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If cats would only sleep at night, how thankful we should be!

If money would not get so tight, how thankful we should be!

When would you talk, foolishly, when you have to be silent, how thankful we should be!

Without the usual glare of striking announcements or the irksome reading for weeks previous about what to expect in the grand CHRISTMAS COURIER, this holiday issue is placed before its readers unannounced, to gain such compliment or comment as it may deserve. That it is not quite up to its annual forerunners in matter of expensive illustrations and lithographic work the publisher knows full well, but for a regular issue it is undoubtedly the handsomest ever published in Lincoln. Special numbers are a very expensive luxury and entail no end of labor, and as times have been somewhat stringent it was decided several months ago not to issue a special holiday edition, consequently the absence of customary announcements. This regular issue contains many excellent features, which, when perused in the home, club house or office, will, we are sure, be of general interest and pleasure to all.

The COURIER which has just attained its seventh birthday, feels its importance in the community that has so generously fostered it from the very day of its inception. Its past pleasant relations with Lincoln's most prominent citizens and the refined elements of the city has never lacked appreciation. That the COURIER has always endeavored to merit such favors as were shown it by giving to the people a paper worthy a place in the most sacredly guarded home, is apparent to all that have noticed its growth and awaited its regular visit each week for seven years. And now with the near advent of the promising new year and the occasion at hand of the joyous Christmas tide, let us extend our thanks to all for their generous patronage and kind words of encouragement and close with wishing one and all a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year fraught with ample prosperity and a full share of the blessings of life.

Americans like to make Chicago the butt of their good natured ridicule because of its unconventional habits, but one in awhile it sets an example that the wide country might emulate with benefit to itself. For instance, the Chicago superintendent of police has just been disciplining a lot of officers for various offenses. Not only were several discharged, but this superintendent actually had the courage to bounce a policeman for mistreating a citizen. Others were discharged or fined or suspended for using obscene language or for conduct unbecoming to an officer. It is unreasonable to expect policemen to be Chesterfields, but the operation of politics brings tough, coarse characters into almost every force, men who are an offense to decency, and it is a hopeful sign to find a chief of police with the nerve to discipline these fellows. It doesn't follow that this is a reflection on all policemen. Almost every force has men who are worthy of the warmest commendation for good sense and devotion to duty.

We have heard a great deal about the magnitude of the coming world's fair, but as every man in this country is expected to blow his own horn some of us have taken the glittering generalities put out by Chicago with a grain of allowance. When she said it would be the greatest on earth those of us who had been duly impressed with the marvels of the Paris exposition of 1889 were inclined to receive the Chicago boast with some reservation. It is a genuine satisfaction, therefore, to have a statement in figures which shows these claims to be true. Most things in this world are relative, and we judge of them best by comparisons. Mr. E. T. Jeffery, a prominent world's fair official, left Chicago a few days ago to look after his interests in the Denver & RioGrande railroad, of which he was recently elected president, and in a brief interview he drew some comparisons that are very flattering to our national pride.

The Paris exposition grounds contained 238 acres. The Chicago fair will have 640 acres, ninety of which will be lakes, canals and lagoons laid out with a view to the prettiest landscape effects. Chicago will have a frontage of a mile and three quarters, and visitors will be able to traverse a distance of three and three quarter miles on the interior waterways. The main exhibition buildings at Chicago will cover about 100 acres, while the grand total of all buildings will reach 130 to 140 acres. At Paris all buildings covered an area of only seventy-six acres. At Paris the machinery hall was the great distinctive structure. Its roof spanned 328 feet in the clear, at that time the widest span ever used for a roof truss. At Chicago the building for liberal and industrial arts will have a 500-foot span of 375, and

the building will be nearly a quarter of a mile long on all sides. The Paris exposition cost \$9,500,000. It is estimated that the Chicago fair will cost \$17,000,000, to which \$5,000,000 or more should be added for the expenses of private individuals, the states and the general government. The probabilities, therefore, are that the fair of 1903 will be far greater in every way than any similar exhibition ever given anywhere in the world, and those who felt hurt at fate because they could not go to Paris two years ago should be consoled.

In speaking the other day of girls at colleges a lady who has been there herself and used her eyes and intelligence to good advantage said: "A girl will live on about half as much as a male collegian who maintains the same relative position among his fellows. A girl can be a 'swell' on \$375 to \$400 a year. That is, she can not only have all necessities, but she can entertain and extend gracious courtesies to friends, and those are things that are very grateful to women. The proverbial girl in college shares a room with two or three companions, feasts off crackers, cocoa, eggs, cereals and other inexpensive food which she prepares herself, and even indulges in an occasional 'spread' of taffy, olives or sardines. Men like to talk about the extravagance of women, but one of our sex will live better and more comfortably on a small income than a man will. It is a general rule of college life that men are always in debt and very often leave school with a big account to wipe out. It is the exception to find a girl at college in debt, and she leaves school free of such obligations, sometimes only to marry a male graduate and to economize to pay off debts that he contracted before they ever knew each other. At Vassar the poor girl has an advantage in being able to draw on a pin-money fund. It was donated by a kind-hearted old New Yorker to be used for the entertainment of girls in need of assistance. There are money-less girls at Vassar who have been smart enough to win scholarships and depend on their darning baskets for money for little extras. Parties are constantly being made up for concerts, excursions and other entertainments, and the poor girl who needs money to join in the fun can draw on the pin-money fund and none of the other girls are the wiser."

What a contrast Russia affords! The hangers on at court are collecting money for a silver wedding present for the empress and propose giving her a solid silver set of 250 pieces. In several parts of the empire children are dying because straw and rags will not sustain life. It is only fair to the empress, however, to say that she had publicly asked that intending givers of presents should donate the money to the fund for the relief of the starving, but the scheming courtiers have ambitions that are too selfish to heed the suffering.

At Omaha the other day I met a young Russian who recently escaped from the horrors of Siberian exile. His arrival in this country was announced a few weeks ago in a dispatch from Victoria, Vancouver's Island. The exile had been condemned to fifteen years servitude in the mines of Kara because he dared to criticize the government of his country. He bore the slavery of the mines for six years, and last spring escaped from the penal colony. He started east towards the Pacific ocean, traveling in out of the way paths and under cover of night to elude pursuit. After months of weary tramping over a distance of nearly 300 miles he reached the coast and got passage on a vessel to Japan. Among the marks by which the Russian officials identified him was a bit of tattoo work on his left arm. Fearing that this might lead to his detection he took a razor and deliberately sliced off a piece of skin and flesh to remove the dangerous mark. It left a frightful scar which is not yet entirely healed. His ankles also bear the sores made by wearing iron chains. At Yokohama he smuggled himself aboard one of the big steamers belonging to the Canadian Pacific line and remained concealed for two days. He speaks French and Polish as well as Russian, and was able to tell his story to the captain, who then gave him good care and let him go free on arriving in America. He immediately crossed over into the United States and took out his first naturalization papers. His description of the cruelty of Siberian life tallies with George Kennan's story, and he says he saw the American traveler when at the Kara mines. This exile was once condemned with another convict to receive sixty lashes from the knout, and his companion died after receiving forty lashes. The escaped exile was seven months in reaching America. He is a young, fairly good looking man with a smooth face, except for a mole on his forehead. In his American attire he has none of the traditional appearance of a Russian, but there is a suggestion of the German in his face. His name is too much for me, either to pronounce or to spell. He has found a Russian or two in Omaha, and of course there are plenty of people with whom he can converse in French.

A friend came to me the other day with a circular advertising a very low priced set of Dickens' works offered for sale by some unknown Chicago concern sailing under a high sounding name. The circular expatiated on the merits of the great story writer and the desirability of having his works in every household, but it said very little, except in most general terms, about the quality of stock and workmanship in the books. My friend was enthusiastic because of the cheapness of the offer and wanted to buy, but I dissuaded him. Now this little incident has no particular importance, but it suggests a few remarks for the benefit of those who want to possess standard works and are tempted by the cheap prices of unknown concerns. In the case mentioned above the chances are that some fellow had bought from a regular publisher a set of old and worn-out electrotype plates of Dickens. The publisher probably was about to throw them into the melting pot, when the fellow with a scheme in sight offered him a trifle more than the metal was worth for remelting. The

chances are that the cheap books referred to in the circular were printed on coarse, trashy paper made of wood or straw and bound in a wretchedly flimsy manner, the whole work being rubbish, offensive to the eye, a robbery of the purse and a reproach to the self respect of the person gulled into buying it. And right here is one of the best places in the world in which to patronize home dealers. Reputable publishers are issuing standard authors in a great variety of editions, some of them marvels of cheapness. A person desiring cheap books can go to the local dealers and order standard works almost if not quite as cheap as most of the clap-trap stuff offered by outsiders. The buyer can be assured of getting well made books, too, and has within reach a responsible dealer who must make good the representations of both himself and the publisher.

It is considered the proper thing among newspaper wits to poke fun at the amateur photographer, but very frequently you find one of these enthusiasts who is able to turn his hobby to advantage and to demonstrate that it is good for something besides mere amusement. A few weeks ago Will O. Jones of the Journal was seen so frequently on the streets in company with a camera that his friends began to wonder if he contemplated retiring from journalism to devote his whole attention to this branch of art. They will all understand what he



The concert given by the Oratorio society last Friday evening attracted most of those who are musically inclined and interfered materially with the attendance at the Lansing. The Austrian Juvenile band is one of the best organizations of the kind that has ever come to Lincoln and it merited a crowded house. To be sure there was no attempt to render any ultra-classical selections, but most enjoyable programs were given both at the matinee and in the evening. The Hungarian carols of which there were several, were a decided novelty and greatly appreciated. Herr Lambert Steiner, the conductor has the band under the most perfect control.

The capacity of the Lansing was tested Saturday afternoon when John Palmer and company presented "The Last Days of Pompeii" to an audience of over 2,000 people. It was the Evening News matinee and the little folk enjoyed a genuine treat. There is enough of the spectacular in Palmer's dramatization of Bulwer's famous

A DRAMA IN SIX ACTS.



was doing when the Journal issues its educational souvenir, which will be early in the coming week, or on Christmas day at the latest. It required just 92 separate photographs for that work, and it is said that those produced by the amateur were fully as good as the pictures made by the professional photographers.

Advance sheets of this souvenir show that it will be a very attractive publication. It is printed on heavy book paper and the illustrations are all made by the half-tone process. That means the direct reproduction of photographs. The sixteen pages are crowded with educational facts and pictures of schools and colleges, the whole having a showing that will astonish Lincoln people as well as those who have never seen the city. Perhaps the most commendable thing about the work is the entire absence of advertising. It is all education, and probably the only publication of the kind ever produced in the country. Newspaper men well know that there is no money in such a paper for the publisher, but there will be a great deal of glory in it, and perhaps that will satisfy the Journal.

The new Lincoln frame and art company make a specialty of frames for fine crayon work, with Elite Studio 236 south Eleventh street.

The only place to get the "Time lock register bank" at the great 10 cent store, 118 south 13th street.

New etchings, many fine plates, just received. Come early. Crankers Art and Music store.

Ladies hair dressing, Miss Johnston, 1114 O street.

novel to attract and interest the young and the play itself is of a kind that cannot harm in any way the juvenile mind. The evening performance was also largely attended. John Palmer will be remembered by some as a former member of Frederick Ward's support. He is an actor of considerable force, whose chief fault lies in a tendency to over act, albeit he is dignified and manly, and his "Arbaces" was intelligently portrayed. It is not an easy role and Mr. Palmer acquitted himself with great credit. The support was not of a high grade. Miss Gertrude Derrity as "Nydia" and Miss Annie Davis as "Ione" were attractive and winsome, the character of "Nydia" especially being well presented. The scenery and effects were such as to lend interest to the presentation.

"Sport McAllister" which was presented at the Funke Friday and Saturday is a first rate farce, as farces go, but the people did not turn out to see it. Verily the farce comedy is on the wane.

Geneva Johnstone Bishop gave a recital at the Lansing Thursday evening. A very enjoyable programme was rendered, the attendance was small. "The Hunter's Song" and "Heinrich Schuetz's" were warmly greeted. "Salve Regina" was one of the best numbers. "Time" and the "Jewel Song" from Faust were among other beautiful selections. Mrs. Bishop has an exceptionally fine voice in which there is a noticeable dramatic element.

Edwin Travers, "The Private Secretary" was the ball at the Funke Thursday and although the play has been seen several times in this city the new company was

greeted with a good audience. The mirth provoking qualities in Gillett's comedy rise superior to the flight of time and the play remains fresh and inspiring. It is one of the funniest comedies of the present decade, a period unusually rich in this particular field, and its strong situations and bright dialogue will insure it a highly respectable longevity. Many prominent people have appeared in the "secretary" and the fact makes it difficult for an ordinary company to essay its production. However, Edwin Travers' company can hardly be called ordinary, as it contains some first rate people, though not widely known. Travers himself as "Douglas Cattermole" is a fine personation, even the most captious could find little to criticize in his portrayal of the wild young blood. The part was well sustained and the actor was equal to the demand for diversified ability. Wm. Fairbanks, "Mr. Spaulding" was much better for some attempts at this not over easy characterization. Ross Davis as "Mr. Cattermole" was breezy and entertaining and Harry Hinesley's "Harry Marsland" was unobjectionable. The "Mr. Marsland of Evelyn Evans" was stiff and a trifle clumsy. The female parts were in good hands, especially "Edith" which was done by Grace Graves.

The recent presentation of Mendelssohn's "Hymns of Praise" proves again that in Lincoln there is much to admire in home talent, especially when strengthened with capable leaders. Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond has again shown herself as a most capable director and the success achieved only adds additional laurels to her past record of exceptionally artistic work. "Hymns of Praise" was heard by a thoroughly delighted audience, the oratorio proving a stronger attraction than rival entertainments at the theatre and elsewhere. The tenor, Mr. Knorr, was as usual excellent, while the soprano Mrs. Lawson was received with generous applause. The oratorio society is certainly a credit to Lincoln. Their next will be a concert given in the near future, which will be followed by the May Festival at the Lansing theatre.

Francis Joseph of Austria sets great store by the Austrian Juvenile band. It is a court institution, and admission into it is hinged with so many conditions that membership is highly prized. Most of the members are younger sons of noble or wealthy families. After ten years service in the band the young musicians are commissioned second lieutenants in the Austrian army.

Many good companies have gone to the wall in the last few weeks, particularly traveling combinations. They say it is due to hard times. Manager Church of the Lansing has had hard luck in this direction. He had some really good dates for the latter part of December, shows like the "Castles in the Air" opera etc., but had business elsewhere prevents their appearance here.

If the judgement of those Lincolinites who saw the Arson Opera company in "Uncle Celestin" in Omaha can be relied upon, there was little loss in the cancellation of the date for this city. The piece is not an opera but a musical comedy and the management is now yellow dogging it through the country prior to presentation in New York.

YON YONSON AT THE LANSING. An unquestioned and unquestionable fact is that no production in many years has possessed so many elements of unusual novelty as "Yon Yonson," which will be seen for the first time in this city at the Lansing this afternoon and evening. The immigrant Swede is a character entirely new to the stage, and for that matter comparatively unfamiliar to that insignificant portion of the United States not embraced in the great Northwest. Mr. Gus Heege, the originator of Scandinavian dialect comedy in "Yon Yonson" has given theatrical history a character so quaint, so original, so clearly lined that the impression cannot fail to stand boldly out among the most celebrated portraiture of the American drama. In the company engaged by Manager Litt to support Mr. Heege there are such clever people as Annie Lewis, whom most of the critics have agreed upon as the coming national soubrette; Sadie Connelly, whose impersonation of an Irish landlady is a gem in its way; Helene Lowell; Master Frankie James, H. D. Bjers, Wm. Stafford, Tom W. Davenport and Franclyn Hurligh. The scenic and mechanical equipments of "Yon Yonson" at the most elaborate and effective produced in recent years. The great "log jam" scene in particular being fairly thrilling in its marvelous realism.

Theatre parties promise to be more popular this season than ever in large cities. One of the prettiest parties of the Chicago season was called a "violet party," and consisted of thirty-three couples, each lady wearing a violet-trimmed hat, a spray of violets in her corsage and each carrying a violet fan. It was as unique as it was beautiful, and has been largely copied in other cities. During the engagement of Salvini at Chattanooga, where he opened his present southern tour, a rose party was one of the features of the occupants of the boxes and one that was greatly admired. The fact is a pretty one and one that makes theatre goers thoroughly enjoy themselves for the novelty of the situation and the pleasure of social companionship between the acts.

"Here's an idea I've just given Mr. Litt for a scene in a new play: what do you think of it?" said Mr. Litt's bright little comeliest, Annie Lewis of the "Yon Yonson" company to the COURIER man who "dressed the dramatic." "I have the villain pursued by mounted police officers for the robbery of a bank. He comes on the stage out of breath and here's my sensational realism. Just before the villain comes on, the father of the heroine, a farmer has with a real team of horses and a plow, plowed a furrow across the en-

tire width of the stage in simon pure soil, and he is plowing back again and gets to the center of the stage when he is stopped by the being villain who demands one of the horses that he may escape. The farmer refuses, and Miss Lewis began to act the two characters. "Villain, desperate, strikes farmer with a wrench hanging to plow; farmer falls; villain with knife cuts traces, mounts horse, gallops off; two mounted policemen gallop on; see villain, gallop after him; some changes to country road; villain gallops across stage; policemen in hot pursuit; some closes in one; villain again gallops on; falls from horse and is captured by police—curtain. How is that for sensational realism?" said the dainty little lady, with her eyes flashing with the excitement of description.

THE TUG OF WAR.

Last night at the New Lansing, manager Hickey introduced the latest American craze, "The Tug of War" and it certainly proved a great novelty to the large audience that witnessed the sport. It is a clever entertainment when well managed, as was the case last evening. It proved a most decided enjoyable as well as exciting and interesting. It was the first presentation of "The Tug of War" and speaks well for its popularity in Lincoln.

Next week commences the most interesting feature of the entertainment. The grand tournament will be inaugurated Thursday and continues five days, viz, December 24, 25, 26, 29 and 30. If you were not present last night, make it a point to go sure next week. The admission fee is only 25 and 50 cents and it is worth as much to see it as the best attraction that appears before the footlights.

JIM, THE WESTERNER.

As a Christmas attraction Manager Church has secured an exceptionally strong production in A. M. Delissors company of sterling actors who open a two nights engagement at the New Lansing in "Jim, the Westerner". This is the piece that has been creating such favorable comment in the New York press recently and in it one finds much to admire. It is not a wild show nor the story of border life drama as some might infer from its title, but a genuine American comedy drama of rare merit. The piece is handsomely staged and never fails to receive the applause due it. There will be a matinee Christmas day. Seats go on sale Wednesday morning at the box office.

HAYDEN ART CLUB'S FOURTH.

The fourth annual exhibit of the Hayden Art club takes place at Grand Memorial Hall and commences next week, and that it will be up to the usual excellence of the club's past records is already assured. The arrangements have been going on for the past two weeks and on Monday all will be in readiness for the opening.

FOOTLIGHT FLASHES.

There will be no matinee of "Yon Yonson" at the Lansing today.

Paul Potter is writing a play to be called "The American Minister."

"The President" is reported to have closed its season at Spokane Falls last week.

Queenie Vassar has joined "A Trip to Chinatown," replacing Blanche Arkwright.

Nate Salisbury of Buffalo Bill's Wild West sailed from England for New York, December 6.

Isabelle Evesson has joined Manager Charles Frohman's company, and will travel with Henry E. Dixey.

Wilton A. Lac Rayo, who has been playing at London, England, sailed for New York city, December 9.

Ione Dunham, one of the pretty girls in "La Cigale" chorus has fallen heir to a \$125,000 estate in Elmira.

John J. Ruddy, is again with the Hoyt & Thomas forces for the rest of the season, in "A Midnight Bell."

Charles Wyndham has revived Bronson Howard's "Saratoga" ("Brighton") at the Criterion Theatre, London.

Jenny Eddy has been engaged by W. A. Mestayer for "The Grab Bag" company which opens Christmas week.

The next play Mr. Coarles H. Hoyt will write after "A Temperance Town" is produced, has been named "A Man Born in Missouri."

Two nights are booked for the Lansing next week—"Jim the Westerner" and Christmas Friday Saturday with a matinee, on the latter date.

"Sinbad" continues to attract tremendous audiences to Manager David Henderson's Chicago Opera. It is the biggest success that Henderson has yet had and could run out the entire season. It is booked at the Lansing.

Mr. Joseph Haworth has been immensely successful in the South where he is at present coining money. Next week he is to appear in New Orleans where he is promised an ovation and later on he will be seen at the Lansing.

R. D. Mac Lean and Marie Prescott have decided to open their season at the Union Square theatre, New York, next Monday with "Spartacus," to be followed with "Cleopatra," and their entire repertoire of classic plays.

Fred Peel, "the Amusement Incitor of Public Interest" for "Yon Yonson" has come to town and is booming his play, which will soon be given a Metropolitan production, says the N. Y. Stage News. It will be the identical piece and company that will be seen at the Lansing tonight.

Jeweler Hallett has been enjoying a great rush the past week and his holiday trade thus far more than doubles his last year's business. Hallett is Lincoln's popular jeweler and the fact that the people know it is the reason for his great success.

All the latest styles of picture mouldings. Work guaranteed. CRANKER'S ART AND MUSIC STORE, 212 South Eleventh street.

Lincoln Ice Co., 1010 O St. Telephone 225