

THE LADIES' COVENANT.

The northern ladies "down east" have now got before the nation, as well as their more noticeable and public serving lords, and have resolved to put forth their strength to save the country by the formation of a Ladies' Covenant, in which the fair dames solemnly pledge to adorn themselves in "homespun" till this "cruel war is over." No imported articles of apparel are to be hereafter purchased, where American can be substituted—by reason of which, the specie, now flowing from the country at a fearful rate, will be reserved for the redemption of Mr. Chase's greenbacks, or what is more likely to be the nearest to that for some time to come, the gold payment of interest to the United States bond-holders.

The wearing of elegant dress goods is not prohibited, so that the covenanters can go it "butterfly" to their heart's content; but it must hereafter be "Valley Tan." The movement is certain to accomplish considerable in the way proposed, for the papers seem to furnish all the patronage and parade of names that the most ambitious can crave—and that is something. "Home manufactures" in the ladies' embellishment department, cannot fail to receive a mighty impetus, for every person knows that the shoddy aristocracy of the war have been paying fabulous prices for everything of foreign manufacture that they could parade. The appearance of the Lady Covenanters will, however, by no means partake of the bus of sack-cloth and ashes for the factories of the North now produce mostly everything in the demand equal to that of foreign manufacture. A New York paper noticing the movement says:

"Delaines, challies, and prints of the richest kinds are manufactured in the Eastern States, quite equal to those of France. Silks are manufactured in New Jersey and Connecticut which even now are all sold as imported silks. Bonnets are made one-third cheaper than the imported ones. Boots and shoes, shirtings, perfumery, cassimeres, and all such articles, are made cheaper and can be made equal to the imported articles. It is urged, in fact, that half the goods sold as imported articles are really home-made, and it is expected that the humbug in this respect will change and imported goods be hereafter sold as domestic manufacture. The result will doubtless be to give a great impetus to labor in manufactures in the Eastern and Middle States and thereby help to enrich the country at the expense of the great manufactures of Europe. Fancy the famous Hon. Mrs. Shoddy, all gauze and Jockey Club, gorgeously arrayed in Jersey silks and California diamonds, promenading Broadway in a Merrimac print shawl, wearing a bonnet of furniture calico, carrying a small, green cotton umbrella in lieu of a French parasol, and followed by a mangy little mongrel dog, instead of her favorite Parisian pet."

On Monday the 2d inst., the organization of the Ladies' Covenant was completed at Washington, D. C. and a regular constitution adopted and flung out to the world, for the acceptance of all the sisterhood in the States and Territories of the North. The style of the firm is the "Ladies' National Covenant" and the pledge

"For three years, or for the war, we pledge ourselves to each other and the country to purchase no imported article of apparel."

Mrs. Gen. James Taylor and Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas are the President and Vice-President of the Executive Committee; recording and corresponding Secretaries are a host, and every State and Territory, in clover at Washington, is honored with a committee composed of Mrs. Senator, Mrs. Representative and Mrs. Delegate. After resolving "that the badge of the National Covenant shall be a black bee, with wings enamelled, according to nature, worn with a tri-color ribbon, a little in front of the left shoulder," the ladies further resolved

"That while, as the wives and daughters and women of America, we are ready and determined to practice self-denial for the benefit of the country and our sex, we earnestly request the men of America also to abstain from the use of imported articles, especially wines, liquors and cigars."

As a document of the age, and not without some useful suggestions at home we subjoin:

ADDRESS TO THE WOMEN OF AMERICA.

In the capital of our country we have this day organized a central society for the suppression of extravagance, the diminution of foreign imports and the practice of economy in all our social relations. To this society we have given the name of "The Ladies' National Covenant." Its object is a good and generous one, which should inspire a spirit of patriotism worthy of women who are the glory of a great nation. For this society we

have an example and precedent at once august and encouraging.

In 1770, the women of Massachusetts, actuated by the same impulse that inspires us, assembled in the city of Boston, as we have met here, and resolved to serve the country by an effort of self-sacrifice far greater than we are called upon to make.

REVOLUTIONARY PRECEDENTS.

On the 9th of February, three hundred matrons, each the mistress of a household, met as we do now, and signed a pledge to abstain from the use of tea, the greatest luxury of the time, and the very life of all the social gatherings for which our New England ancestors were so famous. Three days later, twice that number of blooming young girls met in the same place and signed like pledges; from that brave assemblage of women non-importation societies sprang up, that produced an effect upon the mother country almost equal to that created by the success of our revolutionary armies. During all the terrors of the war, these noble women held firmly to their pledges, and by their earnestness awoke the sympathy and co-operation of every sister colony in the land. The spirit thus aroused extended itself to imported goods of all kinds, and every hearthstone was turned into an independent manufactory. Thus it was that the flax wheel, the hatchel, and the handloom became sublime instruments of freedom in the hands of American women. The house mothers of seventy-six not only kept their pledge of non-importation, but with their own hands wrought from the raw material the garments which clothed themselves, their husbands, and children. The pledge which they took, and kept so faithfully, evoked not only great self-sacrifice, but hard, hard toil, such as the women of the present day scarcely dream of. Had they not endured and labored while their husbands fought, we should have had no mighty Union to pray and struggle for now.

INVOCATION TO EMULATE THEIR EXAMPLE.

We, the women of '64, have the same object to attain and the same duties to perform which were so nobly accomplished by the women of '76. Shall we not follow their example, and take up, cheerfully, the lesser burdens that the welfare of our country demands? They gave up the very comforts of life without a murmur; can we refuse when a sacrifice of feminine vanity is alone required? Can we hesitate to yield up luxuries that are so unbecoming when the very earth trembles under our feet from the tread of armed men going down to battle, and almost every roof throughout the land shelters some mother lamenting the son who has fallen gloriously with his face to the foe, or a widow whose husband lies buried so deeply among the masses of slain heroes, that she will never learn where to seek for his grave?

EXAMPLE FROM THE CLASSICS.

When the wife of a great prince, whose husband was absent at the siege of Troy, was urged by her friends to put on her royal robes and be cheerful, she answered: "My husband is under the walls of Troy; shall I adorn my hair while he wears a helmet? Shall I dress in new robes while he carries arms? No! my raiment shall be like his hard labors, and in sadness will I pass the time of this mournful war." Patriotism is beautiful in all eyes, and was shared alike by the lady of classic story and the mother of the Revolution, clad in her homespun dress and steadily performing more than household duties. Compare the spirit of these women with the reckless extravagance which has marked the duration of this terrible struggle for the Union, and the contrast is indeed humiliating. Still, the women of America are not unworthy of their ancestors. Thoughtless they may be, and luxuriously extravagant from long habits of prosperity, but cruel and unjust never! Appeal to their reason and gentle feelings, and the women of this day will prove themselves capable of as noble deeds as ever marked the struggles of the Revolution. Convince them of the evils their thoughtlessness is producing, and the remedy is certain.

MORAL REASONS.

It has not yet been sufficiently impressed upon them that the encouragement of extravagant importations is injurious to the public good. To impress this vital truth upon the women of the Union, we have entered into this solemn covenant, not only lauding ourselves to a general system of economy in our persons, but holding it as a duty to impress upon others how unwomanly it is to make outward display a paramount subject of thought, when the nation is in the throes of a rebellion, such as the world never saw. Gathered here in the center of the nation, a handful of women, intent on a single object, anxious only for the good of the country, we appeal to the patriotism and intelligence of our sister women throughout the length and breadth of the land. Let it be well understood, that every ounce of gold that goes from the country detracts from the pay of the soldier who is fighting for our salvation, and diminishes the wages of our sister women, who toil for their bread, into a miserable pittance that scarcely suffices to keep them from starvation. The precious metal that flows from this country to Europe for the luxuries we do not need increases the price of gold here, depreciates the value of our national currency, and helps to sweep the necessities of life beyond the reach of the working man.

LARGE IMPORTATIONS.

It is a painful truth, for which we shall yet learn to blush, that the importations of the most expensive goods manufactured in Europe

have been far greater during the war than at any time in the history of our country. The importations last week at the New York custom-house alone amounted to five millions of dollars; and all that week—which will yet find its ignoble record in history—the streets of Washington were blocked up with weary soldiers, marching through mud, rain, or dust, down to the Army of the Potomac, which now lies with bated courage waiting for the carnival of death which is almost flinging its crimson shadow over us.

PATRIOTISM INVOKED.

For the good of our country and the honor of our sex, let us redeem ourselves from this reproach of wanton extravagance. Let us prove by cheerful retrenchment that the women of this country are not so wedded to luxurious self-indulgence that they cannot fill a glorious page in the history of this war and yet retain all that is retiring and beautiful in womanhood. In all humane works they have proved themselves charitable, kind, and munificent. Let these comprehend that self-abnegation will accomplish more than works of charity, and they will not be less earnest to sacrifice than they have been willing to give up our husbands, sons, and brothers to fight or die for the Union, and yet refuse to renounce our laces, silks, velvets, and diamonds. That thought would cover us with shame before the nations of the earth. No; our women of the Union only lack knowledge of the means by which they can prove themselves true help-mates of the heroes who are fighting our battles. Impress it upon them that in discouraging excessive importations and adopting goods manufactured at home they keep gold in the country, reduce the rates of exchange, and establish confidence in the government, and they will prove how far patriotism can rise above feminine vanity in the hearts of American women.

NATURE OF THE COVENANT.

In order to invoke this spirit of self-sacrifice, it is important that the great object of the covenant we have made should be broadly circulated and thoroughly understood. It discourages prodigal expenditures of any kind, recommends the use of domestic fabrics wherever they can be substituted for those of foreign make, and advises simplicity of attire, both as a matter of policy and good taste. It asks the great sisterhood of American women to aid in this reform before it is too late.

TELEGRAPHIC AID.

Thank God! science has given us the means of reaching thousands on thousands in a single hour. While we make this covenant, the thought that thrills our hearts may tremble in fire along the telegraph, and awake kindred inspiration throughout the entire land. By every means of communication in our power, let us argue the necessity of prompt action. In every town and village throughout the Union, some woman who loves her country is implored to establish an auxiliary society and forward the names of the ladies invited to act for the state in which her duty lies. We ask simultaneous action, earnest work, and generous self-sacrifice at the hands of sister women. With their ardent help, a work will be accomplished so important in its results that the woman, who shares in it may, hereafter, leave the emblem of our objects as the richest jewel that she can leave to posterity.

[From the London Times, April 12.]

THE FRANCE-MEXICAN EMPIRE.

An Empire of Mexico has now been added to the States of the world. The new sovereign took his departure yesterday for the seat of his government, and with his arrival will commence one of the most remarkable experiments in the history of our times. It would be mere folly to disguise the extraordinary incidents of this unexampled event. One of the great powers of the Old World has occupied with an armed force, and in spite of resolute opposition, the country and capital of an American State, has transformed its government from a republic to a monarchy, has introduced a prince from one of the reigning houses of Europe, and continues its aim to the new sovereign during the infancy of its rule. Proceedings like these require no slight apology, but we remain as we have ever been entirely of opinion that the apology is sufficient, and that the conduct of France, while perfectly justifiable in the eyes of Europe, is calculated to promote the interests of Mexico and to benefit the civilized world.

It needs not a word to prove that the Mexicans themselves can derive nothing but advantage from the change. They cannot lose anything, for they had nothing to lose. Monarchy is substituted not for any other form of government, but for anarchy. If that monarchy appears allied with a party unfriendly to popular freedom, it must be remembered that the policy of the government will now be shaped by influences far more powerful than any local traditions, and in a manner which will command respect not in Mexico only, but in Europe. The great fact of all, however, is that there will be a government of some kind, and that life, property, and commerce will be taken under its protection. The policy of France, therefore, in this matter is justifiable in the eyes of Europe. Extraordinary it certainly may be, but such is the cause. Never before was there such an instance of a State proving incapable of self-organization, falling into hopeless anarchy, and becoming a nuisance to the commonwealth of nations. Never before was a state so marked out by common consent for annexation or intervention as in-

capable of political independence. This was not the judgment of Europe merely; it was the conclusion of the American government, and Mexico would probably have been before this absorbed in the United States had the Union of those states been maintained. France has actually succeeded in establishing a new empire across the Atlantic, and bringing a renowned and opulent country within the pale of civilization once more. If the experiment is permanently successful, and we do not know why success should be doubted, she will have justly earned, not only the thanks of the Mexicans, but the gratitude of the world.

Rome, April 20—Evening.

The Emperor and Empress of Mexico will leave Rome at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and will embark this evening at Civita Vecchia for Mexico. They had an audience with the Pope yesterday. They have visited the Basilica of the Vatican, the ex-King of Naples, the Neapolitan royal family and Cardinal Antonelli. Yesterday evening their majesties gave a dinner party, followed by a reception, which was attended by the Cardinals, the Pontifical ministers, the diplomatic corps, and the Roman nobility.

Previous to their departure for Civita Vecchia this afternoon the Emperor and Empress of Mexico attended mass at the Vatican. The Pope afterward returned the visit of their majesties.

THE REASON BUTTER IS HIGH IN THE STATES.—A New York paper gives the following explanation of the present high prices of butter. It says:

"There is reason for this high price of butter, which perhaps very few of our readers know. A number of leading merchants in New York city, among whom Mr. A. T. Stewart, the dry goods prince, as he is styled, takes the lead, have had agents throughout all the better producing districts, who have contracted to take all that is made at thirty cents a pound. The immense quantities of butter thus obtained are shipped to Europe, and their sold for gold at from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound, which money is used to pay for imported goods. These heavy New York merchants really save money by the operation, for they buy for paper and sell for gold. The scarcity in the market, produced by the large drain these contracts make, rapidly increases the price of a daily necessity in every family."

It is the same operation in this Territory. The coin of Reese River, and Idaho mines has gathered all the saleable butter from that class of our citizens who see only to-day. Though there is no special princely merchant of the Stewart family to regulate the markets, there are any amount of soulless brothers to run at the bidding of wary speculators. It is the same song.

ARMY NOTICE.—We are requested to give notice that the Commissary's advertisement for Fresh Beef for the troops at Camp Douglas is withdrawn, and no bids therefor will be received, other arrangements having been made. Bids in duplicate for other supplies will be received in accordance with advertisement in another column.

GONE NORTH.—Ben Holladay's ox train, loaded with lumber and other matters, passed through the city on its way north on Thursday last. Superintendent Bromley left on Monday to supervise the construction of the mail stations between this and Fort Hall. It is the calculation to run the mails for Virginia, Idaho, and for Walla Walla together, as far as the junction at Fort Hall, and afterwards divide off for destinations.

EMIGRATION.—Upwards of 800 Saints were in Liverpool on the 21st of April, ready to embark for New York in the "Monarch of the Sea," on their way to this place. A large portion of these Saints were from Scandinavia.

HIGH WATERS.—The Platte is reported very high. Travelers can have, without extra charge, a bath in their vehicles.

GONE SOUTH.—Howard Livingston, Esq., and some friends and assistants, left on Monday for far down south, with a silver mountain in their eye.

BACK AGAIN.—"Ned" Purple, of Overland Mail acquaintance, returned from the east last week and passed on again to Idaho.

NOT QUITE SO MANY.—A telegram from Fort Laramie last week, reports a very meagre immigration met between this place and the Fort, and, these, principally trains with goods for Idaho.

—The Post Office Department use \$38,000 worth of wrapping paper, \$16,000 worth of twine, \$60,000 for new mail bags, and \$10,000 for new locks and keys—in one year!