

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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PLUCKY WOMEN.

THE women of Massachusetts are plucky. They mean not only to have husbands, by hook or by crook, but they mean to have the suffrage, though in effect and to a high degree having the former secures the latter; that is, with those wives who know just how to manage their husbands judiciously.

These plucky women of the old Bay State were not successful in obtaining woman suffrage from the local legislature during the last session, yet they did secure sufficient influence in that body to cause an agreement to instruct the judiciary committee to report an act to revise the property laws for married women, and such a bill was reported, although it was tacked the semi-nullificatory recommendation that the subject be referred to the next legislature for consideration.

The women, though defeated for the time being, were not conquered, and they have set themselves to work to improve the interim by widely agitating the questions they have at heart, and to effect as thorough and comprehensive an organization as possible. They call upon the woman suffragists in every city, town, and hamlet in the State, where there are two or three, to assemble and form branches of the central society, and in cities it is designed to establish a branch in every ward and precinct. Thus the purpose manifestly is to agitate, agitate; organize, organize; agitate, agitate; and then, "On to Richmond!" When the women fall in line in that fashion, they mean business, they mean, war, war to the knife, metaphorically. When women want anything of this kind very badly, when they earnestly demand their rights, why it is best for the lordly sex to surrender at discretion. It is of little use for even the men-folks to keep on fighting after the battle is lost and won.

Apropos of this woman suffrage question, and the "domestic trouble" argument of the men against it, "A Woman" writes to the *Cincinnati Times* in the following sensible strain, but not highly commendatory of the sterner sex—

The writer in last week's *Times* refers to the Apostle Paul commanding the aged to train the young females to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, etc., but he did not perhaps read on to find that he likewise exhorts young men to be sober-minded. Would not the men of the present day be also very different from what they are if they would heed this wise command? No doubt the Apostle by "sober-minded" also meant for them not to give themselves to drinking and to spending as much as possible of their time away from home, which also is so common, and has caused pure women to be crushed and fallen, who otherwise would have been an ornament to society, and whose hearts would have been warmed with love for the very ones that crushed them. Ah! these are facts too plain, too common, to be unknown. To be sure, a religious, sensible, well-bred woman is a noble object, but how many such are trampled upon by a skeptical husband until one would hardly know what they are—those noble women who otherwise would have done so much good. I do not mean to say that all women are angels and all men the reverse, for, thank God, there are some good men still. But I do say that it is very, very common to see a woman made completely wretched by a skeptical or drunken husband.

There is hardly a wife in this little town of— that does not know what it is to have a drinking husband, and have suffered as they only can. Very young wives tremble, long for, yet dread the coming home of the loved one, for fear that he, too, has been tempted to touch the accursed cup.

Ah! talk about the "domestic trouble" woman suffrage would cause, young man, but hold your peace (as you wisely do) on the drinking question, and let the women talk about that. For they and they only can tell of the misery and utter wretchedness it has caused.

THE WOMAN QUESTION.

THE "Woman Question" is exciting more and more interest among those who think, and with many of them no little uneasiness is manifested respecting the artificial and in some respects unjust condition of modern society. The heaven is working and a revolution, extensive in compass, thorough in character, and more or less rudely disturbing in operation, is apprehended, and, in the opinion of most reflecting persons, it will not come before it is needed. The petition of those Massachusetts women, whether genuine or not, is stirring society throughout the Union, and will have its effect in stimulating thought and perhaps action in the

matter of social reform. In this connection "Blanche," of New York, sends to the *Graphic* of that city the following thoughts of hers respecting "The Trials of a Single Woman," a widow by the way—

Seeing that some of my sex have expressed themselves in your columns on the subject of woman's trials in and out of the marriage relation, I make bold to speak on the matter. If my logic is weak and my style defective, consider it is the language of one who claims no literary proficiency, but who writes from a burning heart. I am a poor woman—a widow. I know what it is to battle with the world, preserve one's virtue, and to contrive to keep body and soul together. My late experience in trying to get a furnished room in the city, the rent of which would accord with the limits of my means, convinces me that a revolution of some kind must take place, if decent poor women are to have a chance to live. Respectably dressed, with good references, I have this week sought out at nearly a hundred houses to get a furnished room, and the almost universal reply has been, "Only to gentlemen we let our rooms." God only knows what I should have done had I not been befriended by some acquaintances, who gave me temporary shelter. I tell you, sir, with all the boasted Christianity of this day, there is little of the vital article put in practice by the generality of professors. I am a believer and no scoffer, and my faith sustains my aching heart, and keeps me from going to the bad. When I see the amount of tobacco, liquor, rich food, silks and satins, stylish dress, costly furniture, elegant domiciles, and a multitude of other things gluttonously used by men and women professing to be followers of him whose whole teachings and practice were in the spirit of "All mine are thine and all thine are mine," my heart burns in indignation at the cant and hypocrisy of such persons. Mere benevolence does not constitute Christianity. When substituted for Christianity, it is the enemy of God. What does constitute Christianity is such love as leads one to love his neighbor as himself, and justice, such justice as leads one to see no human being suffer and starve when he or she is willing to work.

"Only to gentlemen we let our rooms." Yes, every man is a gentleman so long as he pays his way, no matter how vile and corrupt in his heart. His habits may be gross; he may chew or smoke, or do both, or swear, steal, cheat, be licentious—no matter, he may have a room or board so long as he pays his way. But an honest, poor woman, of good descent, pure habits, and quiet demeanor is not wanted. Nearly every door is shut against her. I do not wonder that so many of my sex, in trying circumstances and weak wills, go to the bad. A change must eventually come, otherwise women will be completely crushed. The separation and warfare between men and women must come to an end. All the mere expedients of woman's voting, or her having free access to the professions and general business, will not make matters much better. God made men and women to love one another. Marriage of some kind, of a permanent and pure character, must be held between man and woman. If monogamic marriage is fraught with suffering and misery in most cases, and is becoming unpopular with the wise ones, then some other kind of permanent union between the sexes must come in vogue. I know Christ said: "The children of this world (age) marry and are given in marriage, but they that shall be accounted worthy of the resurrection and the life (age) to come, neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are equal unto the angels." But as he told his disciples to pray that the kingdom of God might come on earth, it is evident that the sex will not be obliterated. The times indicate that a sweeping and radical social revolution is at our doors, in which the relations between man and woman will be rectified, the quarrel between them ended, and a true and lasting peace and union established; for which I believe all heaven, and the course of events on earth, are working. Let my sisters drop all mere patchwork reform, and all exclusive selfish aims manward, and study woman's practical redemption here. And then will sound the tocsin for the destruction of man's selfishness towards women, which destruction will inure to his real integral enfranchisement and elevation to his true position towards women, who was made his companion, and to look up to him in love and trust.

DISSOLUTION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

A letter from a London correspondent to the *Boston Post* has the following—

The last scene in the most splendid commercial drama which the world ever saw is about to take place at the Westminster Palace. A bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Grant Duff and Mr. Ayrton, finally winding up the affairs of the great East India Company, and transferring its properties as well as its unexampled powers to the British Crown. All those who go down to the sea in ships, the merchants of every clime and engaged in every department of the world's trade, must witness the extinction of this corporation with an interest not unconnected with a feeling of regret. For the East India Company, in its something more than a century of existence, showed above all to what heights of wealth and absolute authority it was possible for commercial spirit and enterprise to attain. No such a history could ever have been imagined by the most enthusiastic merchants of ancient or modern times, until it was displayed to the gaze of an astonished world. The company became in time a sovereign more potent and magnificent than Caesar or Alexander; it ruled an empire embracing not only many millions of subjects, but treasures which are yet so far from being exhausted that India is still the most precious and valued dependency of the British Crown. Com-

mercial energy, and not conquest, lay at the foundation of this superstructure. It was the sturdy British spirit of barter and trade which acquired the first footholds on the banks of the Ganges and the Hooghly; conquest was to come after to supplement and complete the priceless acquisition. A few gentlemen met the other day in one of the narrow streets of London city, who represent the last remains of the Directors of the East India Company, to settle the final accounts and make the last preparations for turning over the effects to the Government. They are to receive a hundred per cent. bonus on their stock, and their meeting was so quiet and unnoticed a one that, but for a paragraph in the papers, nobody would have known how really momentous an event was occurring in the shades of Pancras lane. One cannot help thinking what a hubbub would have been created twenty years ago, if it had been announced that the East India Company—the very pride and glory of British commerce—was about to dissolve into thin air! But the dissolution, as it is, has been gradual, and now the end comes much as a foregone conclusion.

The acquisition of territory, the reduction of native grandees, who could trace their lineage back two thousand years, to the condition of pensioned vassals, the subjection of the bejeweled Begums, the wars carried on against frightful odds and hordes of half-savage Hindoos and Mussulmen in the remote interior; the building of Calcutta to what is to-day one of the noblest cities in the world, the appointment of Governors-General compared with whose powers those of the Grand Turk and the Shah are democratic, the gorgeous luxury in which the other officials lived, the noble docks and vast warehouses they erected, the conversion, in short, of Indian villages into Oriental Londons, and of Indian inlets into harbors crowded with British ships, mark a career which it would be absurd to compare with the achievements of the greatest commercial companies of Phœnicia, Etruria, Venice, or Genoa. Their merchant ships fought and whipped French men-of-war; a man who got an appointment in their service was a predestined millionaire. They carried to England hundreds of cargoes of silk, tea, spices, cashmeres, diamonds, yearly; indeed, what would England be to-day commercially, had the East India Company not existed? Their servants were almost all illustrious men. Few greater soldiers than Clive appear in English annals; few greater governors of men than W. Hastings, Wellesley, Dalhousie, and Mayo are to be found in the history of this country. The power and ostentation of the Governor-General of India were always immeasurably greater than that of the sovereign who sent him thither. Now, however, the Company passes away almost without a funeral oration; two prosaic M. P.'s are its undertakers. The whole of its authority and property centres in the hands of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and Hindostan, for the future, will be wholly governed from Whitehall. The great drama is played to the end; and on the first day of June, 1874, the East India Company will disappear from the sight and ken of men forever. Never was there a more insignificant ending to so magnificent a romance.

THE AGE OF CORRUPTION.

UNLESS the tide of affairs changes soon and very decidedly, the present, so far as America is concerned, will be likely to be known to posterity as the age of corruption. There have been the New York City frauds, various mining frauds, the Credit Mobilier in which some of the fairest names went down ignominiously, the Bank of England frauds by Americans, divers local frauds, embezzlement and defalcations to great amounts, immense "corners" in various articles, numbers of election bribery frauds, judiciary frauds and judicial legislation, and other bribes, the Vienna commission scandal, the unblushing mining stock jobbery in San Francisco and elsewhere, and now the charge, made by Mr. McGuire, in the New York State Assembly, against Mr. Ezra Cornell, founder of the Cornell university, of practices which enable him to put money in his purse to the tune of millions.

In 1862 Congress transferred to the State of New York, as trustee, about 990,000 acres of public lands, for educational purposes, mainly agricultural and mechanical, and connected with this land are the charges against Mr. Cornell, the substance of which is thus presented in the New York *Graphic*—

1. In 1863 Mr. Cornell procured the passage of an act creating what is known as the "Cornell University," upon showing a receipt from persons calling themselves "Regents of the University," to the effect that he had made them a gift of \$500,000 (in Western Union Telegraph stock).

2. In 1866 Mr. Cornell procured the passage of an act by which 800,000 acres of the educational lands were transferred to himself on the following terms: He was at once to pay down 30 cents an acre for this land. He was then to proceed to sell it on the best terms he could, paying the State another 30 cents an acre for all the lands sold. As soon as the whole 800,000 acres were disposed of, he was to reimburse himself for all expenses of location and management, deduct the 60 cents an acre already paid, and hand over the balance to the State.

3. Mr. Cornell proved to the State authorities that at least three millions of dollars would be realized by this transaction. This was the principal inducement offered to the State for making the contract. But in the course of seven years the Comptroller's report shows that not more than \$900,000 have been paid over by him for the College Land Script Fund and the Cornell Endowment fund.

4. Mr. Cornell has made a contract with a company composed of Mr. Cornell and his family, to sell 400,000 acres of well-wooded lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin for \$5 an

acre, or \$2,000,000; whereas they are in reality, worth at the very lowest estimate, \$80 an acre, or \$32,000,000.

5. Mr. Cornell (by means of the bill which was so violently denounced to-night) now proposes to be off his contract with the State, the State to surrender his securities, and he to return all the lands subject to the contracts for sale above referred to. By this means (if the transaction should unhappily receive legislative sanction) the State would have made not much more than two millions and a half of dollars out of her educational lands; and Mr. Cornell, his family and his friends, would net the elegant sum of twenty-two millions of dollars!

Hitherto Mr. Cornell has had the reputation of being a very superior business man, honest, generous, and indeed philanthropic. This attack upon him is as remarkable in its way, and almost as startling to the public, as the charges of another class preferred against the most famous preacher in America. Our New York cotemporary rightly says of this affair, "Heretofore, corruption has not touched our educational institutions with its taint. It is to be hoped that Cornell University will emerge from this cloud of suspicions with an untarnished record. But the accusations, so publicly made and so generally credited, against its founder, only show the extent of the public demoralization. It seems as though the conscience of the country had utterly decayed, and its morality were rotted out. Is there no health left in us, no virtue among our public men, no integrity anywhere? This fearful demoralization is one of the most alarming symptoms of the time, and the easy acquiescence of the public in it shows what a hold the disorder has upon the body politic." On the other hand, if these charges shall be proved true, or substantially true, or if they shall appear only inferentially true even, the affair, taken in connection with the multitude of other evidences of corruption in high places, will cause the question to be asked with much seriousness, "Where shall an honest man be found?"

BISMARCK ON EUROPEAN POLITICS.

A LATE number of the *Courier des Etats-Unis* contains a conversation, which lately took place between Prince Bismarck and a well known member of the lower house of the German parliament. The conversation was printed in the Berlin correspondence of the *Politik*, a newspaper published at Prague, and its authenticity is vouched for by that paper, and as it contains the views of the great Prussian statesman on the present condition of the German empire and its relations with the principal powers of Europe, we present our readers with a translation.

The treaty of the 15th of March, between France and Germany, for the evacuation of the former by the troops of the latter, was the topic which led to the conversation between the two gentlemen, M. Bismarck informing the deputy that in concluding that treaty or convention he was mainly influenced by the difference in character of M. Thiers, the President of the French republic, and M. Gambetta, his probable successor. The chancellor expressed the opinion that the war of revenge (considered to be inevitable in a few years) which will be waged by France against Germany, if it occurred during the administration of M. Thiers, would be undertaken only with the aid of allies; but if Gambetta were at the head of the French Republic, his nature was so fiery and impetuous that he would fight the Germans, allies or no allies.

The latter supposition the deputy considered highly improbable, on account of the excellent military system of Germany; and in regard to the former he expressed grave doubts. The relations of Germany, he thought, with the leading powers of Europe were of such a character that they might even now be considered half-formed treaties of alliance, which needed but the expressed wish of the former to have them definitely concluded. He believed, too, that no power in Europe would be guilty of such folly as to enter into a secret alliance with France against Germany.

M. Bismarck's dissent from the views of the deputy were very decided, and he expressed himself in substance as follows, with regard to the powers of Europe:

Italy dare not make an alliance with Germany for fear that France would take up arms for the spread of republicanism. England was jealous of Ger-

many and when opportunity offered, if it would serve her purpose, she would support any coalition formed against Germany. An alliance with Russia could be easily formed until the designs of that power in the East were unmistakably proclaimed; when that time should arrive Germany must accept such an alliance on Russia's own terms or reckon her among her foes. The relations of Germany with Austria were of a very uncertain character, and depended very materially upon the attitude of France. The dismemberment of the Austrian empire the chancellor regarded as inevitable, and Germany could not prevent it. The interview of the sovereigns at Vienna, during the Exposition, might postpone it for a brief period. Within a year he considered that a change of ministry and of the policy of the Austrian government, was sure, and would be the signal for outbreaks among the several nationalities composing the Austrian empire, and the complications resulting therefrom, would in all probability be the speedy forerunners of a general war of races in Europe.

The deputy suggested the annexation of Austria by Germany. The Chancellor answered that he had already considered that subject, but the struggle with the Jesuits, the attitude of Russia towards the Slavonic races of the Austrian empire, and the likes and dislikes of the Emperor William were a check to the accomplishment of any plans in regard to it. Germany had already as much opposition to encounter as she desired from the Catholics, and she could not think of provoking a general European war while her own affairs were still in an unsettled condition. The Chancellor said the Emperor and the ladies of the Court occupied too much of their time in political affairs. As for himself, he desired repose. The army had had fighting enough for years, and Germany had no wish to meddle in the affairs of Austria unless the plots of the Pan-Slavists rendered intervention positively necessary.

HOW TO MAKE MONEY.—This can be done in various ways, but money can seldom be made very fast when the maker is an honest man. Here is one ingenious way, but of its honesty nothing can be said. The London Metropolitan Board of Works, grievously troubled with the bad conduct of contractors in allowing their men to shunt street mud into the nearest sewer, had passed a regulation giving two pounds ten shillings to any informer furnishing such evidence as should lead to the prosecution and conviction of persons guilty of the offense. On conviction the fine usually was ten shillings. On this basis two petty but enterprising financiers formed a copartnership, as legal a bubble and quite as honest as many a larger. One of these business like gentlemen simply committed the offense, and the other gave the information. The offender was fined ten shillings; the informer received two pounds ten shillings. The fine paid, the two stockholders declared a dividend of two pounds, or, one pound a piece. By repeating the operation in different districts these two geniuses managed to make a "comfortable livelihood" for several weeks. But the course of lucrative business never does run smooth. Good fortune is proverbially inconstant. The trick was detected, and as a preventive the Board of Works reduced the informer's fee to ten shillings, leaving no margin for dividends. This measure proved effective, as neither informer nor offender could afford to work on those terms. One can imagine the two gentlemen musing sadly upon this refusal of the Board of Works to honor the motto—"Live and let live."

GEORGE FRANCIS.—According to our dispatches, that prince of eccentrics, George Francis Train, has been sentenced, somewhat arbitrarily as it appears, to the New York State lunatic asylum. That is not usually the way to the Presidential chair, to fill which our erratic friend believes himself predestined. The ruling passion was strong in him to the last, as evidenced by his "impeachment" of the judge, Davis, "in the name of the people." However, Geo. F. has not lost his last chance for liberty and the White House, for the habeas corpus business is still to be pursued in his case.