

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - SEPT 29, 1880.

"A PRIVILEGED CLASS OF VOTERS."

ANOTHER of the charges preferred by the "Liberals" against the dominant party, in their Address, is:

"For the creation of a privileged class of electors, by requiring male voters to be of a certain age and tax payers, and not requiring the same qualifications for female voters."

Ever since the Utah Legislature conferred on women the elective franchise, the anti-"Mormon" element has been opposed to the movement, although it was at first suggested by the "Mormon"-eaters, as a Congressional measure designed as a fatal blow to polygamy. The theory then was that the women of Utah were "down trodden" and anxious to escape from their plural family relations. And the railroad across the continent not having been taken away the large companies of self-divorced wives, predicted before its completion, the enfranchisement of women in Utah was suggested as a certain means of their deliverance.

But to the astonishment and chagrin of these self-appointed champions of ladies who repudiate their efforts, the women voters of Utah have cast their ballots in unison with their husbands, brothers and sons, and have exhibited no desire to affiliate with their would-be "deliverers" from social relations which they have formed from choice and do not wish to sever. The efforts of the clique calling itself a "Liberal" party have therefore been directed towards the disfranchisement of the ladies, proving of course the appropriateness of the title with which that "progressive" party has dubbed itself.

The "Liberals" have announced their intention of making woman suffrage one of the points of contest in the November election, with the view of abolishing the right of the ladies in this Territory to vote. It is in this spirit that the above paragraph in their address was written. Now let us see how much there is in it. Two points are presented; one is, that male voters are required by our local law to be "of a certain age" while female voters are not so required, and the other is that male voters must be taxpayers, while women voters need not be taxpayers. These constitute their charge of "The creation of a privileged class of voters."

As usual these people have resorted to open, wilful falsehood as well as to roundabout misrepresentation. Reference to the statutes will show that no woman is permitted to vote any more than a man, who is not "of the age of twenty-one years." There is no room for argument on this point, the law is too plain and definite to be misunderstood; the charge is simply untrue and without any foundation or excuse. And if the law does not require a woman voter, on being registered, to take an oath that she is a taxpayer, is it not well understood that in the payment of taxes the female portion of a household are represented by the males. The property, including the house and its furniture in which the husband and wife virtually, justly and actually, if not in a legal sense hold a joint interest, is usually listed and assessed to the husband. He is charged with the taxes and credited with the payment, but the wife is a partner in the possession and proprietorship, and pays her share of the taxes thereon in her husband's assessment. While the legal ownership of the joint property is vested in the man, and when woman suffrage is an established principle, it would be contrary to equity and good sense to require the woman voter to, be formally, a taxpayer.

We do not suppose any one possessed of a reasonable mind will maintain that there is anything morally or equitably wrong in this

apparent discrimination in the law. But some may question its legal soundness, on the ground that women voters are made a "privileged class of electors." With as good reason it might be claimed that Congress had made them a "privileged class" of citizens. Male aliens are required to take an oath of allegiance and obtain certain papers before becoming citizens. But any woman who is twenty-one years of age and is married to a citizen, is made a citizen by law without making any oath or taking out any papers. If an election law is void which requires men voters and not women voters to be taxpayers, what shall be said of the poll-tax laws, militia laws, and other laws in the various States and Territories requiring certain duties of male citizens and exempting female citizens? Do these create a privileged class, and is this kind of law-making to be denounced as class legislation?

The objection is silly and the charge unfounded. If the law discriminated against one party and in favor of another, the accusation might have some basis. But the woman suffrage law is of equal application to women of every class, color and party, and is uniform in its operations, just as much so as the United States statute in relation to citizenship. And if it was right for Congress to make alien women citizens by special provision, why was it wrong for our Legislature to make them voters in a similar manner and in precisely the same spirit?

How wonderfully "Liberal" these disappointed and baffled persons are, in their endeavors to take away from women the rights which they have held for more than ten years, and what liberties those sophisticated individuals take with the truth, in their painful struggles to make a point!

ITEMS FROM IDAHO.

HON. JAMES H. HART, who has just returned from the Democratic Territorial Convention at Boise, Idaho, gives us some interesting information.

The convention was held on the 17th inst., and was composed of 44 delegates. He, with W. F. Fisher and Willard Crawford, of Oxford, represented the 12 delegates from Bear Lake and Oneida Counties. Col. Wood, who accompanied these gentlemen, represented the delegation of two from Cassia County.

There were two candidates for Delegate to Congress: Hon. George Ainslie, who represented the Territory at the last session, and T. D. Cahalan, Esq., who was named for the position two years ago. The support for these gentlemen was about even until the delegates from Southern Idaho arrived, who had 14 votes for Ainslie, and he was consequently nominated by acclamation. The gentleman has served Idaho faithfully for one session, and is almost sure of election again. The Republican candidate is Alanson Smith, Esq., a lawyer, who has but a small following and a very slim chance indeed.

Brother Hart thus speaks of the Democratic candidate: "Hon. George Ainslie, the Democratic nominee for delegate in Congress for the Territory of Idaho is one of the hardy pioneers of the western coast, and one of the earliest settlers of the Territory. He has graduated through many positions of honor and trust, and his constituents have shown their appreciation by renominating him to the highest office in the gift of the Territory. He has proved himself a good citizen, a sound lawyer, a brave patriot, a sterling Democrat and a prudent statesman. He is known by his many friends as a gentleman by birth, intellect and education. As a boy among the boys, a man among the men, a counselor among jurists, a leader in legislative assemblies, and a peer among congressional delegates, he has fairly well their respect and confidence as won as that of the people of Idaho, and his election will be sure."

Willard Crawford, of Oxford, was renominated for District Attorney for the Third District, James Hawley for the Second, and William Poe was nominated for the Third.

The Democratic Central Committee has Col. E. N. Stevenson for Chairman, a gentleman well qualified for the post, and Chas. Himrod for Secretary. Mr. J. C. Rich represents Bear Lake County on the committee, Messrs. W. F. Fisher and Wm. Homer, Oneida County, and

one member is added each from the other counties.

Cassia County was organized last session of the Legislature out of a portion of Owyhee County. It joins Oneida County on the west of the latter. It offers valuable inducements to settlers. Its south-eastern boundary is about ten miles from Kelton on the Central Pacific Railroad. About 35 miles from this point Brother Osterholdt, formerly of Willard, Box Elder County, is located with thirty-five families, and says there is abundant room and advantages for many more.

The County seat is Albion, in Marsh Basin. Formerly there was no grist mill in that region, but now there is a good one a short distance from Albion, saving the long journey with a grist which used to be taken to Malad.

Col. Wood informed Brother Hart that there is 150 sections of surveyed land on Raft River unoccupied. In Goose Creek Valley there is 600 sections of surveyed land which can be watered from Snake River. In addition to these streams, Cassia County has the waters of Sublet Creek, Cassia Creek and others, to bring fertility, with the labor of the husbandman, to excellent soil capable of sustaining a large population.

As our people increase and multiply, opportunities open for them to spread forth on the face of the land and inherit it. In this we can but discern the hand of Providence, and they who find it hard to live with comfort in the towns and cities, should avail themselves of the openings that come to light, by which they can move forward to comfort and comparative independence. Better far to struggle in a new place for a competence, than to linger on in an old one with no prospect but to labor for others.

MAINE STILL DOUBTFUL.

THE Maine election continues to be the subject of discussion in the public journals and in political circles. It is still a matter of doubt. Each party claims a victory. But with all the attempts on the part of the Republicans to smooth over the ugly figures which proclaim a great falling off of their adherents, it is plain to the whole country that disaster has come to them in one of their greatest strongholds. Maine has been beyond dispute a Republican State. With Blaine for its head and Frye for its tail the political body has been mainly Republican. In 1856 it elected a Republican Governor by a majority of 17,881. In 1864 the Republicans carried the State by a majority of 15,918. In 1868, the year of Grant's election to the Presidency, the Republican majority rose to 20,403, and in 1872 it was 17,216. In 1876 the Republican majority was 15,444.

Now whether the result—to be declared by a Republican Legislature—gives the Governorship and other important offices to either party, it cannot be viewed other than a severe blow to Blaine and his adherents and their whole party as they counted on a sweeping triumph. Their canvass was considered complete. Blaine personally conducted the campaign. He stumped the State. Able speakers were scattered everywhere. Maine sailors and government clerks of their party were sent home to vote. The boast was made of a large majority certain by the most careful calculations. The aged and decrepit were conveyed to the polls. All hands were drummed up and nothing left undone to ensure victory.

Yet the issue is so close that even now, by a fair count—which he is remembered, is in Republican hands—it may be possible to show a positive triumph, as it certainly is a negative success for the Democrats. The effects must certainly be of a very depressing nature to the party which has so long held sway in Maine, and of equal encouragement to their opponents. "The signs" are undoubtedly favorable to Hancock and English.

MORE CHARACTERISTIC "LIBERALISM."

In another column will be found an account of proceedings instituted by the "Liberals" for the purpose of depriving the women of Utah of the right to vote. The Assessor is required by mandamus from the Third District Court to strike from the Registry List the names of

women voters or to appear before the court on Wednesday, September 29th, to show cause why he has not done so; he is also forbidden to deliver the list to the County Clerk as required by law until the further order of the Court. The affidavit on which this mandamus is based states that the ladies whose names are on the list "are not, nor any of them, lawful voters."

The authority for the passage of the woman suffrage law is found in the Organic Act of the Territory, which gives to the Legislative Assembly the power in general over all rightful subjects of legislation and in particular to prescribe the qualifications of voters, subject only to certain specified conditions, which do not include woman suffrage, thus leaving the Legislature free in that respect. The women of Utah have exercised the suffrage for over ten years by virtue of that law, and the attempt now made to wrest it from them is quite consistent with the schemes of those very "Liberal" persons who have vainly tried for years to deprive all "Mormons" of the right to vote.

The legal points in the suit will be brought out in the arguments of counsel and will be given to our readers in due time. Meanwhile we admonish our lady citizens not to be at all alarmed nor excited; and remind male voters that the abolition of woman suffrage—which however, we have no reason whatever to anticipate—will not effect what its designers fondly wish for. There are plenty of male voters in the People's party, if every man will do his duty, to hold the balance of power in favor of the People and to the continued confounding of the reckless adventurers whose motto is, "rule or ruin." All that is being done by way of opposition should, and we think will, result in stirring up those who have been dilatory in the past to take an active part in the politics of the Territory in the future, and thus, as usual, the Lord will bring good out of intended evil.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, SEPT. 24.

Cases Dismissed.—The cases of the B. C. and C. F. R. R. Company vs. George Crismon, and also the W. and J. V. R. R. Company vs. George Crismon, which have been in the District Court for so long, have at last been dismissed. No liability or undertaking for injunction.

The Ladies' Conference.—The quarterly conference of the ladies associations of this Stake, convened this morning at 10 o'clock in the Assembly Hall, Sister S. M. Heywood presiding. The usual business, such as reading of minutes, and verbal reports from presidents of the various branch relief societies in the Stake, occupied the larger part of the forenoon, after which Sister Minerva W. Snow, president of the relief societies of St. George Stake, addressed the assembly in an interesting and instructive manner. The president of the meeting then made a few remarks and an adjournment was taken until 2 p. m. At that hour the meeting was resumed, the opening prayer being offered by Patriarch Jos. L. Heywood. The congregation, which was much larger than it was in the forenoon, was then addressed in turn by Sisters Phoebe Woodruff, E. B. Wells, S. M. Kimball, Elder Heywood, Sisters M. J. Tanner and Prescindia L. Kimball. The meeting was in progress as we went to press.

FROM SATURDAY DAILY, SEPT. 25.

Excommunication.—The following action was taken by the High Council of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion in relation to William Harrison, late of the 9th Ward, Salt Lake City, but now a resident of Provo, at a session held Friday evening, Sept. 24th, 1880:

"That William Harrison be cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for unchristian-like conduct and apostasy, and that this action be published."

The above was carried by the unanimous vote of the Council.
WILLIAM W. TAYLOR, Clerk.

Priesthood Meeting.—The regular monthly meeting of the Priesthood of this Stake will be held in the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, 1880, at 11 a. m.

As this is also the quarterly meeting of the Priesthood, the various associations and societies of this Stake will oblige by forwarding

their quarterly reports at once to be read at that meeting.

WILLIAM W. TAYLOR,
Clerk of Stake.

A Meteor.—On Thursday evening about 6 o'clock, a meteor was observed to shoot across the sky from south to northwest. It traversed over 45 degrees of the firmament and burst into several pieces over in the direction of the lake. It was a brilliant white light, not unlike the electric.

The Immigrants.—The immigrants arrived this forenoon at 11.40 from Ogden, in charge of Elder John Rider. There were 338 souls reached Ogden, out of which number about 200 came to Salt Lake. Sixteen of these will leave by the morning train for the south, the main body will settle in this and adjacent towns. In the company were 147 Scandinavians, 137 English, and 40 Swiss. Besides these, returned 17 elders, including Brother Rider, captain of the company. Crossing the Atlantic, rough weather was experienced, but the voyage as a whole was prosperous. Two deaths occurred on the way, a Swiss brother who was buried in mid ocean, and a Swiss child who died at Altoona, Pa., and was interred at Pittsburg. The company, as an entirety, is in good health.

Ladies Conference.—The Ladies Conference continued this morning at 10 o'clock. The forenoon was devoted to the children's associations, and the meeting was presided over by Sister Ellen C. S. Clawson, President of the primaries of this Stake. The opening service was the Lord's Prayer, repeated in concert by a multitude of children, led by Sister Louie Felt, after which they sang a selection from their little hymn book lately published. The presidents of the several ward societies then made verbal reports, which were interspersed with hymns by the little ones, and a little girl named Winnie Miner, of the 14th Ward, then recited the whole of the revelation on the Word of Wisdom. This was followed by a similar rendering of the Ten Commandments, by a little boy named Henry Coulam, of the 11th Ward. Both occupied the stand during their recitations. Sister Zina D. Young then addressed the children in a kind, motherly way, asking them various interesting questions, which were promptly and intelligently answered. The children led by Sister Camilla Cobb, sang again and the meeting adjourned till 2 p. m. Benediction by Bishop L. D. Young.

This afternoon the Young Ladies' session convened with Sister Mary Freeze presiding. There was a very good attendance, better than at any other session during the conference.

PUBLIC LAND SURVEYS.

UNITED STATES Surveyor General's Office, Utah Territory,
Salt Lake City,
Sept. 24, 1880.

The following named township plats of the public surveys, executed by Augustus D. Ferron and Joseph Gorlinski, U. S. Deputy Surveyors, have been this day filed in the U. S. Land Office, in this city.

Township 4 S. R., 21 E.	Township 7 S., 21 E.
" 8 " 20 E.	" 8 " 20 E.
" 8 " 24 E.	" 8 " 25 E.
" 22 " 11 W.	" 25 " 11 W.

FRED. SALOMON,
U. S. Surveyor General.
By T. C. BAILEY,
Chief Clerk.

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY, SEPT. 27.

Post Office Established.—A post office has been established at Salem, Utah County, with James J. Davis as postmaster.

Broken Arm.—H. B. Clawson, Esq., our esteemed fellow-townsmen, had the misfortune to break his arm last Saturday evening. He was riding out in a buggy with his little daughter Phebe, and just as they were passing the 15th Ward store, on First South Street, the king bolt of the vehicle came out, the hind and fore wheels parted company and Mr. Clawson and his daughter were thrown forward with some violence to the ground. The latter was not hurt much but Mr. Clawson's right arm was fractured near the shoulder. Dr. Benedict attended him and it is not likely that the patient will long suffer any inconvenience from the injury. He has been at his office to-day, attending to business as usual, being obliged however to keep his arm in one position and have a driver along with him when he rides out.