

## DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 14, 1873.

### THEY WANT HUSBANDS.

IN another part of to-day's NEWS will be found an extraordinary document, purporting to be nothing less than a petition of Lowell women to the legislature of Massachusetts to enact a law legalizing plural marriage, the marriage of more than one woman to one man. These Lowell women, it appears, have come to the same conclusion as Miss Emily Faithfull, that the "Mormon" policy is the only one which will satisfactorily meet the great problem of the redundancy of unmarried women.

The descendants of the *Mayflower* emigrants would be startled by such a proposition as this, emanating from the gentler sex themselves, but what are the poor things to do? They, many of them, see no other chance of honorably gratifying those instincts which were implanted in their bosoms by an all-wise Providence for the noblest of purposes, and of fulfilling the special object for which they were undeniably created and fashioned and richly endowed. What has the present Christian civilization to offer them? They ask for bread, the bread of life, and society offers them a stone. They say, "Here we are, full grown women, capable of performing the high functions of wives and mothers, for which honorable positions our hearts yearn, which positions our heaven bestow-ed instincts impel us to crave with an intense and unquenchable desire, and what are we to do?" What is the answer practically of society? It is, "Suppress your feelings, let them become icy; stamp out your heart yearnings, ruthlessly ignore your most sacred and most powerful instincts, and instead of developing and expanding into happy wives and honored matrons, with flourishing olive branches of your own all around you, dry and shrivel up into hard, angular, pragmatical, peevish, cranky, misanthropic old spinsters, or indulge your feelings illegitimately, become outcasts, and die an early and dishonored death." That is what is before a large proportion of the sisters and daughters of even United States citizens in the east. Is it to be wondered at that they become restive and even revolutionary under such illiberal, unnatural, unreasonable, anti-Christian, ungodly, diabolical restrictions? Not at all. "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow." If the Lowell women have determined to do it, we wish them success.

### THAT PETITION OF THE LOWELL LADIES.

IN the columns of the NEWS to-day will be found two letters, from the New York *Graphic*, commenting upon that petition of Lowell women to the legislature of Massachusetts, for the passage of an act legalizing the marriage of more than one woman to one man. The editor of the *Graphic* characterizes the request of the women as a "startling proposition," which, if genuine, promises to afford a lively subject for discussion by the solons of the old Bay State; and, if a canard, is at least valuable as showing the tendency of general thought in social matters; and says that somebody "has thought it worth while to suggest a remedy for the evils that beset our social organization," a remedy "which has before been suggested in earnest in other quarters." He further thinks that "polygamy, of course, is not to be thought of for a moment in a Christian community," and that "some other means must be found of helping us out of our difficulty, and society awaits eagerly the coming prophet."

The petition and the remarks of the correspondent forwarding the same and of the editor called out other correspondence to the *Graphic*, two letters of which we publish. Two others are before us, referring to the same subject, but dealing chiefly with the "Society" difficulties put forth by the correspondent "Anna L." One of these letters is signed "W. S. H." of Brooklyn, "an old maid," she says. "W. S. H." wants to know why "Society" must be obeyed, and

says it requires everything from women, gives nothing in return, then turns on them whenever it requires too much and they act independently. "W. S. H." advises "Anna L." and other "Society" victims to agree to stand by each other through thick and thin; to openly announce that they will go alone to theatre, lecture, or concert, when they wish, and if afraid, to do as the men do, carry a pistol, and defend themselves if necessary. "W. S. H." says that "Society" is a dragon to devour women, a bully to browbeat them as long as they will stand it, a coward to cringe and fawn the moment it is faced and put down; that she has no patience with women, there is no *esprit du corps* about them, each one wanting her own individual grievances settled and no one else's, so no advancement is made. "W. S. H." further says she goes to lecture or concert with a lady when a gentleman can't be had; that she would join any association of women who would come out openly and take their rights on the same footing as men, as it can be done without losing dignity, refinement or self-respect; that only a very small proportion of the community would trouble such women, and that portion is either dangerous or contemptible; that the latter must always be put down by never letting an insult pass unresented; that the dangerous class women must take their chances against as do the men, until laws and times are changed.

"W. S. H." it will be seen, has a mind of her own, but does not touch the real issue that brought out the letter of "Anna L."

The other correspondent, "E. B. C." of New York, says to "Anna L.," "I do not wish or mean to say that the idea advocated by the Lowell ladies, which she seems disposed to second, is irrational; neither do I wish to advance my ideas upon that subject; but I do say that she is irrational in her complaints of 'Society.'" "E. B. C." tells "Anna L." that it is her pride that enslaves her; that she should not "allow herself to be shackled by the laws of society;" that she should strike off its fetters, and proclaim herself a free woman; that "Society" can not compel a person to cut his or her throat, nor should it impose upon humanity laws which make life a burden; that if "Anna L." has obeyed "Society" to its fullest letter, her reward is "a contorted form, ill-health, unnatural manner, peevish temper, discontented mind, tortured brain, and a generally unsatisfactory view of life;" that "Society demands that you have no heart nor soul beyond fashion and dress." But notwithstanding her protests, "E. B. C." acknowledges that she also is the slave of "Society." She says, "I, too, live in a boarding house. Society compels me to do it." "Society acts upon her ('Anna L.') directly and upon me indirectly, and with Society for our mistress, we are both loveless and houseless."

Neither of these two ladies oppose the proposition of the Lowell ladies, neither seems to wish to say much about it. "E. B. C." says she sees nothing irrational in it, and both half imply that if it were the law and were honored, there would be no serious objection to it, if indeed they would not rejoice in the privileges it conferred upon women.

We do not see what reasonable objection the Massachusetts legislature could adduce to granting the petition. The privileges which such a law would confer would not be forced upon any person, they would merely be for such to take advantage of as chose of their own motion to do so, and therefore there would be no great cause for complaint.

There is one point of social ethics which it might be well for Massachusetts and all other legislators to consider, and that is, that although legislation, even in this country, has provided for the illegitimate and dishonorable gratification of the passions of men, it never has sufficiently provided for or permitted sufficient scope for the legitimate and honorable gratification of the instincts of women in regard to the supremely important matters of marriage and maternity.

OAKES AMES, it appears, is rapidly passing away. His greatest notoriety arose from his Credit Mobilier operations, but his name is everywhere well known also through his iron manufacture.

Like Brooks, he does not long survive the excitement of the last days of the last Congress.

### A DEMURRER.

"ONE of the Forty Thousand," a feminine Didymus, writes to the editor of the New York *Graphic* that she does not believe that the Lowell women's petition, "praying the Legislature to do away with the legal restriction which limits a man to one wife, on the ground of religion and humanity," was the work of women, but that the horrid creature man is responsible for it. She says—

Forty thousand women, each one multiplied by forty thousand, might live and die in single blessedness, before one would think of such a thing as sharing a husband with another woman.

I put it to you, Mr. Editor, from what you know of the way men support their one wife, nowadays, whether the forty thousand women who so excite your sympathies would be likely to be any better off as secondary wives than they are single?

The present period is hard on woman; it is depriving her of her old supports, and forcing her into conditions and occupations for which she is not prepared. But there is no position which a single woman is called to hold, no difficulty she is made to encounter, so utterly degrading and terrible as to be bound to a man, without any claim to even the poor element of respect, which society and manhood itself, pays to a wife. Women can cease to live, much better than to lose all claim to their own self-respect.

O. O. T. F. T. forgets that the majority of the human race at the present time are polygamic, and that the petition does not ask that a woman be bound to a man without any claim to the respect due to a wife. On the contrary, that document expressly requests the status, legitimacy, honor and respect of a wife for those who find it difficult or impossible to acquire the same, as things now go in society. Again, the lady might know that women desire marriage more than men, and that the latter, even when refusing marriage, manage to find women associates in abundance, especially in older settled localities. Farther, we may assure her that it is a mistake on her part to suppose that women would live and die in single blessedness before they would think of such a thing as sharing a husband with another woman. So far from this are the facts, that we do positively know that a decent, respectable, capable man would find no difficulty in obtaining half a dozen wives, either in England or America; and more than this, most of them, while with the tongue declaring that plurality of wives was distasteful, would, if asked, not only think about becoming the wife of a man already married, but would actually get up promptly and gladly go forth and do it. We know this to be so—we leave O. O. T. F. T. to study out the why and the wherefore.

It is our modest opinion that in a few years plural marriage will become one of the most popular institutions in America, that then there will be a grand rush into that kind of union, perhaps to such an extent at first as to "run it into the ground," and cause a healthy reaction, but not sufficient to destroy the principle or prevent the prudent development thereof.

THE "MONTHLY REPORT of the Department of Agriculture" for April contains articles on the "Condition of Winter Wheat," "Condition of Sheep and Cattle," "Diseases of Farm Animals," "Entomological Record," "Chemical Memoranda," "Botanical Notes," "Consular Communications," "Epidemiological Catarrh," "Fish Culture," "Foreign Statistics," "Facts from Various Sources," and Home and Foreign Market Prices.

THOSE BRITANNIES. — Where were our local and enterprising cattle men when the sale of that Brittany herd came off, April 4, in Massachusetts? They missed a splendid chance, either for obtaining a start with a remarkably useful and beautiful breed of cows for Utah, or for making an immediate profit of 100 per cent.

PROFESSOR F. V. HAYDEN, U. S. geologist, says the Omaha *Herald*, has organized his party of explorers and is about to resume his labors of exploration, Congress having again made an appropriation of \$75,000 for that purpose. The or-

ganization of the corps is so complete as to give the assurance of a scientific observation of all subjects connected with the development of a new country. The field chosen for exploration this season is south and west of Denver, a stretch of country not very well known at present.

### DEATH'S DOINGS.

THE lightning had scarcely brought the news of the death of Hon. James M. Orr, U. S. Minister at St. Petersburg, than it brings the intelligence of the decease of Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Orr was a South Carolinian, and in his time was a member of the legislature of his native State, a nullifier, a Congressman, Speaker of the 35th Congress, member of the Secessionist Convention of South Carolina, Confederate States Senator, Governor of South Carolina, and ultimately Ambassador at the court of Russia.

The news of the death of Chief Justice Chase will be received with regret throughout the Union, as he was one of that decreasing number of upright, honorable judges which every good citizen desires to see in the judgment seat, and which seem to be more and more needed every year. It is to be hoped that the successor of Judge Chase in the Supreme Court and in the chief justiceship thereof will be equally an honor to his profession.

THE LONDON SATURDAY REVIEW thinks modern America is extremely unlike any Utopia which could approve itself to the judgment or imagination; that the prevalence of American institutions has little grandeur; but it produces the impression of unequalled magnitude; that if the various governments are bad, they have happily little power; and that the American continent seems to afford no home for authority or for obedience. As to "Mormonism," the *Review* thus delivers itself—"The Mormon Church was not altogether a pleasant object of contemplation; but it possessed in its religious constitution and even in the perverse eccentricity of its most flagrant practice, conditions of unity and vitality which will not be easily reproduced." Which is like saying that the "Mormon" Church possesses those very identical essentials to good, solid, permanent government, of which American society generally is characteristically destitute. But yet the *Review* is not happy in the contemplation of "Mormonism." Some people are very unreasonable. It is exceedingly difficult to please them.

ABOUT DRINK.—When the indulgence of appetites is concerned, many people become deaf to all appeal, to all argument. For those who are so far gone it is little if any use to write or print. But those who have not formed evil habits of inordinate indulgence may be susceptible of influences in an opposite direction. For this class, among whom are the youth of the land, it may be useful to present occasionally the folly of evil indulgences, among which is that in the use of strong drink, an indulgence which has increased sensibly the last two or three years in this Territory, owing to the prevalence of what is falsely termed civilization. The testimony of eminent physicians in England and America to the injurious effects of intemperance is corroborative of what every person, who uses his eyes and ears, is well aware of, and in this connection the extract from the *National Temperance Advocate*, to be seen elsewhere in the NEWS, will be found interesting.

### THE POLARIS DISASTER.

DISASTER and death are the almost invariable attendants of arctic expeditions, as the history of almost every one hitherto attempted has demonstrated; and although arctic voyages and explorations have been numerous they, thus far, have been totally barren of any returns, scientific or geographical, to compensate for the loss of the many brave men who have participated in and braved their dangers. Owing to the repeated disasters and small returns the fever for arctic discovery is not near so strong now on

the other side of the Atlantic as it was some years ago, enthusiasm has been almost chilled to death, and we hear little of England or any of the other nations of Northern Europe taking any very active steps in this direction. The enthusiasm of later years has been higher this side of the water than the other, and the names of Kane, Hall and some one or two others have become famous on account of their voyages and journeys in the icy seas and fields of the inhospitable North. Most readers remember Captain Hall's account of the pleasure and delight he experienced while eating and drinking his pounds of blubber and gallons of oil per day, sleeping in ice houses, and sharing in other delicacies and pleasures which could only be obtained and enjoyed on a cruise to the North Pole. While reading his glowing account one was almost persuaded to believe that the stunted and hardy Esquimaux savages were among earth's most favored denizens, and that their mode of life was, in many respects, really a desirable and tolerably happy one. But most of this high coloring was no doubt owing to the ardent imagination of an enthusiastic voyager like Captain Hall, and like most of the romance and charm with which adventurers far from home are invested by the writers, it existed only on the printed page, for as we have already said, disaster and death and hardships of the most trying kind have to be suffered by those who have actual experience.

Our dispatches to-day bring sad news from the Arctic expedition, sent out by the United States government, sometime in the summer of 1871, under the command of Captain Hall of Cincinnati. The Captain had made one or two trips to those inhospitable regions prior to that time, and had penetrated, probably, as far north as any of his predecessors. Under his supervision the *Polaris* was built, and was supplied with all the appliances and contrivances which his previous experience had suggested as necessary to ensure safety and success on an expedition of the kind. The party left in high spirits, the commander, from his public utterances, seeming confident of at last solving the problem of Arctic exploration, and of planting the stars and stripes on the North Pole. The time set, at the latest, we believe, for this, was 1874. But these anticipations have met a sad and terrible disappointment, for the telegrams to-day say that Captain Hall died very suddenly in October, 1871, that disaster has overtaken the *Polaris*, for she, in a damaged condition, without boats, is now with a portion of her crew frozen up, somewhere in the Arctic seas, with no chance of liberation until next July, and it is uncertain even then. Nineteen of those on board, by some fortunate chance, were rescued after disembarking. But they endured terrible hardships before they were rescued, keeping body and soul together with scanty supplies of raw seal and polar bear. They are expected at St. John's, N. B., next Monday, and it is likely that further details regarding the *Polaris* may be made known. But the nation will deplore the death of Captain Hall, the disaster attending the expedition, and the uncertainty hanging over the fate of the poor fellows ice-locked in the ill-fated steamer.

### ATTEMPTED REGICIDE.

EMPEROR WILLIAM, of Germany, has been on a visit to his nephew, Emperor Alexander, of Russia, and judging from the very meagre telegraphic accounts of his reception and treatment in the Russian capital, he has had a very good time, and must have felt that it was good to be there, for the Czar, and the nobles and people of St. Petersburg seem to have done their best to honor their royal guest. But if an item in to-day's dispatches be true the Kaiser had a more narrow escape and was in greater danger of losing his life during his pleasure trip to Russia, than at any time while at the head of his triumphal legions when invading France. The dispatch says that during a review of troops by the German Emperor a priest fired at him, the ball passing through his helmet, and severely wounding an officer.

The account comes from London, one report saying the attempted regicide took place at St. Petersburg, another at Justenburg, pro-