

IS WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN COLORADO A FAILURE?

Father W. O. Ryan, pastor of St. Leo's church, Denver, Colo., who has been a strenuous advocate of woman suffrage, has written for the New York Herald the following clear and convincing statement:

To say that female suffrage in Colorado has proved a failure is to express a half truth, and a failure, after all, is but a negative term. Failures are of two kinds: failures in things and failures in persons.

But the exercise of suffrage by women in Colorado is no longer tolerable. It is an unmitigated evil, a horrible travesty on the hopes and expectations of many of us; a Frankenstein monster we have raised which we must slay or it slays us. It is injuring our homes; it is ruining to all that is becoming and admirable in our political life; it is a sure sign that a higher class could succeed once woman suffrage obtained.

All these hopes are with the things that were. Politics is the same old dirty game, the candidates are of the same mixed caliber, the ward heeler flourishes the barkeeper with a pull he is not extinguished; the repeater has still his innings.

What good has woman suffrage done? Absolutely none. And from experience we find that it is incapable of good. It can change the result of any election, for the daughter, mother or sister votes as her father, husband or brother votes. This is the rule to which the exception is rare.

In a large acquaintance, and I believe I know and speak to a majority of as any man in Denver, I have met only few exceptions to that rule. In one case the woman voted from her family tradition; in the other the woman voted against her husband's ideas. I believe, from natural perversity. And it is well the rule works; did it not, God help the divided homes.

I see no good result from our eight years of woman suffrage. We have a Sunday closing and midnight closing law for saloons. Surely here the woman vote should tell. Yet the fact is that most of our saloons are open on Sunday; many are open all night. And that abomination "the ladies' entrance" greets one everywhere in Denver. Women suffer more than men from the gambling evil. Yet gambling is open and seemingly supported, or at least protected, by law in Denver.

There is in Denver, as in all large cities, a "red light" district. If the painted women were confined there so much the better for morality. She roams wide, however, and everywhere is heard to the polls; the semi-drunkard harries votes beside the respectable mother and sister.

And the evil of woman suffrage? For a month past hundreds of women have neglected their homes because of their interest in politics. Women's political clubs under the name "Bryan" or "McKinley"—and doubtless both these gentlemen would be far from desiring their names to appear as an agent for the woman in politics—female political orators, female political canvassing—God pity us, we have known the burden and woe of them all. It is our conviction that where women have joined fortunes with a political party, because of their finer, more emotional nature they have become the blindest partisans, and by their emotions are made absolutely destitute of principle in things political.

Think of it, a woman buying other women to persecute voters who had moved. Two such authentic cases came under my observation, and these women were otherwise reputed decent.

At present things are bad enough, but there is a deeper depth, when generally women will enter into politics, when the female canvasser and female orator and female place-seeker will be multiplied. I think we shall be saved that worst depth. My personal view is that men and women are shocked by the exercise of female suffrage, that Colorado is recovering the good sense that distinguished her before the era of Waite and Populism, which brought us, among other insanities, woman suffrage.

With many, I believe our women should vote at school elections, that the charities and correctional institutions of the State should be divorced from

politics, and women be given a guiding voice and hand over them.

It is not improbable that woman suffrage will be again submitted to the electors of Colorado. Fully ninety per cent of our men and at least three-fourths of our women will rejoice in the opportunity, and will kill the foolish and regrettable experiment of woman suffrage. While it exists with us its only possible use is to serve as a horrible example and warning to States unprepared as we.

W. O. RYAN, Pastor St. Leo's Church, Denver, Nov. 11, 1900.

One of the most notable of suffrage enthusiasts in Colorado is Mrs. Louise Tyler, of Denver, who was State president of the suffrage association during 1891-92, and also chairman of the executive committee of that body in its campaign in the fall of 1893. She dictated the following views to the Herald:

Woman suffrage in Colorado is not a failure. Responsibility is always an educator, especially to women. The greatest good of suffrage in Colorado has been the calling of heretofore in the parlors of homes, where heretofore they had been in saloons and other disreputable places.

Suffrage has also affected the choice of the class of men, and even women, elected to responsible offices. I wish it distinctly stated, now that the matter occurs to me, that I never said that woman suffrage would purify politics. I have held, and do still hold, however, that suffrage elevates women. Women are the daughters of fathers, the same as men are sons of fathers.

"You hear talk about suffrage weaning a woman from her home; that she will forget her family, her husband and her kitchen; that she will grow manly and hardened and lose the finer instincts and attributes usually found in women. I wish to say that if a woman is going to be manly or weaned from home she will do so without suffrage as well as with it. The true woman never forgets her home, as her home is the center of life.

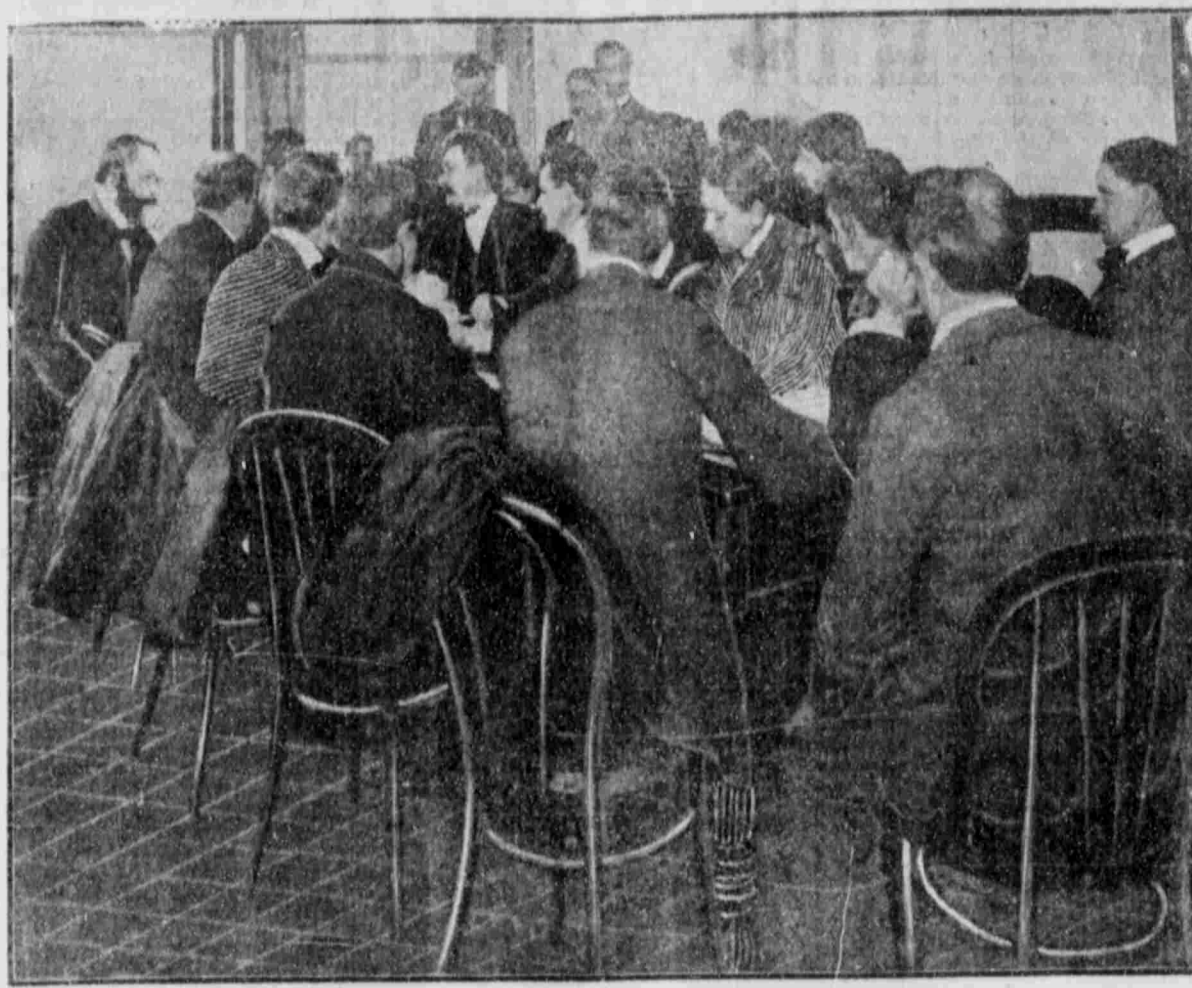
"Persons who have lived in the State recently well know what good suffrage has accomplished. When suffrage was first granted to women of Colorado a bill was passed by them, giving the married mother an equal right with the father to the child. Before that the married mother had no say in the matter; the father could will away the child and she could not interfere upon penalty of infraction of the law. Of course the mother of a child, if she can do as she pleases with it, few States in the Union have laws where married mothers have this right to their children, co-equal with the fathers.

"Probably small matter to most people, but, yet, a law of far-reaching effect and beneficent in every sense of the word, was that apportioning funds for the State Home for Dependent Children, an institution that does just what the name implies. That required equal with men to vote for those measures, and men, the proposition of home is one of the foremost institutions in the State.

"Municipal ownership of public utilities, a very much discussed subject in Denver and other cities of Colorado, through the civic federation of women. Through the civic federation, instead of only of women, the first fight against the Denver Union Water company, having for its object the acquisition of a municipal plant, was waged. Had not the members of the federation the right equal with men to vote for those measures, and men, the proposition probably never would have carried. We elected the whole city ticket four years ago, all the candidates being pledged to municipal ownership. It is the first time, within my knowledge, that any body of women ever elected a ticket from top to bottom. Most of the office-holders remained true to their pledges.

"The views of Father Ryan have aroused indignation among all suffragists, in my opinion, in the State. I do not believe he had any justification whatever for his utterances. Suffragists have always interested themselves in reform measures of all kinds. Each woman's club, with its hundreds in membership, has always had a legislative committee, composed of able women, who are pledged to work for the measure. Each club has a rule to devote its united attention to its own bill and push it to a law, if possible."

A most delightful conversationalist and philosopher is Mrs. Ella K. Leech, of Denver. She is recognized widely as one of the prominent women politicians in the State. She has held several public offices, the last being assistant county superintendent of instruction. She dictated the following



MANHATTAN'S ANTI-VICE CRUSADERS.

Every good citizen in the United States is interested vitally in the mammoth anti-vice crusade now waged in the metropolis by churchmen, merchants and politicians. Men of millions are committed heart and soul to the great municipal purification movement, and, although the three classes of crusaders look askance at one another, they really are working along identical lines. Here is the first photograph of Tammany Hall's investigating committee.

statement, from the standpoint of one who sees both good and bad in Colorado suffrage.

"Suffrage in Colorado is a success, and it is not a success. If it could have been confined to the women of thought and pure ideas, combined with an earnestness to carry out the things they cried for, it would have been a howling success. But when it develops in women traits of character, habits and ideas that should have lain dormant till the end of all time it hits an outer circle of the target.

"It is the untrained women who kill suffrage for this reason: that they are not fairly fealty. They simply shrug their shoulders and inquire, 'what is there in it?' In a country where the people are thoroughly up to date in education and learning suffrage might be a great thing. But we are in it and in it to stay.

"To talk of repealing suffrage laws is to my notion impossible. A repeal would have to come before a general election, and thus give all the women interested abundant time to be registered. Their vote is so enormous in this State, and there are so few men who would stay with the proposition to repeal, that it would be impossible to accomplish the desired result.

"If there could be a penalty placed upon every woman in the State over twenty-one years of age who did not vote at election time (inasmuch as they generally pleaded for the franchise and then failed to sustain it at every election by their votes) then it would be a success. The leaders of the suffrage movement in this State went to a convention to nominate a ticket that suited them. Then they went outside of Colorado to preach suffrage, instead of remaining at home and leading their companion women to the fight. I speak from a thoroughly political standpoint.

"As for myself, I was registered in 1894 and I have never missed a primary or an election since that time. My mother, eight years ago, was the same. If women were all that way they could be organized in battle array and advantages would be secured.

"Hence, it is not so much the evil of suffrage itself which is to be considered as it is the methods of those who foster it. Suffrage has done a great deal of good for the State, and in this respect it has been a success. It has accomplished much for the school system, which is a highly important factor, if not the highest factor, in the element of raising the younger generation.

"A few days ago Mrs. Helen L. Grenfell was re-elected as State superintendent of public instruction. It is a high honor for her. Her women friends supported her through their elective franchise, else she might not have won out. The office has been conducted by her in a thoroughly efficient manner. In fact, in my opinion, none of her predecessors carried the burden with such honors."

DEATH OFTEN COMES FROM TRIFLES.

Men and women die every day in ways as peculiar as incomprehensible. The story of the man who, having traveled the world over, braved tropic dangers and arctic vicissitudes and checked death in a thousand ways and under a thousand different disguises, came home to die by a fall from his own doorstep, is discounted daily in actual life.

A Chicago woman talked herself to death not long since. Literally and actually cut off her life span with her tongue and her teeth. For over ten years she had never stopped talking, by night or day, asleep or awake. A nervous woman and a great talker always she lost her mental balance a decade since and commenced to talk without cessation. Gradually growing weaker she yet talked the more incessantly. A particularly rapid and voluble flow of words left her, at last, literally "short of breath." She had talked herself into eternity.

Last year another Chicago woman, leaning over the rail of her back porch to look into the yard below, lost her balance and fell killing herself instantly. Another woman severed an artery in her wrist while peeling potatoes and also paid nature's last debt. A Denver man was not long ago strangled by the loose rope of a clothesline flapping in a high wind. He was adjusting the line, which ran on pulleys set between the back porch and the top of an adjacent building and the loose end of the rope was blown around his throat, twisted tightly, and carried far into his reach, the end becoming entangled in another part of the line. The unfortunate man was unable to loosen its grim embrace, the high wind being stronger than himself, and the pressure caused by the wind slowly strangled him. Another man swallowed a bit of the metal with which he was endeavoring to patch up a shabby picture molding and was choked to death also. This man had served in the Civil and Spanish-American wars and had followed the sea for many years. Death claimed him, after threatening ineffectually many times, just at the time when no danger seemed at hand.

Through two smallpox epidemics and a turn or two of yellow fever a southern physician rendered magnificent service, without even the threat of illness for himself. Mending the broken back of a boyish friend he picked his finger. The leather had evidently been

come imbued with some poisonous substance which the needle, in passing through it, carried into the unconscious body. Blood poisoning, severe agony, death resulted. Once more the old Persian proverb is irresistibly brought to mind.

A little child, a week or two ago, fell into a tub of scalding water and was drowned. His mother had set tubs of scalding water on the kitchen floor every wash day since he had been born. Many times they had been full. The tub which killed the poor baby only contained a little of the cruel fluid. But the baby swallowed just enough to kill him. A St. Louis man was drowned a little while ago by falling head first into a huge barrel of water set to catch the drippings from the eaves. The water was only about two feet deep in the barrel, but the man unable to recover his footing or to upset the heavy barrel, was hastened into another world. Last Fourth of July a man was suffocated by the fumes of the fireworks he had provided for the delight of his children. He wanted to see how brightly the colored flames would burn, so he lighted a little of the powder in his own room and lay watching it flare and flicker until he fell asleep. The door was closed, the window but slightly open, with a heavy screen between it and the bed. The man was dead when found, suffocated as slowly and surely as though by the aid of the famous charcoal burner of France.

The murderous pistol which "won't go off" is famed for its uselessness, but the "flashlight pistol" of the amateur photographer has yet to acquire a reputation of this order. Yet an English girl had her life snuffed out like a candle in the wind because of one of the pistols a month or so ago. The room which she desired to "snap" was large and dark; her charge of flashlight powder correspondingly heavy. The "pistol" seemed determined not to behave as it should. After two or three ineffectual efforts to discharge it the girl raised the muzzle-looking instrument to her face. Bending close to investigate the interior it "went off" suddenly. A musket in the mouth could not have blown off her head more effectively.

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CIGARETTE TAX MUST BE PAID.

Court Says Dealers in Chicago Must Pay \$100 License or Go Out of Business—Ordinance is a Health Measure.

Cigarette dealers of Chicago who are fighting in the courts the payment of the \$100 license fee imposed by the city council a couple of years ago lost their case yesterday when the appellate court sustained the decision of Judge Neely and refused to issue an injunction against the collection of the license fee, says the Chicago Times-Herald of November 9.

Now the dealers have one of three courses of action before them, and they will decide at a meeting of the Cigar and Tobacco Merchants' association to be held in the near future which they will follow. They will either carry the case to the supreme court, attempt to have the city council repeal the license or find satisfaction for their feelings by making an effort to have the city enforce the license fairly and without discrimination on all dealers who sell cigarettes, whether on a big or small scale.

"The reason we have fought this case so hard and so long," said Albert Breitung, president of the association, yesterday, "is that the ordinance has been so carelessly enforced that it has been a great injustice. Either the city should enforce the ordinance fairly or it should repeal it. There are at present in Chicago from 5,000 to 6,000 dealers in cigarettes, and of these only 250 pay the \$100 license. The others pay nothing to the city, though one would naturally think that most of them pay something to somebody else for their protection."

"Times of prosperity have struck us along with all the rest of the country, and would not be a bit surprised if the tobacco dealers could at once raise a fund big enough to make it possible to secure evidence and prosecute the people who violate the law. I don't say positively that we will do this, but I will call a meeting at once, and we will discuss it."

"I have no doubt that the city collector is doing his best to enforce the law. The matter of \$100 a year is a considerable item for the city, but the police officers to whom the duty is left of reporting dealers without licenses are very negligent."

A MANIA FOR BIG WORDS.

In the St. James Budget T. A. Vance calls attention to the mania for big words among men of science and gives some amusing examples: Mr. Herbert Spencer, in his "First Principles," the first volume of his Synthetic Philosophy, says that "Evolution is an integration of matter and concomitant dissipation of motion, during which the matter passes from an indifferent, incoherent homogeneity to a definite, coherent heterogeneity, and during which the retained motion undergoes a parallel transformation." I can remember many years ago hearing an acquaintance reel off a remarkable paraphrase of that good old saw, "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones." This is the way he put it: "Individuals inhabiting domiciles of crystalline structure should refrain from the projection of missiles of granitic formation."

The late George John Romanes was another scientist who fairly reveled in big words. He played with them, judged them into sentences, and the average reader cannot help losing himself in the bewildering maze. Two examples from his "Examination of Weismannism," his best known work, will illustrate the point. They are selected at random. Romanes in speaking of plant life says: "All the multicellular organisms propagate themselves, not exclusively by fission or gemmation, but by sexual fertilization." Which, translated to common English, means that higher plants multiply not only by division and buds but by seeds. A little further on Mr. Romanes speaks of the "undifferentiated diaplasm of the first ontogenetic stage."

Such words are simply staggering. The other day I met with the word "diolactylate." The Standard Dictionary defines it thus: "A phalanx of colomorphous one-celled birds." Of course, the meaning of the word was at once made clear. In some readings on entomological subjects I met with the word "planipennis," which the Standard says is a name given to a sub-order of neuropterous insects with multinate wings and multilobed antennae.

The definition of scientific words in the Standard Dictionary, as may be inferred by the examples cited, are not characterized by extreme simplicity of language. The reader is informed that the "acanthoccephala" is the name given to an order of "nematelminth" worms but with a retractile proboscis covered with hooks, comprising echinopneustidae. The "arcturidae" are a "family of isopods, with inferior ocelliferous uropods, and with the anterior (four pairs of legs ciliated and the posterior three ambulatory)." Taking up the study of shellfish, one finds that the rhynchonellidae are a "family of diplostracan holothurians, having a flask-shaped body." Most people know a least what a flask is like.

Professor Hyatt in an article on the nautilus in the American Naturalist tells us that "the leading characteristic of nautilus is a retractile proboscis, and nautilus is a tendency toward coiling and greater evolution in the more specialized forms of each separate series, and a correlative increase in the profundity of the impressed zone."

Professor Cope, in his "Primary Factors of Organic Evolution," tells his reader that "the first phase, that of the human elbow, the cubitus was luxated posteriorly, so that the humeral condyles articulate with the ulna, anterior to the coronoid process." The translator of Ribot's "Psychology of Attention" tries to say that when we study of nautilus in all genetic series, he puts it in this way: "Intense enjoyment produces a momentary unity of consciousness."

Time was, concludes Mr. Vance, when a word to the wise was sufficient. Nowadays it must be a mighty long word or it will not do. Time was when the school boy could recite with satisfaction both to himself and teacher:

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the pleasant land.

Nowadays, to meet the full requirements of polysyllabic science, he must paraphrase it thus:

Infinitesimal particles of saline humectant fluidity,
Minute corpuscles of non-adhering inorganic matter,
Copiously cause to exist the immeasurable expanse of aqueous solution,
And the resplendent superficial area of dry solidity.

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