

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1899.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

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Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

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## OBSERVATIONS.

### Snubs Nebraska.

Mr. Bryan is frequently called the most distinguished citizen of Nebraska. There is little question but that he is. In the most illiterate and remote hamlets in the Tennessee mountains, in the isolated ranches of Wyoming and Dakota, in darkest Texas where the wild hog roams, Mr. Bryan's features, and the dogma of sixteen to one that goes with them are well known. No people so remote or so ignorant of the slang of the moment as not to know what sixteen to one means, who said it, and that he lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Among the people who are as familiar with William Jennings Bryan's face as they are with P. T. Barnum's, there are thousands and thousands who look upon him with absolute faith and offer him hero worship. When in his widening circuit he stops at a humble rural station, the folk look upon him as One Sent. I have seen him in a crowd of rustics who reached out their hands to touch his coat as he passed. There are unsophisticated people who believe that if Mr. Bryan were president all the troublesome conditions of life, the penalty we pay for living would be remitted. What Moses failed to do they believe Mr. Bryan can accomplish. Then when he is president, they will not have to get up and follow him but remain in their homes and keep the fire burning under the fleshpots while their environment slowly changes into a land flowing with milk and honey, under a Bryan administration. These simple-hearted folk would not admit their cred-

dulity. But to judge by their expression, while he is addressing them, they set no narrower limits to his miraculous performance than his own promises.

But in all the time Mr. Bryan has been speaking, in the campaign of '93 and in the one he has made, and is making preparatory to the campaign of 1900, in no speech that I have heard or read has there ever been a good word for Nebraska. Ranking among the very first of the agricultural states, Mr. Bryan has never found it expedient to refer to Nebraska's record in corn wheat oats, cattle, horses and hogs. He entirely ignores the fact that his constituents, the faithful Nebraska farmers have brought the state to first grade as a corn-producing country.

For thirty years the prairies have been ploughed. The dry, baked soil, after the second year's tillage, has yielded a hundred fold to the thrifty farmer whose spade's first blow cut the prairie sod into blocks for a home. The sons of these men have been graduated from the university, and the sod house was long ago taken for a potato or beet depot. Mr. Bryan would never have come to the state had it not been for the brave efforts and success of these pioneers. They are the state for they reclaimed it from the desert.

To raise a crop of nearly 300,000,000 bushels of corn places Nebraska only second in producing capacity to Kansas which has a larger acreage under cultivation. The oats, wheat, hogs, cattle and horses that will be exported from Nebraska this year, leaving an abundance for our own consumption and use, is surely worth a mention by the man whom the farmers have voted for and are almost ready to follow out of a land he despises so. Setting the plow deep and holding it steady back and forth over their fields for a matter of thirty years, the farmers themselves do not consider an heroic deed. But the wealth they have made has brought Nebraska out of the desert and placed it in the first rank of states. With their hands, their brown, hard hands, aided by a faithful team of mules, the farmers of Nebraska have worked out their own salvation. Their achievement because it is unheralded and because so many have joined in the march over the ploughed fields, has not seemed to Mr. Bryan worth even a passing tribute in the most inconsiderable of the many speeches he has made. Considering that his first political recognition occurred in Nebraska and that he appealed especially to farmers for sympathy and ratification of his own ideas about his mission, Mr. Bryan's failure to recognize their long struggle and their tremendous aggregate success is an appalling commentary on his real indifference to the prosperity of Nebraska.

It is all very well to say that if he were president money would be

plenty, the rich would not be allowed to longer oppress the poor, that trusts would be vanquished as dragons were by St. George, and that the poor of Nebraska would no longer be required to support the rich eastern manufacturer by paying a heavy tariff. Mr. Bryan has had an unique opportunity to stand up for Nebraska, and he has not availed himself of it. No other Nebraskan has spoken to so many people in so many places. No other Nebraskan has ever been nominated for president. No other Nebraskan has been able to convince so many people first that they were in bondage and second that he could lead them out of it. In short and in fact no other Nebraskan has had so large an opportunity to say a good word of the state that deserves so much from him and no other Nebraska public man has so ignored the state and its natural and acquired advantages. In the presidential chair Mr. Bryan's obligations to Nebraska might occur to him and he might do something for the state, but it is not likely. He has had five years of miraculous opportunity and he has never improved it, when all that was required of him was to say a good word for the most distinguished state in the union for men and corn. As president, Nebraska would ask more than words of him and the man who has not been faithful in little things has a biblical reputation and destination which none of us have had any influence in making or adjudging.

Even President McKinley who comes from Ohio and who does not owe Nebraska anything in particular, not even a presidential vote, in his late speech at Pittsburg, praised the First Nebraska and accorded to it the highest honors of the Philippine campaign; and the audience composed of the Pennsylvania volunteers and their friends rose to their feet, threw their caps in the air and cheered for Nebraska, because of the men whom she sent to the war and for the way they fought and died.

Mr Bryan has a happy faculty of finding subjects that set people cheering and yelling so that people in the adjoining township think it is all for Bryan. Next time he is preparing for a stupendous effort I hope Mr. Bryan may conclude to try Nebraska as a war cry. It is a word that has set men to cheering and women to crying this last year. It means hundreds of miles of corn, cattle on a thousand hills, wheat for the millions, an energy unmeasured and undeveloped, a people spirited, intelligent and high bred and institutions of learning which are attracting hundreds of students from other states. Let Mr. Bryan try Nebraska as a cheer-word and so sure as her supremacy is attained the spell will work.

By the men who broke the prairie,  
By the lads who leapt the trenches,  
By brave Stotsenburg's last charge  
Nebraska fires the heart and those who  
speak it wave a flag.

### An Embarrassing Witness.

The lofty pretensions which all parties make to a disinterested love of service to the republic for its own sake is demagogical and inevitably places, at times, both parties, and at other times prominent members of them in equivocal positions. The Hon. J Sterling Morton, in The Conservative, charged Mr. Bryan with saying, when he wished to be appointed secretary of the railroad commission that he wished the position, not for the honor but for the money there was in it. Mr. Bryan denied that he ever made so shocking a statement. In this week's conservative Mr. Morton prints the letter he received from Mr. Bryan in relation to the position and it contains the admission Mr. Bryan denies having made.

When Mr. Bryan came to Nebraska he was a poor man. His legal practice not being any larger than the ordinary young lawyer's practice, and possessing unusual gifts of oratory, it was natural he should turn to politics for an income. No sincere mind can censure him for confessing that his need of money was more pressing than a desire for honor. The lack of sincerity in denying the statement and its contrast with Mr. Bryan's lofty claims to a Mosiac love for the people entirely unrelated to any plans for his own distinction, is sufficient reason for the publication of the facsimile.

### Newspaper English.

"Yesterday the other horse of the team was got track of out near Waverly." "It was Salsbury's horse all right." "The sheriff says the gang has dozens of horses stolen from various points out at pasture with innocent farmers in different parts of the state." "A pleasant time was had" at the party given by Mrs. Dr. Twitchem. Among those present was Mrs. Colonel Oats, son and daughter and Otis brothers, Mr. Brown and wife, Jack Daw and sister, Miss Smart and father." "I trust you will give this matter prominence in your paper, as I think it is very unfair to me for you to have made the statement as you did." "The man don't know anything about it." These examples of newspaper English are selected from a casual examination of the larger daily Nebraska papers. I believe the eastern papers do not employ reporters, however talented in finding news and reporting it accurately who are unable to record their discoveries in more correct English.

There are exceptions, I have heard of, where the managing editor has found a man with a keen nose for news, and a continuous inspiration which enables him to pick out its most readable and interesting phase, a man who turns in more copy and better (from the stand-point of newsworthiness) than any other two men on the paper. Such a find is rare and is not to be lightly valued because the man uses a patois the reading of which in the newspapers may confuse the