

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1899.



ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

THE COURIER,
Official Organ of the Nebraska State
Federation of Women's Clubs.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

—BY—
THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO
Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS. Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

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

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unless accompanied by return postage. Communications, to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.

OBSERVATIONS.

Senator Monroe L. Hayward.

One of the distinguished group of men who came to Nebraska between 1860 and 1871, Senator Hayward's life and character has contributed not inconsiderably to the reputation of the state. All his life interested in politics, and occupying an influential place in affairs of state his politics have been those of a patriotic and intelligent citizen. He was vitally interested in the country as a Union and in Nebraska, his own state. He never resorted to those tricks of politicians the use of which is excused by the plea that other people experiment with them. Nobody ever suggested to him to trade off his party to get a place for himself. Men and women who had only a slight acquaintance with him regarded him with affection. He had a warm, faithful, loving heart and the state sorrows with his family because he is no more.

There is little doubt that the senatorial election in last winter's legislature is the cause of his death. A daily ballot for two months would try the temper and the health of a young athlete and Senator Hayward had passed the meridian of life. It is not alone the daily ballot but the plotting, the cabals and the unnumbered coups of a legislative election which follow and precede the balloting, that makes such an experience fatal to men grown old in the wisdom fit for senators.

In the crisis of last winter after the republican caucus had finally decided upon Mr. Hayward the Thompson

forces proposed to deliver their party to the populists if they would elect Mr. Thompson. It was while waiting for the assembling of the joint session that, at last the cord, stretched taut so long, snapped, and Senator Hayward's days were numbered.

If constitutional reforms were induced by history this example of the fatal effect of a legislative struggle upon even the successful candidate and of the ease with which eight or ten men can defeat the wishes of the people, would be valuable. But it has happened before and will happen again until the people at large elect United States senators.

Throughout the struggle Senator Hayward showed no bitterness. No young man could have passed through so strenuous a struggle and kept the even tenor of his way, kept the stream sweet and un sullied. The sympathy felt for his family throughout the state is genuine. In addition to the loss of a good man and a pioneer the republican party loses a senator as, of course Governor Poyntor will appoint a member of his own party to take Senator Hayward's place. Ethically as a republican senator was elected and has died a republican should be appointed to take his place, but such transcendental politics is still unheard of in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

Spare the Trees!

The plea for pine and fir trees made by Mr. J. Sterling Morton in The Conservative deserves consideration. In every city in the country in the fortnight before Christmas trees are piled up before the shops so that the crowd is forced onto a few feet of sidewalk next the street or struggles between an aisle of rootless young trees intended for the houses and ships of the next generation. The fragrant fir hung with presents, glittering with lights, and surrounded by the beautiful, happy faces of children is a pleasant sight. But it costs the life of a tree and we cannot afford it. The destruction of the trees means a decreased rainfall and the increase of the unfruitful arid area.

More than to anyone else Nebraska owes the present vigorous timber growth in Nebraska to Mr. J. Sterling Morton. Twenty-five years ago he was like one who had received a message which he must deliver. The impulse has not failed and he is still preaching the gospel of trees and the penalties of their destruction. He is now exhorting the country to spare the trees for the sake of those who will need them for houses, whose souls will need the medicine of the forest, whose crops will perish for the rain that falls not, for their sakes whose bones will ache under the midday sun when ours are crumbled into dust.

Children will be happy anyway at Christmas time. They are not exacting and they are quicker than grown people to realize the presence and the expression of love. Tree or

no tree the mysteries, the gifts, and the joy of Christmas are theirs. The children will not miss the trees so much as the grown people who are accustomed to the Christmas symbol of the tree. Anyway the trees would not be cut down if it were not for the grown up people.

Professionalism.

The endeavors of the athletic board of the state university to make it impossible for a professional football player to remain a member of the football team in the university should receive the commendation and support of everybody who realizes the value of clean athletics. In the older colleges of this country, the blighting effects of professionalism do not require analysis. The epidemic has raged there and consumed honor and all good effects of athletics. The older colleges are on their way to recovery as the reward of unrelenting vigilance and sanitary destruction of the microbe, professionalism.

If professionalism has been discouraged in the university it is a far greater cause for rejoicing than any number of trumpety pennants. In the newness and inexperience of the west professionalism has flourished and has fastened a reproach upon college sports not easily stricken off. If the university athletic board have resorted to heroic measures the conditions justified such action and the purification justifies itself if the university team never win another game. It is better to have no sport at all, if it must be secured by hiring players. And victory under such circumstances is the worst defeat. Even the Lincoln high-school team was disciplined by the league for allowing a man to play who had coached the Hastings high-school team for money. Young Elliot, against whom the charge is preferred, was a paid coach of a foot-ball team and is thus disqualified for membership in amateur teams. He is and has been a regular student at the Lincoln high-school now, but in consideration of this professional incident in his past, the decision of the board awarding the pennant to Omaha is unquestionably sound and in the interests of fair play and good sport.

Caspar Whitney, and other distinguished writers on sports, have maintained from the first, in spite of angry protests from the west, that western college athletes could not be considered from a sportsmanly standpoint because the colleges employed players and did not exclude every player from the college athletic field who was not an undergraduate in the regular academic course or who had sold or exhibited for money his agility, strength, and skill.

At first sight these disabilities seem innocent enough, but their sufferance involves deceit, cheating, encourages gambling, jockeying, and everything else which has made horseracing and baseball ignoble and debasing sports.

The vast audiences which gather to witness the foot-ball and other athletic contests every year do not appear at any professional show however skillful the contestants may be. People are interested in realities and the genuineness of a trial of skill between hired performers is so questionable that real sportsmen would rather play croquet themselves than form a part of an audience of gulls. Consequently unless football can be freed and kept free from professionalism it has started on the same career that has brought baseball to its low estate. No temporary reputation which either the Lincoln high-school or the Nebraska state university can secure through a loose interpretation of the rules is really worth while.

The Mormons.

In Utah, more than in other states of the Union, woman is man's inferior. In investigating polygamy Miss Helen Gould was surprised to find that the Mormon women meekly submitted to the rigors of the religion. Such submission is only partly explained by the facts that women are more religious than men, and that the Mormon religion teaches the wife that unless her husband approves of her she cannot inherit immortality but her soul crumbles to dust with the body. The Mormon women are ignorant. As polygamy is a survival, so those who accept it as a part of their religion must be crude and undeveloped. The civilization of the nineteenth century, that the college boy talks about, has not effected ever so slightly the polygamous Mormon. He or she is still living in the time of Abraham. The centuries came and went leaving their ancestors still browsing with the flocks of the children of Israel. No logic can reach them for they live in tents and ethics that are too complicated for the nomad do not appeal to them. The stupendous assertions of their religion, once accepted, reconcile everything. A miracle will explain anything and miracles are spattered all over the pages of the books of Mormon. The clever impostor who wrote the books, buried, and found them was a man, and it is but natural that he should have selected an expedient for the rapid growth of his sect and for the increasing supremacy of his own sex. Too ignorant to be reasoned with, too superstitious to use the weapons of suffrage the Mormon women are not especially to be pitied. Occasionally there is one who realizes the weight of the chains she is bound with and sometimes such an one escapes. As a whole the faces of the women seen on the streets of Salt Lake city or in the temple are not unhappy, only apathetic and heavy.

As for the spread of Mormon doctrine it is so preposterous so monstrous a collection of fables it is not easy to believe that it is dangerous or that it will make many converts. It is recruited from the illiterate peasantry of Europe. Those Mormons which a