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OBSERVATIONS.**Political.**

Interest in the approaching senatorial election gradually increases. It was published in last week's papers that Mr. Rosewater, in a moment of forgetfulness, had returned to the beaten path and was indulging in those well known political methods which he had decided to abandon during his senatorial candidacy. While in that state of nature—an inherent tendency to domineer and boss unrestrainedly—he declared that if he were not elected senator he would forthwith organize a new party and forever and forever destroy the republican organization in Nebraska. The publication of the report intensely excited the profane tendencies of the Rosewater temperament and elicited a lurid denial. Probably the report was entirely without foundation. It was published in the State Journal, the proprietors of which are industriously engaged in putting stone bruises on the senatorial candidacy of D. E. Thompson in the morning and anointing the abrasions with healing salve in the evening. How remarkable, how powerful the influence of commercialism in shaping and directing human action!

It is true that Mr. Rosewater has repeatedly not only threatened the party with his extreme displeasure, but that he has sought, more or less successfully, to compass its defeat when nominating conventions refused to submit to his dictation. Nevertheless, it is not at all probable that he is now indulging in threats. He is a politician and a candidate and no one knows better than he that for the present his natural imperialistic tendencies must be repressed and repressed they will be unless perchance, he shall forget to remember. No per-

son versed in the history of Nebraska politics will permit himself to doubt for a moment the course which Mr. Rosewater will pursue in the event of his defeat. He will assail the party, not unlikely the national administration, and through the columns of his paper attack individuals. It is quite likely that he will meet defeat and defeat will be a sufficient incentive to attack on his part. There are in Nebraska hundreds of republicans who have waited for years for the opportunity which now approaches and which may never recur to do to this man what he has repeatedly, regardless of merit or feeling, done to others; make him feel the burning sting of disappointment; make him sore and sick at heart because of defeated, of unsatisfied ambition. Not many will rejoice if he is successful; few, few indeed, will mingle their tears with his if he is defeated.

D. E. Thompson is still a prominent figure in the political arena. Industrious, sedulously, strenuously he pursues this object of his ambition, a seat with honorable men in an honorable position. He aspires to a position occupied by a Manderson, a Thurston; to fill which a Hayward was chosen. Those men entered the senate because of their recognized fitness for the place, their high character, their ability, their public service. They represented Nebraska. If this man enters the senate it will be with the aid of a jimmy. He represents nothing, nobody but himself. The Evening News of the thirteenth instant published a telegram from New York stating that the Journal of that city was in receipt of a telegram from an inside source in Nebraska to the effect that W. J. Bryan and D. E. Thompson would combine for the purpose of electing themselves to the senate. That Mr. Bryan, it was understood, had agreed to accept the place as the only way of preventing the election of two republicans. Of the truth of this report there comes no denial from Mr. Thompson, but a gentleman whom the News said was very near to that senatorial candidate pronounced the report absurd and untrue. This "near" gentleman who furnished the denial expressed a desire to ascertain from whence the report emanated because it was evident to him that it came from some enemy who hoped to discredit Mr. Thompson with the republicans of the state. What act could an enemy perform half as discreditable as the one which Mr. Thompson himself performed immediately after Judge Hayward was made the senatorial candidate by the republican caucus in March, 1899, when he bolted the caucus which had rejected his candidacy and pledged his solemn word of honor to the fusionists that if elected senator by their votes he would support many of their principles and keep out of republican caucuses? Repeatedly has it been charged that Mr. Thompson made such an agreement and signed his name there

to. Reputable citizens have stated under oath that they saw the agreement and that Thompson's signature was signed thereto. (Possibly this "near" gentleman who stands very close to Mr. Thompson may desire to call the men who gave publicity to the agreement to account; he will find them easily.) Mr. Thompson has not denied that he will combine with the fusionists provided it will secure his election. He is after the position. He made one proposition to combine. What has since occurred to indicate that he is less willing to make another?

Will there be a senatorial caucus, is a question frequently asked. Ordinarily the question would be readily answered in the affirmative but under existing conditions candidates hesitate. Two years ago there was a caucus which after nearly fifty days balloting selected a candidate. In that action every candidate save one acquiesced. That one sought to defeat the nominee. He is a candidate now. If defeated in caucus will he abide by the result? Judging the probabilities of his future action by his past conduct the only answer which can be given is an emphatic no. Will the other candidates, honorable gentlemen, be willing to go into a caucus with a man whose inability to appreciate the obligations of truth and honor has been so firmly established by his own voluntary act?

Greatest Books of the Century.

Mr. James Bryce, historian and essayist, Mr. Henry Van Dyke, professor of English literature at Princeton, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Rev. George Gordon, pastor of the Old South church, Boston, President Arthur T. Hadley of Yale university, Dr. Fairbairn, principal of Mansfield college Oxford, President Stanley Hale, of Clark university, President Hyde of Bowdoin, President Tucker of Dartmouth, and Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson of Boston, have each sent to The Outlook a list of the ten books of the nineteenth century which have most influenced its thought and activities. Every one of the ten selected Darwin's Origin of Species. Eight selected Hegel, four voting for history of Logic, two for the history of philosophy one each for the encyclopedia of philosophical sciences, and for the philosophy of religion. There were seven votes for Goethe's Faust, five for Emerson in his various manifestations, four for Scott's Waverley, five for Carlyle, five for Uncle Tom's Cabin, three each for Comte's Social Philosophy, Les Miserables, Wordsworth's Excursions, for Buskin and Spencer, and one or two votes apiece for Mazzini Karl Marx, De Maistre, De Toqueville, Malthus, Bryce, Renan, Coleridge, Mill, Hamilton, Daniel Webster, T. H. Green, Napoleon's Civil Code, Schopenhauer, Froebel, St. Bœuve Niebuhr, Chalmers, Schleiermacher, Newman, Strauss,

Wagner, Heine, Tolstoy, Hawthorne and Browning.

Here are ten men, doctors of philosophy and literature. They agree only upon one man Darwin as being one of the ten most influential authors of the century. Authority is something we are all fond of quoting. I heard a woman once address a large meeting on the subject of the four or perhaps it was a dozen best pictures in the world. She had located them herself and delivered her list dogmatically to the audience without admitting a question of its authenticity. It is perhaps possible to obtain a list of the ten best pictures by a vote of the artists of the world, but the tellers must be given time. This question of the ten most influential books of the century has only been one tenth settled by an assorted group of college presidents and literati. It only shows that this and every other discussion about the exact rank in value, influence and merit of creative works is difficult. Beware of authority. Have the courage of your own convictions. No two people see the same rainbow. Mine is as likely to be as yours or his. These ten men selected over fifty books as the ten most influential books of the century, and yet each man is doubtless quoted by large and lesser circles as final authorities upon whatever literary discussion arises. It is only occasionally when the undistinguished and illiterate get a chance to read the contradictory dicta of the men quoted in dictionaries that these humble ones realize the worth and integrity of their own opinions.

Lehrfreiheit and Lernfreiheit.

Professors are in the attitude of instruction from Monday morning to Saturday night. Occasionally the attitude is persisted in over Sunday. The insidious habit of talking down to younger, and more ignorant undergraduates sometimes permeates an ordinary lecturer's manner until the ordinary business man, banker, butcher, baker, or whatever, is unpleasantly conscious when selling bonds, a steak, or a loaf of bread to his patron professional man that the latter is contemplating him and the transaction from a frigid altitude. The temptation to be instructive and the attractiveness of the appearance of profundity is strong to every human being, but to a theorist who is used to occupying a dais raised a foot above those he instructs, the temptation is insidiously and increasingly strong. Teachers draw their salaries without regard to the condition of the times. Men who earn fifteen hundred or two thousand, or three or four thousand dollars working for some commercial corporation watch the markets and the course of current history. The issues of a war in Africa, or in the Philippines or of a coal or railroad strike may affect them immediately