



# THE COURIER

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**OBSERVATIONS.****The School Bonds.**

The women of Lincoln must register if they would vote on school matters on Tuesday. The bonds asked for by the school board are required for the new buildings which must be built to accommodate the increasing number of children. At the present time the youngest pupils are crowded into damp basements where the sanitary arrangements are very imperfect and unhealthful. The necessity for new buildings is imperative. If the bonds are not voted this year the need will be greater next year. To save this money is out of the question. The natural growth of the school population must be met by new school buildings. The voters might just as well authorize the bond issue on Tuesday and hasten the time when the children can be moved into suitable quarters as vote against the issue and leave the children in discomfort and unsanitary surroundings for another year. The buildings must be erected, and the sooner the better.

**The Electric Light Bonds.**

Voters who believe in a paternal form of government will vote for the electric light bonds next Tuesday, in spite of the history of municipal conduct of manufacturing plants.

Just as soon as Lincoln or any other city becomes the dispenser of a large patronage, government by the people and for the people becomes a matter of profit to ward politicians who will control the city as absolutely as New York is controlled by Tammany. The latter organization is not in politics for glory but for the money there is in it. The post-office department is often cited as a successful business conducted by the government. Every year there is

a deficit of many millions. And of course the people make up the deficit. All the railways in the United States, may not have been successful, but under private management freight rates have declined steadily for a number of years and in this country they are now cheaper than in any other.

The quality of light now and for years past furnished the city is poor. Some of the lights burn the specified time and others do not. The intermittent character of the lights is due to outworn machinery. A five years' contract with the city would encourage the company to put in machinery capable of doing the work satisfactorily. Fifty-five thousand dollars is not much but it is enough for the beginning of what may prove a very expensive experiment. The postoffice, and the government printing establishment shows what a bad manager the government is. As a customer the city can get better service than as a proprietor, if the mayor and council are allowed a free hand in making the contract.

**The Suffrage.**

It is difficult enough to get the vote out in a regular election where the mayor, councilmen and other important officers of the city are to be voted for. How many men would vote, were they allowed only to cast their ballot for members of a school board composed exclusively of women? That women vote at all under such circumstances indicates their genuine interest in the schools. The vote polled at a special election is usually so light that the measure the election was held to sanction is lost. Therefore the school-board vote of women is no indication of their opinion about and desire for the suffrage.

**Language.**

Since the days of the most ancient speech one language after another has been popular. There was a time when Latin was spoken in all of the Mediterranean countries. Then Provençal, Italian, Spanish and the Teutonic tongues superceded the language of imperial Rome. We speak English in America now because the people of a small part of England, Northumbria, were able to overpower their neighbors and not because there was an inherent superiority in the language the Northumbrians used. Students of language say that Provençal is a more beautiful language than French. But all France talks French and the lovely Provençal is dying out because the people on the little Isle de France overpowered their neighbors. Bishop Scannell who delivered the St. Patrick's day address at Omaha believes apparently that the dying Gaelic can be preserved by the people if they will but resolve to speak it. But the language follows the flag. English is the tongue of the dominant people and English will be

spoken wherever trade and the English commercial system has broken the way. It is not a matter of choice, but of law which tenacious clinging to old customs can not affect.

**The Czar.**

Having repeatedly expressed a desire for universal peace, nevertheless, the Czar seems less likely to enjoy it, than any other man in the world. His bedroom and study are lined with steel and the latter room has five writing desks in it and the Czar sits first at one, then at another. So that none of the servants who may also be assassins may aim at him from the outside with any prospect of hitting him. Emperor William is said to blame popular discontent for the act of the epileptic who threw a missile at him recently. The Czar's precautions and the Emperor's accusations are well founded. Absolutism is doomed in Russia and Germany. The spirit of the age is indefinable, disembodied, inchoate, but it is first and last democratic and will not suffer tyranny. The Czar and the Emperor are archaic survivals of an earlier period in the development of man. If individuals of the stone age could have been miraculously preserved, they would move about in a curious frame of mind, regarded by the people of today as very interesting museum specimens, but no more. The idea that one man has a prescriptive right over the life and fortune of another is no longer held even in Russia or Germany. Yet the Czar and the Emperor reign on account of the inertia of institutions, the force of habit and the difficulty of reorganizing institutions. Men's minds are thoroughly reorganized and that is why the Czar travels, sleeps and studies in a bomb-proof compartment and why the Emperor is surrounded by a cordon of soldiers. The president of the United States needs only to be protected against cranks who threaten the life of every distinguished man. There are so many more sane people than cranks that when it is necessary to protect the head of the state from their revolvers, there is something the matter with the government.

**Beggars.**

One of the most disagreeable consequences of benevolence is the begging constantly addressed to one who has demonstrated a desire to give. Poor Andrew Carnegie's ship was waited for on the other side of the ocean by an innumerable company of beggars. All sorts of petitions for all kinds of institutions and individuals were prepared for him, but appalled, he eluded them and his agent informed the newspapers that Mr. Carnegie was not easily influenced to give to anything but libraries. This penalty of distinction is one of the severest. To be everlastingly followed by an army of invertebrates who know no other way of accomplishing their

desires than to tease some one else to donate the money for them, must be maddening. This is one of the experiences of the Deity which only divine patience and goodness can endure. Think of it! if all the prayers are audible, what a babel of requests for vengeance against enemies or deliverance from them, like some of the psalms, of prayers for cures, of prayers from intolerable situations and from disgrace must clog communication between here and there.

Men who have acquired a reputation for giving soon realize the futility as well as the poor policy of giving to individuals. The very poorest way of getting anything is by way of gift. To earn it, to make it, to attain it by effort strengthens the character to attain something still more difficult. Mr. Carnegie doubtless understands and he will not pauperize individuals by making them gifts. All those who have determined to write him for assistance might as well save their postage stamps, for disgust has seized upon him and he flees their kind in Europe. To give a community a library does not foster selfishness, because the ownership is in common.

**A Club Number.**

Next week's issue of The Courier will be devoted to clubs. It will contain reports and messages from the officers of the N.F.W.C. to the clubs of the state, a story by Mrs. McKillip and other matters especially interesting to club-women. Miss Harwood, the editor of the club department, is responsible for the edition and it promises to be a notable number. Readers who desire extra numbers of The Courier should send in their orders early.

**Mrs. Gilbert's Reminiscences.**

No biographies published in late years have been better than those published by actresses and actors. Although there is an attraction about everything behind the scenes, it is not stage glamour, but the simplicity of style and the evidences of kindly human feeling that makes the biographies of Joseph Jefferson and Mrs. Gilbert such pleasant and profitable reading. Mrs. Gilbert's reminiscences have been printed in Scribner's Monthly. She was born in 1821 and in her long and very useful life she has met many of the men and women who have made the history of the American drama. Beloved by them all, she has almost reached the end of her professional career. As a member of Mr. Daly's company for many years Mrs. Gilbert got very well acquainted with that great manager and her stories about him, his management of and intercourse with his players are very interesting. That Mrs. Gilbert should be able after a life spent not with books or with literary people but upon the stage, to write such simple, direct English is a tribute to the stage, its work and its people.