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OBSERVATIONS.

His Encyclical.

Some years since Mr. Bryan inaugurated the practice of writing a letter immediately succeeding the November election informing the people where he was at. The first of these epistles was addressed "To the Friends" and was issued November 9, 1894, after he learned that the legislature would be republican and that his hope of being elected a senator from Nebraska had vanished. In that communication he vigorously advocated fusion in Nebraska as the only possible means of defeating the Republican party. He notified the public and warned the legal fraternity that he should resume the practice of law after the fourth of the succeeding March. He never resumed.

On the 6th of November, 1896, after his defeat for the presidency he issued his second manifesto which he addressed "To the Bimetallists of the United States". In his first letter he remarked upon the faithfulness of the "common people" to him. In his second he changed the language by advertising to the "plain people" who had expressed by their action their affection for him. He said that before the year 1900 arrived "the evil effects of a gold standard will be even more evident than they now are and the people, then ready to demand an American financial policy for the American people, will join with us in the immediate restoration of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation."

November has come again and with it not only an election but an encyclical from Candidate Bryan addressed to nobody in particular. In it he makes no mention of fusion. He fails to thank the democrats, populists, and silverites for uniting upon one set of candidates. He writes not a word about gold or silver. He neither mentions the "common people" or the "plain people." He attempts in a halting way to obtain comfort from the election returns in different states but it is easily read between the lines that the result is most unsatisfactory to him.

What man is this who assumes to address the public through the medium of signed communications published in the journals of the day? Simply a common candidate for office. He was a successful candidate in '90 and '92; an unsuccessful candidate in '94 and '96. He is a waiting candidate now and if he lives he will next year be the candidate of the Democratic party. He denounces trusts and yet during his two terms in Congress he introduced no measure which tended to restrict such combinations nor did he demand the enforcement of the existing anti trust law. He can point to no measure that he ever advocated, to no act that he ever performed which to any extent or to any degree tended to ameliorate the condition of human kind. Certainly the people of Nebraska are allured by sounding brass and clanging cymbals.

Women and Their Critics.

Cynical magazine authors are unusually active lately in recording their objections to the business woman. They asseverate that woman was designed to bear and to rear children, which no one denies, and that all women who are not mothers are a nuisance and an error, which every one denies who has studied the proportion of the male population to the female, in many parts of this country, (in Massachusetts, for example). There are, of course, other valid excuses which the race will accept, even if the obdurate book critic cannot see the reason for the discrepancy between Miss Wiggin's income and his own. The competition of women as writers has stimulated the magazine essayists and a few editors to conclude, and to advertise their conclusion, that the modern woman is aggressively and impatiently seeking to drive out man from the professions because of her vanity and love of notoriety.

The spitefullest and most illogical treatment of this subject, that I have seen, was written by Mr. Harry Thurston Peck, and appeared in The Cosmopolitan. Mr. Peck is not an author, he is not a business man. He is professional adviser and critic of the same class as, but of a trifle finer quality than the loungers who occupy all day long the corner of O and Twelfth and Q and Tenth streets, and who, if you have never studied logic and have no instinctive appreciation of its laws, can prove that the world, and especially Lincoln, is going to the bow wows

Mr. Peck writes book criticisms and discourses on various subjects. Women do not find his essays on "What to Think, and How to Think It" especially edifying and as the magazine readers are mostly women Mr. Peck's product has not a high market value. Being one of that numerous class, overconfident of the excellence of its own performance and extremely doubtful of the usefulness of or demand for the product of other workers, Mr. Peck's opinion of the vice of employing women to do even a part of the work men have done, arises from a direct comparison of the market value of his own work with that of Miss Wiggin's, or with George Egbert Craddock's, or with Mrs. Peattie's or with that of any other of the many deservedly famous women writers of this country. The bitterness of Mr. Peck's remarks about the inferior female intellect is a confession of his discontent, not with the quality of his own work but of his contempt of a public which fails to appreciate his work and keeps him on the edge of the magazine, where he can see what literary fame and reward is without ever being able to be one of the company with whom he claims to be so familiar.

The Election.

The republicans expected to elect Judge Reese to the office of supreme judge, because he is an able, learned jurist who has shown by a life of probity and the successful practice of law that he would make a good judge. Republicans know now that it was a mistake to try to prove by his election that Nebraska approves of the war in the Philippines or that Bryan was a poor officer and very unpopular in Nebraska. As between Judge Reese and Mr. Holcomb it is childishly easy to select the one most fitted for the responsibilities of a judge, but when it became necessary to make a choice between Judge Reese on the one side and Mr. Bryan and Mr. Holcomb on the other even conscientious populists allowed themselves to be over persuaded.

Training and Profanity.

Last week one of the ministers of this city, fond of athletics, was watching the game of football between the Omaha and Lincoln high school teams. He was driven away from the seats he had selected by the profanity of the young men decorated with purple and white ribbons. Before leaving, he pleasantly tried to check the oaths proceeding from the disappointed youths, but only with the effect of directing their curses to himself. The boys happened to wear Omaha high school colors and they were in bad humor because their team was losing. If the positions and fortune of the two teams had been reversed, it were idle, in the light of experience, to hope that the Lincoln boys would show any better breeding.

Coaches and doctors of physical culture or curators of gymnasiums (I

do not know their title) have lately undertaken a crusade against profanity. Their objections to the practice are not based on morality or etiquette but strictly upon the effect which swearing has upon sight and judgment. All prize-fighters know that a man who gets mad when he is struck by his opponent is blinded. The little blood vessels which supply nourishment to the eyes become blood-shot or blood-clogged, and the figure of the opponent is blurred. Even pugs, who have cultivated profanity as an ornamental addition to their limited vocabulary and not exclusively as an expression of rage, do not swear while "at work" unless they get angry. When rage conquers the pug the referee's decision awarding the fight to the other one is certain to follow. Investigation of this subject by competent coaches and trainers has resulted in excluding profanity from the training table and from the life of competitive teams. Swearing is only the sign of rage or rather the sign of the encouragement of rage, and to the cool headed belong all athletic prizes.

The horrible examples referred to in the anecdote of the first paragraph were not members of the team whose defeat exasperated them. They may not have been students of the high school whose colors they disgraced, for anyone, at such a time, may wear the colors of the team they hope will win. At any rate they were not sportsmanlike and they showed a contempt for the presence of ladies and gentlemen which under a stricter police system would have been followed by expulsion from the grounds.

Profanity like the billingsgate of the fish wives is the ultimate expression of the essentially vulgar and undisciplined. Self control will eventually conquer the outside world, for we fight ourselves at too close range, and the victory over one's self is the sharpest and rarest, but once fought and won the rest is easy.

Clubs.

Mrs Langworthy, the president last year of the Nebraska State Federation of Women's clubs, expressed fully in the address she made to the federation the animating motive of club life and club work. Although woman is sentimental and emotional and, at times, given to the intemperate use of poetical nomenclature, the spirit of altruism has at once, more expression and rules more uninterruptedly in women's clubs than in any other human organization I know of except the church. Kindness, forbearance, the eagerness to bear one another's burdens, to give confidence to the timid, and to impart the strength of all to one, and together to make the world better is the real secret of women's clubs. This spirit has nowhere been more emphatically expressed than in Mrs. Langworthy's address printed in last week's Courier. Over and over again at the state meetings and at the general federation meet-