



THE COURIER

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OBSERVATIONS.

Book-Binding.

Western publishers issue neatly printed, effectively covered books, books just as comely as any issued by eastern publishers. But they do not open wide without straining their backs. After a while the reviewer, and reviewers are always cranky and hard to please, gets tired of holding open the book, he is trying to get the sense out of, and he breaks its back. A book might as well be a solid block of wood if it will not open. It is like a door to which the key has been lost. As a door it is dead and is only a part of the wall. A novel or book of short stories is read in the evening when the time for muscular exertion is past. The reading is considered a recreation and as a reward for manfully bearing the heat and burden of the day. The small stubborn resistance of glue, of linen thread and of leaves too tightly pressed together is irritating. After the leaves of the book have been pressed as close together as water or electricity can get them, they are submitted to another machine whose purpose is to sew the leaves together tight enough so that only the most persistent reader can read the outer part of the secrets on the pages. Breaking the back of such a book as this, after an hour's mercy on it, is as satisfactory as killing an annoying fly. A book thus stiffly and tightly bound will not last long if it have many readers. Like the dead Indian, it is only good when its back is broken, and then dissolution is at hand. Silk thread is elastic and the difference in the cost of each book would be but a few cents. The difference in the length of the life of a book thus bound is incomparable. But most Chicago publishers believe that

a book is made to shut and not to open, for their books are sewed and glued so tightly that they open with a squeak. It is fortunate, that the Bible opens with the least protest and remains open. It is not for the secular pen to speculate upon what the ministers who consider a text for half an hour would say if the Bible were bound or locked at the back after the Chicago fashion. The discipline of the service has doubtless trained them to suffer in silence much greater trials.

Defeat or Dishonor.

The republicans of Lancaster county are at this time confronted with conditions which demand serious consideration. At the legislative session of 1899 Mr. D. E. Thompson went into the republican caucus and there for nearly sixty days, by all the arts of politicians of his calibre, sought to become the party's candidate for United States senator. His ambition was not gratified, and immediately upon the action of the caucus being made public, he united with the fusion leaders, political enemies of the republican party in an attempt to defeat the election of the caucus nominee, Honorable M. L. Hayward. Shortly after that attempt proved abortive, it was publicly charged that Thompson was a party to it. The Journal of March 10, 1899, said: "Several men were seen yesterday who claimed to have held in their hands the proposition offered by D. E. Thompson to the fusionists if they would make him senator. They claim that he agreed to practically everything in their platform, with the exception of sixteen to one, and besides promised to keep out of republican caucuses, to make Benton Maret his secretary, and to do all in his power to turn over the city of Lincoln and the county of Lancaster to the fusion party." Under that charge Thompson remained silent. What man who placed any value upon his honor would remain silent under such a charge if it was false? Never since the affidavits of fourteen reputable men were published last June to the effect that Thompson did enter into an agreement with the fusionists, having for its object the defeat of Judge Hayward, in which he pledged his solemn word of honor that if he was made senator by the vote of the fusionists he would oppose measures advocated by republicans and remain out of republican caucuses, has he published a word in explanation or denial. And now he is again a candidate for senator. Richard O'Neill, John J. Trompen, A. W. Lane, John H. Mockett, Jr., C. R. Tefft, E. J. Shellhorn and Charles J. Warner, legislative candidates from this county, are each and all pledged to vote for him. Resting upon such a pledge ought they to be elected? If, after his defeat, Thompson had exhibited loyalty, acquiesced in the action of the caucus to which

he submitted his candidacy, and again become a candidate for senator, could he have asked more from the legislative delegation from this county than its united support? Having been a willing party to a perfidious attempt to defeat the party's choice as expressed by its regularly constituted organization, is he now entitled to the same reward from republicans that he might have asked had he supported the republican nominee?

Shall Rosewater and Thompson reserve to themselves the right to bolt party nominations whenever they choose and insist upon fealty whenever it suits them to become candidates for office? Are the brewers of wood and the drawers of water in the republican party, its rank and file, to be denied the right to denounce, to execrate, to punish by their votes, men whose personal ambition is their license for any and every act of treachery to the republican party; who never felt an impulse of party fidelity; who have no taste for the reality or an image or representation of political virtue? The time has come, as it may never come again, to confer upon such apostates, who care no more for the party than does a dog for the bone it gnaws, whose purpose is to ruin when and where they can not rule, their fitting reward. No self respecting republican who prizes fidelity above perfidy will vote for one of the legislative candidates whose purpose is to vote for D. E. Thompson for United States senator. To punish treason to the party now means more to the republican party of this county than the election of ten United States senators.

Mrs. Decker, of Denver.

Delegates and visitors to the Federation who so lately heard Mrs. Decker speak will be interested to know that she is a candidate this fall for the state senate of Colorado. Mrs. Decker's distinguishing characteristics are good sense and good taste. With rare appreciation she fits her words and conduct to the occasion. No one of dull intuitions or sympathies ever has this gift of speech and silence. Mrs. Decker as a legislator would be incorruptible and unselfish. Her desire for an election to the state has some admirable *raison d'être* and I hope she will secure it. She is very popular, no man or woman more so in Colorado. The good sense which informs her words and deeds will be of great service to Colorado and to her as a legislator. That very sort of sense, which Mrs. Decker possesses is rarer than genius and more servicable to her fellow men. By its light she sees the world as it is and what can be done to make it better. As a state senator she might endeavor to have some pure food laws passed, or help the industrial legislation of Colorado. There are many departments that men have neglected or have failed to see the necessity of legislation for.

I do not believe there are many women fitted to be useful in a state or national legislative body. Some of the suffragists and members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union have looked at one question and one side of that so long that they are not fitted to legislate for a miscellaneous body of citizens of all faiths and coming from all nations to this republic. Mrs. Deckers catholic temperament will prevent her from ever becoming an extremist. If she wins in Colorado she will be a credit to woman and refute scoffing the world over.

To Reward Treason.

Mr. Thompson's inability to fulfill the requirements of a representative position have been conspicuously illustrated on two occasions—and his cowardice in one case was disastrous to the fortunes of several hundred residents of this city and county. When he betrayed the caucus by whose decision he had promised to abide, he hurt himself, but his plot and its imminent success caused Senator Hayward's heart lesion and his final death. To select Mr. Thompson for United States senator after these two public demonstrations of his lack of fidelity to constituents and to a cause, would be fatuous. The rank and file of the party in this county are busy about their own affairs on the farm or in the shop, but when it comes to voting they will reflect upon the wisdom of rewarding treason with office. If the continentals had bestowed an important position upon Benedict Arnold, after his treason at West Point, history would not have recorded the later victories of the ragged men in Washington's army.

Along These Lines.

Ministers as well as spasmodic speechmakers use these three words intemperately. They serve as an emergency clause when the speaker is embarrassed or while he is arranging another period and must keep on talking. If we could exclude such trite, meaningless phrases from our vocabulary the effort would be worth while. One lady at the Federation who made a five minute speech used the phrase twenty-five times. An audience is always restless if the exercises last more than two hours and that is a liberal estimate of patience. Nearly every speaker at the Federation, except Miss French, Mrs. Decker and Chancellor Andrews used this phrase repeatedly. And think of the time consumed in repeating it. If it were otherwise unobjectionable, and really meant something its constant repetition would cause its rejection by a fastidious speaker. It is a curious fact that the moment a man or woman begins to talk grandiloquently or vaguely about the elevation of the race he drops into "along these lines," as inevitably as Silas Wegg dropped