

# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, JUNE 16 1900.

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

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS  
SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

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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Communications, to receive attention, must  
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## OBSERVATIONS.

### The Federation Color Line.

The first meeting of the federation of Women's clubs was one of preparation and organization. The second one was an opportunity for congratulation on the rapid growth and effectiveness of the club movement and of the federal demonstration of it. Discussion of ways and means to meet the expenses of the federation and the basis of taxation occupied the thoughts of the delegates to the third and fourth biennial meetings.

In state conventions and in those city women's clubs, whose membership qualifications are necessarily catholic, the question of the admission of colored women has frequently arisen, only to be tabled, ignored or shirked. In Chicago, the question has been discussed at various times quite violently, but not unequivocally and definitely settled.

It harks back to the old dispute which neither the emancipation proclamation, the fifteenth amendment nor the Civil Rights' bill has settled.

This is the situation. The blacks were enslaved. They were forcibly enfranchised by the federal government in spite of the opposition of their owners who gave the best blood of the south and accepted poverty to prevent it. But the south was defeated and there are no more loyal hearts in the country than those on the other side of Mason and Dixon's line. Men and women of the south are just as proud of the flag now as

we are and just as jealous of American supremacy.

During the civil war, President Abraham Lincoln never lost sight of the *casus belli* which was the preservation of the union, without slavery, if possible.

The economic and political value of the federation of women's clubs to the United States is not in the speeches that are made once in two years to four or five thousand women, delegates and visitors, but in the meeting together and surprised recognition of homogeneity of five or six thousand women from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, California, Oregon, Washington, and all the intermediate and adjacent states. Acquaintance, sympathy, and knowledge are encouraged and fostered by these national meetings. And the union is in this case also worth sacrificing other things for. The Federation is a union of white women's clubs. White women founded it and have carried it on. If a fair-sized minority of the present members of the organization object to the admission of colored women, then the women of the north, the west and even of the east should respect their prejudices and trust to time and the evolution of a race to dispel them. The union is worth sacrificing even our enlightened principles for. With the southern members it is a matter of heredity, of experience in which we are utterly lacking, and of a brahminical rigidity of caste which only the Massachusetts and Philadelphia women have local examples of.

Singularly enough the Massachusetts women are the most intolerant of caste. This is not historically singular, because the Massachusetts abolitionists would have been willing to see every other state secede leaving Massachusetts alone before they would yield to a compromise. But the Massachusetts delegates are comparatively inconsistent because they do not recognize the fixity of caste prejudice, and its controlling influence.

The Boston delegates from a town where certain families have had the right of way for centuries were surprised and indignant because the southern women objected to officially extend the hand of fellowship to a colored woman. To any one who has breathed the impalpably, frozen unmitigable social atmosphere of Boston the grieved remonstrances from the Boston delegates are puzzling. It is evident they thought the southern women unamerican and insensible of the mission of every club woman which as Mrs. Lowe said in her farewell speech is to "Leave a message of sympathy for all who have wrought with sorrow-laden hearts, a message of gratitude to those who have been burden-bearers for the workers, and to all yoke fellows, everywhere congratulations for what has been accomplished, and a greeting of good

cheer for to day and a prophesy of good hope for to morrow." From what I know of southern women these farewell expressions are genuine. The southern women are truly sympathetic, hospitable and charitable. Their company and co-operation is worth more to us than any reassertion of the doctrine of human rights and equality. Massachusetts is given to striking heroic attitudes and proclaiming herself as a protector of the weak and champion of the downtrodden. As a state she enjoys the consciousness of virtue, culture and tolerance up to her neck.

At the Denver biennial Massachusetts threatened to withdraw from the General Federation if the ten cent per capita tax bill passed. Not that the club women of Massachusetts begrudged the Federation ten cents a piece, but they thought the money would better be spent in Boston. When the rule was adopted the threat was not reiterated. Afraid of nobody, modestly convinced that upon Massachusetts club women rests the social liberation of the colored race, and raised in an atmosphere of frigid principles, they were intolerant at Denver and intolerant at Milwaukee. They truly need the influence of the Federation more than the black sisters they conspicuously and arbitrarily attempted to introduce into the Federation.

Nevertheless if women's clubs uplift, educate, regenerate, encourage and convert, our colored sisters ought to be admitted. But until the southern women themselves invite them the north has no business to coerce them to an obnoxious fellowship. Until it is quite ready I think the south can count upon the Pacific slope, the west and the middle west to vote with her.

### The Coup of 1900.

Mr. Hall's reading of the affidavits proving Mr. Thompson's late offer to the populists to become a populist if they would elect him to the United States senate, enraged the followers of Mr. Thompson in Lincoln who hold him and his offices dearer than republicanism or any principles whatever. Messrs. Bud Lindsey, Elmer Stevenson, Capt Billingsley, Courtney, Tom Benton and Robert Dorgan are the closest political friends and supporters of Mr. Thompson in Lincoln. By shouting and filibustering last Saturday night they were able to prevent the reading of all but one of the affidavits prepared by Mr. Frank Hall. They have been printed since in several papers so that they are now before the state.

Although the evidences of treason to the party had no effect upon Mr. Thompson's hangers-on in Lincoln, who knew beforehand that he had offered to deliver the republican party as the price of his own election, there is little doubt that it will effect the body of voters in the state

when the days of the state election are at hand.

It is all a matter of comparison. What seems a justifiable expedient to Messrs. Lindsey, Stevenson, Billingsley, Courtney and Tom Benton is a crime to the sturdy, loyal republicans; men of finer grain, of worthier traditions of unpurchasable loyalty, in the opposition.

It is quite likely that the republican party in Nebraska will be beaten at the polls this year. But it is better to be beaten than to win under the leadership of Bud Lindsey, and his friends aforementioned.

It has been occasionally demonstrated in the legislature that the influence of the local machine on state politics has been overestimated. The noise of the machine is so near us here in Lincoln, that honest people are sometimes frightened by the racket, but the state is one of the largest in the union, its inhabitants are statistically literate, and demonstrably keen-witted. They have never yet elected a legislature which in its turn sent a rogue to the senate and all the chances are in favor of their never doing it. Read the country papers, note the integrity of the editorials. It is a good tonic for the heresy of doubt of a people's wisdom and purity.

Nebraska is a large state. The capitol and Omaha are very important places. But the state contains 76,855 square miles with a village every ten miles. A candidate who has earned the disapproval of the most prominent and reputable citizens of Lincoln is not likely to suit the no less fastidious tastes of the mighty men who own the rest of the 76,855 square miles called Nebraska.

The contract sworn to in affidavits as a facsimile by fourteen members of the legislature is herewith reprinted:

I, D. E. Thompson, pledge the fusion members of the Nebraska legislature my solemn word of honor that if by their votes I am elected to the United States senate I will do as follows:

First—I will oppose the policy of imperialism and entangling alliances with any nation.

Second—I will oppose any increase in the regular army.

Third—I will oppose the retirement of the greenbacks and the issuing of currency by banks and will favor an increased use of silver as money.

Fourth—I will oppose government by injunction and favor an income tax.

Fifth—If elected I will remain out of republican caucuses.

(Signed) D. E. THOMPSON.

### The Mockett Well.

Workmen are now laying fourteen inch pipe to the Mockett well in order that the remarkably pure, delicious water may flow through a larger conduit into the city.

It will be remembered that Mr. D.