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"MORMON" WOMEN.—FALSE IDEAS REGARDING THEM.

One of the cunning contrivances in Cragin's Bill to make it, as he thinks, effective, is the empowering of women to sue for and recover compensation from their husbands for their labor and services, during the period of their marriage, without any deduction for their husbands' supporting and maintaining them while they have lived as their wives. The Bill would also make it lawful for them to sue for and recover any real estate, money, or other personal property given, granted or conveyed by them since the passage of the anti-polygamy act of eighteen sixty-two, to any person or body politic as a voluntary gift, donation, or contribution to "said pretended Mormon church," or for its benefit, directly or indirectly. Mr. Cragin thinks, doubtless, that this will prove a strong feature in his Bill. Like many others who have preceded him, he assumes that other people are as selfish, corrupt and mean as he is. He appeals to their cupidity. He hopes to strike a blow at what he calls "Mormonism," by appealing to the lowest and basest passions in the human breast. Such an appeal would, doubtless, have weight with him. It is here where he—as scores and hundreds have been before him,—is mistaken. He cannot judge of "Mormon" nature by his nature; he cannot come to a correct conclusion respecting "Mormon" hearts, and the motives which operate upon them, by his own heart or the motives that influence him. They are a people, the like of which he has never met; they are as distinct from him and those of his cast of mind, as if they were of another species. If he could hear the expressions of contempt with which this portion of the Bill is received by the females of this Territory, and see the scorn which mantles their faces, when they read his base provision, and for their benefit, forsooth, we think that if he ever had the faculty of blushing his cheeks would redden with shame. They are expected to dissolve the tie which connects them with their husbands—break a covenant which they believe to be eternal—forego all the hopes of a heaven of bliss in the presence of God—hopes which have sustained them in the hours of the deepest affliction and given them consolation when all earthly prospects seemed to be blighted—and for what? For the benefit which Senator Cragin presents in his wretched Bill! How preposterous! If any thing were wanting to show up this man in his true light, the provisions in Section 15 of his Bill would of themselves be sufficient.

How little do such men as he know about the higher motives which influence people to action! If they see a noble, self-sacrificing deed performed, they cannot understand it, only as springing from a selfish motive. If they see a people forsaking everything—friends, relatives, the graves of their ancestors, the homes of their childhood, or the fruits of their own hard labor and toil, and taking a journey into an unknown wilderness there to erect their altars anew and worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, they cannot ascribe such a movement to its true cause. Their sordid natures cannot comprehend it. Incapable themselves of making such sacrifices for principle, they cannot conceive how others can do so. How little Cragin knows of true womankind, can be seen from this Bill; any man who has no higher opinion of them than he entertains, is more to be pitied than despised. His associations have evidently been low and bad.

Years ago there was an idea prevalent abroad that our females were in such bondage here, that they would gladly welcome any deliverance that might present itself, however questionable its shape. It was upon this idea that the suggestion was made a few years since, by a then leading man in the Republic,

to send out to Utah a select corps of young men whose advances and attractions would lure away the females of our community. This proposal was made in all seriousness, as one of the readiest means of solving the "Mormon" problem, and breaking up its institutions! Before "King James Buchanan" sent "our gallant little army" here, with the avowed object of blotting us out, the idea was entertained in many quarters that our females were disaffected, and only wanted a favorable opportunity to escape. It was then supposed that to cause our wives, mothers and daughters to desert us, it would only be necessary to hoist the flag of the Union, and tell them to come to it and they should receive protection and succor. Whether there was any discrimination made in favor of good-looking men in organizing that army or not, we never knew. But we know they came, they saw, but unlike Caesar, they did not conquer. They hoisted the flag, they exhibited themselves to the best possible advantage, they told the ladies they were in bondage, and invited them to fly to their arms; but in vain. The ladies didn't fly—only from them.

We supposed that this experiment had been satisfactory, and that the old ideas, based upon the lies of apostates and others of their kidney, respecting the terrorism which existed here, had been thoroughly exploded. But it appears that Cragin has learned nothing from the past. Through his benighted brain the idea still flits that the women here must be disaffected. He will not have it otherwise. How he, and others who think as he does, are deceived, all who know anything about the Latter-day Saints fully understand. From the organization of the Church until the present, woman has earned and maintained the character which has been attributed to her from the earliest ages—she has comprehended truth quickly, has adhered to it firmly and unflinchingly, has borne the trials attendant upon its belief and practice unmurmuringly; when strong men have trembled and shrunk she has not quailed; but has manifested an integrity and fidelity which have called forth the admiration of the other sex. All these qualities woman has exhibited repeatedly in our history. So often has her steadfastness been proved, that it has become proverbial among our people that woman would seldom, if ever, apostatize and leave us, if it were not to accompany her recreant partner.

REDUCED INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.

There may be many of our subscribers who may not be aware that, under the provisions of the new Postal Convention between the United States and Great Britain, held last summer, and which is dated July 8th, 1867, a considerable modification was made in the postage of international letters.

The provisions of the Convention applying to international newspapers, printed matter and other postal packets came into operation on the 1st of October, 1867. In a former article we gave some explanations respecting the rates of postage on such matter. In one of the published regulations on the subject, it is stated that newspapers sent to and from Great Britain are charged two cents postage without regard to weight. But there seems to be some mistake about this, as the *London Illustrated News* has come here with four cent stamps on each number, since the first of October, while previously it came here bearing two cent stamps only. There is a postal regulation which says, that "pamphlets and periodicals over two ounces in weight, and other printed matter, except books, including printed papers of all kinds, maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, and so forth, are charged four cents per four ounces or fraction of four ounces." It is probable that this regulation governs newspapers, like the *London Illustrated News*, that are over a certain weight. We may here repeat that books sent by mail to and from Great Britain, are charged for at the rate of six cents per four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

That portion of the new Postal Convention which relates to international letters went into operation on the first of January. Twenty-four cents for a single rate of half an ounce, or under has been the charge heretofore for letters sent to and from Great Britain. Now, letters of that weight are sent to and from the two countries for half the previous amount—that is, twelve cents. But there is a point in connection with this to which we wish to call the atten-

tion of our readers. Unpaid or insufficiently paid international letters will, in addition to the full postage, be subject to a fine on delivery. The fine to be levied and collected in the United States upon unpaid or insufficiently paid international letters received from the United Kingdom on and after Jan. 1, 1868, will be five cents each. Letters, therefore, which do not bear a sufficient number of stamps to prepay them, are charged on delivery as though there had been nothing prepaid upon them, and five cents extra as a fine.

The international registration fee was formerly twenty cents; now, the amount is only eight cents. Letters, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, or books, can be registered for the latter amount in addition to the ordinary postage charges.

The provisions of this new Postal Convention are quite liberal, and place great facilities for correspondence and the transmission of news between the two countries within the reach of their inhabitants. There are many people here who keep up correspondence with their friends and relatives who are on missions in Great Britain, and with other residents of that kingdom, to whom the lowering of the rate will be very acceptable. The difference between the old and the new rates will be more than made up to our Government and that of Great Britain, by the increased correspondence, etc. Rowland Hill's plan of cheap postage, though deemed chimerical and unfeasible when first proposed, has been accepted as the one best adapted to the wants of our age. In a densely-populated country like Great Britain, the penny postage system, besides conferring great advantages upon the people, is more remunerative to the government than the old rates. But in the United States, and especially in the new States and Territories, where a sparse population is scattered over a large surface of country, Government is not at present repaid by the postage for the cost of carrying the mails. Our Postmaster-General, Governor Randall, in his late report, makes some very sensible remarks upon this subject, which are worth republishing. He says:

"It can not be anticipated that the revenues of the Department derived from the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes, and from other sources, independent of specific appropriations, can equal the necessary expenditures of the Department while the service is being constantly increased, at great cost, to meet the wants of the people in sparsely settled Territories. The faster the new Territories are peopled, and their material resources developed, the greater will be the postal revenues coming back to reimburse the Department for its outlays. Until the whole country is well settled by a stable, producing, thrifty population, it cannot be assumed, with certainty, that the Post Office Department can become self-sustaining. New channels of postal communication are opening every where, and necessary expenses grow faster than legitimate revenue increases. When the waste country becomes better settled, and the facilities for mail transportation increased and cheapened, as they will be in a very few years, the increase of revenues and comparative decrease of carrying expenses will entirely change the relation of the taxes and resources of the Department, and, at the present rates of postage, it will not only be self-sustaining but furnish no inconsiderable revenue to the government. There is no appropriation of public money which brings back, directly, or indirectly, so large a return to the Government and the people as that made in aid of the postal service. Only one other department of the Government gets back a revenue anywhere near its expenses, in return for the outlay, of public money."

COMMERCIAL REACTION.—OUR CONDITION AS A PEOPLE.

We hear of tight times in the East; not only suffering among the whites and blacks in the South, for the want of the common necessities of life, but in the eastern cities and states. We are informed that two dry goods houses alone—Stewart's and Clafin's—have recently discharged four hundred clerks. If these wealthy and popular firms have been compelled to discharge so many of their hands, other houses of less note have doubtless been under the necessity of following their example, and have had to lessen their staffs of employees. Everything that we hear respecting business in the East goes to show that

merchants and others there are beginning to feel the pressure of hard times.

It is not surprising that it should be so. Indeed, the only cause for surprise is that these financial difficulties have not come sooner. Every man who has had his attention drawn to the manner in which business has been conducted of late—the abundance of money, the general extravagance and the recklessness which has characterized business dealings—and has reflected upon the subject, must have had the conviction forced home upon him that such a condition of things could not last. The business world has been in a feverish, unnatural state. A prostration equally as much below the healthy standard as such a state is above, must follow as a natural consequence. This is the reaction now being felt, and it will, without doubt, be attended with disastrous consequences to the business world.

Even in this country, though so remote from the present great business centres, the past abundance of money etc., is being followed by closer times than we have had for years. Still, we are not affected by such changes as other people are. Those who are in business and have not taken warning from the signs of the times in season, feel the change more sensibly than the mass of the people do. The people of this Territory have the necessities of life in greater profusion, and can more readily obtain them, than any other people of their class in the Union. The staff of life is not in the hands of capitalists and when close times come, the people at large do not suffer because speculators wish to make money out of their wants.

No greater pains could have been taken to teach people the true policy of life than have been bestowed upon the people of this Territory. Since the beginning of the settlement here, this subject has formed the chief topic of the principal portion of the public discourses of the leading men of the community. And, when it is remembered, how many thousands have emigrated to this land who were utterly ignorant of sustaining themselves in a new country, it must be acknowledged, in view of the thrift and plenty which prevail, that such teachings have been attended with excellent results. If there should be a scarcity of any of the essentials of life at any time in this country, the people will have nobody to blame but themselves; for they have had no lack of good counsel. To-day they might, had they been so minded, have been independent of the financial changes which occur so frequently in the business world, and have suffered but little from the panics which affect and disturb it.

As it is, however, we have great cause to be thankful. Our people are well sheltered, well clothed, well fed and well warmed. Beggars are unknown in our Territory. The cries of the widow and orphan do not ascend to the Lord from this land, complaining of their lack of the necessities of life and of the oppressions which they endure; and we trust they never will. The recent measures which have been taken to feed the poor cannot fail to be attended with the happiest effects. Thus far they have worked admirably, and they will so long as the novelty lasts. But, when the first burst of zeal is exhausted, people are apt to get careless and forgetful. This should not be the case in the present instance. The work of providing for the poor should be attended to with quiet and persistent earnestness, not for this month alone, but always, or as long as there are any poor to be cared for.

Punctuality and honesty in our business dealings with one another, promptness in meeting our obligations and promises, and a liberal treatment of the destitute, will go very far towards mitigating the hardness of the times of which many are beginning to complain.

THE FEMALE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

The *New York Times* says:—
"Female suffrage might perhaps be tried with novel effect in the Territory of Utah—the State of Deseret. There the 'better half' of humanity is in such strong numerical majority that even if all the other half should vote the other way they would carry the election. Perhaps it would result in casting out polygamy and Mormonism in general. And, to prevent woman voters from being under the control of their husbands, they should be allowed to employ 'sealed' ballots. Here would be a capital field for woman suffrage to make a start, and we presume nobody would object to the experiment. Why will not Messrs. Train, Anthony, Stone, and other gentlemen engaged in the cause, turn their attention to this promising field?"

The people of Utah are not afraid of the consequences of giving the women of the Territory the right to vote. In an ecclesiastical capacity they have,