## INFLUENCE AND SPHERE OF WOMAN.

The following address, reported by James Taylor, was delivered by President George Q. Cannon, at a quarterly conference of the Relief Society of Weber stake, held at Ogden, December 17th, 1891:

Being called upon to speak, I respond thinking that my remarks may be adapted to the conditions and circumstances of all of us who are present, that we may be edified. I do not think that any Elder in this Church would ever care to rise to speak merely for the sake of speaking. That is my feeling. If I cannot say something that will be profitable to those who listen, as well as to myself, I am not satisfied. I often think that in attending meetings and conferences where the spirit of God is poured out, as it usually is, and I am one of the speakers, I derive more benefit myself from what I say than I think any other person does. At least, I take to itself all that I am led to say to others.

There is a very important and essential gathering. All who are acquainted with the operations in society fully recognize the influence of woman in human affairs. Her influence is far more potential in all the affairs of life than she has the credit generally of exercising. There is no man—that is a properly constituted man—that is brought within woman's influence that does not feel the importance to a greater or less extent. And though woman does not take part, as a rule, in public affairs, nevertheless, those who choose to exert influence it is strong in moulding opinions and views and in stimulating action among men. There are some who are susceptible than others to these influences; but I know of none who is entirely free from woman's influence—that is, who disregards it and treats it as of no value. It whatever term you may choose to employ, I have known many of my acquaintances in the past—at least—only to deceive themselves, perhaps—reflect in their remarks the views of their own families—of their wives and, perhaps, their daughters, and it is frequently the case that men will receive impressions and prejudices and their actions be influenced very much by their wives as other female members of their families. I have seen it in concerts, I have seen it in private and I have seen it in every direction almost where men love their wives, and especially where their wives are shrewd women. It is surprising sometimes to see the influence wives have upon their husbands' opinions and views concerning public affairs and concerning individuals. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that women—I use that word, I like to call my mother a woman, therefore I trust you will not think I am speaking in an improper manner when I say women—should be properly trained and made intelligent, then they can exercise a wonderful influence in society. It should be a beautiful influence, and to be such they should be themselves brought in contact with, or have cultivated them, opportunities of obtaining knowledge and understanding and comprehension, so that they will be lifted above petty prejudices. This is a great importance, because, as I say, women have wonderful influence over the minds of others with whom they come in contact.

You often find it the case that boys reflect the views of their fathers, and husbands also, to a great extent, reflect the views of their wives. Let a woman be prejudiced against or in favor of some thing, or a man outside of her family, and in a great majority of cases that prejudice or prepossession will effect all the male members of the household. Her husband and children will feel the influence, and however strong they are, and independent in their spheres of thought and action, they will feel the effect of it. Politicians are aware of this, and therefore extend more try to get the women—the wives of senators and members of the House of Representatives—to view things in what they would call the right light. They know how potent women's influence is in shaping men's thoughts and actions.

And so in the Church. There is no man in the Church, from the President down, who is not influenced, more or less, in this way. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance, I think, that you, my sisters, should have the best and brightest of opportunities to obtain intelligence and knowledge and to grasp those questions that are brought before men and women for their thought and action. I would like to see every woman as fully informed on all questions that come before you as a people as it is possible for them to be, because I think the effect of this would be very good and the influence rich.

There is a peculiarity about women that I think is remarkable. Their intuitions are, as a rule, that of a man. They are better judges of character than we are. A man arrives at his conclusions usually by a slower process than women do. He is more apt to reason and work out his conclusions by reason, than women are. But the first impression of women concerning an individual is generally, though not always, correct. They are wonderfully quick in receiving impressions and in giving them, because, as I say, they do not conceal their thoughts and feelings. But I think men would save themselves trouble sometimes if they would listen to their wives in these respects. It ought to be said, however, that our first impression moves away when we are subject to other influences.

I say this way because our daughters, mothers and wives should have the fullest opportunities of gaining knowledge; and I am thankful for the organization of these societies, because I think they broaden woman's sphere of action and bring her in contact with the affairs of life to a greater extent than she could possibly be where to confine herself wholly to her household duties. I am sure the effect has been good. I would like to see every sister enjoy and use the fullest and most opportunity for the exercise of the powers and gifts she possesses. A great deal of unhappiness and misery can be avoided from ignorance and individuals by furnishing the such opportunities as are suitable in these societies, because there is no fun for action, and no person can be happy person who has not, and who is prevented and the life of the other hundred is later. It is beneficial to others—the greater the good to those who possess it. It is gladsome people to have an opportunity of doing some good, and to feel that they are not living without an object in life, and the higher the purpose, the more happiness the individual brought it brings.

Now, I want to say thing that perhaps have noticed—that where women are confined to household duties and the labors connected therewith, it becomes a species of drudgery, and it is one continual round from morning until night, and from the beginning to the end of the week. If a woman marries and has children, and they and her household duties are her sole care and occupation, she is apt to lose that taste for studies and for keeping up her acquaintanceships which she had before she was married. I have deplored this. Of course it is inevitable in some cases and for some periods of women's lives or until their children grow up, because we are not all in circumstances to relieve ourselves from that kind of labor. But I have rejoiced in the organization of these societies, because they furnish opportunities that cannot be found outside of them. The sisters in these societies have their minds taken from the daily care that oppresses them. It would be a very monotonous life for women to lead to be compelled to confine themselves entirely to household affairs without any relief. Men are differently situated. They rest on their bats and leave their families and associate with their fellows, and no matter how laborious their occupation may be, there is some diversion to it. But not so always with the wife. She is confined to the home and to those daily cares, and therefore anything that brings such opportunities for change, as these Relief Societies bring, ought to be hailed as a blessing. And I do believe in these opportunities of relief from the cares afforded by these societies to those who attend the meetings occasionally, even if they do not engage in the active duties of the society.

An English writer, speaking of the causes of the decline of Athens, has made certain statements concerning the Greeks when Athens was in its glory, that made a deep impression upon my mind. He said that the Athenians of the golden age, as it might be termed, were as much ahead of the present ordinary civilized man as the latter was ahead of the negro. Now I do not believe the statement be made to its full extent. But he cited a number of the names of eminent men among the Greeks, and made a comparison between them and eminent moderns, and he awarded the superiority to the Athenians. According to his account, he made it plain that they were far ahead of the present ordinary civilized man, either English or American. This writer endeavored to account for the superiority of the men of Athens in that age by stating that the best and eminent and most energetic people from the surrounding country had gone to that State, and the result was been that a superior race of people had been produced. The decay of that people, he said, was due to the writer's opinion, to the fact that the married women who bore the children were kept in seclusion and were ignorant and feeble and unfit companions for men in public. They had no opportunities of mingling in public affairs, nor of hearing minds. If anything, most their attention which occupied the attention of the men and that enlisted the reputation. They have nothing of public importance or outside affairs. The children of such mothers inherited feeble in intellectual and intellectual powers.

Another factor contributed also to the decay of that people. Brilliant women, women who were not content to live chaste or domestic lives and who sought to become politicians they could appear in public and take part in public affairs and have the society of philosophers and prominent men, chose that life. That class became very numerous. The most eminent philosophers became their companions. Of course that class bore no children, and as the women of the greatest intellectuality and kind of life, the bearing of children was left to the heavy instances to ignorant and inferior women. Hence, the decay of the Athenian people, as this writer asserts. It is probable there is some truth in these statements. Therefore, every man who desires our people to progress and become a great people must take satisfaction in seeing the women of our community furnished advantages and opportunities to obtain knowledge concerning everything that affections in all our relations, so that they can talk to their children respecting all the affairs of life, and not be ignorant and be influenced.

Mothers' teachings and influence do have an effect upon the offspring. Take a mother who is thoroughly familiar with the principles of the Gospel and is a good, faithful Latter-day Saint, and who talks about those principles, and endeavors her children grow up full of a faith which children of others who do not take the same pains and have not the same time do not have. Now I know this is within the range of our observation, and there is scarcely an exception. Where a woman who is a Latter-day Saint talks about the principles of the Gospel to her children they take an interest in it, and are influenced by it more than the children of others are who do not teach them in that manner.

I know it is so in my case. My mother was a woman of great faith and an ardent Latter-day Saint, and the impressions made upon my mind by her have influenced my life. She gave me lessons that I have never forgotten, and, as I say, have had a very great effect upon my entire career, prompting me and stimulating me for good. I am sure it is the case in every family. The effect of woman's influence cannot be over-estimated; and on this account I am glad to say the organizations have furnished you with opportunities that you would not have under other circumstances. And every one who has talents has the opportunity of exercising and cultivating them in our meetings and associations. This will bring forward the talent that exists among you, and I am sure it will have a beneficial effect upon the whole community, and grow and increase as the years roll by.

I am very sorry that President Woodruff could not be with you this morning. He on two occasions expressed his regret that he could not be present. A slight attack of sickness prevented it, though not for him to come. He charged me to bear his kind regards to Sister Richards and the sisters present, and to say to them, God bless them in their labors.

I hope these Relief Society conferences will be continued. They ought to be held every three months, such occasions as these should not be neglected, and they should not pass without being improved. I am sure you must have felt interested in the meetings which have been held. These gatherings will do good to all who share in them. The young women and the girls should attend them and be profited by the instruction that are given. They will be profitable to them.

May God bless you. Amen.

## THIRD DISTRICT COURT.

**Doings Before Judges Zane and Anderson.—Miscellaneous Happenings.**

Judge Zane held court in Chambers this morning, disposed of various motions, and admitted another batch of applicants to citizenship.

G. P. Colmerez et al. vs. Annie Hooper Caine et al. In this case leave was granted the plaintiffs to file supplemental complaint, by consent.

Calvin Cartwright vs. Joel S. Blackburn. Order to show cause why patents should not be subject to judgment against the defendant and assigned to plaintiff, granted.

E. W. Wilson vs. A. L. Williams et al.; demurrer to answer having been sustained, fifteen days to amend answer was objected to by the plaintiff. The matter was submitted for the court's consideration.

Joseph Baumgartner vs. Henry B. Fryer et al.; demurrer of defendant Fryer withdrawn.

Utah Central railroad company vs. J. C. Larsen et al. On application of the Union Trust Company of New York, a stay was granted until Tuesday, January 5th.

Dealy, Clark, etc., vs. Salt Lake Herald; judgment by statement settled and signed; motion for new trial overruled.

Thomas W. Jennings et al., vs. Salt Lake City Railroad company et al.; same order.

The following were admitted to citizenship: Joseph Kjer, a Dane; John L. Dreimeyer, a native of Germany; Robert T. McIlwain, of Scotland; John N. McLeod, also a native of Scotland; Christian Anderson, a Dane; Frederick B. Everett, an Englishman, and Carl August Torp, a native of Norway, were admitted to citizenship. They are all residents of Salt Lake.

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

The United States Commissioners have had an unusually quiet, no public business having been brought before them.

THE JANUARY SESSION.

The Territorial Supreme Court will hold its January session on Monday, the 11th, commencing at ten o'clock. Clerk Burton is busily engaged preparing for the occasion.

ONCE DOWN ON THE TAFFS.

This morning the divorce suit of Eleanor B. Taffs, appellant, vs. Judge Taffs, respondent, was filed in the Hall of Clerk Burton, of the Supreme Court. The suit is one of long standing, and has been mentioned in these columns from time to time recently. It now comes up on appeal from the Third District Court. Arthur Brown is the attorney for Mrs. Taffs, and Powers and Hiles are counsel for the respondent.

THE BIRDSMANTL.

Judge Anderson this morning resumed the hearing of the Ora Birdsmantl vs. Nicaragua mining suit. It will probably be finished by the middle of next week.

THE SHERIFF'S COMPENSATION.

The court this morning was the hour fixed by Referee Barnes for the taking of testimony in the case of the United States vs. the Trustees of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with respect to the amount of compensation to be paid Receiver Lawrence and his attorneys in connection with the escheat proceedings. The Receiver and his attorney Varian were promptly on hand, so was the official stenographer, but in consequence of Judge Marshall, who is engaged in the matter, being occupied in the mining suit in Judge Anderson's Court, the investigation was postponed until Tuesday next, at 2 p.m. The referee will present his report on the testimony adduced before him upon the assessing of the Supreme Court of the Territory.

STEWART DEMURRER $10,000.

Attorneys Dolly and Kane were at work this morning preparing the complaint of the plaintiff in the $10,000 damage suit of Geo. F. Stewart vs. the City Council of Salt Lake. Mr. Dolly told a NEWS reporter that he expected to file the complaint late this afternoon, but that he might not be able to do so before Monday. The cause grew out of the recent revocation of the plaintiff's liquor license at the Franklin Avenue Theatre by the city authorities, whose action Judge Anderson reversed a few days ago when the case came before him on a writ of certiorari.

### Railroad Official Changes.

Some time since there were rumors in circulation to the effect that important changes were about to be made in the local officers of the Rio Grande Western company. At that time it was officially denied, but the following circular shows conclusively that the reports were not unfounded:

DENVER, COLO., January 1, 1892.

(Circular No. 1.)

The traffic department of this company is divided into two parts, namely, freight and general passenger and ticket department, and the combined office of overall passenger and ticket agent discontinued.

Mr. S. H. Babcock is appointed general freight agent, and will have charge of the freight department.

Mr. J. H. Bennett, assistant general freight, passenger and ticket agent, will remain in the service of the company as general passenger and ticket agent, in charge of the passenger and ticket department.

Effective this date.

D. C. DODGE,
General Vice President and General Manager.

Mr. Bennett, who has been general freight and passenger agent since the resignation of Mr. S. W. Eccles, four years ago, will hereafter act as general passenger and ticket agent.

The changes went into effect today.

### The Tug of War.

On Thursday night at the tug of war tournament the Scotch team was defeated by the Norwegians. The Scots have three victories to their credit and only one defeat. The Norwegians have vanquished every team with which it has measured strength.

Captain Kohlbert has challenged the Americans to final pull tonight. He will make a selection from the Scandinavian teams. Captain Lange has accepted the challenge.

CONVENIENCE will be in free circulation in the city, in the shape of $5, $10 and $20 gold pieces.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Religious services of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle Sunday afternoon commencing at half-past two o'clock.

Home missionaries will visit the city wards tomorrow.

In the 19th ward services are held in the various ward meeting houses at the hours named:

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| Fourteenth | 2 p.m. | Twenty-first | 2 p.m. |
| Fifteenth | 2 " | Twenty-second | 2 " |
| Sixteenth | 2 " | Twenty-third | 2 " |
| Seventeenth | 2 " | Twenty-fourth | 2 " |
| Eighteenth | 2 " | Twenty-fifth | 2 " |
| Nineteenth | 2 " | Twenty-sixth | 2 " |
| Twenty-first | 2 " | Twenty-seventh | 2 " |
| Twenty-second | 2 " | Twenty-eighth | 2 " |
| Twenty-third | 2 " | Twenty-ninth | 2 " |
| Twenty-fourth | 2 " | Twenty-eighth | 2 " |
| Twenty-fifth | 2 " | Twenty-ninth | 2 " |
| Twenty-sixth | 2 " | Twenty-eighth | 2 " |
| Twenty-seventh | 2 " | Twenty-ninth | 2 " |
| Twenty-eighth | 2 " | Twenty-eighth | 2 " |
| Twenty-ninth