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ELECTIONS—THE LAW UPON THE SUBJECT.

As the general election to be held on the first Monday of August next, in this Territory, will be the commencement of a new era in the exercise of the elective franchise, in consequence of its extension to women, the necessity for having all things connected therewith conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the statutes that have been made and provided for the regulation of elections, and prescribing the qualifications of electors, must be apparent to all concerned. There are other reasons that might be mentioned, if necessary, for having more than ordinary care taken by those acting in the premises, that the election may be held, as all public choices of officers should be, in conformity to the law which has been made for taking expressions of the people in regard to their officers or representatives. All persons intrusted with the performance of duties affecting the public weal, ought to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the rules that have been adopted for their guidance in the discharge of the duties thus devolved; but inasmuch as some do not, and manifest an indifference occasionally as to whether they rightly perform what is required of them or not, regardless of the consequences that may result from their wrong doings or non-performance, some references to the legislative enactments relative to elections, the duties of officers, and the qualifications of electors, may be beneficial.

The provisions of the "act regulating elections," approved Jan. 3, 1853, are plain and explicit, specifically indicating the duties of all officers who are required to carry the same into effect. After providing for the holding of a general election on the first Monday of August annually, in each precinct in the several counties, it makes it the duty of the County Clerks to cause a notice of the time and place of holding the election, and the number and kind of officers to be voted for, to be posted up in at least two public places in each precinct, at least six days before the time for holding the same. Now the posting up of only one such notice, and that not where required nor in time, will not do, for much often depends upon a strict compliance with the law in such matters.

The third section of said Act provides that the senior Justice of the Peace in each precinct shall be the Judge of Elections therein, and in the absence of a Justice of the Peace, that the electors first assembled on the day of election, to the number of six, may appoint some suitable person to act as Judge of that election. It is the duty of the Judge of the election to appoint a Clerk, provide a ballot box and poll book; receive, number and deposit the votes of the electors in the ballot box, and to not knowingly permit any person to vote who has not the right to do so.

The fourth section of said Act emphatically declares that the election shall be held from one hour after sunrise until sunset, and that the electors shall not vote in any other precinct than the one wherein they reside. The fifth section directs that the electors shall, after having provided themselves with a vote, containing the name of the persons they wish elected, present the same, properly folded, to the Judge of the Election, who, after having numbered it, shall deposit it in the ballot box. The Clerk's duty is to write the names of the electors voting, in the poll book, and opposite thereto the number of each elector's vote.

At the close of the election the Judge is required to seal up the ballot box and poll book, and transmit them without delay to the office of the County Clerk. This is a very important matter. The poll books should be certified to by the respective Judges and clerks, as being a true and correct list of the names of the electors who voted at the election held on that day, stating the precinct; and the transmission should never be intrusted to an irresponsible person.

The canvassing board, consisting of the county clerk and Probate Judge, or in his absence one of the selectmen must, and of course, will strictly conform to the rules indicated by the law, in counting the votes, making abstracts, returns, etc., which if rightly done, as well as all other matters connected with the election, will make the ceremonies complete, and the expression of the will of the people legal beyond all controversy.

Questions are occasionally asked, by persons who have not had interest enough in such matters to properly inform themselves in relation to their rights and duties as citizens, concerning the qualifications necessary to possess to entitle a person to exercise the elective franchise in this Territory. Such queries may be answered in few words, by averring that every American citizen above the age of twenty-one years, without regard to sex, is entitled to that inestimable privilege, who is not inhibited by legislative enactments.

By the fifth section of the Organic act, Congress graciously provided, that after the first election in the Territory, the qualifications of voters and of holding office should be such as the legislature might prescribe: provided that the right of suffrage and of holding office should be exercised only by citizens of the United States, including those recognized as citizens by the treaty with Mexico in eighteen hundred and forty-eight. In virtue of said provision, if the right did not otherwise exist, the Legislative Assembly have provided that all citizens of the United States, above the age of twenty-one years—the women as well as the men—who have been constant residents in the Territory during the six months next preceding a general election, may vote thereat, excepting those excluded by "an act prescribing certain qualifications necessary to enable a person to be eligible to hold office, vote or serve as a juror" approved Jan. 21, 1859, as follows:

"SEC. 5. And be it further enacted that no officer or soldier of the United States army, or other person subject to their military authority, is eligible to hold any office or serve on any jury or vote at any election in this Territory, unless his home and place of residence was therein at the time of his engaging in such service." It having been provided by the third section of said Act, that no person should vote at any election unless he had been a constant resident in the Territory during the six months next preceding said election, the sixth section declares that no person shall be deemed a resident within the meaning of the act unless a tax payer in this Territory.

From the foregoing it will be seen, with the exceptions indicated, that all citizens of the United States, of lawful age, including not only the native born, but all who have become citizens either by compliance with or by the operations of the provisions of the naturalization laws of our country, have a right to vote at all elections for territorial, county and precinct officers, but aliens and minors have not.

In conclusion, it is the duty of every male elector, unless unavoidable circumstances prevent, to go to the place of holding elections, in the precinct in which he resides, on Monday, the first day of August next, and on all such occasions thereafter, and vote for the persons he desires to be elected to the offices to be filled. The women having the right and desire to vote, will of course do so. The polls should be opened punctually at the specified time,—about six o'clock in the morning,—and not close until sunset, that farmers and others, who may so desire, can vote, either before going to or after returning from their daily labors.

We have been thus explicit in giving quotations from the laws on the subject of elections, that every officer and voter in the Territory may have a full understanding of the duties of each at the General Election. There are those who would take delight in stripping the inhabitants of this Territory of every right and every vestige of freedom, and in reducing them to a condition of abject serfdom. Thus far they have been signally foiled in their nefarious plotting to obtain legislative action to aid them in their schemes. But, though disappointed

in this respect, they still are bent on mischief, and will do all they can, as they have been doing, to get possession of power. To accomplish these ends there are no means too despicable for them to employ.

The settlers of this Territory, those who came here with honest intent and not as "bummers," speculators and political adventurers—have redeemed it from its sterile and wilderness condition, and made it what it is to-day—the admiration of every visitor. They established and have maintained a free, republican government; and they have still a right to govern that which they have won and preserved at the price of such labors and sacrifices. But the clique of which we speak would, if they could, by any means however foul, wrench this rule from them. They, forsooth, would govern us, and make us their hewers of wood and drawers of water. They have no hope of doing this by open, fair means; but by underhanded strategy and watching for advantages they expect to annoy and give trouble. Now, this is what the officers and the people of this Territory should guard against. They should recollect that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." They have the law on their side; their numerical superiority is all that can be desired, and they can elect whom they please (if they be properly qualified citizens of the United States) for any office within their gift. But let every officer and voter look well to the law, entrench himself behind it, and show the vile plotters against our liberties the spectacle of a free, united people, rising in the majesty of their strength, and showing by their suffrages that they are still determined to rule by the ballot the country which they have reclaimed and made valuable by their hardships and toil.

Since this country was settled by free, white people, they have witnessed the incoming and outgoing of scores, and perhaps hundreds, of such creatures as the clique we refer to is composed of; and they will yet have the satisfaction of beholding the egress and total disappearance of the present fry. By a special arrangement of Providence the political lives of such tricksters in this country have invariably been brief.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

THE war between France and Prussia will make the telegraphic dispatches interesting, and every item of news will be looked for and read with eagerness. Opinions as to the result of the war and which power will be victorious, are various. Many think France quite capable of thrashing Prussia, while others entertain the opposite opinion. Much depends upon the attitude of the other great powers. For awhile it is probable that nothing definite will be known respecting their action, but there will be no end of rumors and reports upon the subject. The contestants are more nearly matched than they were in former struggles. France for centuries has been a first-class military power, and she was never, probably, in a better condition than at present to wage a successful war. Her army is second to none in equipment, discipline and every other essential. While her navy is only inferior to that of Great Britain. Prussia is a foe, however, not to be despised. She has grown rapidly of late years, and brings to the contest the prestige gained in the late war with Austria and the laurels won on the field of Sadowa. Her troops are well-drilled and splendidly armed, full of military pride, great love for Fatherland and stubborn courage. They are a foe not to be despised even by the French. As to numbers there is not much difference between the nations. Prussia proper numbers about twenty-five millions. But it is estimated that Prussia, with the aid of her provinces and the States bound to her by solemn treaties, can put as many soldiers in the field as France. The German power which France must meet falls but little, if any, short of forty millions, while the strength of France is placed at thirty-eight millions. Napoleon's manifesto to the States of South Germany may have some effect upon those powers, among whom a feeling of uneasiness is said to prevail respecting the growing spirit of aggrandizement manifested by Prussia. If *La Liberte* can be relied upon it is the intention of the Emperor to enter Germany in such a manner as to separate them from Prussia, to prevent their active coöperation with her and to neutralize their influence, if an attempt should be made to use it in her favor.

The dispatches convey the impression that there is a prospect of serious trouble also between France and England. If they represent the condition of the feeling in England on the subject of the war and the attitude of France, it will be difficult for England to maintain her neutrality. It would be strange if there were not very strong feeling in England and Russia and probably other countries, on the eagerness which France has manifested to enter into this war. The ostensible cause of war is most trifling, and everything connected with the declaration, that has as yet appeared on the surface, places the conduct of France in a most unfavorable light. England's sympathies in the past have

been with Prussia in preference to France. The royal houses of the two countries are united by very close ties, and there exists a traditional friendship between the two nations; but towards France there is a feeling of suspicion and distrust, which the recent alliance has not removed, and which, it is probable, may exhibit itself in something stronger than a mere sentiment. Popular opinion, however, in England, is very averse to war. It is very questionable whether neutrality can be maintained by the powers which now profess it. Altogether, there is every prospect of a bloody and frightful war, which may spread to great lengths and involve many peoples and completely change the affairs of Europe.

SENATOR REVELS is busily engaged in a lecturing tour, his principal subject being "The Tendencies of the Age." He has visited Massachusetts, New York and the West. The Cincinnati papers (in which city he lectured at fifty cents a head) call his lecture a very weak specimen of rhetorical dish water, and almost destitute of ideas. The Democratic journals doubt whether the country is willing to pay Revels \$5,000 per annum in order to hear his views on social, moral and political reform.

A NEW party composed of members from all parties in the State has been recently formed in South Carolina, the object being, as stated, to drive the venal and the corrupt from power and to prevent the State from being utterly ruined. The central committee of the new party has issued an address to the people, an extract from which gives a dark picture of the condition of affairs there. The address says:

"In many of the counties, the county officers and county funds are held by individuals irresponsible and notoriously corrupt, and disposed of for the same illegitimate purposes. Add to this, that large monopolies are passed the legislature through the medium of open and notorious bribery—that franchises are seldom obtained but by private purchase or for corrupt and fraudulent ends—that the commonest acts of justice requiring legislation must pay their passage—that votes of members of the legislature are bought and sold as merchandise—that public officers prostitute their positions, and even the legislature of the State, to the purpose of stock jobbing and speculation—that so stupendous a fraud is perpetrated as that whereby the land commission, aided by the advisory board, of which the governor of the State is the official head, acquired ninety thousand dollars of the public money in a single transaction; and, above all, that the administration of the State has not dragged to light and to punishment even one of this infamous band, and say where in all the catalogue of iniquity which disgraces the history of fallen humanity, can be found a parallel to this picture, faintly but faithfully delineated."

ARRIVED.—Mr. Walter Montgomery, the elocutionist and tragedian, has arrived, and will appear at the Theatre to-morrow evening.