

wharf to write up a whaleback, and "Blix" went along, and an old sailor told them a story and "Blix" recognized the literary possibilities of it, and they had lunch in a Chinese restaurant, and "Landy" because he was a newspaper man and it was the end of the week, didn't have any change about his clothes, and "Blix" had to pay the bill. And it was in that green old tea house that "Landy" read "Blix" one of his favorite yarns by Kipling, and she in a calm, off-handed way, recognized one of the fine technical points in it, and "Landy" almost went to pieces for joy of her doing it. That scene in the Chinese restaurant is one of the prettiest bits of color you'll find to rest your eyes upon, and mighty good writing it is. I wonder, though if when Mr. Norris adroitly mentioned the "clack and snarl" of the banjo "Landy" played, he remembered the "silver snarling trumpets" of Keats? After that, things went on as such things will, and "Blix" quit the society racket and went to queer places with "Landy," and got interested in his work, and she broke him of wearing red neckties and playing poker, and she made him work, she did, for she grew to realize how much that meant to him, and she jacked him up when he didn't work, and she suggested an ending for one of his stories that was better than his own; just this big, splendid girl, who had never gone to college to learn how to write novels. And so how, in the name of goodness, could he help loving her? So one morning down by the Pacific, with "Blix" and "The Seven Seas," it all came over "Landy," that "living was better than reading and life was better than literature." And so it is; once, and only once, for each of us; and that is the tune that sings and sings through one's head when one puts the book away.

**IDLE HANDS AND SILENT TONGUE.**

Why art thy hands thus idle?  
Why art thou silent, pray?  
When on every hand, in every land,  
here, there, and far away.  
Thou seest the work that is yet undone,  
awaiting a faithful touch,  
And on every air is borne the prayer,  
of hearts that need so much.  
Hearts that are bruised and bleeding,  
that mourn the vacant place,  
That long in vain for the sight again  
of a dear familiar face.  
Shall it not be thine to find those fields,  
and thine to break the soil,  
To plant and sow, that flowers may grow,  
and fruit may follow toil?  
Might thy tongue not find a message,  
that, softly being borne  
Would soothe to rest each aching breast,  
with sorrow overworn?  
Not always have I stood thus apart  
from earth's unceasing round,  
With sighs for life and its restless strife,  
but lips that brea'he no sound  
With strong hands resting idle,  
while weaker ones than mine  
Lose grace and youth, that love and truth  
in the vales of life may shine.  
I have grieved when sorrow  
entered homes, a strange, unwelcome guest.  
My hands have wrought and my lips  
have sought to calm each troubled breast  
But now, O, let me linger behind  
the eager throng,  
For that Guest has come to my silent  
home, and I have no valiant song.  
I think of the hands that loved their work,  
of the voice that sang for me  
And I wonder then if I'll know them  
when I cross the tideless seal  
"It's O, for the touch of a vanished hand,  
the sound of a voice that is still."  
And unburied lie the hopes that die  
like blossoms 'neath winter's chill

**CLUBS.**

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

**CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA CLUBS.**

- January.
- 13. Pansy c., Lowell--Helen Hunt
  - 13. Jackson.....Tecumseh
  - 13. Woman's c., Child Study.....North Bend
  - 13. Review and Art c., Raphael.....York
  - 13. History and Art c., The Saxon Rulers.....Seward
  - 13. Fin de Siecle c., Early American Drama, Familiar American Songs.....Seward
  - 13. Woman's c., House of Hanover--English View of American Revolution.....Syracuse
  - 13. Woman's c., Charlemagne.....Dundee
  - 13. Woman's c., English History.....Stromsburg
  - 15. Woman's c., Literature.....Omaha
  - 15. Woman's c., Parliamentary Practice, Omaha
  - 15. Matinee Musical Music for Children, Old and Young.....Lincoln
  - 15. Sorosis, King John, Acts I. and II.....Stanton
  - 15. Woman's c., Political and Social Science.....Omaha
  - 16. History and Art c., Civil and Religious Liberty.....Albion
  - 16. Woman's c., Current Events.....Omaha
  - 16. Woman's c., German History.....Omaha
  - 16. Woman's c., Ethics and philosophy.....Omaha
  - 16. Woman's c., French Conversation.....Omaha
  - 16. Woman's c., Whittier.....Stanton
  - 16. Century c., Amsterdam, Rotterdam.....Lincoln
  - 17. Woman's c., Oratory.....Omaha
  - 17. Mary Barnes Literary c., Miscellaneous Program.....Fullerton
  - 18. Woman's c., Art.....Omaha
  - 18. Woman's c., History Department.....Lincoln
  - 19. Woman's c., American and English Humourists Compared.....Plattsmouth
  - 19. Hall in the Grove, Capri, Pompeii.....Lincoln
  - 20. Woman's c., Child Study.....Lincoln
  - 20. XIX Century c., Painting in Germany.....Seward
  - 20. Fin de Siecle c., William Cullen Bryant.....Seward
  - 20. Woman's c., Household Economics.....North Bend
  - 20. History and Art c., Art and Literature During the Saxon Dynasty.....Seward

**OFFICERS OF N. F. W. C., 1899 & 1900.**

- Pres. Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.
- V. P., Mrs. Ida W. Blair, Wayne.
- Cor. Sec., Mrs. Virginia D. Araup, Tecumseh.
- Rec. Sec., Miss Mary Hill, York.
- Treas., Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.
- Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.
- Auditor, Mrs. E. J. Hainer, Aurora.

To the club women of Nebraska: At the beginning of a new year, realizing the value of organized effort, if anything is to be accomplished, we earnestly urge those clubs which have no department devoted to child study to appoint at once a committee on education, that the schools in its vicinity may be visited regularly, the patrons' meetings may be arranged for, that some form of child study may be pursued, that the growth of school libraries may be fostered and encouraged and that every opportunity may be improved to emphasize the fact that the interests of the club, home and school are closely allied. All federated clubs are requested to send a report of what has been done in these matters to the chairman of the state educational committee at the end of the club year—in May or June—that these reports may be summarized for the annual meeting of the state federation in October.

JULIA HASKELL,  
Chairman Educational Committee.

If The Courier is to be the defacto organ of the clubs of Nebraska, then it should be made the medium of exchange of all communication which the officers and the chairmen of standing committees wish to have reach the club women of the state. Mrs. Hall announced to the clubs desiring the course of art study that they could secure it only through the columns of The Courier, with the result that clubs wishing to take that course send in their subscriptions for the paper. Miss Haskell, chairman of the educational committee, sends in her official announcement, thus saving the expense and trouble of circular letters. There were several other unusually strong committees appointed at the last executive board meeting,

and we ask that as soon as their plans are formulated that they will announce them to the clubs through the columns of the official organ. I know that the bondage of habit is strong. In the past the president and chairmen of committees have been obliged to send out personal notification to each club; but now you have a medium—a servant—to do this work for you. Is the force of habit so strong that you must do your own cooking after you have a duly established cook in the kitchen? Every new club that is organized, every new departure in work, every plan of study developed by the household economics or any other committee should first reach the club women of Nebraska through their official organ, else the name is sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. One paper to a club means one glass of water for ever twelve or fifteen persons; how much refreshment do you think they can get individually? Then again, are the club women of Nebraska so poor that they cannot afford to pay less than two cents a week for the club paper which comes to their homes every week, filled with news and reports of what their sister club women are doing throughout the state? Several club women have written me how eagerly they watch for its appearance each Saturday evening, but the support it now receives would not warrant its continuance on business principles. Every club woman in Nebraska should have it, or if that is too expensive, every three or four should club together, that they may feel a personal touch of interest in this work. All report and announcements should be made through its columns. You cannot make a club paper without the support of the club women any more than you can make "bricks without straw."

One of the most important events of the closing years of this century is the organization of the colored women of the United States into an organization similar to the National Federation of Women's Clubs, under the following pledge: "We, the colored women of America stand before the country today a united sisterhood pledged to promote the welfare of our race along all the lines that tend to its development and advancement." It may be that the conviction that a union of forces in their own ranks would be a great power came to many colored women simultaneously, but the three who gave it voice were Mrs. McCoy of Michigan, Mrs. Cook of Illinois and Mrs. Ruffin of Massachusetts. By agreement these women met in Washington in 1892 to confer upon the subject of organization among colored women. As a result they sent circulars broadcast among the colored women of the United States, urging co-operation, resulting in the formation of many leagues. The first convention of these was called to meet in Boston, July, 1895, resulting in the organization of the National Federation of the Afro-American Women, with Mrs. Booker T. Washington as president. A year later this association united with the national league of colored women and was christened the N. A. C. W., with Mrs. Terrill of Washington as president. At the first annual convention, which was held at Nashville, September, 1897, they had a membership of ten thousand. They then decided to hold their conventions biennially. The first biennial meeting was held in Chicago last August and was a marvel to all interested enough to inform themselves in regard to it. There were one hundred and forty-five delegates, representing some thirty thousand colored women organized for the one purpose—to uplift their race. The topics discussed were of an intensely practical character. These women were not there promoting hobbies or theories, but were planning exactly how the un-

fortunate of their race might be better fed, better clothed, better educated, realizing that the hope of their race lies in their children. Their motto is "Lifting as we Climb," and if "the Lord helps him who helps himself," these colored club women have a strong helper.

The following extract from a letter from Miss Haskell, chairman of the educational committee, will be of interest to others who are debating in their minds the same question: "I have been considering the question of reorganization from all sides, and now stand unequivocally against reorganization in representation. Reorganization is a big word to use in this connection, and an unfortunate one as well. It is unparalleled in the history of organizations to acknowledge weakness in strength, to reason that because an organization is large it is therefore unwieldy, and can only be accounted for by supposing that some of our club sisters have lost their bearings by the unprecedented growth of the club movement."

The social evening held January 1st by the Fairbury club proved very enjoyable. The evening was spent in chat with the ladies and gentlemen who called, and in guessing the answers to some twenty guesses that were pinned to the walls. The answers were the names of well known plays.

Tuesday, January 3d, the home department of the woman's club of Fairbury held a very interesting meeting. Roll call was responded to by some favorite recipe. The paper of the afternoon, "Domestic Science, Old and New," was by Mrs. Steele. She began by telling of the early homes in the country's history, of the industries that were carried on in those homes; compared the early ideas of household science with those of the present time, and urged

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