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SOMETHING is said now-a-days about "free speech"—indeed it is used in that claptrap manner which is one of the sure tokens of unmitigated buncombe. There are some signs of the phrase being adopted as a local party shibboleth. But it will not be supposed that "free speech" in that connexion signifies any such thing as the liberty to civilly and respectfully utter one's sentiments. Nothing of the kind. Good men love liberty, bad men love license. The "free speech" demanded by those slanderous stump orators and their hall fellows of the press is not liberty, but license. It is not the liberty to honestly make known the sincere sentiments of the mind, but license to abuse and to vilify others in the grossest manner.

We cannot sanction any such freedom of speech as that which is but another name for unbridled licence. We are not accustomed to it. It is foreign to our nature, and in this we think we may also speak in behalf of the community at large. That freedom of speech which consists in respectfully declaring one's real sentiments at all proper times and places without molestation is the true and rightful freedom, and that has always been enjoyed in this city and in this Territory, and the person who says otherwise does not speak in accordance with the facts.

"ALL are talking of Utah," says the trite old song, and verily the expression was both descriptive and prophetic. All are talking of Utah now-a-days—the religious, the moral, the political, the financial and commercial, and the scientific and mining portions of the civilized world. Utah, which once was so despised that no man passed through her, if he could help it, is now the grand centre of attraction. No other Territory is talked of so much. Pike's Peak was once the rage, then Montana, then Nevada, but now it is Utah. Very likely in some things she is now overrated, as in times past she was underrated, but no matter, her name is up, and, despite philosophizing, there is much in a name, there is very much just now in the name of Utah.

The New York Herald, in commenting upon the exploring expedition of Lieut. Wheeler, says some things highly eulogistic of Utah and the Great Basin—

His exploration will embrace areas in Utah, Nevada and Arizona. He will examine the southern and southeastern parts of the Great Salt Lake Basin, and settle the mooted question as to the identity of the drainage further south of the Preuss and Sevier lakes, and he will inspect the mineral ranges from Salt Lake down to the Virgin River, and thence down to its junction with that wild river of the great canyons—the Colorado. The silver-bearing ranges of Eastern Nevada will also be examined, and the lofty snow-clad and extensive Wahsatch range, the eastern boundary of the Great Basin. The geological branch of the survey will fix the limit within which mineral croppings may be reasonably expected, and beyond which it will not be judicious to search for them. Much of the labor of the survey will be devoted to this object, and particularly, inasmuch as the soil of Utah and Nevada being mostly desert, those countries must depend for their settlement and development mainly upon their mineral resources. But still, in this expedition, all the usual scientific departments will be fully represented. The scientific corps, the teamsters, packers, attendants, &c., and a protecting company of cavalry, all told, will number one hundred persons. That is the equipment with which Livingstone by England should be provided. Meal-time side parties from Wheeler's corps

are engaged in geological examination around Great Salt Lake.

Now, from what we know already of the wonders of Utah and Nevada, we have no doubt that the reports of these forthcoming explorations will be of the greatest interest and importance. During the Mexican war and for some years after it the army officers, overland emigrants and other pioneers passing through the Great Basin, concurred in the opinion that it was an utterly God-forsaken country, not worth one cent for a thousand acres beyond the few green patches along the mountain streams, which could be made productive by irrigation. Next came those silver discoveries in Nevada, from which hundreds of millions have been added to the general wealth of our country, and yet, perhaps, not over one half the mountains of Nevada have been explored or prospected. Next came the Pacific Railroad, which has made even the Nevada deserts along the line valuable property, and which, from its branch road to Salt Lake City and the recently discovered silver mines in the neighborhood, have advanced real estate in that little city to something approximating the scale of New York prices.

From recent travellers in Utah, moreover, we learn that there is no conception in the east of the mineral riches of that Territory; that its coal mines already furnish a heavy trade to the Pacific Railroad to the Pacific; that "Rocky Mountain Coal," a fine bituminous article, is the general fuel of San Francisco; that this coal is worth more to those timberless States and Territories from Utah westward than all their mines of gold and silver, that the mountains west and south of Great Salt Lake to Utah Lake and its basin are lined with silver, lead and iron; that farther south, there are mountains of rock salt and mountains of pure sulphur—the upheavals of extinct volcanoes; that they are building the Temple at Salt Lake City from great quarries of the finest granite in the world; that the soda, sulphur and boiling springs of Utah have never been numbered, and that down towards Arizona there are mountains, cliffs, rifts and cañons more wonderful than the Devil's Slide or the Devil's Gate of the Weber River, or the picturesque palisades of the Humboldt; that there are still thousands of acres of wild lands in the valleys and bottoms of the Salt Lake Basin, which can be made to produce from fifty to sixty bushels of wheat to the acre by irrigation; that limestone is the predominating rock in the Salt Lake Mountains and that simply by solar evaporation the manufacture of salt from the saturated solution of the Salt Lake is a profitable business.

Lieutenant Wheeler's forthcoming thorough exploration will, no doubt, throw a flood of light upon all these resources of wealth; and we expect, too, that in the Colorado deserts and in the canyons of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona it will give us many interesting discoveries of that ancient Aztec race, the ruins belonging to which in the valley of the Gila River and in the valleys of other tributaries of the Colorado, give evidence of considerable advances in the arts of civilization. The traditions of the present local tribes on the Gila tell us that the Aztecs, many, many, generations ago, moved southward, and that Cortez found them in all their glory in their splendid semi-barbaric and semi-civilized city of Mexico. There are yet thousands of square miles of the mountains and sage brush deserts of Utah and Nevada still unexplored, and we anticipate, from the comprehensive researches of Lieutenant Wheeler's expedition therein, revelations of many new wonders, which will eclipse the wonders of Equatorial Africa.

AMONG other feminine questions of the day presenting themselves for discussion, is this—how shall the ladies ride? The common fashion, or squaw fashion? Owing to the contingency of absence of side saddles, Grace Greenwood tried it the other way on a trip to Yosemite, and she makes bold to tell the public that she decidedly approves of the cavalier or horsemanship style for woman.

Next comes along a brief dissertation on "horsemanship" by John W. Carrington in *Appleton's Journal*. Mr. C. argues in favor of the adoption of the astraddle custom of riding for the fair sex. He refers to the record that "Anne of Bohemia, consort of Richard II of England, first introduced the fashion of ladies riding sideways," and proceeds to argue against the "rid-

iculous fashion," which he arraigns as also being unnatural, unreasonable, ungraceful, and unsafe. Ladies, says he, ought to ride, as all two-legged equestrians should, astride, inasmuch as it is nonsense for any bifurcated human to back the noblest of quadrupeds in a manner to throw away the advantage which Nature has given for maintaining with ease the necessary equilibrium.

An extract is given from a description by Bayard Taylor of an ascent of Mount Pleasant in 1860—

Here my lady friend, appalled by the road, and the perils of the side saddle, was about to give up the journey; but, having convinced her of the greater security of the masculine seat, we changed saddles, and all went well. I would advise all ladies who are at all nervous, to take a man's saddle and ride as Catharine of Russia did.

Another from Thomas Foster's travels in Sicily—

The girls were in such glee, with Filippi pressing the mules to a gallop, that, though we enjoyed the fun, we really feared they would be thrown off. Our fears were groundless; riding astride, as is the fashion of the country, but with all propriety, they had a firm seat, and laughed at our apprehensions.

And another from a traveler concerning a Tartar cavalcade—

Mounted astride—the only way ladies ride in the East, or should ride anywhere—on a graceful Tartar iron-gray, with a pretty foot peeping from her drapery, she was a fair type of the Mingrelian.

It is also stated that in Peru, within a few years, if not now, it was the fashion of the country for ladies to ride astride, and to do it "with not so much display of foot and ankle as our ladies make at a street crossing, or on an omnibus step."

It is urged that the side saddle custom is awkward, inconvenient, uncomfortable, dangerous, clumsy, punishing the frame by its uneasiness of seat, affording no security against the temper of an unknown horse, chafing the limbs and stooping the circulation in them, and putting all thoughts of the exercise out of the mind for a week at least after anything like an extended ride. Able physicians and surgeons, conversed with upon the subject, concur in saying that there are no good reasons why ladies should not ride like men, and that persistence in the sideway style stands on conventional prejudice alone.

Among the advantages of the man-fashion of riding are stated to be that it is more safe, comfortable, picturesque and enjoyable, giving the rider a good grip of her horse and command of him, in a measure independent of girth or surcingle.

Mr. C. proposes a rather flat seated saddle for ladies, with a low cantle, and a rather short Turkish stirrup, and for a riding habit the Bloomer costume, with a very full skirt falling a little below the knee, Turkish trousers gathered at the ankle, a neat high gaiter, or Zouave bootee, a jaunty hat and plume.

The suggested change in equestrian lady fashions must be left to the action of the ladies themselves. If they adopt the cavalier style, the cavaliers will not be likely to make much objection.

THE following letter is presented as a relic of revolutionary times. It was written by the great grandfather of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, at the time acting as town agent for Topsfield, Essex County, Massachusetts, and transacting business at Boston in relation to outfitting soldiers for the revolutionary army. Samuel Smith had been a member of the General Court or Legislature of the colony of Massachusetts, and for a third of a century one of the principal citizens of Topsfield.

The "new paper money" spoken of in the letter was the paper of Morris's specie bank, and was understood to be equivalent to specie, being therefore much preferred to "continental" money, which was almost valueless.

The laws repealed were those which authorized towns to expend means in feeding the families of soldiers, and the hasty repeal produced much disappointment, causing many towns to be involved in pecuniary difficulties, Topsfield among the number. These difficulties were aggravated by the primitive infacility of communication, the Topsfield people, like those of many other towns, being ignorant of the repeal until Mr. Smith went to Boston

for pay and reimbursement, and discovered and sent word, by private conveyance, how matters stood.

The shirts were doubtless manufactured by hand, and it is a little curious that those which were made of half cotton were more valuable than those manufactured entirely of linen, the price of the former being 12 shillings and of the latter 10 shillings each. But here is the letter—

BOSTON, Feb. 2nd, 1782.

Sir—I have taken this opportunity to write to you to let you know that it is trying times here. The prices of our clothing are much cut down—linen shirts are put at 10s, cotton and linen are put at 12s, shoes are put at 10s. The rest of our things they have allowed as we set them, but they have allowed 2-6-3 for collecting and transporting said articles. The muster roll we sent they liked very well, but the amount of supplying the soldiers' families we must lose for ought anything I see, for the court have repealed all the laws respecting that matter, though many towns have done as we did, yet must lose it.

I have taken the money for the clothing in the new paper money, as it is to be taken for rates in the treasury. I have sent ye money by Capt. Gould to you and desire you to deal it out where it ought to go, if they want it before I come home. I don't know as I shall come home till near March. The new paper money will answer in ye treasury as well as silver, and if you can get any body to take ye paper to pay their rates, I should be glad if you would change it and pay Madame Emerson silver. I desire you to let my family know that I am well. I am in a great hurry. Mr. Perkins is going to Topsfield, so no more at present. I am your friend, SAMUEL SMITH. It being now ye 7 day.

THE dispatches for a few days past have been portending an official declaration that the political battle-ground State, North Carolina, has "gone Republican." The elective action of that State has been looked for with intense interest by both the leading parties. The Philadelphia Press says the struggle has been the most exciting one remembered in a Southern State. If North Carolina shall be given to the Democrats and Liberal Republicans, though now it is announced for the Republicans, that fact would be regarded by many as virtually settling the Presidential contest. Says the New York Herald, "The Republicans, by the vigor and bitterness of their canvass, have signified their conviction that a defeat in North Carolina at this time would render their ultimate success hopeless."

There can be no doubt that no stone was left unturned, the turning of which would be likely to assist the Republican party. If the State really has gone Republican, it is by a small majority, many of the votes of which were undoubtedly secured to that party through the influence of official patronage, and therefore it may be accepted that with the advantage of official influence on the side of the opposing party, notwithstanding the fact that a few peculiarly perverse individuals, like the Hibernians, would have gone "agin the government" anyhow, the State would have gone overwhelmingly against the Republicans.

The New York Herald, with its eagle eye ever on the probabilities, deemed it incredible that the administration Republicans could have suffered defeat in a State where every advantage was on their side, where they concentrated gigantic efforts to insure success, and where they had held nine to twenty-three thousand majorities ever since the close of the war, one year excepted, and in view of the fact that "the whole machinery of the election, the entire federal and State patronage, the courts, the military, the police, and the United States marshals were in the hands of the Republicans," although, on the other hand, the Conservative majorities manifested a steady increase over the votes of 1870.

The N. Y. Herald, with its characteristic sagacity of forecast, says that even a Republican victory in North Carolina will be of little value to the party now, "for the people will feel that it is a black victory, due to ignorance and prejudice and not to reason, and won, it may be, by fraud and not by a legitimate vote. Yet it will leave a plank to float on, and will not cast the Republican cause into the waves of despair," but President Grant "will find that he has a doubtful contest before him in November, even though North Caro-