

THE LADIES' MASS MEETING.

A Vast and Enthusiastic Assemblage of Ladies protest against the wrongs being inflicted upon them.

THE UNANIMOUS VOICE OF UTAH'S WIVES AND DAUGHTERS.

They will abandon no principle of their Religion, but will be true to themselves, their Country and their God.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the Salt Lake Theatre was packed with the large audience of ladies assembled, in pursuance to call, to protest against the wrongs now being inflicted upon the people of Utah, and hundreds were unable to gain admittance.

The 16th Ward brass band played choice selections while the people were being seated, and at the appointed hour, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard, in a few appropriate remarks, called the meeting to order.

Dr. Romanus B. Pratt nominated Mrs. M. I. Horne to preside, and the lady received the unanimous endorsement of the vast assemblage.

Mrs. Sarah M. Kimball, Mrs. E. S. Taylor, Mrs. Jane Richards, Mrs. Priscilla Staines and Mrs. Mary Pitchforth were unanimously elected vice-presidents.

Mrs. Elizabeth Howard was nominated for secretary and Miss Nellie Colebrook and Mrs. Cornelia Clayton as assistant secretaries. These ladies were unanimously elected.

Mrs. Zina D. Young was chosen as chaplain.

After singing by the Tabernacle choir, prayer was offered by Mrs. Zina D. Young. Singing by the choir.

Prest. M. I. Horne expressed the regrets of Mrs. Eliza R. Snow Smith at not being able to be present, but stated that she was heart and soul in the movement.

Prest. Horne said it was with feelings of sorrow that she contemplated the occasion which called forth the necessity for a protest against the wrongs heaped upon "Mormon" men and women, because of their obedience to the law of God. The nation could with more consistency legislate against the Catholics for their belief in celibacy than against the "Mormons" for obeying the first great commandment, "Be fruitful and multiply." It was a duty of the Saints to appeal to rulers, and if disregarded God would avenge them. President Van Buren had told the Prophet Joseph his cause was just, but the nation could do nothing for his people, and the nation had been vexed ever since. Men were now sent to jail because they would not promise to renounce their wives and children, and the women of the Latter-day Saints could not longer submit in peace to this, and to the insults offered their sisters in the courts. They could not longer go on without protesting against continued adverse legislation. They could not come down to the level of those who degraded women, but would continue in the service of God, and trust in Him.

The following committee on resolutions was appointed on motion of Dr. R. B. Pratt: Dr. R. B. Pratt, Mrs. Fanny Thatcher, Mrs. Edna Smith, of Salt Lake City, Mrs. J. Tanner, of Provo, and Mrs. H. C. Brown of Ogden.

MRS. PRISCILLA L. KIMBALL was called and spoke as follows:

Mrs. President and Ladies:

I stand before you a native-born citizen of the United States. My grandfather fought in the revolutionary war to establish a free government on this continent, and my father fought in the war of 1812 to secure and perpetuate a free government and to protect the rights and liberties of the citizens of the republic. I, their descendant, now stand up before this assembly to protest against the oppression of those who would take from us the rights and liberties which our fathers risked their lives to obtain. What would our fathers say, the founders of this republic, if they could rise from their graves and see the glorious Constitution which they framed and bequeathed to all future generations, as the palladium of liberty, overridden and downtrodden by demagogues and torn to fragments by the schemes of corrupt men, whose object is to oppress and injure the helpless.

We came out from the United States to this desert and mountainous country, that we might worship God according to the dictates of our consciences.

We had broken no laws of God or man. We had committed no crimes, but we were driven from our homes by angry mobs because we desired to worship God in the way that had been revealed to us. We made our homes in these mountains and have lived here loyal and law-abiding citizens.

Now, nearly at the close of the nineteenth century we find the horrors of the inquisition revived for our destruction—free-born, pure-minded, and delicate women are brought before a cruel and corrupt court, by lewd and debauched deputies, insulted and brow-beaten by base and malicious officials, and in obedience to their

pure and noble womanhood, they refuse to answer the indecent questions, they are threatened with imprisonment in the Utah Penitentiary, where murderers and horse thieves are incarcerated, there to pay the penalty of contempt of court.

Oh, liberty and justice, where is thy dwelling place!

I feel it is time for the ladies of Zion to arise. Our cause is just. We have broken no law of God or man, but we know by experience what the present crusade means. We will be true to God and live lives of purity.

Mrs. Cornelia H. Clayton read the following address by

MRS. H. C. BROWN:

Dear Friends:

We have met to-day to unite our voices in protesting against the cruel enforcement of special legislative enactments brought to bear upon us as a people, and we appeal to every honest mind and heart to use their influence to stay the shameful proceedings by which pretended courts of justice are converted into courts of inquisition. That honest, virtuous, Christian women may no longer be subjected to insult and abuse, nor have every feeling of parental and conjugal love, and every sense of religious duty, outraged and trampled upon.

We are here, not as Latter-day Saints, but as American citizens—members of that great commonwealth which our noble grandfathers fought and bled to establish—legal heirs to those rights and privileges bequeathed by that heaven-inspired document—the Constitution of these United States. Yes, legal heirs, yet literally, unconstitutionally deprived of that dearest, most cherished of all rights—freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences.

And this within the limits of a government founded upon religious liberty. This in a nation whose legislators point proudly to the brave Pilgrim Fathers and mothers as their ancestors—and then turn to crush their fellow creatures, descendants of the same noble parentage.

O consistency, where art thou fled? O justice, surely thy face must hide itself in shame, when loyal men and women are denied the right of citizenship, because, forsooth, they would serve God and fear Him rather than man.

Once again, we protest against the unjust designs and unlawful enactments of unscrupulous men, blinded by selfish ambition to all the best interests of our government as well as to their own eternal welfare.

And we would say to them and to the world, that, rather than forego one principle of our holy religion, rather than yield the right to act upon our own convictions of duty, we would, if need be, endure exile or imprisonment, or whatever our heavenly Father may see fit in His wisdom to require of us; and, like the Saints of former days, suffer rather than accept deliverance, that we may inherit a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

DR. ELLEN B. FERGUSON

said the wrongs against which those assembled now protested were such as would have put to blush the civilization of two centuries ago. While the statue of liberty was being erected women were here sent to jail for no crime, and the purest and best women in the country now raised their voice against the outrage. Sixteen years ago the women of Utah were granted the right of suffrage, and it was whispered that they would break the hands which were supposed to bind them. The women of Utah had proven true and had never cast an unrighteous ballot. They voted for men who were pure, honorable and upright. The government now seemed to think it premature that the women were allowed to vote, and were endeavoring to deprive them of that right, not because they had committed crime, but because they believed in the revelations of God. It was urged that the women in Utah were coerced. No member of Congress would dare witness what was here to-day and reiterate such a falsehood. "Priestly dictation" was prated about, but nothing was said of the Catholics, who voted as their priests directed. This was the battle-field between truth and error. The Saints were loyal citizens, industrious and honest, but they were being oppressed because they belonged to an unpopular class. The President of the United States asked for fairness for the Chinese, but had never asked justice for the "Mormons." Under the nation's law, the seducer and destroyer had no fear of a deputy, as "birds of a feather flocked together." But honorable "Mormons" were dogged and watched by "spotters," and these acts were approved by Americans. She had felt that America was an asylum for all—but the "Mormons." They were to-day in the same position as the American patriots 120 years ago. England oppressed the patriots, and refused redress; they took their liberty by force of arms. Their descendants are now the oppressors, and the "Mormons" the oppressed. And now these chains of tyranny were to be welded closer by taking from the women of Utah, the ballot, which they had never used but in the promotion of honor, virtue, and good to all. May the day never come when they will be deprived of the ballot. The nation should call a halt and remember *vox populi, vox Dei*. There will come a day when those engaged in this crusade will bitterly repent their treatment of the "Mormons," which

is unjustifiable. The "Mormons," would adhere to their religion which was from God. Test oaths would not move them. The enemies of "Mormonism" desired to sweep it from the face of the earth; but the work was God's, and they could not do it.

The committee on resolutions reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE WOMEN OF UTAH IN MASS MEETING ASSEMBLED:

Whereas, The rights and liberties of women are placed in jeopardy by the present cruel and inhuman proceedings in the Utah courts, and in the contemplated measure in Congress to deprive the women voters in Utah of the elective franchise; and,

Whereas, Womanhood is outraged by the compulsion used in the courts of Utah to force mothers on pain of imprisonment to disclose their personal condition and that of their friends in relation to anticipated maternity, and to give information as to the fathers of their children; and,

Whereas, These violations of decency have now reached the length of compelling legal wives to testify against their husbands without their consent, in violation both of written statutes and the provisions of the common law, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the women of Utah in mass meeting assembled, that the suffrage, originally conferred upon us as a political privilege, has become a vested right by possession and usage for fifteen years, and that we protest against being deprived of that right without process of law, and for no other reason than that we do not vote to suit our political opponents.

Resolved, That we emphatically deny the charge that we vote otherwise than according to our own free choice, and point to the fact that the ballot is absolutely secret in Utah as proof that we are protected in voting for whom and what we choose with perfect liberty.

Resolved, That as no wife of a polygamist, legal or plural, is permitted to vote under the laws of the United States to deprive non-polygamous women of the suffrage is high-handed oppression for which no valid excuse can be offered.

Resolved, That the questions concerning their personal condition, the relationship they bear to men marked down as victims to special law, and the paternity of their born and unborn children, which have been put to women before grand juries and in open courts in Utah, are an insult to pure womanhood, an outrage upon the sensitive feelings of our sex and a disgrace to officers and judges who have pronounced and enforced them.

Resolved, That we honor those noble women who, standing upon their rights and refusing to reply to improper and insulting questions such as no true man nor any court with any regard for propriety would compel them to answer, have gone to prison and suffered punishment without crime, rather than betray the most sacred confidence and yield to the brutal mandates of a little brief authority.

Resolved, That the action of the District Attorney and the Chief Justice of Utah in compelling a lawful wife to testify for the prosecution in a criminal case involving the liberty of her husband and in face of her own earnest protest, is a violation of laws which those officials have sworn to uphold, is contrary to precedent and usage for many centuries, and is an invasion of family rights and of that union between husband and wife which both law and religion have held sacred from time immemorial.

Resolved, That we express our profound appreciation of the moral courage exhibited by Senators Call, Morgan, Teller, Brown and others, and also by Mrs. Belva H. Lockwood, who, in the face of almost overwhelming prejudice, have defended the constitutional rights of the people of Utah.

Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt thanks to the ladies of the Woman Suffrage Association assembled in Boston, and unite in praying that God may speed the day when both men and women shall shake from their shoulders the yoke of tyranny.

Resolved, That we call upon the wives and mothers of the United States to come to our help in resisting these encroachments upon our liberties and these outrages upon our peaceful homes and family relations, and that a committee be appointed at this meeting to memorialize the President and Congress of the United States in relation to our wrongs, and to take all necessary measures to present our views and feelings to the country.

MRS. KING'S ADDRESS.

My noble Sisters:

Why do we see this stage thronged to-day? and the auditorium equally crowded, all women? Why has this large assembly congregated together by appointment, and by mutual consent? It is to express the disgust and wounded feelings that all are suffering at this time, when the hard hand of oppression is so heavy upon our people! Yes, and more especially have we met to express our most indignant feelings at the uncourteous, indelicate, not to say insulting, treatment our sisters have experienced of late in the courts of our Territory, before the judges sitting in the chair of justice! Questions have been boldly asked of them that even their closest friends would not have presumed to

ask them, and feelings of the tenderest nature have been ruthlessly trampled upon! And when some have determined not to answer such questions they have been sent to prison for "contempt of court!" Most aptly is that word, no other could so properly express the feelings such conduct must engender, as the natural principle of cause and effect!

Why! the *demi monde* when brought into court for licentiousness are treated with decent consideration, but honorable wives, united by the holiest covenants that hearts can make and words express, must submit and bear silently whatever insulting questions their judges please to propound to them, simply because they are members of the Church of Jesus Christ, founded by Him, and they obey its principles, every one of which is holy, pure and true. It is for this we have assembled here to-day, to raise our voices before high heaven and to the world, and to protest against the dignity of our womanhood being outraged in this uncalled-for manner, for the fraternity of our religion is such that when one member suffers the whole body feels wounded. I cannot refrain from asking here: Are we in America, that glorious, world-renowned country, proudly denominated "The land of the free and the home of the brave," that formerly raised its voice to the world, and declared it should be the home for the destitute and down-trodden of every nation under heaven, and that every form of religion should be allowed and protected under the broad and fostering folds of its glorious flag and its heaven-inspired Constitution? Oh! I could weep to see and know how are the mighty fallen and the fine gold become dim! Where shall this oppressed people turn for redress? Who shall lift the heavy hand of oppression from off their shoulders? Scripture says: "Cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh," but should the Lord see fit to raise up such an arm it will be filled by His Spirit, and the power of the Holy One will alone be wielded by it. Oh, my sisters, let us live closer to Him than we have hitherto done! He is our Father, and we are His daughters, and we have made holy covenants with Him in holy places. Our marriage vows are the most sacred. Let us live and rejoice in the knowledge which His everlasting Gospel has bestowed upon us, and while our wounded hearts are smearing beneath the cruelty of our enemies, let us echo the words of our blessed Savior under more exquisite suffering, as an excuse for them: "They know not what they do!" Let this stand as a shield between them and the people they are so cruelly oppressing.

Will they still continue so obtuse after they have heard and read the protest of this assembly of injured women? Will they still persist in their unmanly language and insulting questions to them? If so, we will take refuge in the words of the Lord, "Vengeance is mine, and I will repay." Amen. So mote it be!

Miss Nellie Colebrook then read the following poem:

GIVE "THE MORMONS" THEIR RIGHTS.

BY EMILY H. WOODMANSEE.

In behalf of the "Mormons" the following Address is respectfully submitted to every lover of freedom and fair play in the United States of America, also to the Members of the House of Representatives, and of the Senate, and to all honest-hearted people elsewhere.

Must the "Mormons" be mute, when compassion is weeping?
And sorrows unnumbered are right at our door?
Should "The daughter of Zion" be quietly sleeping—
As if the dark day of her bondage were o'er?
Our wrongs and our cares—
Must we welcome as sweet?
Or walk into snares
That are laid for our feet?

Like a whirlwind approaching, vile laws now are pending.
If passed, all the pillars of Freedom will shake;
"Our cause is most just," yet it claims such defending;
"The Women of Mormonism" needs must awake.
Thus, we humbly petition
Columbia's nation,
To crown on oppression
And harsh legislation.

Our foes trouble little, or nothing to mention,
For "poor Mormon women" or down-trodden wives."
Were polygamy only the base of contention,
The "Mormons" might vote all the rest of their lives.
Our foes may not count us
Smart, sensible folks;
But we see through their purpose—
Contempt it provokes.

We prize not their pity, whose aim is to plunder
A people who strictly to peace are inclined;
If the "Mormons" lose patience need any one wonder.
Who considers our wrongs, by the crafty designed,
Yet they'll harvest disgrace
Where they hope for renown,
Who for power or place
Thrust the innocent down.

We appeal to the people in freedom's dominions—
To the fair-minded millions who love what is right;

Must the "Mormons" be robbed for their faith and opinions—
Crushed and ground, 'twixt the millstones of greed and of spite?
Is it needful or lawful
To wrest freedom from us
For what we believe,
Or for what we can't promise?

Our honor is priceless, our rights are all precious,
Our affections are sacred, our households are dear;
Our husbands are heroes, in spite of the specious—
And wonderful (?) rulings of Judges so queer.
Who shift their decisions,
Around, and around;
Till for "Mormons" a verdict,
Of "Guilty," is found.

"The world loves its own, but it 'hates us,' and fights us,
Our rights are withheld, and our friends are in prison;
Yet, we never are comfortless, always, the righteous
"Through much tribulation" to glory have risen.
Let the spirit of fairness,
Quench bigotry's fire:
Then, the "Mormons" will reap,
All the praise they desire.

Foretold was our fate, of a truth "men revile us,"
And the meanness of motives, our foes thus disguise;
Their black-hearted falsehoods, will fail to defile us,
But the masses are misled, by plausible lies.
Alas! that such labels,
So strip of the truth;
Are read more than Bibles,
By thousands, forsooth.

If the vex'd "Mormon problem," must have a solution,
'Tis time something nobler than hate should be tried;
Sure, the "Mormons" have suffer'd enough persecution,
Yet sustained by their faith, they have lived, they have thrived.
The more they are slander'd,
And hunted and driven,
The more they are prosper'd,
And favor'd of heaven.

Praise! Surely is due to the stout-hearted exiles—
Who resen'd from barrenness, Utah's broad valleys;
Who built all the bridges, and leveled the ridges
And braved all the hardships such settling entailed.
God blessed our endeavor;
He rescues us ever,
Though every thing fails,
Shall we doubt Him? No never.

Our homage we yield to the Lord, our defender,
For manifold mercies, what less can we do?
"To Caesar" the "Mormons" submissively render
Whatever is just, whatsoever is due.
But to those who would crush us
Or decree us by law,
We can't for the life of us
Kneel down in awe.

To statesmen we turn, yea, we ask for protection,
In the land that with blood, was from tyranny freed;
Must the "Mormons" to-day be the only exception
To the hosts, who gain honor their conscience indebt?
Oh ye, whose brave fathers
Scaled freedom's proud heights,
Concede to the "Mormons"
Their God-given rights,

At the conclusion of the reading, the 16th Ward Band played "Hail Columbia."

Mrs. Cornelia Clayton read an address by

MATTIE H. TINGEY.

Mrs. President and Ladies:

We deeply regret that within the confines of the republic of the United States circumstances have occurred which warrant and necessitate the women of a community assembling themselves together to protest against injury and insult, and that, too, by Federal officials.

It is an acknowledged fact that the more civilized and highly educated a nation becomes, the more are women protected, elevated and honored.

Can it be that our great Republic has retrograded to a semi-barbarous state, that men are upheld and retained in office, who wilfully and maliciously seek to drag honorable, pure-minded women into their presence, for the purpose of insulting them with questions that cause the blush of shame to mantle the cheek of every true lover of virtue and morality? It can not be possible.

From our childhood, when, dressed in holiday attire, we marched under the honored stars and stripes, to the patriotic strains of "Hail Columbia" and "Star Spangled Banner," in celebrating the glorious "Fourth," and assembled in large congregations to listen to the reading of the "Declaration of Independence," and to the soul-stirring, patriotic speeches of our fathers, husbands and brothers, until our hearts swelled with patriotic fervor, up to the present time, we have looked upon the Constitution of the United States as an inspired document, and our Republic, the greatest and most liberal government on earth—in very truth, the "land of the free" and the "home of the brave," and the words "God" and "our country," have been almost inseparable in our minds.

Shall we then, mothers, wives and daughters of citizens of this great Republic, sit quietly down, like slaves, and see our rights taken from us, our characters maligned and insults heaped upon us, all because of religion, the free exercise of which is guaranteed to us by the time-honored Constitution of our country? Methinks I hear from every nook and corner of this spacious building, the ringing answer, No! a