

attend the official social functions, and have had no places assigned to them on special committees

On the other hand American women painters have been awarded gold and silver medals for pictures exhibited at the Exposition. These medals were awarded in competition with the painters of the world and for work. The distinction is higher and more worth having. It has always seemed to me that a woman's building at an exposition for the exhibit of woman's work, set aside from that of men and not considered on its merits, but deserving credit, as the performance of woman, is degrading and unworthy the epoch. "A board of lady managers," that is, a board of managers selected from among the most intelligent of the sex to show the progress of women, as we make a show of Indian work or Indian school children's progress! And the public thinks the display remarkable "considering." All the advocates of honors for women as women make a mistake. Such assignments are an indication of inferiority. The French are right in ridiculing woman's claims to place on account of sex, and giving medals irrespective of sex for work done in open and unrestricted competition. The list of American artists distinguished for paintings and drawings exhibited at the Exposition includes the names of Cecelia Dean, gold medal; Elizabeth Nourse, silver medal; Catherine G. Abbott, Maude A. Cowles, Louise Cox, Lucia F. Fuller, Laura C. Hills, Mary F. Macmonnies, bronze medals; Martha W. Baxter, Kate Carl, Sarah C. Sears, and Sadie Waters, honorable mention.

#### The Declaration of Independence.

Regarding an editorial in The Courier in the issue the 4th of Aug., a correspondent says that the editor has read something into the Declaration that is not there and further "that it nowhere declares that man is born free and equal, that at the time it was written, the Declaration was literally and accurately the truth and that a citizen of this country has no more right to declare the Declaration of Independence a lie than a Christian has to declare the Sermon on the Mount a lie."

From the Declaration of Independence I quote this, "We, therefore \* \* \* solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown." Here are two declarations, first that the United Colonies then were free and independent states, and second, that they ought to be such. My correspondent says that the declaration that the colonies then were free and independent states was literally and accurately true. It at that time the colonies were "free and independent states" why issue a Declaration of Independence? Free and independent states owe no such allegiance to other states as the colonies then declared they were absolved from. If at the time the Declaration was written the colonies were what they were declared to be why declare that they were or "are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown?" If the colonies then were "free and independent states" why maintain a war for several years for the purpose of securing and establishing their independence and becoming what they then were not, "free and independent states?" If the result of that war had been the suppression of the rebellion and the coercion of the colonies into obedience to the British crown, would the colonies notwithstanding such defeat

and coercion still have remained what the Declaration at the beginning of the war declared them to be, "free and independent states?" At the time this Declaration was written the therein denominated "free and independent states" were colonies and dependencies of the British crown to which they had theretofore rendered allegiance. To absolve themselves from that allegiance, and "to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitled them," they rebelled and entered upon the struggle for independence. They issued this immortal Declaration of Independence, the grandest, the greatest declaration of war that ever came from tongue or pen; nevertheless the statement therein contained that "these United Colonies are free and Independent States," instead of being literally true at the same time it was written, was at that time literally false.

To the unalienable rights of men, my correspondent says that the Declaration is today literally and accurately true. The unalienable rights specified are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I understand the meaning of the word "unalienable," to be, "incapable of alienation." Doubtless all men and some women are created with the inherent right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but are these rights incapable of alienation?

If the Declaration of Independence as to the unalienable rights of men is "today literally and accurately the truth," how can we reconcile the law which condemns to death the murderer, and his subsequent execution, with the "self evident truth," that the same murderer is created with the right to life which is incapable of alienation? My correspondent is a lawyer; has he ever in his practice known a thief or a robber to escape punishment simply and solely because he was endowed by his Creator with the unalienable right to liberty? Society says, speaking through the laws enacted for its protection, that men alienate their right to life, to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness, by their misdeeds and by the performance of prohibited acts. The laws for the protection of society against the evil doers are based upon the principle that men may by their acts alienate their right to life as well as to liberty; either this must be true or government or society, whichever we term it, in the enforcement of law, is wrong. The Creator, who in the language of the instrument under consideration, endowed all men with the unalienable right of life, commanded Moses that the man who was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath day should surely be put to death, and put to death he was; was that man endowed by his Creator with an unalienable right to life? To my mind the statement that as to the unalienable rights of men the Declaration is today literally and accurately true cannot be sustained. As to the statement that a citizen has no more right to declare the Declaration of Independence a lie than a Christian has to declare the Sermon on the Mount a lie: The Sermon on the Mount was intended to be and is a rule for the government of human action. Not so with the Declaration of Independence. That instrument is just what its preamble declares it to be, an expression of the causes which a decent respect for the opinions of mankind required the colonists to declare when they separated from their sovereign whose authority they had theretofore recognized and acknowledged. When the signers of

the Declaration of Independence and their contemporaries came to frame a constitution for the government they established, they were careful not to insert therein a declaration that all men were created equal; that they were endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights and that among these were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Such an expression might pass in a declaration of war but its authors declined to incorporate it in the constitution. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

#### Education by Suggestion.

A clubwoman and a student of children, Mrs. Kerr of Chicago, is teaching by suggestion, her little girl who sucked her thumb and turned in her toes when she walked. She says she has cured both these habits by after sleep treatment. Every night when the little girl was sound asleep the mother went to her bedside and told her that she must not suck her thumb, she turned the little feet outward and told her that she must not turn them in again. In this way, Mrs. Kerr says, she has cured two of the habits most difficult to cure in children. She did it not in a week or a month but by several month's uninterrupted suggestion to the sleeping child. If the mind is never really asleep and if the doors of hearing are as open while some part of the child is asleep, this method of instruction is certainly worth trying. It is painless and involves only fidelity on the mother's part.

#### An Apostate.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Lease, who has made more speeches advocating populist doctrines and candidates than any other woman and only fewer than Mr. Bryan, has renounced populism. She says "the party has lost what fire and enthusiasm it once had, and is now a boodle refuge, that is destined to become a mass of parasites on the democratic growth."

Mrs. Annie L. Diggs has succeeded to Mrs. Lease's place. Mrs. Diggs has widened the breach between populists and democrats by deflecting some of the offices promised to democrats back to straight populists. It is not a question of principle in Kansas, and the fusionists that are left do not pretend that it is. Taking into account the population of Kansas, the democratic fusionists maintain that there are few enough offices to go around without awarding any to women. They were, therefore, displeased when Chairman Ridgely of the populist state committee issued a circular inviting the women to help elect the state officers and the national electors. The democrats hold rigidly to the idea that woman shall be governed without her consent and without giving her any public opportunity for the expression of dissent or approval. They therefore demanded of Chairman Ridgely the withdrawal of his circular, holding that the Germans who beat their wives in America as in Germany, would be alienated from populism. But Mrs. Diggs convinced the Chairman that there were more women than Germans in the state and that the feminine influence and voice was more potential than the vote of the German who beats his wife into agreement with the conviction that he has divine authority for it. Mrs. Diggs who weighs less than a hundred pounds, who has a magnetic voice that carries a quarter of a mile, can outspoke and outlast most of the Kansas orators. She starts on her tour today. She will be assisted by Mrs.

Hoffman of Enterprise, and Miss Hart of Topeka. Mrs. Hoffman is the wife of a member of the state central committee, who is a candidate for a state senatorship and a receptive candidate for a national senatorship. She has for years been prominent as an organizer of women's clubs and is a woman of culture. She is well acquainted with politics and the political situation, and is a power among women, having close friends throughout the state. She will devote herself to organizing women's political clubs throughout the state during the campaign. Through training with the populists, Mrs. Hoffman is an avowed socialist. Miss Hart is a newspaper woman and a practical politician, and will not only furnish campaign oratory but will provide campaign literature for distribution. She has a knack of making "anti-trust" speeches which the farmers endorse and applaud and with the miners of the southeastern part of the state, she is an authority.

#### 102,000.

Omaha's census returns are a cause of chagrin to her ambitious citizens only because the last report was inflated. The metropolis of Nebraska has made a steady and rapid growth. In a very few years the city has grown from a town into a city. Omaha has nearly every reason in the world to be proud, and very little, except her city government and school board, to be ashamed of. In Omaha, not to speak of imposing business blocks and handsome residences, is the only architectural monument in the west, the Burlington railway station. The men of Omaha are keen-witted, they exhibit, at times, an intense activity, they have made money, some of them have lost it, but many show remarkable recuperative ability. Although it is a western town, the society in Omaha has a metropolitan go, confidence and *savoir faire* not at all discreditable to a city that fifty years ago was nothing but a frontier settlement. Potentially Omaha is everything. The power concentrated there in the dynamic breasts of westerners is illimitable. A trifling matter of a loss of 38,000 people according to the untrustworthy figures of the last census, should not dismay the men of Omaha, who have good reasons for self-confidence and hope.

#### Nebraska Trees.

The recent severe wind storm which broke off the trunks of hundreds of trees in this vicinity has laid bare the evidence of the work of the borers. Few of the trees are broken off nearer the ground than eight feet and in most cases the bole snaps where the weight of a large lateral branch was taken advantage of by the wind, about twelve or fifteen feet up. The cross-ways section of each tree, thus destroyed shows a broad, black streak, where decay has followed the neat round holes made by the worms that bore with so accurate an aim for the heart of the tree. There is probably not a sound, soft maple or box-elder tree in Nebraska. The trees planted ten years ago give a grateful shade, they are beautiful and they have repaid the care and expense of tree culture in Nebraska. But the life of the softwood trees is short and every season it is necessary to replant trees to take the places of those which the wind has broken off at the point where insects have already made deep incisions. Tree-lovers whitewash the boles, dig out the insects and fill up the holes with putty, but trees thus treated are still broken off. The faithful friends the trees have,