust blows, which is at least six months of the year, our pretensions to a state we cannot afford take revenge upon us.

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#### Nebraska's Provisional Government.

The State historical society has issued the third volume of its valuable series of documentary history of the state. In full the title of the latest book is "The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory" and the Journals of William Walker, provisional governor of Nebraska territory, edited by William E. Connelly. The book has a complete and scholarly index. It will be reviewed in these columns soon.

The work which the historical society is doing for the state in the preservation of records and the publishing of these journals is not sufficiently recognized. On the occasions when the annual meeting of the society is held, or on the appearance of a volume like the one just mentioned, its real activity and unique function become apparent.

Mr. J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, is the president of the society, Mr. Charles H. Gere is treasurer and Prof. Howard W. Caldwell is secretary. Mr. Jay A. Barrett is librarian and assistant secretary. The members and officers are scholars and lovers of learning. They are anxious to spend money and time to foster learning and to cause to be written and preserved for the use of scholars and historians, hundreds of years hence, the records of a great state in its infancy and youth. In times when every action is determined upon or rejected by the measure of gain the nobility of the devotion of the members of this society to its purposes is unobscured by many other examples of the same description.

Among the most devoted members of the society was that gentle scholar and brilliant lawyer—Judge James W. Savage of Omaha, who was its early president and an original investigator of the ethnological evidences of early explorers.

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#### The Dewey Arch.

It is most fitting that the arch which the sculptors contributed to New York city's Dewey triumph, should become a permanent structure. In bronze and marble it will remind remote generations of the time when the American idea took root in the orient. We have not yet concieved the change that democracy in the Philippines will effect in oriental custom and thought. It is not deplorable that the Tagals insist upon democracy. We are too far away to prevent them from attaining it if they want it, and there is no one in America who looks forward to an eventual Philippine subordination any more irksome than that imposed upon the citizens of any state. Democracy is something like the law of gravitation—only dangerous when defied or ignored. The Filipinos are brave men and they have proved their real appreciation of freedom by dying for it. They still have racial peculiarities which will be, at least, partially destroyed by democratic usages. There is also much that Americans can probably learn from them.

Being accustomed to dealing with Spain it is not surprising that the Filipinos should distrust America's intentions towards themselves and require a positive and specific statement before yielding. Their rebellion has convinced the Americans of their regard for freedom and the impossibility of establishing anything but a democratic form of government in the islands.