



# THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1900.

**THE COURIER,**

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.

SARAH B. HARRIS,

Editor

## Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unless accompanied by return postage. Communications, to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.

## OBSERVATIONS.

### To Help Lincoln.

It is a favorite argument with the men who believe that Mr. Thompson would make an ideal United States senator that his election to such a position would be of great benefit to Lincoln. It has not been urged that his counsel and advice would be of any particular value to the United States or to Nebraska. Though to legislate for the whole country was Washington's idea of the senate's function. The reiteration of the argument that Mr. Thompson at Washington would be good for Lincoln entitles it to consideration.

Mr. Thompson has financial acumen. He belongs to the motor type of men, and his prominence in this locality is due to tireless activity and accurate judgment as to the action in crucial times, best for his own fortunes. I do not say "good" judgment, because the word has an ethical meaning entirely out of relation to Mr. Thompson's creed, conduct and character. It is granted that Mr. Thompson has rare foresight and proved ability to conduct and make a good sale of institutions. Through the hard times the gas company and the insurance company, of which Mr. Thompson was president, were prosperous institutions, and he sold them in better times at a top price. Such talent is not common and it is only just to acknowledge it. Mr. Thompson was once in a position to help Lincoln at a time when the fortunes of her citizens were in one side of the scales and his own peril in the other. A brave man possessing his financial resources and acumen who really cared for the hundreds of tired mothers whose children's patrimony was deposited in the Capital National Bank, would have put his shoulder to the wheel and

set his God given wits to work to save ignorant, innocent depositors from penury. Probably it never occurred to Mr. Thompson when he learned the condition of the bank that to prevent just such an impending catastrophe men with wits and money were set in high places—that they might warn the people in the valley who could not see. He was a director in the Capital National Bank and the only one who knew of its condition in time to save it. If Mr. Thompson had realized the sacredness of a representative position at that time, if, realizing that hundreds of people had deposited their money in the bank, trusting to his sound financial judgment and rating, he had braced himself to receive the brunt of the shock, instead of selling out part of his stock to an ignorant buyer and slyly retiring from the directorate, the name of Thompson would be venerated in Lincoln now.

Mr. Thompson has been tried in two conspicuous trials for fidelity and found wanting. As a director in the Capital National Bank, he fled from the first glimpse of approaching calamity, he fled and left a helpless lot of people to suffer the miseries consequent upon the discovery of a looted bank. As a candidate of the republican party, he broke his word to abide by the decision of a republican caucus, and conspired with the populists to betray the republican party into their hands. Mr. Thompson has passed the meridian of life, and there is no record of an instance where he has sacrificed himself for the interests and the people he represented. This sense of his human debt to the community is lacking. He may have been born without it, in which case a gentle and wise Judge will take the extenuating circumstances into consideration when the Thompson case is reached. Or he may have ignored those sub-conscious promptings so long that they have ceased altogether to attract his attention. In either case his record and his character indicate entire unfitness for a representative position. Representative means standing for and acting for others, and I have shown that these "others" do not exist in Mr. Thompson's world.

It has been frequently said that all good financiers would have acted just as Mr. Thompson did in the Capital National Bank failure. That is not so. For the honor of their name, to keep faith with the people, to avert disaster from Lincoln and the whole South Platte country, one bank president gave up his fortune and then his life and another man, a director, gave a fortune from his private resources. Neither of these men ever posed as a hero or as a martyr. They recognized the situation, the consequences to the people of their cowardice, bent their backs to the burden, and one of them died without knowing that his sacrifice had been an acceptable sacrifice, fair and pleasing.

### The Nebraska State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The sixth annual federation meeting of the delegates from the Women's clubs of Nebraska was an encouraging sign of an increasing interest in the work of the world. As I remember the second and the third and perhaps the fourth meeting of the Federation, most of the speakers were content to express a very earnest but vague belief that woman's sphere was enlarging, and that her contributions to the century were signal and worthy of glittering celebration. The earnestness of the addresses was what most attracted me. The speakers did not say as much as they seemed to say, though the saying it deeply moved them. The emotion was elusive, but I understood, at last, that the flowers of speech, the figures taken from Rome and Greece (as Napoleon ravaged Italy to decorate Paris) were only the signs of a triumph and of a progressive campaign which the speakers were too subtle to express more bluntly. Last week's orators spoke of ceramics, of music, Indian and Negro, of how the woman of leisure and wealth can help the woman who is striving to earn her living, of food adulterations, of the servant girl and mistress problem, of cooking, of the school laws of Nebraska, of industrial laws and of the work and purposes of the National Consumer's League. Mrs. Decker of Denver, one of the best speakers in this country, said that a woman appeared before the Denver Woman's Club to tell the members about a certain kind of wrapper which she was making and which was on sale in one of the dry goods stores of Denver. In the next few days perhaps ten members of the club enquired for that garment at the store. Mrs. Decker said the clerk whom she asked for the wrapper rushed to the manager of the store, exclaiming: "Here's another! There must have been a thousand women in here asking for that wrapper in the last week." There had not really been so many, but commerce is very sensitive and a demand repeated a very few times to the proprietor of a store seems to him importunate. There is no doubt that that one woman's business was helped by the *esprit du corps* and applied earnestness of the Denver Woman's Club. Inspired by this true story, Mrs. Decker's audience received the application of it to Nebraska with conviction. One way to express true fraternity is not by dropping a penny into a beggar's hat, but by upholding and helping the orphaned and widowed women who are in business over against our own house. The ceramic program of Tuesday evening was a demonstration of this spirit of *esprit du corps* as well as of an appreciation of the creative result accomplished by the china decorators in Hastings, in Ashland, in Omaha, in Lincoln and in many other towns of the state. A woman who made a very effect-

ive speech on the school laws of Nebraska said that it was of no consequence, except for the passing moment, whether she spoke well or ill, if the women returned to their homes and continued to take no actual or corporeal interest in the public schools which their children attended. This spirit of disregard for personal praise or criticism, so that the message be delivered effectively, was apparent in more than one speaker. For instance, on Tuesday night the church was packed by an audience, most of which was gathered to see Mrs. Hall's lantern pictures of the chief works of art of the Paris exposition. When the program was half completed Mrs. Hall explained that women's clubs and women's club speakers had talked about art in the abstract long enough, and that the audience must listen to women who are really creating artistic monuments of this period.

The next reform in the program of the Federation meetings is suggested by this Tuesday night ceramics program. The audience was only half composed of club women and the other half was not interested in the reports of the biennial meetings, and this other half was pointedly restless when obliged to listen to the reports of this meeting. Men, considering their large liberty and hereditary powers and position, exhibit a patience with our mistakes, which ought not to be too severely tried. They had come to see the pictures and they might have seen them before the last car had been shut up in the car barn if the biennial numbers in a program devoted to pottery and pictures had been delivered at a morning session.

The growing friendliness and even intimacies between women from all parts of the state whom club work has introduced was a noticeable feature of this Federation.

At the present rate of growth only the auditorium will house the Federation on the next occasion of its assembly in Lincoln.

— — —

### Mrs. Decker of Denver.

There are only a few "natural born" orators. Mrs. Decker can claim her birthright whenever she chooses. Like Mark Antony, she discounts expectation before beginning her speech, by saying she does not understand the voluntary of applause that, I think, must always greet her, being only a plain woman from Denver, come to talk over the evolution of clubs with her colleagues in Nebraska. Something more beautiful than beauty is in her face and in the tender flexible voice that carries as far and as well as Mr. Bryan's, and is much more musical. In apt anecdote, in inimitable style of telling stories, in quick sympathy, in largeness of heart, and exhaustless tact and gentleness, Mrs. Decker is among the elect. There is no club woman in all the country so