

ary power. It is to be hoped that the experiment will be repeated. In order to gain their rights in that way the people can afford to delay their revolution for a long time yet. It is to be hoped they will let patience and diligence do their perfect work.

### SUFFRAGE.

The ladies of Utah have reason to congratulate themselves on the recent division on party lines of the people of this Territory. That such division is a fact, incontrovertible and established, the friends of good government of all parties and political affiliations have cause to rejoice; but more than all others the women of Utah. Who will not say that they have not been treated with flagrant injustice in the past from whatever point of view the prejudice of the individual may prompt him to look at it?

First given the franchise, not as an act of justice, but as a means to an end, they were to be used as a lever in the hands of a faction for moving a design. They disappointed the clique, and the right was snatched from them. Great pains have been taken to impress upon the suffragists that the right to vote is a conferred right, because each State has the power to designate conditions; and granting that, there are few, and those are not American at heart, how will say that the right once conferred any government on earth has the power to recall it except for specific and proven crime.

There is no honorable man in whose soul burns true patriotism, who truly loves his country, and the welfare, honor and fair fame of that country, but will review with deep regret the mistake that was made when the sacred vested rights of American citizens were wrenched from them to please a local faction.

The question has been sneeringly asked: "Well, what did the women of Utah do for themselves during the time they had the ballot?"

They did this: They made an irreproachable record for themselves during the whole seventeen years of their emancipation. They used with conservative discretion the precious boon, entering the long shut doors of elective responsibility with caution, and never by one overtact meriting censure. They placed a higher appreciation upon the privilege than to use it to benefit themselves alone. They proved that as a class they were as well informed as the average male citizen, in all that is required of an intelligent voter. They demonstrated that they had the ultimate good of their country as much at heart, and that they were less ruthless in dealing with the minutiae of local government in order to benefit themselves alone, or to further the accomplishment of a purely problematic good in the future. They exhibited elections conducted without fraud, violence, bribery, trickery, windy orations, great expense, or that disgraceful tendency, so largely American and masculine, to blast the good name and fair fame of their political opponents.

Thanks to the great sisterhood of women of America with whom we will firmly strike hands in this cause,

there is no longer any need to bring forward arguments to prove the moral, legal and constitutional right of woman to discharge a citizen's duties.

The platforms of the two national parties, and of the local parties, have been read with interest, and the planks therein laid down have been carefully weighed and their tendencies and bias closely scanned, so far as they affect the great question in which the women of Utah are so materially interested.

The profound silence maintained by the veterans of suffrage during the recent agitation gives them the badge of stateswomanship. It was desirable that there should be a chance given for truth to come to the surface, and for parties to declare themselves. In no other way could a sincere expression have been assured. There is no doubt in the minds of persons understanding the situation, though the ladies could have brought a pressure to bear upon each party that would have forced from it a specific declaration of principles on the suffrage question; but the women themselves would always have been in doubt as to whether the expressions were of conviction and principle, or concessions to time-serving expediency.

Gentlemen of the Democratic party, gentlemen of the Republican party, gentlemen of the Liberal party, you have missed a glorious opportunity to declare yourselves the friends of progressive thought, of justice, and of American liberty, by failing to define the ground upon which you stand with relation to the grandest problem of government given to the people of this generation to solve.

As it is, the Republicans say in section 6 of their platform:

"We are opposed to the disfranchisement of any citizen except for crime for which he shall have been convicted by due process of law."

That is the nearest approach to the vital question. While we agree with the sentiment we disparage the pronoun, but rather account it a matter of usage than a deliberate barring out of the majority of the disfranchised class.

The Democrats say in their first resolution after the platform:

"We favor the restoration of the franchise to all disfranchised citizens of the United States who will obey the laws of the United States."

As women were not accused of crime when disfranchised, and as a general thing are not accused of being the worst or most aggressive class of malefactors, perhaps the wide skirts of this splendid sentiment can be spread out to cover them, but it is apparent to the most casual thinker that the condition of one half of the people of this Territory, who are in every way the peers of these statesmen, were not in their minds at all when the platforms were being framed.

The other party, while very explicit with regard to the length of a day's work (for men), the distribution of irrigation water, and the benefits to be derived from appropriating money to advertise Utah at the World's Fair, remained perfectly silent on this all-important subject, a theme that affects the present and future welfare and happiness of more good citizens than any subject named by them.

Until within a few days of the election the orators who were abroad in the land, like the locusts of Egypt, did not mention the cause of suffrage; they were after votes, the women had no votes, so what were their wishes, rights or wrongs to these partisan politicians?

Ladies of Utah, it is vain to expect a voluntary surrender of these long usurped privileges, or that they will be given to you because of the chivalry of men, or even because it is right and just; you must work for them, never for a moment losing sight of the goal, or deserting this love for the allurements of easier paths. When you have repeatedly demonstrated in object lessons that it is a matter of expediency, then, and not till then, will you receive that which belongs to you, so long and unjustly withheld.

The repeated failures of the suffragists have still had in them sufficient of the element of success to keep hope and courage alive. The women are no longer in a preparatory state. They are ready to cope with disadvantages, to appreciate their friends and understand their enemies; they have learned to distinguish between a patriot and a politician, between reason and eloquence, a handsome promise and an honorable fulfillment. They have learned to sift sophistry and discern facts, and a torchlight procession with two brass bands does not make them forget the figures on their tax receipts. They are in that state that it is possible for them to rise equal to any occasion, work in harmony and with great rapidity for any definite object, and so thoroughly imbued are they with the justice of their cause that they have stricken the word "failure" out of their vocabulary altogether. They will never cease their efforts until the barriers are stricken down and all American citizens enter the arena of life, armed alike for their efforts in pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

They expect the progressive, the honorable, the conscientious, the patriotic among men, all who truly desire to see the best of democracy and republicanism survive and American principles carried out to a logical conclusion, to come to their aid with a courage equal to their convictions; for it is a cause worthy of the heart and intellect of the profoundest statesman of the great nineteenth century.

As yet the women do not appreciate their own power, but they are beginning to feel the thrill that shall yet make corrupt politicians tremble. Why, there are places, many places, where they could absolutely carry an election now without a vote by going systematically to work and throwing all their influence into a doubtful cause. While the women as a rule are not partisan, (and why should a thing unborn venture an opinion or have an affection?) they have a duty to perform to the thousands of women composing the national organization, and they will certainly favor their friends.

The suffragists have cause to be cheerful and encouraged generally. All reforms that have been permanent have been slow, all movements that have not been accomplished with toil and pain have retrograded. You are building slowly and solidly; be en-