

HERE AND THERE IN OMAHA.

Omaha has at the present time an elephant of the white variety on her hands. This aforesaid animal is no less than the Greater America Exposition, called by some the Greater America Imposition, and by others the deserted village. There was a time when Omaha, stern-eyed, and full of hope, gave the te he and ha he to many predictions of failure for the undertaking. "Boycott?" well I guess no! The state could not do such a thing. The people would have to come to Omaha, and if they came to Omaha they would certainly go out to see the big show. Miss the Midway? Uh huh never! But on the q. t. there has been a wonderful change in the attitude of the metropolis and at the present time the cold clammy fact has percolated through the density of many Omahans and they now know that the people of the state can stay away and that right heartily. It has been only within the last two weeks that the iron has been driven home. Every week the managers of the exposition would say softly to themselves "Now this week the people will surely come. They have been busy cutting their grain, or they are engaged in putting away their crops," but the wheels rolled on like the tireless flow of the river and the crowds at the exposition were not of proportions sufficient to catch a hen.

The promoters then said "Well when we whoop her up hurrah for Ak-Sar-Ben, then the yokels will come in. We will hang out a fine bait of free parades and all that doncherknow and they will come." but alas and alack the people did not come to see free parades. Then it was that the members of the committee in charge took a tumble and said unto themselves, "Yes, verily the people of the state have handed us ice in great quantities. Why did we not know it is before, then would we have cut the ice into chunks and sold it, thereby making much pelf." Then it was that a man on a street car said one night, with a bitter smile on his face "The people of the state have not only boycotted the exposition but they have boycotted—ostracized Omaha as well. I verily believe if we paved the grand court of the white city with twenty dollar gold pieces, that we could not get a crowd out there."

It is actually lonesome out at the exposition this year. Where last year the millions of feet kept the pavements hot, this year there are but a few stragglers and they pass on with a weary expression and seem to feel that they have wandered into the place by mistake. Day after day a thousand or so people (a meagre number for so great a place) gather and are chased from one place to another to see the attractions. The little crowds are nursed carefully and enticed from wire walker to sham battle, from band concert to Midway with a brass band, the promoters watching with anxious eyes to see that no one gets away, for it looks so very bad to be giving a show to empty benches.

A man said one day that the exposition this year was a fine thing for people with pulls. Those who have been at the head of the thing have an opportunity to show their friends favors by presenting passes, and it is said that there are only 12,000 passes out at the present time, a great portion of them being held by Omaha; South Omaha, and Council Bluffs people. So when the people who get into the show free are all there it makes a nice crowd, but alas there is little money in it for the men behind the show.

The Ak-Sar-Ben parades were royal but they were witnessed by Omaha people almost exclusively. The Thursday night parade in honor of the coming of the king was one of the most richly beautiful pageants that was ever seen

in the west. The floats were beautiful beyond description with their multitudinous electric lights shining in multi-colored globes. Scenes from operas were given and it seemed like a procession of stages. The ball too was a great affair. The den was filled with the beauty and the chivalry of the city. There were flashing lights the sweet perfumes of every kind of flowers; the glint of jewels and the flash of bright eyes. There were gowns worth fabulous sums, sloping shoulders, fair as marble and as cold for the night was chilly and there was no way to heat the vast room. There was music such as angels might delight to dance to and everything to make a night of merriment and joyousness. The king strutted in his finery, the queen followed and there was a brilliant scene of coronation. It was a fitting close to a great week, but under the sweet music was an undercurrent of discord, and in the honey was the taste of gall. The people of the state had failed to come. The gorgeous bait had failed to catch the countryites, and gloom settled like a fog at sea over the city on the Big Muddy.

THE ROUNDUP.

**HUMBOLDT AND HIS VALET.**  
"Some Famous Men of Our Time" is the title of a chapter of reminiscences in the October Century, in which the Hon. John Bigelow presents Von Bunsen's recollections of his friend. The paper teems with anecdotes of famous people, amongst others that of universal genius Humboldt.

Von Bunsen told me that Humboldt in his latter days was completely under the influence of a rascally valet named Seiffert, and, to the disgust of his friends, bequeathed to him all his effects, of little value, it is true, for the old man left no property of any account. Even his private letters and papers went to the wretch.

The king and the queen, said Von Bunsen, were for years in the habit of sending Humboldt a present on his birthday. At length it became difficult to know what would be acceptable to the old man, whose wants were so few and tastes so simple. It was their habit to send an aide-de-camp to him a few weeks before his birthday to ascertain, if he could, the sort of gift likely to be most acceptable to him, and whatever that might be, of course, it was sent. Shortly previous to one of these anniversaries, and in reply to a similar inquiry, the royal couple got word that the philosopher would be pleased to receive a double bed. They wondered what in the world could have put it into Humboldt's head to ask for a double bed, having probably never slept in one in all his life, and having been habituated from childhood to the least luxurious sleeping arrangements imaginable. The old man died, however, before the expected birthday anniversary arrived. It then transpired that the provident valet had concluded it would be a nice thing for him and his wife to have a spick-and-span new bed with the royal arms upon it, and had taken advantage of the king's regard for Humboldt to try getting one at their Majesties' expense.

During the famous Congress at Vienna, already referred to, each of the several monarchs present was the guest of some nobleman. On one festive occasion Baron Rothschild was invited *par exception*. He modestly went to take his place, not among the more exalted guests. When they discovered Rothschild, however, they all rose, one after the other, and saluted him, except the King of Prussia. Someone asked the king why he did not salute the great European banker. "Did I not?" he replied. "Well, I suppose it was because I was the only one who did not owe him anything." This reminds one of a line in one of Pope's satires:

I never answered: I was not in debt.

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETS.]

CALENDAR OF THE CLUBS OF NEBRASKA

- October
- 7, Current Literature, Woman's club, Fremont
- 7, Business Meeting, Woman's club, Columbus
- 7, Summer Reminiscences, Hist. & Art. Seward
- 9, Hugh Capet, Crusaders, Woman's club, Minden
- 9, R. C. and Pres. address, Woman's club, Lincoln
- 9, Growth of the Amer. Press, Sorosis, Lincoln
- 10, House of Burgundy, Century club, Lincoln
- 11, Current Literature, Friends in Council, Falls City
- 11, Domestic Economy—meats, Woman's club, Exeter
- 12, Washington Irving, Meat, Cul. club, Auburn
- 15, Rec. & Pres. address, Woman's club, Lincoln
- 18, Characteristics of Victoria and Her Reign, Woman's club, Ashland
- 12, Settlement of N. Y., History department, Woman's club, Lincoln
- 15, Italy, Hall in Grove, Lincoln
- 16, Wagner and his influence, Matinee Musical, Lincoln
- 18, English writers, Milton, Dryden, Bunyan, Friends in Council, Tecumseh
- 18, Withdrawal of Romans from France and Germany, Rise of Franks, Invasion of Saracens, Woman's club, Dundee
- 18, Amer. Colonization, M. Barney club, Fullerton
- 18, The Germanic Kingdoms, Cosy club, Tecumseh

THE

Officers of the General Federation of Women's clubs:

- President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Atlanta, Ga.
- Vice President—Mr. Sarah S. Platt, Denver, Colo.
- Recording Secretary—Mrs. Emma A. Fox, Detroit, Mich.
- Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. George W. Kendrick, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Treasurer, Mrs. Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.
- Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.
- State Chairman—Mrs. Louisa L. Ricketts, Lincoln, Nebr.

Officers of the State Federation of Women's clubs:

- President—Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, Seward.
- Vice President—Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.
- Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. H. Sackett, Weeping Water.
- Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. G. McKillip, Seward.
- Treasurer—Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.
- Librarian—Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

The Street Fair, with its pleasures and fun and unbounded success, is a thing of the past. The bright fall days of Nebraska were never more glorious and with this new club year there are opportunities to do better work. Club work can, and should be better this year than it was last. The world is getting better and wiser each year. And this is especially true in club life. As long as the world moves we cannot stand still. Without our volition we go backward if we are not going forward. If we stand still the fellow ahead will soon be out of sight, while the fellow behind will pass us. Relatively—the true way to consider this life—we shall soon be way behind. Then let us as club women be swift with unselfish deeds and kindly thoughts, for we "may not pass this way again."

Are women as irresponsible as charged? Do they fail to keep engagements, and are they lacking in punctuality? If we answer the last two questions affirmatively we will ask another, viz, will club life help to correct them? Does club life tend to develop a keener sense of social responsibility in women? I think it does. The woman who joins a club and voluntarily assumes the obligations thereof, in a sense pledges herself, as a part of a certain whole, which she with others hopes to make perfect. She promises to meet so often and at such an hour. Failure to keep that appoint-

ment, or lack of punctuality for reasons amounts to discourtesy, or injustice, to the other members of the club. Now discourtesy and injustice are charges under which the club woman, or any woman will not rest comfortably. It is charged that women will accept a slight headache, the weather, the dressmaker, a caller, as a valid excuse to offer for her tardiness or absence from a meeting where the time and convenience of many others may be involved. I remember the strong impression made upon my mind once, by the chairman of a committee saying to a lady who came in ten minutes late, "Mrs. — you have wasted fifty minutes of our valuable time." Never before had I so realized that a member of any body, as a part of the whole, was responsible for the time lost by each member through her tardiness. We are indeed "our brother's keeper." The tardy or unpunctual woman must suffer personal loss of time, but that is of minor consideration when it involves delaying others who have often overcome greater difficulties, and made real sacrifices that they might not break their engagement. Inevitably club life must tend to correct these faults, because the general responsibility placed upon each member tends to discourage careless forgetfulness of the rights and feelings of others, and to correct caprice and irresponsibility. There is a growing sentiment that club meetings should begin on time. Let the president open the meeting on time if there are two members present. Perhaps if we restricted the quorum clause in our by-laws to business sessions, the moral obligations would be strong enough to bring out a prompt attendance.

The natural tendency of club life is to combine work and study. There is a general recognition that they are equally valuable, and the short history of women's clubs demonstrates that very often the clubs that take most active interest in educational or philanthropic work, are those which carry on a thorough and systematic course of study. In the larger cities our women's clubs are surrounded by conditions which naturally enlist the sympathies and energies of philanthropic women. And let it be said to the credit of women's clubs in these large centers that they are making every possible effort to ameliorate the condition of the poor and unfortunate. Active interest in educational matters has become universal with club women.

It is expected that the new finance committee of the state federation, Mrs. Doane of Crete, and Mrs. Lambertson of Lincoln, will have some definite plan to present at the coming annual meeting to increase the income so that it will meet the expenses of federation.

The Fifth Annual meeting of the N. F. W. C. will be held at York in the second week of October. The railroads have granted one and one third rates on the certificate plan—if one hundred or more are presented. The ladies of York supply rooms in private residences while rates have been secured at hotels and boarding houses. The following program must commend itself to the club women of Nebraska and we bespeak for this annual meeting a large attendance:

PROGRAM.

- Tuesday, October 10.
- 2 p. m.—Meeting of the executive board
- 3 p. m.—Meeting of board of directors.
- 8 p. m.—Reception of delegates and friends.
- Wednesday, October
- 9 p. m.—Invocation, Mrs.
- Address of Welcome, Mr.