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THAT ALMOST EMPTY HOUSE.

A narrow-waisted, four-page pamphlet, more particularly described as "Miscellaneous Doc. No. 6, House of Representatives, Fifty-second Congress, Second Session," and headed, "Industrial Christian Home Association of Utah," comes from the seat of government at Washington, D. C. this crisp morning like the strain of a half-forgotten song or a voice from the tomb. It consists of a communication from the Utah Commission transmitting their annual report on the institution named, and includes as Appendix A a report from the president and secretary of the institution to the "members of the Woman's Industrial Christian Home Association of Utah," in which those officers tell their associates just how the thing is managed and the great good it is doing and is capable of doing, and incidentally advise Congress as to its duty in the premises so long as "there is one sorrowing, suffering soul seeking its refuge." Not knowing what else to do with it, the House referred the communication to the committee on Territories and ordered it printed. That is how we came to know about it.

We glean from the report that with their best endeavors the association have only been able to spend during the year \$3995.33 out of the \$4000.00 appropriated, so that there is \$4.67 on hand; also that "it is a conceded fact that this institution has not been as successful as was hoped by its friends." Nevertheless, say the gentlemen of the Utah Commission, "it has been a good work for such as have accepted its hospitality," and in the endeavor to advance something that shall look favorable, they gratuitously suggest that this good work has been done both directly and indirectly by causing "greater care to be exercised by those who are unwilling to have their friends accept favors at the institution." Following this presumptuous guess at something they know nothing about, the thoughtful Commission quote from that stately and picturesque back number, Senator Edmunds, on the necessity of keeping the Home's door open so that "if it fails of success the blame shall be on others and not on the general government;" but they generously leave to the wisdom of Congress the ex-senator's counsel as well as the matter of continuance and future use and disposition of the concern.

The ladies signing that part of the report flippantly designated as "Appendix A," are evidently not so willing to trust "the wisdom of Congress." They make an advocate's plea, and point out how necessary it is that "the

doors of this asylum shall be kept open by Congress." In a burst of impassioned eloquence they declare, "This institution was created by law!" And if that is not convincing enough, that "of the many agencies and methods that must combine and cooperate each in its own way in the actual healing and helping and uplifting, this home has its place and cannot be left out!" Hence the request for the usual appropriation for the coming year.

As a matter of statistics the report shows that during the year from October, 1891, the average number of inmates has been twenty, thirteen of them children. The institution represents a moneyed value of \$60,000. As a matter of fact \$60,000 of government money was never more absurdly expended; and no more glaring monument of senile senatorial yielding to a female lobbyist's importunity was ever erected. Still, if Congress is soft enough to continue to devote an annual sum to its maintenance no one hereabouts will complain. Such a course would doubtless contribute to the joy of the lady officers and members of the association and furnish the ornamental Utah Commission one more subject to devote their solemn attention to for a few minutes during each recurring mellow autumn; all this, too, without doing anybody any harm or causing anybody any pain that we have been able to hear of.

STILL ROOM FOR HOPE.

Nearly every eye in the region of country west of the Nebraska prairies and east of the Sierra Nevadas is turned toward Brussels. On the result of the deliberations of that gathering depends, it may be, the weal or woe of all the district named directly, and indirectly the welfare of the whole country if not the civilized world. In possession of a region whose natural wealth is held in circumscription and confine not altogether by the zealous guardianship of nature but chiefly by the selfishness, waywardness and it may be ignorance of those who control, we are constructively as poor, or nearly so, as though nature had not stocked the mountains with her treasures. The owner of a silver mine, no matter how extensive and productive it may be, does not know whether to prosecute the work of development means to make him independent for life or a pauper. There is in most cases this risk to be run; but vicious legislation has made of what would otherwise be fruitful certainties so many doubtful quantities, that the owner of a poor mine and he that owns a good one are well-nigh on an equality prospectively considered. The question seems to be very simple: If silver has the necessary attributes for money, what right have those who exercise a fictitious yet arbitrary and all but supreme power through the ownership and control of the other money metal to deny silver its natural function? If it has not those qualities, why tamper with it longer? Why disturb the nations and cause their "solid men" unrest and annoyance by giving it any recognition at all? Why have statesmen convened in a deliberative capacity to assign to

it a "separate and distinct station?" Why not treat it as iron, or copper, or lead are treated and let its price be regulated by the amount which the market demands for mechanical and scientific purposes? If its qualities partake sufficiently of royalty to place it somewhat above those metals as an article of ornamental utility, and not enough to entitle it to rank as a standard for effecting exchanges, let that be said and the end has come, for a medium ground means the lower, and anything is better than suspense. No; silver must be either money or merchandise, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the conference will declare in favor of one or the other so we may know what to depend upon. If the white metal is to be declared money, let the ratio be established at which it is to be coined and circulated freely as such, otherwise let the world of finance through its duly constituted agents strike out the money function altogether, and then if we on this side the Atlantic want to adopt heroic measures we will have the basis and the justification at once.

Yesterday's New York *Herald* has a cablegram from Brussels, which appeared this morning as a special in the *Tribune* of this city. It contains a statement by Senator John P. Jones, one of the delegates from the United States. In it he says:

I have not given up hope that some plan may be evolved from the discussion in progress now and that before the end of the present week. If not the conference may adjourn for good or it may adjourn for the holidays. If the latter happens the governments now opposed to us may see the danger in which they stand and come to an agreement. They will discover that they cannot maintain the present system, but may want time to find a way out of the difficulty. I will speak on Tuesday. My speech will be academic, for I have been asked to discuss the question thoroughly.

It is also announced that Senator Jones will speak at great length and that his address is almost certain to attract wide attention, for he is "on his mettle." There is apparently something to hope for, sure enough; Senator Jones is a capable and earnest man, and if he can't induce the gold-ites to acknowledge the error of their ways, he can at least leave them with no excuse for not adopting definite measures.

THE REGULAR VEXATION.

The revenue law of Utah may not be the best in the world, but it certainly is not the worst. A good many people are disposed at times to complain of the items allowed when a pressure is brought to bear, by which the expense is increased variously, such, for instance, as having to pay an installment on the serial which recently appeared in the News columns by authority of the collector, Mr. L. G. Hardy, this of course swelling a small sum to what some ayes seem disposed to consider an unwarrantable extent. But this is not the case, as any one can see for himself upon investigation. Besides, there is an ounce of prevention for all this extra expense and annoyance, and it will be found superior to the pound of cure demand-