

THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

EXTRAVAGANCE AND HOME MANUFACTURES.

THE reign of extravagance, which for the past few years has held high carnival in the Eastern States, has not been without its influence here. A change, which is very sensibly felt by some persons at least, has taken place here in the habits of the people. Fashion, that fickle goddess, has erected her shrine and she has found numerous votaries. We doubt if there are many people who display greater ambition, in proportion to their incomes, to be fashionable, than do the inhabitants of this city. To be satisfied of this it is only necessary that a person scrutinize the appearance of a congregation on some Sunday afternoon. The only feeling will be one of surprise how the people, with their incomes, support such a style of dress. We have heard visitors from the East and Europe thus express themselves.

To have indulged in such extravagant habits would not have been possible had not money been abundant. For several years almost all kinds of business have been brisk. Money has been plentiful, and the products of the country have met with a ready cash sale; labor also has been in demand, and it has called for high prices. But now times are different, and the change comes with greater severity than if it had not been preceded by unusual prosperity. It is now becoming very apparent to every reflecting person that we must change our habits and retrench our expenses, or the country will be bankrupt. We have been living too fast. We could not long endure such a style of living as has been indulged in. No permanent prosperity need be expected by us until our income exceeds our expenditures. In private life if a man's expenses exceed his income, every person concludes, and justly too, that he is on the high road to ruin. And this is as true of communities as it is of individuals. So long as the people of this Territory have to buy more than they sell their course, financially speaking, is downward, and they must eventually sink into abject slavery.

This truth is fully understood by our leading men, and, hence, they have pertinaciously urged the importance of home manufactures upon the people. But the ease with which money has been made of late years has had a tendency to divert attention from the development of home industries; goods of foreign manufacture have been more suited to the tastes and pockets of the people, and they have been largely imported. If this Territory could have enjoyed a complete isolation from the rest of the world, and the people had been under the necessity of depending upon their own resources, we are strongly of the opinion we would have been much more independent in point of manufactures than we are at present. Necessity would have driven us into manufacturing various articles for which we now have to depend upon importation. There is probably no country in the world more richly endowed with all the elements for the manufacture of articles necessary to man's existence, comfort and happiness, than our Territory. But who will engage in their manufacture while those articles can be obtained from abroad? Those who do so complain that they do not receive proper encouragement and support. When purchasers have money, or grain that is saleable for money, in nearly every instance they will buy the imported article, though they may have to pay more for it, in preference to patronizing the manufacturer here. This disposition is very general, and it has been very disheartening to those who have been engaged in manufacturing.

We now have woolen mills; and they are turning out a very good article of cloth, not so fine-looking probably as some imported cloths, but still a very serviceable article; how many are there who, if they have money wherewith to purchase, will patronize the home manufacturer? How many will content themselves with a home-made article, wisely concluding that though it may be a little coarser at present, by giving the manufacturer proper support, a short time only will elapse when he will be able to produce as fine-finished and more serviceable fabrics than any imported goods?

While fashion reigns here, and her law, as promulgated at her chief shrines in the old and new world, is paramount, there is but little room to hope that home-manufactured articles will ever be popular. Our manufacturers would

be under the necessity of doing as others are doing elsewhere—deluding their purchasers by affixing Paris and London to their goods as the places of manufacture.

But circumstances here, we think, are likely to favor the dethronement of the goddess. If we must follow fashion why not have one of our own? If it is necessary that such a deity should exercise sway and receive homage, let us be at least as independent in that as we are in other things, and have a home-made one. We may as well be peculiar in that as in anything else. Let money be ever so plentiful, our policy should be to patronize every article manufactured in our midst. We should not coin our strength into money with which to pay tribute to other people. Home-made goods may not be so pretty and so fine at first; but if they be comfortable we should be satisfied, and, after awhile, with patience and perseverance and the proper encouragement of the manufacturer, a better quality will be produced.

RETRENCHMENT AND HOME DEVELOPMENT.

THE subject which we touched upon yesterday is a fruitful and very important one, and will bear considerable ventilation. There is no outside matter, however important, that can possibly possess as great interest as this to those who have the growth and development of our Territory at heart; for upon a correct understanding of it, our existence and prosperity to a great extent depend. Present circumstances demand that attention should be paid to it. It is not to be expected that we can conduct business in this country now upon the same principle that we did in the early years of our settlement. Progress has been made in many directions by the world, and we would not have been true to our mission unless we had progressed with it. With our progress it is desirable, however, that we should preserve our simplicity of habits and dress, and not allow ourselves to be carried away by the wild notions and extravagance of this dissolute age. We have Zion to build up, and in this short sentence there is couched a world of meaning. It comprehends labors to be performed, progress to be made and regeneration to be effected.

For the first few years of our settlement here we had of necessity to be frugal in our habits and simple in our dress. We could not, for the want of means, be otherwise. But with the change of circumstances came a change of feelings and practice. Money was easily made, and expensive tastes and habits were developed, and sought their gratification by the extensive importation of articles of foreign manufacture. While everything that we had to sell could be disposed of at high prices the evils resulting from the indulgence of these tastes were not much felt. But high prices for articles of our production did not long prevail. The great staple of our country—wheat—sold at a brief period at a good, round price; but it soon declined, and was disposed of by the farmers at figures that scarcely gave them decent wages for their labor. But the habits contracted during flush times still remain. They have to be corrected, and habits and tastes adopted more in consonance with our present circumstances.

The eagerness to get rich in a brief space of time, which has been so plainly manifest, must also be checked. It is a proverb of very long standing, that he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. It is as true now as when it was written. The steady, old-fashioned style of doing business has many features about it that should recommend it to us, especially just at present. We are in a good condition to contrast it with the fast, feverish style that is now so much in vogue in the world. Men of business, mechanics, laborers and all classes can examine themselves and their transactions of the past few years, and see to what extent they have been influenced by the spirit which has been so prevalent. All feel, no doubt, the necessity of retrenchment and a thorough reform in our mode of managing business. It is very apparent that we must alter our style, and accommodate ourselves to the changed circumstances which surround us. The enormous profits and wages of the past are no longer obtainable, and they should not be expected. While money was plentiful and greatly inflated, and provisions commanded an extraordinary price in consequence of the unusual demand for them, the price of labor became greatly inflated also. Extravagant prices were asked and paid for all kinds of labor. High prices were paid, because the help

had to be obtained at almost any cost. But this necessity no longer exists. Those who have work to do cannot now employ help at the old rates. There is scarcely any business that can be sustained and pay them. What is to be done? There must be a different policy adopted. The various drains through which our means has flowed away from us must be stopped. We must husband our resources, and turn our attention to the development of manufactures at home.

The longer we defer doing this the worse it will be for us. We can import all kinds of machinery now with which to engage in the manufacture of various articles. Isolation would have some advantages; but our connection with older-settled portions of the country gives us a great advantage in placing machinery of every kind within our reach. If we take the proper course—that which is so constantly urged upon us by precept and example—we can soon become a self-sustaining, wealthy people.

We have the needed elements of comfort and wealth existing in boundless profusion around us. We have also skilled artisans in great numbers. It may not, in the beginning, be so cheap to use home-manufactured articles as imported. They may not be so pretty or well-finished. Inconveniences may attend their use. But all these objections and difficulties will soon vanish away, if the right course be persevered in, and we will not only be able to gratify our tastes in having durable, substantial articles, but they will also have fine finish and beauty to recommend them. To accomplish all this, however, labor must moderate its tone and expectations. There is no encouragement for men of capital to invest their means and hire if they have to pay their employees all, or more than all, that those employees earn. This has been the case in many branches of business in the past, and enterprise has, in consequence, in many instances been checked. There should be no conflict among us between capital and labor. The man of capital should not expect to reap extraordinary profits from his investment; he should be content with a moderate return; neither should the man who labors expect to get as wages all that the capital of his employer and his own labor produce.

In the early years of our settlement, wages were moderate, yet men who depended upon hiring out for a livelihood did well. Some of our most substantial citizens of to-day laid the foundation in those days of their present prosperity. Their wages were moderate and their expenditures were the same. But when wages are high and money is easily earned, careless and extravagant habits are too easily formed, and the expenditure is liable to equal, and not unfrequently exceed, the income. Continued poverty, is, of course, the inevitable attendant of such a mode of living.

TWO VIEWS.

The editors of the Cheyenne *Argus* and *Leader* have been treating on the subject of "Mormonism;" the former in a gentlemanly and dignified spirit of candor, the latter in a contemptible and scurrilous style, showing the writer to be in possession of a very small and uncultivated mind, with very large and shallow prejudices. We give the articles in full, with the reply of the *Argus* to the puerile strictures of the *Leader*. The following is the article of the *Argus*:

UTAH.

It is stated that the committee on elections have reported in favor of McGrorty as Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Utah, and against the claims of Hon. Wm. H. Hooper, who has represented that section with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the Mormons for four consecutive sessions. Although no admirer of the peculiar institutions of the Mormons, yet we must confess to being deeply impressed with their industry, thrift and virtue. Without the aid of gold mining excitements, they have built up a numerous, prosperous and happy community in what was once a remote, inaccessible desert. The Mormon settlements at and in the vicinity of Salt Lake have been of the greatest possible assistance to the development of the interior of the North American continent, and for this, if nothing else, these people deserve the best wishes of the inhabitants of the surrounding territories. We are therefore sorry that they have lost the service of their delegate to Congress. As for McGrorty, he only received about 100 votes to Hooper's 13,000, and the people would, doubtless,

sooner have no representative at all than accept one who, for the paltry emoluments of office, would thrust himself into the shoes of the man they elected. In spite of the efforts of some few disappointed, malignant adventurers to make the world believe that the patriarchal institutions of polygamy, adopted by the Mormons, is founded solely on a desire to gratify fleshly lusts, the feeling is fast gaining ground that the doctrines held by the Mormon church are much better than it has been the fashion to represent, or misrepresent, them. Were their system of life wholly vicious, the community would long ago have crumbled to pieces. As it is, Mormonism stands to-day a proud monument of what sobriety, thrift, industry and love can accomplish. After all, with infanticide and prostitution riding rampant throughout the country, are we qualified to cast stones at any sect of man who differ from us in their mode of life, and in their choice of pathway to heaven?

This, the *Leader* thinks, is a good thing to "pitch into," and in a fit of assumed and hypocritical virtue it berates the *Argus* as follows:

THE CLOVEN FOOT.

A feeling of absolute disgust was created among the respectable portion of this community, Sunday last, by an article which appeared in the *Argus*, headed "Utah," in which the writer not only exposes the base inclinations and disregard of virtue in his own heart, but it is an insult to common decency. Speaking of the Mormons, that paper says, "We confess to being deeply impressed with their industry and virtue." Their industry is necessary to their existence, which, in the main, is both poor and wretched, as the editor of that paper is aware. But if virtue consists in preaching and practicing adultery, they have it abundantly; as probably the writer of such an article would have it, under similar circumstances, and with similar protection and less encouragement. Again:

"They would, doubtless, sooner have no representative at all than accept one who, for the paltry emoluments of office, would thrust himself into the shoes of the man they elected."

The "paltry emoluments of office." Oh! Mr. *Argus*. Must the devil preach our sermons on the "paltry emoluments of office," as well as on polygamy?

"In spite of the efforts of some few disappointed, malignant adventurers to make the world believe that the patriarchal institution of polygamy, adopted by the Mormons, is founded solely on a desire to gratify fleshly lusts, the feeling is fast gaining ground that the doctrines held by the Mormon church are much better than it has been the fashion to represent, or misrepresent, them."

We do not believe that the above "feeling is fast gaining ground" with the *Argus*; on the contrary it seems to be a natural weakness, and fully developed.

"After all, with infanticide and prostitution riding rampant throughout the country, are we qualified to cast stones at any sect of men who differ from us in their mode of life, and in their choice of a pathway to heaven?"

Not by any means, Mr. *Argus*. You are not "qualified," neither by nature nor by breeding, to cast stones at any man or woman, nor at "any sect of men," however low and degrading they may become, as you are not "qualified" to appreciate or understand that which is manly and virtuous.

The *Argus* has adopted the false reasoning of the Mormons, by comparing polygamy with prostitution, and endeavoring to show that of the two evils polygamy is the least. We will not discuss that question at all. We shall not ask whether prostitution, which is both loathsome and disgusting, and which is denounced by every decent person, and has hitherto found an advocate in the print above mentioned, is worse than polygamy which steals the garb of religion and sanctity as a covering for its incestuous adultery and shame; we shall not tell the *Argus* which has the most damnable effect upon religion and society; as we do not desire to disturb his pleasant reflections on such subjects. But we will ask, has he found no other condition of social relations except those two? If so, we take the liberty of assuring him that there is another—a higher and a better scale or condition of civilized society, to which he may be a stranger, and which is as different from either polygamy or prostitution as light is from darkness. We mean monogamy—the one-wife, one-husband doctrine, which prostitutes neither the man nor the woman; and the believers in which doctrine despises alike the preachers and advocates and