

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 22.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, NOVEMBER 16, 1895.

VOL. LI.

## Written for this Paper. IF WOMEN CAME TO CONGRESS, WHAT WOULD BE THE RESULT?

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WASHINGTON, November 9th, 1895.

**T**HE "New Woman" is rapidly coming to the front in the United States. She already votes in many localities, and within the past year she has made herself felt in many of the states upon the public school boards. The question will soon come as to whether she ought to have a place in the halls of Congress at Washington. This question has already been discussed, and during the past few weeks I have sent requests for an expression as to the effect of such an innovation to a number of our prominent statesmen, and also to the leading women of the United States. My question was:

"If women came to Congress, what would be the result?" It was accompanied by a reply postal card, and the answers were necessarily short.

Here is what Susan B. Anthony writes:

"When women come to Congress, both the men and the women will be put on their best behavior—morally, intellectually, socially—because the sexes together always inspire each other to be and to do their best. The huge cuspidors at every seat will be banished, the heating registers will no longer emit the fumes of burned tobacco juice; the two houses and the corridors will cease to be filled with tobacco smoke thick enough to cut with a knife. The desks will not be used as foot benches, decency and good order will be observed in the discussions, and the proprieties of civilized society will obtain. Then justice, not bargain and sale, will decide legislation. May the good time come speedily!"

SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

"The result would be:

"1st. Justice, liberty and equality for women.

"2nd. It would lighten the burdens of men.

"3rd. It would improve the manners of statesmen at the Capitol, and society at large in the city.

"4th. It would give us the united thought of man and woman on all the vital questions of the hour, introducing a moral element into the discussion of questions now viewed only from a material standpoint, and thus promote

the welfare of the nation and the stability of the republic."

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

"If a woman was sent to Congress, she would go there by the votes of the people, and would therefore be likely to be a wise woman, and if so, would study political questions and their bearings upon the mass of the people, and would probably say the right thing in the right place, and vote the right way. My experience with women in great international congresses, where much thought is required, is that they are zealous and conscientious. The effect of women in Congress on the masculine portion would be civilizing and refining. Belligerent encounters would be unknown."

BELVA A. LOCKWOOD.

"Why don't you ask me to settle the silver question on a postal card? As matters are, the conditions could not be worse with woman in Congress than they are now without her. The sending of women to Congress would strengthen women, restrain men, elevate Congress, improve national affairs, and cleanse social life, giving one standard of virtue for men and women alike, and equalize all of the relations of life that are subject to human adjustment, and give to posterity the political ethics that would revolutionize our present methods of dealing with moral questions, the treatment of criminal classes, the insane, the weak and the unfortunate, opening a door leading to the answer of our daily prayer. 'Thy kingdom come on earth.'"

SARAH HOWE MORRIS, M. D.,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

"The result would be—chaos!"

JAMES H. KYLE,  
U. S. Senator from South Dakota.

"If women come to Congress and wear the high hats they do in the theater, I will speak for a front seat."

Yours truly,

R. Q. MILLS,  
U. S. Senator from Texas.

"If women came to Congress, what would be the result?"

"I reply—words and war!"

FITZHUGH LEE.

"Dear Sir—My views with regard to woman suffrage are known, and will be further set forth in a work, 'Icarus,' by me.

"If women came to Congress, what would be the result?"

"The demoralization of men and women from the employment of women clerks in Washington is a fact, and 'the result' of the advance would be a quickening of the 'Descensus Avernii!'"

CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY,  
Ex United States Minister to Russia.

"If women come to Congress, what would be the result?"

Taking the sitting of women in Congress as emblematic of the political equality of the sexes, I answer this question in the words of Tennyson:

And so these twain, upon the skirts of Time,  
Sit side by side, full summ'd in all their powers,  
Dispensing harvest, sowing the to-be,  
Self reverent and reverencing each,  
Distinct in individualities,  
But like each other ev'n as those who love,  
Then comes the statelier Eden back to men,  
Then reign the world's great bridals, chaste and calm:  
Then springs the crowning race of human kind.

ISABELLA BEECHER HOOKER.

"Dear Sir: The idea of a representative government would be more nearly carried out. There would be more ethics and less elocution. There would be better manners and purer air.

Respectfully,

JEAN BROOKS GREENLEAF,  
"President New York State Suffrage Association."

"For one thing, the dirty, vile, poisonous tobacco smoke and spit would have to leave the house and the committee rooms. Tobacco kills the men who use it as well as those who have to breathe it."

ELIJAH A. MORSE,

"Member of Congress from Massachusetts."

"Among other results, we would have better laws generally and purer air specifically."

H. C. HANSBROUGH,

"U. S. Senator from North Dakota."

"If women came to Congress," they would be attired in the garb of the lady, never in bloomers. They would not require the expense of spittoons, nor perfume themselves in the Capitol building saloon, neither would they be found in a maudlin condition under their desks, even on the occasion of the usual hilarious adjournment. They would be superior to money bribes. The third house would have little influence. Natural law rules human action. It is the nature of woman to be just, merciful, tender and conservative. These beatitudes would be reflected in laws. A constituency of women would constrain them to be open and honest in all their legislative actions. One lapse from the line of rectitude would seal their political doom forever after, for women never forgive without a mental reservation. They would do more work in less time than men do, and do it better. "Filibustering" would be at an end in Congress. They would bring a higher average of intelligence, sobriety, virtue and statesmanship than the men now do.

In short, Uncle Sam's congressional