



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,.....Feb. 24, 1869.

FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETIES.

THE various Female Relief Societies of this city have made their social parties a feature among the entertainments of this winter. The Female Relief Society of the Seventh Ward had a party in the Music Hall, in the 14th Ward, on Friday evening last, that was a very creditable and doubtless a very remunerative affair. The 14th, 17th, 19th and 20th Wards, and probably other Wards, have also had their Female Relief Society parties, which have been successful pecuniarily, and have afforded much pleasure to all who have participated in them. It has been with more than ordinary gratification that we have noticed the earnestness and zeal with which the ladies have taken hold in the organization and the carrying out of the objects of these societies. The inspiration which led President Young to suggest the founding of such associations, like everything else connected with the plans for the advancement and development of our people and country, was most happy. The good that has already been accomplished by them is very great, and that which can be performed in the future is incalculable. There is a wide field of usefulness open for the ladies to operate in, and these organizations, in the hands of wise, judicious and energetic persons, can be made very effective.

Much of the success of these institutions is necessarily dependent upon the officers chosen to preside over and manage them. This is the case in missions, wards and every department of the Church. If a president, bishop, or other officer in charge, is a careless, indolent man, with but little spirit or life about him, the people are apt to partake of that feeling; and so also if he is the opposite of this. With unwise, ignorant persons to preside in Female Relief Societies, they would soon degenerate into schools of scandal and much mischief would be done by their tattling. But with officers of broad advanced views, with high conceptions of the good which it is in their power to accomplish, they can be made powerful agencies in the elevation of their own sex and in the amelioration of the condition of the poor in their vicinity. A correctly governed Female Relief Society has it in its power to exert a controlling influence in all matters pertaining to the rearing and educating of children, to housekeeping, to the manufacture of articles of dress, to fashions, and, in fact, everything that comes within the range of woman's duties and labor. The health, morals and manners of their own sex, ought very properly to claim the attention and consideration of these Societies.

Already the idea is somewhat prevalent among some young ladies that labor is degrading. For a young lady to engage in domestic pursuits is, in the opinion of such persons, unrefined and unladylike. Young men begin to urge as an excuse for not marrying that the girls have too many expectations. They want to begin married life with such an outfit that few young men feel themselves able to procure. Now, we do not wish to be understood as citing this excuse as a justification for our young men not marrying. We think the excuse contemptible, and no young man of proper spirit would urge it. But still there may be some truth in the statement. If there should be, the Female Relief Societies have an opportunity to correct the erroneous idea. They can, by their example and influence, dissipate this absurd pride, and teach young ladies that leisure and indolence and frivolous pursuits are neither ladylike nor refined, but that labor, and all exertion which contributes to usefulness and independence, are ennobling and dignified.

The ladies now have abundant oppor-

tunities of doing excellent service in the advancement of Zion. No fairer or more inviting field than they have before them can be desired. We are pleased to chronicle that they have made a good commencement, and we hope they will maintain their zeal and courage and persevere; for the results will be most glorious.

THE MISSOURI "REPUBLICAN" AND THE UTAH PROBLEM.

THE Missouri *Republican* is troubled about "the Utah Problem." It is not the first time that it has been exercised about that problem. But it thinks now that the time for its solution is at hand. Government must study the Utah problem, it says, [as if it had not studied it] and solve it by diplomacy, or cut its Gordian knot with the sword. The vast lines of railway crossing the Plains from the Atlantic and from the Pacific oceans will converge in the valley of Salt Lake and meet at this city. The modern Christianity and civilization which have been dragged in past years by weary trains of emigrants to this point are now to be borne here by the wings of steam; the suddenness of its descent upon us is to overwhelm us. When the railway shall have formed the iron links which will bind this Territory to the rest of the world, then the social and theological barriers which have fenced us in, are, in the opinion of the *Republican*, to be broken down. But it does not think that all this is going to be accomplished without some difficulty. It acknowledges that

"The men who have traveled three thousand miles across the ocean, and as many more across the land, to give their peculiar ideas 'a local habitation and a name' in this oasis in the desert, are made of no common stuff, and inspired with no common zeal. They spring from precisely the same stock as the Puritans who landed on Plymouth Rock; and, however gross the errors of their creed, ordinary charity should induce us to give them credit for sincerity equal to that of their illustrious predecessors. They have founded in Utah a theocracy more stringent even than that which once existed in New England, and they have placed the reins of unlimited and irresponsible power in the hands of a man fully capable of wielding it, and possessing brains enough to be dangerous.

The article winds up with two very important questions: "Will the Mormons themselves submit quietly to a virtual annihilation of their religion? And if they will not, must they be driven into exile or swept from the face of the earth?"

If anything was wanting to satisfy us as to where this article was written, these two last questions would be sufficient to convince us beyond a doubt that it was penned in Missouri. The cold-blooded atrocity of the ideas embodied in the question: "If they will not, must they be driven into exile or swept from the face of the earth?" compares so well with the murderous treatment which the Latter-day Saints received while in the State of Missouri that we should pronounce it at sight to be the emanation of a brain trained in the mobocratic school of Missouri. The *Republican* talks with as much coolness about driving the inhabitants of a Territory into exile, or sweeping them from the face of the earth, as it would of killing a nest of prairie dogs. Lilburn W. Boggs himself, the once-Governor of the State of Missouri, held the rights and lives of the Latter-day Saints residing in the State of Missouri in no greater contempt than does the *Republican*. If such men had their way, God-serving, pure and humble people would stand but a poor show in this world. But God lives, and for the knowledge that He does we are thankful; for in view of that great truth such men as the writer of this article, appear but as moles in the sunlight.

INTERCOURSE—WHAT IT IS DOING FOR US.

FOR nearly thirty-nine years the elders of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been traveling throughout the world, speaking and publishing, and in every possible way endeavoring to make the principles of which they were the advocates known to the public. They have been successful in convincing large numbers of the people of various nations of their truth, and many of those converts have left their native lands and gathered together in this Territory. Yet, notwithstanding these exertions, the true character of our doctrines and the nature of our church organization, have not been as widely understood as might have been supposed, considering the prominence

which has, for so many years, been given to them. This ignorance is traceable to the flood of falsehoods and misrepresentations concerning us which has inundated our own country and other lands where our elders have labored.

The most incredible stories about our belief and practices have obtained circulation and credence, and this course of slander has been pursued so long that many people have been almost prepared to believe any horrible account that might be made public about the people of Utah. We have been told by gentlemen, who have visited this city during the past few months, that they entertained the most absurd ideas about the people of Utah and the condition of society that existed here until the commencement of the Pacific railroad, when their attention was drawn to the people of the Territory, and they sought for correct information of us from trustworthy sources. It is no longer ago than Monday last that a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence and knowledge of the world, and himself a publisher, told us that until the day previous, when he heard the preaching in the Tabernacle, he had supposed that the Latter-day Saints had discarded the Old and New Testaments, and did not base their faith upon them. His opinion of us had been formed, as the opinion of thousands of others had been, by reading the scurrilous and false reports put in circulation about us.

It is only a few years ago that the statement was widely circulated that the females of this Territory were in the most abject bondage, and that if any form of deliverance were to present itself to them, they would gladly embrace it to escape from their thralldom; also that if any person were to attempt to leave the Territory without permission, they would meet a summary fate at the hands of the Danites, or destroying angels. It was widely believed in those days that no letter came into or left the Territory without being subjected to scrutiny, and if its contents did not suit, it was suppressed. A thousand other things, equally improbable and ridiculous, were believed about the people of Utah, and so firmly were men's minds imbued with them that no contradictions of them had any effect.

But what we failed to do by reason and by making correct statements, time and increased intercourse have accomplished. Our maligners are brazen-faced, and do not hesitate at having recourse to the most extravagant falsehoods to bolster up their assertions; but even they would hesitate in these days to make such statements as passed current and were believed about us ten years ago. They know they would not be believed, unless by some very ignorant person. They, therefore, take refuge in misrepresentations and falsehoods of a different character.

We have been accused of entertaining objections to the railroad and of fearing the effect of its approach and completion. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have published indisputable evidences that we were the earliest advocates of the measure, and looked forward with pleasing anticipations to the time when it would be inaugurated. Already we begin to experience some of the good effects which attend its construction. It is proving a powerful auxiliary on our side, by making us more widely known and better understood. For many years we have gone to the world and tried to make known to them what we believed and practiced, and the good results which such a system of doctrines as we taught would produce; but now the case is reversed. The world will come to us. They will see us at home, and under circumstances that cannot fail to impress the honest portion favorably. It will be worth thousands of missionaries to us—it will be more potent than hundreds of presses—it will do for us what we have been long trying to do for ourselves—it will make us known.

Even the very blackness of the lies told about us and of the accusations circulated against us, is now having a good effect in our favor. There is such a contrast between what they see and what they have heard that visitors are surprised, and the impression made upon them is more favorable than it would have been if they had been prepared for the actual condition of affairs. The result, so far as we are concerned, is not questionable. Good must result to us from this increased intercourse. The world will understand us better than it has done, and the effect of the lesson we are teaching will not be lost upon it. There is one of the most promising fields opening before us for missionary labor and the circulation of our works

that has ever been presented to the church from its organization until now. We have, mingled with our own people each Sunday, an audience of strangers that, if assembled to hear an elder in any place where he might be laboring as a missionary, would gladden his heart, and they listen with an attention that, to an elder under such circumstances, would be rich with promise of an abundant harvest of souls. The seed sown will, doubtless, find a lodgment in many a heart, and yet germinate and bring forth fruit.

There may be many who will come here that will look at everything they see through prejudiced eyes; of course the effect of a visit upon such persons will be likely to make them more bitter. But we hope better things, and we think with good reason, of the honest masses who will flock here, and we are decidedly of the opinion that what the world call "Mormonism" is about to take a great stride in advance.

POSTMARKING STAMPS.

WE received about our usual number of letters from the Post Office this morning, and seeing a number of them had either no post mark on them or the name of the post office written with a pen, we had the curiosity to count how many there were of that kind, and found that there were no less than fifteen, and all these but two were from different offices. How many offices there are in the Territory that have no stamp we do not know; but from the number of unstamped letters that we receive we suppose they are quite numerous.

In our issue of Dec. 29th last we published a leading article on "New Postal Regulations," in which we called the attention of Postmasters throughout the Territory to a new regulation on the subject of postmarking stamps. A. N. Zevely, Third Assistant Postmaster General, publishes over his own signature, in the *United States Mail* that

"The Postmaster General has modified the existing regulation so as to allow circular postmarking stamps to ALL Post Offices, and Postmasters not now furnished should at once apply for such stamps to the First Assistant Postmaster General for them.

Postmasters can get these postmarking stamps free by sending to Washington for them, and if they continue to send letters from their offices without any stamp upon them to indicate where they are mailed, or with the names of the offices written upon them, the conclusion will very likely be arrived at that they are too careless to avail themselves of the stamps by writing to the First Assistant Postmaster General for them.

ZION'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION—IMPORTANT MEETING TO-DAY.

AT a meeting of the President and Board of Directors of Zion's Co-operative Institution, held at noon to-day, in the office of Eldridge & Clawson, an important decision was arrived at. At the last meeting of the Board a committee of three—H. B. Clawson, H. W. Naisbitt and John Needham—were selected to make inquiries about renting a suitable building, or buildings, and purchasing a stock of goods with which to commence business. At the meeting to-day this committee made their report, in which was embodied the propositions of various merchants, all of which, without exception, were exceedingly liberal. It gave the committee great pleasure to report, and the President and Board of Directors to hear, these propositions, as they were as fair as could be asked. After the withdrawal of the committee the Board had a full interchange of views, and a motion was made and carried unanimously that

"The present committee, Hiram B. Clawson, Henry W. Naisbitt and John Needham, continue their labors and thoroughly examine the various stocks of goods that have been, or may hereafter be, offered for sale to Zion's Wholesale Co-operative Institution, and ascertain the exact terms on which they can be purchased, and purchase the same or any portion thereof that they may deem suitable; also rent suitable buildings for stores and forthwith start the wholesale business, and call to their aid such assistants, clerks and other help as they may need, and make a report of their proceedings from time to time as the Board may require."

All who have the interest of this enterprise at heart, will be gratified to learn that active steps have been taken to commence business with the Parent Co-operative Store immediately. There has been some delay about starting this institution, and some may have been disappointed thereat; but there have