

president; Mrs. Hervey, second vice president; Mrs. Harman, secretary, and Mrs. West, treasurer, after which the guests were surrendered to the whole Sorosis club, and turn where you would, a Sorosis seemed everywhere present with cordial welcome and greetings until even a bashful reporter felt that he was with his own people. Each guest was expected to so arrange his costume that it would readily suggest the character of some popular book, while each in turn was furnished with card and pencil and one hour to guess all of the books so represented, and it was about the merriest and liveliest hour ye scribe ever witnessed. Time and space forbid any mention of the unique and artistic designs of the literary crowd present in the make-up of their favorite book, except that none of the preachers present—they were all there—could guess, and all admitted that they had never read the book of Mark, which was represented by a single chalk mark on the lapel of A. C. Sullivan's coat. Refreshments galore were served in the spacious dining room which was beautifully decorated with smilax and roses. Strawberry punch was served continually during the evening in the shade of a Bonnie Brier Bush on the front balcony. Delightful music was rendered and interspersed throughout the whole time. Mrs. Harman and Miss Scott each guessed correctly thirty three books, but Mrs. Harman being a member of the club and Miss Scott the guest, the prize, a beautifully bound volume of Ruskin's works, was awarded to Miss Scott. The wee small hours of Thursday morning were plainly visible ere many of the guests wended their way homeward, all were bound, as it were, by the mystic ties so firmly held by these Sorosis entertainers. More than one hundred persons were present, and each guest, we know, silently voted that for rare talent and ability as entertainers, Sorosis has no peers.

A Splendid Address.

For the benefit of its readers who were unable to be present, The Courier publishes the address delivered by Judge Edward P. Holmes at the old settlers' celebration held Wednesday of last week. Judge Holmes is one of Lincoln's brightest thinkers and the following article has received many flattering comments, of which it is justly deserving:

"To be asked to address the old settlers of Lancaster county, when assembled in the annual celebration, is an honor I esteem most highly, for it is to the pioneers of Nebraska that we are indebted for the blessings of the social and political liberties and privileges which today we enjoy.

"A half century in the history of any community is indeed a brief space of time, as but a day, in the progress of civilization, and yet scarce this time has rolled away since upon these fertile prairies has grown an empire, and linked into this great confederation, a state that in its wealth, its power, its social and political development, ranks it first among the members of this great republic.

"The productive qualities of Nebraska's soil has in the few years since the pioneer crossed the Missouri river and commenced the building of a new home on the supposed arid plains, where the great American desert commenced, made this fair state one of the potential factors in the production of the nation's wealth and made it equal in importance with the states that have since passed the century mark in the date of their organization. Bringing to its people the accumulated wealth of only half a century, in proportion to its population, has outstripped them all in that development that records the growth of a great civilization. Lest you think me indulging in generalities, let me stop for a moment and mark the comparison.

In 1898 the population of Kansas had reached a million and a half. Iowa had its two millions. Illinois four millions. Indiana two millions and nearly a half. Ohio three and a half million, while Nebraska had scarcely a million souls. And yet we stand with these states today almost equal in the wealth of our production, and considering the population and the time expended, have far surpassed them. But for fear you might think that this alone was due to the bounteousness of mother earth and that she alone in her munificence had given to her children an advantage, let us compare again her educational institutions with these same states, and mark what we have accomplished. We have an income for the support of the university of this state, an institution ranking among the first of the institutions of its character in this country, one-third as much as has Ohio, half as much as Indiana, nearly as much as Iowa, more than Kansas, and the value of our property devoted to educational purposes in about the same proportion, while the benefaction are as nothing in this state to those of the states that I have mentioned. And in our public school system we have constructed an institution that is not only the pride of our state, but the admiration of all the states, and is the consummation of sublime wisdom in educational progression, and we have a right to boast that, owing to our progress in this direction, there are fewer illiterate people within the state of Nebraska than any other state in this union.

"As the seed was planted so has grown the state. The men and women of today are but the likeness of those that have gone before, imbued with the spirit of their fathers, but possessed of greater opportunities through the development their handiwork has wrought. And hence it is but natural, affording the greatest satisfaction as progress is made in the development of any portion of our great common society, or as a whole, to take the retrospective view, and trace the cause that produces the effect and culminates in the highest form of human progress, both in its social and political status.

The pioneers of America came to build a new system of government. Their fathers before them had learned by bitter experience that the ingenuity of man had not yet found that perfect social or political organization that brought to the greatest number the greatest good. They knew how the system or organization that had preceded them in the perfection of the world's social organization was sapped of its vitality by slave labor, by the adoption of a false political economy, with taxes all for the benefit of the few, by the debauching idea that a public office was a private snap rather than a public trust, by the communistic practice of feeding an idle and useless proletariat out of the imperial treasury, and while they were slow to learn, yet breeding for the strain of wisdom and justice, it was finally to come in full view as the dominant characteristic of a new race, of a new stock, of which these pioneers were but the advance guard, and we, their children, the improved representatives of the "new idea."

And so from the time that the Lydenites cast aside the yoke of Holland and dropped anchor in Cape Cod bay, planting their fath and hopes upon Plymouth rock and commenced the building of a new nation, the "new idea" has been the incentive to human activity and the goal of human achievements. And while Miles Standish and Edward Winslow, the strong men of that little band that held the prow of the Mayflower to the West on its dangerous journey across the sea, were only ordinary men possessed of only ordinary ability, with

(Continued on Page 9.)

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