During the last half decade the ques-tion of woman's enfranchisement has been thoroughly discussed from the rostrum and in editorial fields; and the object of this article is, not to theorize further, but rather to describe the practical operation of impartial suffrage in

This youngest of Territories, organized in 1869, occupies a portion of the continent's crest, and its waters, flowing with eastward and westward, mingle with the Atlantic and Pacific. The inhabitants, numbering about eight thousand souls, exclusive of Indians and United States troops, are established on ranches and in villages along the Union Pacific Railroad and in the Sweetwater mining region near South Pass. A majority are of English descent, though the Milesian and Teutonic elements are well represent ed. Many of the earlier settlers have been citizens of the older Territories, especially Colorado and Montana; and of the entire white population, exclusive of soldiers, something over one-third are

The number of women is, however, constantly increasing in a greater ratio than the number of men, because the male pioneer, after having completed his home and established a business, sends for his wife; or, if still floundering in the gall of bitterness and the bonds of single cursedness, makes a raid across some Eastern threshold, captures its maiden divinity, and anoints her

empress of his Western home. In Wyoming the women, a majority of whom were born in the Middle and Western States, are representatives of the various social classes, and in point of culture and genuine womanliness are not excelled by the inhabitants of any newly-settled region. The number o newly-settled region. The number of unwedded though marriageable ladies is exceedinly limited, and few maidens are permitted to pass the Rubicon of girlhood without being speedily consigned to some matrimonial position. Nearly all the prominent literary journals of the East are widely circulated: nals of the East are widely circulated; the newspaper and book-stores in every village are well patronized; the Territo-ry sustains ten churches and a sufficient number of excellent schools, both pub lie and private. Some of the most noted Eastern lecturers have drawn crowded houses, and literary associations, temperance lodges, debating clubs, etc., have been started. The first Legislature, composed of elements common in border communities, assembled in the autumn of 1869, and proceeded to enact a of composed of elements common in border communities, assembled in the autumn of 1869, and proceeded to enact a code of laws, among which was a statute enfranchising women. The law in question was not adopted in obedience to public sentiment, but because the Territorial lawgivers believed it would operate as a "first class advertisement," operate as a "first class advertisement; that their action in the premises would be telegraphed throughout the civilized world, public interest thereby aroused, resulting in increased immigration and large accretions of capital to their new and comparatively unknown Territory. I am sure that up to that time not a score of suffrage disciples could be found within the Territorial limits. Even the women 2,500 barre's J. H. Cutter whicky, themselves did not appear as petitioners; no pungent satire, or unanswer-able argument, or impassioned platform able argument, or impassioned platform harangue fell from their lips in advocacy of political equality; but the suffrage was conferred, as has been said, solely for advertising purposes. The Council originated and adopted the measure, believing that the House of Representatives would disagree; but the last named body ultimately concurred, in anticipa-

The bill, however, was finally approved, and the writer of this article, exercising at that time the appointing power, proceeded to select incumbents for er, proceeded to select incumbents for county offices from among the newly-enfranchised citizens. Among others a lady was appointed to the office of Justice of the Peace in a thickly-settled mining locality, which theretofore had not been noted for strict adhesion to legal tenets. She at once familiarized herealf with the principles of common law. not been noted for strict adhesion to legal tenets. She at once familiarized herself with the principles of common law and with the Territorial statutes, and for nearly a year performed her official duties with signal ability and success. Her court sessions were characterized by a degree of gravity and decorum rarely exhibited in the judicature of border precincts. Shortly after her appointment and qualification, an ineffectual attempt was made by certain unbelieving attorneys to demonstrate woman's unfitness for judicial position; and to this end the following case was submitted, with the belief that she would erroneously proceed to its adjudication. Her predecessor had performed some official act subsequent to her entrance upon judicial duty, and for this alleged misfeasance he was cited to appear before the court of his successor. Counsel presented exhaustive pieas, at the conpresented exhaustive pleas, at the con-clusion of which Her Honor decided, clusion of which flet Honor decided, that the point in issue was a question as to whether her predecessor at the time alleged had a right to perform any official act; that such an issue could only be settled by some superior tribunal; that hers was not such a tribunal; therefore she had no jurisdiction and would

tion of an Executive veto.

dismiss the case.

Her decision in civil causes were sometimes appealed from by the parties deeming themselves aggrieved; but in nearly every instance they were confirmed by the appellate court. During her administration a decided improvement in the tone of public morals was noticeable, and the laws had never been so ably administered in that vicinity.

If any errors of judgment crept in, they were on the side of justice rather than mercy, especially when the opposite sex appeared as defendants or alleged criminals.

The inhabitants of new mining countries are prone to administer justice in accordance with their own notions of right, regardless of legal forms—preferring the ancient trial by battle rather than the interposition of pleas, petitions, and demurrers. This unfortunate public sentiment was happily neutralized

and demurrers. This unfortunate public sentiment was happily neutralized through her influence, and it may be safely asserted that the pioneer female Justice was in all respects successful.

The office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has also been ably filled by representatives of the enfranchised sex. When it is remembered that women from time immemorial have been among the most successful teachers, this fact will not seem strange.

ot seem strange. Shortly after the bill in question wen shortly after the bill in question went into operation, women were summoned to serve as grand and petit jurors in the several courts of record, and in this particular field their participation in public affairs has been especially successful. Acting with men in the capacity of grand jurors, they secured the presentation of indictments that could not otherwise have been obtained: serving as wise have been obtained; serving as petit jurors, they paid strict attention to restimony and argument, profoundly im-pressed with the new and important resdiffuse that had been thrust upon them.

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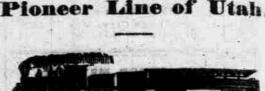


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