



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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FEMALE SUFFRAGE IN UTAH.

THE female suffrage question is now fairly before the nation; its advocates are as earnest in their labors as if the salvation of the world depended upon their success, and the triumph of the movement, we believe, is only a question of time. The agitation of the question has reached the Rocky Mountains. In our neighboring Territory, Wyoming, the cause has triumphed; in Colorado the ladies are petitioning to have female suffrage legalized there. But success by piecemeal will not satisfy those who are acknowledged as the national leaders of the movement; nothing short of an amendment to Constitution of the United States to this effect will do for them, and this is now being eagerly sought; and as Congressmen are noted, among other things, for their gallantry and their susceptibility to female charms, the adoption of such an amendment is not at all improbable.

We believe in the right of suffrage being enjoyed by all who can exercise it intelligently; but our lawmakers, in conferring this great power upon the recently emancipated black race, do not seem to regard intelligence as an indispensable pre-requisite; and we think the suffrage might be conferred with much greater propriety upon intelligent white women than upon ignorant blacks.

The idea of female suffrage is regarded by many as peculiar to and having originated in these last days; but history tells us that a similar movement existed in ancient Greece when that nation was in the meridian of her splendor. If the right of suffrage was granted to the ladies then it certainly did not bring about the reforms considered necessary to preserve that nation from decadence, and whether it would in this is extremely doubtful. However, that is no reason that it should be withheld. We are a decided advocate of the rights of women as well as of men, and believe that the two are so intimately related that they cannot be enjoyed, to the fullest extent compatible with happiness and well-being, by either sex while the other labors under disability, however limited.

Universal white male suffrage has been more thoroughly tested in this country than in any other; but venality abounds, and thousands of votes are sold to the highest bidders, hence the results of the system are not so satisfactory as could be wished. Female suffrage might have a tendency to promote purity of elections, and its introduction at the ballot box be attended with results as satisfactory as the amalgamation of certain races in the growth and development of powerful nationalities. We believe it would, and we also think it probable that the power this would place in the hands of women would be used for the benefit of their sex, and would be followed in time by legislation of such a character as would tend more to diminish prostitution and the various social evils which overwhelm society than anything hitherto devised under universal male suffrage.

The degraded condition of the women in this Territory is a very fruitful theme among our friends outside; in this respect as well as in many others they seem unmindful of, or callous to, the real evils around themselves, but very sensitive to imaginary ones at a distance. They are like the fabled worthy who, through admiring the splendor of the stars, became, or feigned to be, totally ignorant of the dirt, squalor and wretchedness of earth. This class, while mourning and sighing over the "degradation" of the ladies of Utah, have suggested a plan for their emancipation from all "thralldom," polygamy included, and that remedy is the suffrage. The subject has been brought before the attention of Congress, and Senator Pomeroy, we believe, a short time ago introduced a bill to confer the suffrage on the ladies of Utah.

It may be gratifying to all outside

who are anxious, to learn that the advisability of extending the suffrage to the ladies of Utah has been discussed considerably during the present session of the Territorial Legislature. In the House a few days ago, after an animated discussion on the subject, a committee was appointed to inquire into the propriety of its establishment in this Territory; on the 2nd instant the committee gave in their report, which was quite favorable, and on the 5th the House passed a bill to this effect, hence it is very probable that before the present session of the Legislature closes, female suffrage will be *un fait accompli* in this Territory; then if, as our friends outside affirm, its exercise will "emancipate" the ladies of Utah, they will be masters, or rather mistresses of the situation. As for ourselves, we have no doubt as to the result, and are satisfied that it will strengthen the cause of Zion, polygamy included. In all matters pertaining to church government the sisters have always had the same right to vote as the brethren; but in civil matters they, here as elsewhere, have had no say; but if this bill passes they will be their equals in that respect too. We are satisfied that the result will be exactly opposite to what our enemies anticipate. On the plural marriage question we are as firmly convinced as we are of our own existence that were its continuance or abolition put to the vote of the female portion of our population to-day it would be sustained by a nine-tenths majority; and upon this score, which has enlisted the mock sympathy of so many, no disadvantage to Zion's cause will ensue. In every other it cannot but result also in good. We have many friends around whose constant effort is to out-vote the "Mormons" at their municipal elections so that the discordant elements so overwhelmingly developed in municipal rule everywhere but in Zion might be introduced here. Many of our cotemporaries boast that this consummation will soon be brought about now that direct rail communication exists between the cities of Utah and the East and West. We do not anticipate such a result; nevertheless the hopes of our enemies in this respect may be realized. We do not believe, however, that the existence of our most cherished institutions depends on such a frail tenure as the possession of power by the female members of the Church to vote them down. If such be the case, we believe the ladies should have the power to exercise their agency, hence we desire to see the matter tested; and we hope that the bill passed by the House of Representatives of the Territorial Legislature, on Saturday, will be passed by the Council, believing that the result will be an additional proof to the world, that even with this power in their hands the ladies of Utah will remain true to their integrity, and then, as now, will sustain the priesthood, whether acting in a religious or civil capacity, in promoting the cause of Zion and the behests of Heaven.

A "GALAXY" WRITER ON THE MORMONS.

AMONG the many who interviewed President Young last summer was a person named Justin McCartney, formerly on the editorial staff of the London Morning Star. The February number of the Galaxy contains an article, headed "Brigham Young," over the signature of this gentleman, which purports to give the impressions resulting from his visit to Salt Lake. Prejudice towards the people of Utah is visible in every line, but the article, as a whole, is the strangest mixture we have ever perused. Its writer has done his best to create a feeling against the "Mormons," but, in some respects, he has launched out on a different tack to any of his predecessors. A copy of the lecture, entitled "Whited Sepulchers," most likely inspired him when talking about the ladies here; for his remarks are but an exaggerated repetition of the statements contained therein, but are more soul-less and spiritless and decidedly more senseless than any ever penned by the authoress of that foolish production.

McCartney takes up considerable space in saying little about his interview with President Young; much that he says is slangy, flippant and worthy of a circus buffoon, his conclusions being that President Young believes himself a heaven-inspired leader; but he, McCartney, of course, believes to the contrary.

His idea of "Mormonism," in the abstract, is that it is really regarded by its votaries as a religion, and that the

men, even, are not held to it by polygamy; for he thinks that everywhere in Christendom there are abundant opportunities for the gratification of libidinous desires at less expense than polygamy among the "Mormons."

Polygamy, of course, receives a full share of this worthy's abuse; but unlike his predecessors, he asserts the belief that it is worse than prostitution, and that there is more hope for society with the latter than with the former. Strange enough, one of this man's chief objections to that much misunderstood system is based, professedly, on physiological grounds. This is something new to us. Among all the objections raised against polygamy we have never heard this urged before; those most opposed to its practice on social and moral grounds have never, to our knowledge, objected to it physiologically. But then there are many philosophic truths yet unknown to professed scientists, and it may be that McCartney's visit to Salt Lake will be the means of developing one of these truths, and instead of having to depend wholly for fame by pandering to a vitiated public taste by writing sensation magazine articles he may yet take rank among quack scientists.

In perusing his article one cannot help being persuaded that he is a prince among egotists; this is specially apparent in that portion of it devoted to Salt Lake City and the Theatre. Scores of men of the same profession as McCartney have visited Salt Lake City. They have come filled with prejudice in the great majority of cases, and, with rare exceptions, have had no higher object in view than he—namely, to make money by writing sensation articles about Utah and its people, whether true or false, was of like consequence to them. Without exception, we think, no matter what their prejudices have been, his predecessors have given it as their unanimous opinion that Salt Lake City was a beautiful city—an oasis in the desert, and furnished an overwhelming proof of the grit and industry of the "Mormons." The theatre, too, when the difficulties that had to be encountered in its erection were considered, when the whole people were a thousand miles from civilization, has been pronounced a marvel, and compared, by men who knew and have seen as much as this McCartney, with leading theatres in this country and Great Britain. But this new light in magazinedom would persuade his readers that his predecessors knew nothing and have all been mistaken, that Salt Lake City and the Theatre are diametrically opposite to what they have been represented, and that no people, save they had been Digger Indians, would have done less here than the "Mormons."

Now the opinions of any man or people concerning the people of Utah or their works give us no concern whatever, and especially when the expression of such opinions evinces so much ignorance of their situation and is so completely free from common sense as that of McCartney. But we wish to assure them all that the credit the people here deserve, and that public opinion has awarded them, cannot be taken away by their ridiculous misrepresentations.

There may be a few among the readers of this Galaxy article who will endorse it; but to the thinking portion who know the least about the difficulties that the people of Utah had to labor under in founding the first, and still the most flourishing, colony in the Rocky Mountains, that article will be regarded simply as an expose of the consummate ignorance and egotism of its author. We saw it stated the other day, we think in the letter of an Eastern correspondent to one of our exchanges, that this man was considered by some as the most valuable recent addition to the magazine writers of the country; he may be so considered, but we are decidedly of the opinion that in venality the augmentation to the craft will be immense, but in honor very slight indeed.

NOMINATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.

The mass meeting for the nomination of city officers, noticed in our edition of yesterday evening, convened as announced at the building formerly occupied as a store by Messrs. Walker Brothers. We are happy to say there was a very fine attendance of our citizens.

The doors were opened shortly before half-past six, and in a few seconds the house was crowded to its utmost capacity,

city, hundreds being unable to gain admittance. The meeting being called to order, Col. J. C. Little was elected chairman, E. L. Sloan Esq. secretary, and Geo. F. Gibbs Esq. reporter. The chairman presented the business to the meeting and the gentlemen whose names appear on "the people's ticket," at the head of our columns were nominated and agreed to with the greatest enthusiasm.

The business having been accomplished the citizens dispersed in the best of humor, being satisfied that they had nominated men who would do their duty, the popularity of the candidates being most unequivocally manifested.

ANTI-ANNEXATION MEETING. — On the 7th inst. the citizens of Kaysville held a mass-meeting to protest against Senator Trumbull's bill for the annexation of a certain portion of Utah Territory to the Territory of Idaho. Appropriate speeches were made on the occasion and the following memorial to Congress, received, in a very short space of time, 296 signatures:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled:

We, your memorialists, citizens of Kaysville, Davis County, Utah Territory, respectfully represent that, whereas a petition has been presented to your honorable body by Senator Trumbull, purporting to come from the citizens of Utah, praying that all that portion of this Territory North of forty-first parallel of North latitude be annexed for government purpose to the Territory of Idaho; whereas it was never made known to us that such petition would be presented, and, whereas the adoption of such a measure would bring us under laws that we have had no part in forming, and which are incompatible to our interests as agriculturists, and burden us with a debt we have had no part in contracting, we, your memorialists, do most solemnly protest against such annexation, believing such a measure would be in direct opposition to our interests as citizens and to the development of the resources of the Territory of Utah.

Hoping that your honorable body will give this memorial your calm consideration, we as in duty bound will ever pray.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL.

As will be seen by the communication below from his Excellency, Acting Governor Mann, to Honorable Orson Pratt, Speaker of the House, the Governor's signature has been affixed to the bill which passed the Legislative Assembly this week, conferring the franchise on women. We congratulate his Excellency upon his action in the matter, which we have no doubt will afford much satisfaction to all the citizens of the Territory, and will be a lasting honor to his name. The spirit and genius of the age point directly to an early day when women everywhere throughout this wide Republic will enjoy the right of suffrage; and it is no small honor that Governor Mann has secured for himself in being the first Executive to attach the approving signature to such a measure, for the Governor of Wyoming vetoed the bill in that Territory and it was passed over the veto. We hope the results of the measure may be as beneficial as its supporters desire, and herewith append the communication that makes the bill law:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Utah Territory,
February 12, 1870.

To the Honorable Orson Pratt, Speaker of the House.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you, that I have this day approved, signed and deposited in the Secretary's office, "An Act" conferring upon women the elective franchise. In view of the importance of the measure referred to, it may not be considered improper for me to remark, that I have very grave and serious doubts of the wisdom and soundness of that political economy which makes the act a law of this Territory, and that there are many reasons which, in my judgment, are opposed to the legislation; but whatever these doubts and reasons may have been, in view of the unanimous passage of the act in both the House and the Council, and in deference to the judgment of many whose opinion I very much respect, I have, as before stated, approved of the bill, hoping that future experience may approve the wisdom of our action, and that the