

For only nine per cent of the children who enter the lower grades are graduated from the high school. If the other ninety per cent leave the schools without having learned the rules of the medium of communication between themselves and the inhabitants of this part of the world, there will be yet more confusion in the transaction of business and in the messages delivered and received. When in doubt about the wording of a letter to the woman he loves, and miles away from a grammar the soldier, the plainsman, the miner, the sailor, graduated from the Lincoln grades will hereafter have no principles imbedded or stored for use at need. Ambiguity, the stumbling block of the illiterate, may obscure the meaning of the message this unfortunate product of our system wishes to send. Or the woman he writes to, being perhaps educated elsewhere, may have learned a respect for the English language and be therefore unwilling to unite herself for life to one who continually breaks its laws. This ninety one per cent is entitled to the best teachers and the cream of available knowledge. Their fathers support the schools. This is a case where the majority should rule, but on the contrary, for the small minority which attends the high school the grades have always been sacrificed. A few students of the principles of a republic have begun to object to the sacrifice. Their protests may be successful enough in time to warrant the placing of the best teachers with the highest salaries in the grades. When that time arrives the little pupils may be taught English undefiled by a teacher who has been inspired by the glories of literature and who is able to communicate her enthusiasm to hundreds of children whose understanding will there-after respond to the masters of literature. Such teachers are very rare, unfortunately for all of us who have been to school or must still go. There is no examination which can detect them, but when found they should be noted and placed where they can do the most good.

From a Republican Standpoint.

The republican central committee met in Lincoln this week to make arrangements for the meeting of the republican state convention on the Second of May. The situation is a serious one. There is but one course for the republican party to pursue, and every conscientious and disinterested republican knows it. First as to the kind of man who should receive nomination for governor. He should be a man of spotless reputation, and a man who has not been a failure in his own business. Secondly a man's desire for the office can not be considered at all. The state convention should select a man who can carry this state against the populists, whose repeatedly demonstrated strength indicates that only the strongest and the most irreproachable republican candidate has any chance of election. Thirdly, as Nebraska is an agricultural state, a farmer, should receive the nomination. A critical and unprejudiced view of the situation will suggest to any discriminating politician that only a farmer can secure a majority of the votes for governor. Lastly, the nominee must be a republican without, not merely the stain of heresy, but without the suspicion of heresy. The republicans in the November election will need all the republican votes there are in the state. To secure them the state convention will have to exhibit a fastidiousness, it

has rarely shown. No Bills, nor Toms, no man who has wavered in his allegiance, to the party that nominates him can be elected. He may be nominated and defeated, as Toms and heretical republicans have been nominated and defeated before.

It is very doubtful if a republican legislature can be elected. Two United States senators are to be chosen. If the republican candidates are handicapped by the suspicion of a pledge to the most corrupt of politicians, the populists can elect almost any one. The observations in regard to the only sort of governor the republicans can elect apply with the same force to the legislators and to all the state officers. Only republicans of exceptional ability, and unquestionable identification with the republican party can be elected. The convention should exclude every one from consideration who has not fought the battles of the republicans, who has not represented the party in conventions, and whose counsel has not been proved wise. Not for a fraction of a moment should any candidate for any office be considered who has even been charged with an attempt to secure an office by promises, either written or verbal, to support the principles or measures of the populists or any combination of parties opposed to the republican party. The republican party can stand defeat, but it cannot and it never will make a standard bearer of any man whose desire for office was so irresistible that it induced him to go into a combination with the fusionists when defeated by republican votes. A man who agrees to deny every principle of the party from whom he has been seeking an election, in consideration of receiving the office from the hands of the opposite party is not the man who should ever again receive favors from the republican party.

The Library.

851 TREMONT BUILDING,
BOSTON, MASS., February 3, 1900.

Editor Courier:

I have just read in The Courier of last week, with a great deal of interest, some "observations" on "The Library Site" and am delighted with the idea. It seems to me that it must commend itself to the good sense of the library board and to the citizens generally, and I hope it may be adopted, for I hardly think anything better—or so good—can be suggested.

I don't expect ever to see the completed library building, but it will be a personal gratification to me to know that such a building is erected in a suitably commanding location, beautiful in style and architecture, well stocked and conducted, and in a healthy, growing condition.

I doubt if you know, what I am sure it will be of interest to you to know, that the Lincoln public library had its inception or origin in your mother's house.

It was on a morning in November, 1875, that, sitting at the breakfast table, the conversation turned upon books, good reading, libraries, etc., when Mrs. Parks remarked, "Why can't we have a library here in Lincoln?" to which I made reply, "We can and, what is more, we will."

The words were spoken without forethought, on the impulse of the moment, but we had waked up the subject. I went down town directly and called on Mr. Gere, talked library, reading room, books, periodicals, papers, etc., and as a result in the next issue of the Journal appeared a call for a meeting of citizens to consider a proposition to establish a public library and reading room.

The meeting was held on the evening

of November 16, 1875, in the little "white school house," northeast corner Eleventh and Q streets, and was attended by about forty persons. I have forgotten who was called to the chair, but I know that E. J. Cartledge acted as clerk, and I have now his pencil notes of the meeting made at the time.

The room was fitted with small desks and little chairs for primary pupils, and a few tallow candles gave dim light for the hour; so we accommodated ourselves, sitting or standing, as best we could, but the matter was made the subject of lively and interesting discussion. The result was that it was decided to hold another meeting in the Academy of Music. The meeting was held there on the evening of Wednesday, December 8th, and a report of it appeared in the Journal of the 9th, a copy of which, with others—of December 10th, December 12th, 1875, and January 27, 1876—I shall mail to you.

Another enthusiastic meeting was held there the next Saturday evening, December 11th, and still another at a later date, but the Journal containing a report of it I fail to find.

At this latter meeting an organization was completed, officers were chosen, a constitution was adopted and plans were laid and committees appointed for obtaining books, periodicals, papers, etc., and securing rooms.

It will be of personal interest to you to know of the active part taken by Mr. Harwood, and that he was the first president of the Library association, and, as I know, gave much time and attention to its establishment and maintenance.

A Lecture association which had, during two winters, provided a course of lectures, from which they had hoped to realize some profit, with which they might purchase a few books for a small reading room, which the ladies had started on Eleventh street, had failed, and so they joined heartily in the new enterprise; and the ladies who had struggled hard but failed to secure papers and periodicals sufficient to maintain their little reading room, gave their small stock of chairs and tables to the new one.

Mrs. Ada Van Pelt (now living at Oakland, California,) was the first librarian. Rooms were secured over McConnell's store on O street. Mrs. Van Pelt took lodgings on the same floor and devoted her time and attention most assiduously to the interests of the association at twenty-five dollars per month.

Mr. Franklin, a big, stout man, took her in his buggy and drove about to the residence of citizens, stopping here and there, while she got out and, on crutches, went in to solicit books and subscriptions.

About four hundred volumes were secured; Mr. Walton loaned his father's library of about two hundred and fifty volumes, largely theological books—for he was a clergyman—and having occasion to visit Boston about that time, I obtained from friends here about two hundred volumes and a collection of about twenty-five fine large photos, which, until the recent fire, graced the walls of the rooms.

The library was started, as you will understand, by an association of citizens. There were nine life members at twenty-five dollars each, and annual members paid five dollars each, but I do not remember how many were secured.

The legislature had passed an act authorizing cities of the first and second class to establish public libraries. Later, after considerable effort, the city of Lincoln passed an ordinance establishing a public library, but made no appropriation for books, periodicals and papers, or for its maintenance. So the Library association loaned to the city its books, etc., equipment and all, and paid current expenses until in process of time a levy was made, and it has since been

provided for in the same manner as other city institutions.

A "great interest attaches to the beginning of things," I have thought, now that library matters are on the carpet, perhaps you might like to make up a little story embodying some of the facts of those early days, and so I shall mail to you the copies of the Journal before referred to for your information.

It is perhaps doubtful if any one has preserved copies of these papers, and as they have a historical value, I should like to have you either return them to me or send them to Miss Dennis, with the suggestion that they be preserved in the archives of the library—and I guess this latter course would be preferable.

In November, 1898, I wrote and sent to Miss Dennis, for preservation, a brief history of "the beginning of things," accompanied by duplicate copies of the same papers which I send to you, and I think the missing one also, but they were probably all destroyed in the fire. I think it quite likely that Mr. Carnegie would be interested to see the old papers, and possibly he may when, next year, he shall visit Lincoln to inspect the beautiful library building "at the intersection of Eleventh and J streets." Very truly yours,
T. H. LEAVITT.

Kipling to Julia Marlowe.

Rudyard Kipling sent as a Christmas present to Julia Marlowe a copy of his latest book, "The Day's Work," with this verse in autograph on the flyleaf:

When skies are gray instead of blue,
With clouds that come to dishearten;
When things go wrong as they sometimes do,
In life's little kindergarten;
I beg you, my child, don't weep and wail,
And don't, don't take to tipping;
But cheer your soul with a little tale
By Neighbor Rudyard Kipling.

"Darn progress, anyhow," growled Father Time; "I'm doing my level best, same as usual, to leave my traces on the faces of humanity, but between complexion experts and dermatologists I haven't a ghost of a show!"—Town Topics.

Do you think he is sincere in his attentions?

I do. I have had lots of men make love to me, but he is the biggest fool yet.—Town Topics.

He—How few people we meet who really know anything.

She—I was just thinking of that when you came in.—Town Topics.

Reporter—Mr. Greatman refuses to give his views.

Editor—Then write a two-column article attributing your own views to him. We will then get his views when he repudiates your article.—Town Topics.

J. F. HARRIS,
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