

A MUSICAL PEOPLE.

THE "Mormons" have always been a musical people. It is pleasing to note the improvement in musical taste which is continually growing among them. It is not confined to the cities. It extends to the villages and hamlets and even the ranches throughout the Territory. The following, which is clipped from the Brooklyn, N. Y., *Eagle*, will be news to a great many people who have formed their ideas about the "Mormons" from the misleading accounts concerning them that appear in the public prints:

"A Salt Lake City man informs the *American Art Journal* that they may be Mormons out there but they are not Philistines by a considerable majority. He says there are four musicstores where more guitars are sold than in New York, two drum corps, a mandolin club of forty, a band, a big organ that when rebuilt, as it will be shortly, will be the largest in the world, a choir of 327 voices, a chorus club of 300, a May festival with De Vere, Whitney and Thursby—hello, has she been discovered again?—an orchestra of forty, an organist who used to officiate in St. Paul's, London, a violin soloist, a women's musical society, an Apollo club and a public that plays on pianos and goes to operas and concerts. Evidently the musca domesticus does not fasten itself on Salt Lake City with any great avidity."

A people among whom the divine art is so extensively cultivated cannot be as coarse, brutal and depraved as many editors and preachers represent the "Mormons" to be.

Vocal music forms a prominent feature in the religious exercises of the Latter-day Saints, and there is scarcely a settlement in this whole Territory, however new and small, which cannot boast a choir of trained voices, more or less advanced. This has contributed much to the general taste for music which prevails.

Instrumental music is also quite common. Nearly every choir has an organ. Brass and string bands are to be found in many places, and some kind of instrument will be heard in the most remote regions. Not only are there houses in this city which do a thriving business in musical instruments, but in all the larger towns similar stores, though on a smaller scale, deal in the same wares, from the cheap mouth-organ up to the first-class piano.

Music has a powerful effect upon the multitude. It is refining and elevating, and its high cultivation is a mark of advanced civilization. With all that may be said about the kind of people who make up the ranks of "Mormonism," it must be admitted that the "Mormon" people of this Territory are musical and wedded to the divine art. The big choir of the Tabernacle is a "Mormon" choir. Advanced musicians and composers in

different parts of Utah are "Mormon" artists, and it will be found that the tendency of "Mormonism" is not only to encourage musical progress, but to stimulate advancement in every department of practical and scientific education.

"A SHOWING OF FACTS."

A MICHIGAN paper announces that the eastern division of the National Woman Suffrage Association has been invited to hold its next convention in Salt Lake City. Also that the "Gentile" press here claims that the invitation came from the "Mormon" women, and that "the franchise was given to the women of Utah solely in the interest of the Mormon Church; that they abused it shamefully—voting like so many animals, exactly as they were commanded by the Mormon priests; and that if the franchise could be given back to them, they would be the same in the future as they were in the past."

The Grand Rapids *Democrat* says further, that "a showing of facts is urged" so that such women as could never be induced to work in the interest of "Mormonism" may know the real animus of the situation.

The *Democrat* is mistaken. "A showing of facts" is not urged. It is a showing of falsehood that has been advised by the "press" from which it quotes. In other words ladies of this city have been invited and urged to lie about this matter, after the fashion of the stirrers-up of strife who invented the falsehoods which the *Democrat* has copied.

"A showing of facts" would prove that the women of Utah exercised the right of franchise for many years, with perfect freedom and great intelligence; that they were organized for mutual information on public questions; that the "Mormon priests" never interfered with their political liberty; and that the only thing which could be truthfully alleged against them was, they would not vote for the miserable scoundrels who misrepresented them and sought to rob them of the ballot.

All this can be proved beyond successful contradiction. But none of the so-called "facts" of which it is alleged a "showing" is urged, can be substantiated by a shred of reliable evidence. We do not know whether any effort has been or will be made to have the convention held here, we regard that as very doubtful; but we do know that the ladies of Utah are at least as fit to exercise the elective franchise as any of their sex in any part of the United States.

DECADENCE OF THE COLONIAL SYSTEM.

THE Australasian Union is one of the topics of the times which calls forth comments from the leading journals of the world. It is modeled somewhat after the American plan, while it maintains the sovereignty of the mother country. Each of the five colonies, which it is proposed shall

unite in one commonwealth, is to remain separate as to local government, but subject to such powers as it concedes in common with the other colonies to the general government. Free trade is to prevail among them all. The Federal authority is to control foreign relations, the military and naval forces, and the customs and duties which are to provide revenue. The Governor General is to be appointed by the Queen, but the Parliament is to be elective and to consist of two Houses.

If this scheme is adopted by the people, the Australian Commonwealth will no doubt move forward to national importance and flourish to a much greater extent than the colonies have flourished heretofore. The movement is commendable.

The Indianapolis *News*, commenting upon this step, remarks:

"The colonial system, all of it which did not fall with a crash when these American colonies rebelled in 1776, crumbled gradually afterward. The old idea was that colonies were "possessions," as indeed they are still called—landed estates in this, that, or another part of the world, owned by the mother country and "worked," like a plantation, for the benefit of the mother country. That idea is dead, and it is a question of the death of the colonial system unless the federal idea can take its place."

Stop a bit! Is it a fact that the old colonial system is dead? Has the old idea about colonies being "possessions" been entirely dissipated? How about the "possessions" of the United States called Territories? Are they not treated as the "property" of the Federal government? The doctrine which now prevails in this country is that the national authority is supreme, absolute and exclusive in these satrapies and provinces. The Indianapolis *News* says:

"Home rule, local autonomy, States' rights, is the repository and safeguard of liberty."

How much liberty, then, exists in the Territories? If it is to be measured by "home rule," the liberty enjoyed in the Territories is of but small dimensions.

It is time that this anomalous Territorial system should cease. This nation should be, as the fathers of our country intended, a Union of free and sovereign States, each equal to the others in political rights and privileges, each having its local autonomy fully preserved, and all enjoying equal liberty. Every true Democrat ought to labor to this end. For while the Territories exist in their present manacled condition, republican government does not prevail throughout the country, and the Democratic principle is set at naught, for the consent of the governed is not given, and their views are not even sought for or treated with the slightest consideration. The colonial system, with its tyranny and misrule, is not yet dead even in the great and glorious republic of the United States.

Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer the lecturer says that there are today 40,000 girls in American colleges. What a crop of Spring poetry and Fall romance this fact promises, but it is to be feared it augurs sadly for the cookery of the future, and that dyspepsia will still remain a citizen of our great Republic.