

GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
Editor and Publisher

Wednesday, May 7, 1872.

THAT PETITION OF THE  
LOWELL LADIES.

In the columns of the NEWS to-day will be found two letters, from the New York *Graphic*, commenting upon that petition of Lowell ladies to the Legislature of Massachusetts for the passage of an act legalizing "the marriage of more than one woman to one man." The editor of the *Graphic* characterizes the request as "the women's startling proposition," which, if serious, promises to afford a lively subject for discussion during the session of the old Bay State; and, if a canard, is at least valuable as showing the tendency of general thought in social matters, and says that somebody has thought it worth while to suggest a bill of 182,000 for that benefit of our social organization.

The petition and the remarks of the correspondent forwarding the same and of the other editor of the *Graphic* are both interesting, referring to the same subject, but leading wholly with the "Society" difficulties put forth by the correspondent "Anna L." One of these letters is signed "W. S. H." of Brooklyn. "Old maid," she says, "W. S. H." wants to know why "Society" must be obeyed, and says it requires everything from women, gives nothing in return, then turns on them whenever it requires too much, and they act independently. "W. S. H." advises "Anna L." and other "Society" victims to agree to stand by each other through thick and thin; to openly announce that they will go alone to lectures, books or concert, when they wish, and if afraid, to do as the men do, carry a pistol, and defend themselves if necessary. "W. S. H." says "Society" is a dragon to devour women, a bully to browbeat them as long as they will stand it, a coward to cringe and fawn the moment it is faced and put down; that she has no patience with women, there is no *spirit* about them; each one wanting her own individual grievances settled and no one else's; no advancement is made. "W. S. H." further says she goes to lecture or concert with a lady when a gentleman can't be had; that she would join any association of women who would come out openly and take their rights on the same footing as men, as it can be done without losing dignity, refinement or self-respect; that only a very small proportion of the community would trouble such women, and that portion is either dangerous or contemptible; that the latter must always be put down by never letting them have their own way. The dangerous class women must take their chances against as do the men, until laws and times are changed.

"W. S. H." it will be seen, is a friend to her own sex, but does not touch the real issue that brought out the letter of "Anna L." The other correspondent, "E. B. C." of New York, says to "Anna L." "I do not wish or mean to say that the idea advocated by the Lowell ladies, which she seems disposed to second, is irrational; neither do I wish to advance my ideas upon that subject; but I do say that the *Graphic* is in error in its complaints of 'Society.' " "E. B. C." tells "Anna L." that it is her pride that enslaves her; that she should not allow herself to be shackled by the laws of society; that she should strike off its fetters, and proclaim herself a free woman; that "Society" can not compel a person to cut off his throat, nor should it impose upon humanity laws which make life a burden; that if "Anna L." has obeyed "Society" to its fullest extent, her reward is the contorted form, ill-health, unnatural manner, peevish temper, discontented mind, tortured brain, and generally unsatisfactory view of life; that "Society" demands that you have no heart, no soul beyond fashion and dress? But with regard to her notes, "E. B. C." acknowledges that she also is the slave of "Society." She says, "I, too, live in a boarding house. Society compels me to do it." "Society acts upon her ('Anna L.') directly, and upon me indirectly, and with Society for our mistress, we are both loveless and houseless."

Neither of these two ladies oppose the proposition of the Lowell ladies, neither seems to wish to say much about it. "E. B. C." says she has nothing to say in it, and how half imply that, in the day, any wise-headed woman would be no serious objection to it, if indeed they would not rejoice in the privilege it conferred upon women. We do not see what reasonable objection the Lowell ladies have could adduce against the petition. The privileges which such a law would confer would not be forced upon any person, they would merely be for such to take advantage of as chose of their own motion to do so, and therefore there would be no great cause for complaint.

There is some point of social policy which it might be well for Massachusetts and all other Legislatures to consider, and that is, that although legislation even in this country, has provided for the legitimate and dishonorable gratification of the passions of men, it has not sufficiently provided for or permitted sufficient scope to the legitimate and honorable gratification of the instincts of women in regard to the supremely important matter of marriage and maternity.

GET SOME POMERANIAN. If honest officials are to be found in America would it not be better to engage and examine them, and to represent the United States in an official capacity, for instance at the G. V. Congress, than to have them sent over here to be examined and diagnosed in the eyes of the world? Either England, Germany, or France could furnish abundance of men, who are respectable and worthy to represent any nation. Recent public documents have given a good account of the American character and of his country.

OAKES AMES, it appears, is rapidly passing away. His greatest mortality arose from his Credit Mobilier operations, but his name is everywhere well known also. Like Brooks, he does not long survive the excitement of the last days of the last Congress.

THE "MONTHLY REPORT of the Department of Agriculture" for April contains articles on the "Condition of Winter Wheat," "Diseases of Sheep and Goats," "Diseases of Farm Animals," "Entomological Records," "Chemical Memoranda," "Botanical Notes," "Consular Communications," "Epitome of Calmari," "Social Culture," "Foreign Statistics," "Facts from Various Sources," and "Hours and Foreign Market Prices."

THE KODAK PHOTOGRAPH BY TELEGRAPH.

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CHICAGO, May 6.—A telegraph message from Washington, dated May 5, says that Chief Justice Chase is lying at the point of death.

NEW YORK.—The failure of Fowles and Slocum, dry goods importers, to meet their liabilities has been reported.

The hundred pavement laborers are now on strike in Orange, N. J., and the contractor has asked for protection for the property. They have affiliated with the strikers.

According to a Washington special, negotiations are progressing there to turn over the lands granted by Texas to the French, and to release Gen. Fremont from the judgment of the French courts.

The people of Newburgh, New York, are much exercised, now under an order of the school board, closing the colored public schools, and the colored children are being sent to the colored crow used exclusively for the colored children. There are about 2000 of the white children who weary days and nights of sleep now by hard labor.

A letter from Spain says the Carlist army in Navarre numbers 3,500 men, one thousand being sharpshooters, armed with specially made rifles, and superior rifles. Besides these and co-operating with them, are twenty-five bands numbering 22,500 men.

Don Carlos is to make the cure of Santa Cruz, owing to his excesses, and cruel and vicious as he was, did give up his evil ways to the extent that I must be very careful in selecting acquaintances, and be most cautious in speaking or walking among young men, and especially in receiving their visits; that, I experience, has been the case with me, and I must be very careful in selecting my friends, and still cause many difficulties.

Society was always obeyed.

Now, Mr. Editor, have I not a right to turn round to society and say: I have fulfilled every rule, and do you permit to do me no good? Am I to obey oppressive rules, keep the home in the dust, close my eyes to the beauties of scenes, almost to the point of insanity, and yet find no one to care for me? I have obeyed every rule that Providence would give me, and still cause difficulties.

There are too many women for the number of men in the East. Were every man to marry, there would be over 100,000 thousand of unmarried men.

They do not marry, because the women remain single from choice. It is creditable to women's nature that almost every woman wants to marry, and is never quite content in any lot without the crowning experience of wedlock.

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Why don't they get married? Granted that our clerks have chosen a calling which exposes them to the oppression of the rich, who, right or wrong, like to indulge in extravagant habits, and who, in fault with their associates for not sharing the same kind of life? What right have they to doom young women to perpetual loneliness because, however, they may induce us to marry them?

It is natural for the young ladies a matron of the young men to presume that the young men will answer the questions that puzzle us single women. What has society to say? ANNA L.

— *N. Y. Graphic*, April 20.

Social Reforms.  
To the Editor of the Daily Graphic:  
The ladies of Lowell, Mass., who propose to petition the Legislature of that State in favor of plural marriage, are in error in their argument. If others can do it, they are bound to do so by fact and reason, and not by stale words that deal with the matter at whole.

I belong to the class of unmarried women, and work for my own living. I am educated, available, and have a good income.

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Why Don't they Get Married?

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We assume there in the language of Guizot, "this world has no longer to offer more cleansing than the example of a pure and honest administration of the interior strength and duties of the soul, which we call love, has such a charm for us that we contemplate it with the profoundest interest." The world is mingled with culpable error, fraud, discontent and greed, but where it is seen in harmony with conscience, filling the soul with unchangeable, the richest treasure of our nature; it is the most honest and at the same time the most divine gratification of our aspirations. It is Paradise regained.

— *John C. Frémont*.

TOO MANY WOMEN.

To the Editor of the Daily Graphic:

The letter of your Lowell cor-

respondent was full of pathos,

and I am sorry to say, yet

I must own that I can find no

fault with your article.

As far as I can see, the

whole question is this: Who

knows best?

— *John C. Frémont*.

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