

EDITORIALS

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

We noticed a day or two ago the progressive movement in the Isle of Man, by which women were endowed with the same political rights as men. As the little Island is an appanage of Great Britain, it may be thought that a law to the above effect would have to be passed by the English Parliament to give it effect. But the Isle of Man is to a great extent under home rule, having a Legislature or Parliament of its own, which is composed of the Governor, Council and House of Keys, and is sometimes called the "Tynwald Court."

The little island is situated in the Irish Sea, twenty eight miles west from England, sixteen south from Scotland, and thirty-two east from Ireland. It has an area of 282 square miles. Castletown is the capital. Douglas on the southeast coast is the largest and most important town, next to which are Peel on the east coast and Ramsey on the northeast. Its ancient name of Mona was given by the Romans. Its people are hardy, industrious and thrifty, and in addition to their maritime occupations, farming and grazing are followed, and there are some manufacturing establishments and bleaching works, and the mines yield lead, copper, silver and slate. The population is about 56,000.

Although the Manx people make their own laws and impose their own taxes, the sanction of the Crown is necessary to the validity of legislative enactments, the Queen also appointing the Governor. Popular rights is one of the institutions of the Island which its people are proud of maintaining, and they trace back their House of Keys to an earlier time than that of the first English House of Commons. The measure removing political disabilities from women is in accord with the spirit of the institutions of the Island. As an amendment to a franchise bill introduced by the Governor, the House of Keys struck out the word "male," being supported in this act of justice towards the female citizens by the popular sentiment, and thus setting a worthy example to larger commonwealths.

The English *Woman's Suffrage Journal* endorses the act in the following words:

"Thus the House of Keys, probably the most ancient popular legislative assembly in the world, has been true to its tradition of resisting encroachments on liberty, by taking measures to secure the exercise of political rights by women as well as by men, and by asserting the principle of free government for the whole, and not merely for the half of the people."

The Isle of Man has yielded up its quota of converts to the faith of the latter-day gospel, several true and tried members of the Church and citizens of this Territory hailing from that Island, and quite a number who, though Americanized by residence in this country for many years, first breathed the atmosphere of this lower world on the sea-washed shores of Mona, "Ellan Vannin," or the Isle of Man, which may now also be fairly denominated "The Isle of Woman."

THE WHITTAKER CASE BY THE EARS AGAIN.

On the 18th inst., a court-martial will sit at West Point, to decide the important question whether Cadet Whittaker slit his own ears or not. It was thought for some time that this case, which formed one of the sensations of the country, would not be again considered, Whittaker having failed to pass his examination and most people being disgusted with the whole affair. But Whittaker's friends have been very persistent, and after considerable discussion in the Cabinet, President Hayes concluded to give the colored youth another chance, being induced to make this decision by the suggestions of General Howard, who has been appointed to succeed Gen. Schofield in charge of the West Point Military Academy. General Howard recommended:

"First. That Whittaker's application for a trial by court-martial be

granted, and that he be regularly tried on charges and specifications under the rules and articles of war.

Second. That the court-martial be composed of officers, a majority of whom at least should not be men who were graduated at the Military Academy.

Third. That in case of an acquittal, Whittaker should be allowed to return to the academy and enter the class next below that to which he formerly belonged, and thus be given a fair chance to qualify himself to pass the required examination and complete the course of study.

The President adopted this advice, and believing that the findings of the Court of Inquiry were not sustained by the evidence, and that prejudice against Whittaker because of his color prevailed among officers as well as cadets at West Point, he has ordered the court-martial. The court, of which General Miles will be president, will consist of Colonel H. A. Morrow, Twenty-first Infantry; Captain R. T. Frank, First Artillery; Captain J. N. Craig, Tenth Infantry; Captain Merritt Barber, Sixteenth Infantry; and Major A. B. Gardner, Judge Advocate of the Court, officers originally appointed from civil life, and Lieutenant Colonel Pinckney Lugenbeel, First Infantry; Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Brannon, First Artillery; Major Lewis Merrill, Seventh Cavalry; and Major E. B. Sumner, Fifth Cavalry, graduates of West Point.

Whittaker, who has in the most earnest and positive manner persisted in declaring his innocence, will be ably defended. Emory Storrs, D. H. Brewster and ex-Gov. Chamberlain, all eminent lawyers, are named as his counsel. As, incidentally, West Point and its doings and discipline will be placed on trial, and the whole affair will in some degree affect Gen. Schofield, every effort will be made to convict Whittaker of the charges against him, which are being formally framed by Judge Advocate General Dunn, and accuse him, first, of perjury, in that he swore he did not mutilate himself, did not tie himself, and did not write the note of warning; second, of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, in mutilating himself, writing a feigned notice of warning and feigning helplessness in the presence of his superior officers. The alleged object was of course to avoid his approaching examination, for which he was not prepared.

There are rumors of new developments in the case which will involve some persons higher than the cadets at West Point, but these can only come out on the trial, which promises to awaken as much interest as the first inquiry, and will attract general attention as well as cost the country a considerable amount for expenses. If Whittaker had been a white cadet, it is not likely that anything more than a passing local dispute would have been the consequence of the disturbance at West Point.

THE WORK IN EUROPE.

FROM the *Millennial Star* of December 20, we learn that the work of the Lord is still progressing in Europe.

Elder John Eyvindson writing from Iceland on Nov. 28th, gives a brief outline of the condition of that field. Seven persons had been baptized, with prospects for further additions. The brethren there were much oppressed; great intolerance prevailing among the authorities, who endeavored to put stumbling blocks in the way and prevent the work from progressing among the people. The Elders were laboring zealously, however, and we trust the good seed will yet fall on some good ground in that somewhat forbidden country.

Elder Thomas X. Smith, in a letter dated Manchester, Dec. 8th, says: "Within the last three weeks we have baptized eight persons, and there is a good prospect for more. The work of the Lord is beginning to take root in the hearts of the honest."

Elder O. F. Hunter, of the Nottingham Conference writes that five new baptisms, and also some re-baptisms, have taken place lately in the Hucknall-Torkard branch of that conference, and that three new members had also been added by baptism to the Eastwood branch. The meetings at Hucknall were well attended by strangers, and general prospects were encouraging.

Elder J. R. Matthews writes from Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, to the

effect that the gifts of the gospel were being enjoyed among the Saints. Fifteen new members had been recently added by baptism and prospects were favorable for more in the near future.

Elder Henry Margetts reports progress in the Sheffield Conference. Sixteen persons had been baptized into the Church since October 1st, some of whom were first led to investigate through the labors of Elders E. B. Snow and Joseph Goddard.

President Albert Carrington was visiting the branches in the London Conference, Elder Samuel Roskelley, by letter to Elder C. W. Stayner, giving particulars of spirited meetings and excellent instructions from the Apostle to the Elders and Saints.

INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHY.

Every one who has sat for a portrait has wished for a process by which the necessity for sitting for what seems to be an oppressively long time, with a fixed expression of countenance that seldom seems to be natural, might be obviated. A New York photographer, named Rockwood, has achieved great success with an instantaneous method. It will be of great relief to nervous subjects, and will secure better pictures of small and restless children. The medium by which a sensitive or photographic film is produced upon glass, has been, for a number of years, *collodion*. This is made by dissolving gun cotton in equal portions of alcohol and ether. In this film was formed the bromo-iodide of silver which was acted upon by the light when exposed in the camera and make the picture. This has given admirable results, but in England, at the times when the art was most in demand, the Christmas and holiday season, photography was almost inoperative. The new medium experimented upon was *gelatine*, and was found to give a sensitiveness from ten to twenty times greater than collodion. A thoroughly practical success attended this series of experiments, and portraits are now made in one or two seconds under a portrait light, and out-of-door pictures in a fraction of a second of time.

A TALK ON TIMBER.

AMONG the many industries which should find a prominent place in Utah is that of wagon manufacture. This Territory is one which requires and wears out many wagons annually, and probably will always exhibit the same characteristics. The dry climate, the rough cañon roads, and the little care-taking for keeping wagons out of the weather when not in use, both in summer and winter, will always make the consumption of wagons appear very large in proportion to the population. It may safely be said that if the wagons imported here were brought in as timber and put together under the same supervision and with the same facilities as to machinery, etc., that they would be more serviceable and really last longer, than when made anywhere else where the atmosphere is much less searching.

And it is not unlikely that wagons could be made as cheap here, taking into account the fact that timber comes at less freight in proportion than a finished wagon, and to local manufacture this would act as a protective tariff in favor of the home-made. All wagons for home use ought to be made at home, if only to find employment for many of our old settlers, who were brought up to the business, as well as for a great many other artisans, such as blacksmiths, painters, etc., to say nothing of our youth, who are demoralized for lack of employment.

While this item of wagon using is of its present magnitude, and not likely to decrease, there should be ambition enough somewhere among the people by combination or individual effort, to supply the demand, even if every stick of timber, or foot of lumber has to be imported for the purpose, and any individual or company who could reap the profits now realized by manufacturers' agents in this city and territory, would soon be on the highway to fortune, while as public-spirited benefactors they would earn the gratitude of a waiting and expectant community.

But there is a further consideration and that is upon the question of timber. It is not creditable to the people here that there is so little timber coming into a condition for use. There have been a few men who, while sustaining themselves, have also been public benefactors by growing and supplying many varieties of fruit trees. Such names as Ellerbeck, Staines, Wagstaff, Hemmingway, Woodbury, Fenton, and others in this section, are entitled to grateful remembrance. But in the raising, planting and distributing of timber trees, the returns not being so ready, there has been less enterprise. Prest. Young did make quite a plantation of black locust and mulberry. Others on a small scale have multiplied the honey locust, the walnut, the poplar and some few other varieties, and the results are seen in our beautifully shaded streets in the summer time. But these, as they are planted, are not meant for utilization as timber; they are intended for perpetuity, to give their wealth of foliage for our comfort, and their beauty for the glory of our growing cities.

Trees for timber should be on our farms. Every division fence, every water ditch and canal should be lined at proper distances with choice trees, grown with thoughtful purpose for our future. And if for thirty-five years of our history we had felt that we came here to stay awhile, and that the elements were full of trees stored there to provide for human needs and human industry, our Territory might by this time have approximated to the forest-like appearance which belongs to Old England, when her landscape is seen from any commanding eminence.

It will pay *now* for all our public bodies, city, county or territorial, to give consideration to any man who will, even on a small scale, sow or plant timber trees, nuts or seeds on the land he occupies. It will pay to offer a given remission of taxation to those thus diligent in such a pursuit. It will pay even to award premiums for those who plant or sow the greatest number or amount of tree seed this year or each succeeding year; and this would only be following the precedent of the general government, which provides that for a certain number of trees planted and cared for, valuable concessions shall be made of the public domain.

And both cities and counties might do still more. A few dollars (probably unreachable by some enterprising men,) could hardly be devoted to a more necessary thing, if taken from the public treasury, than for the purchase of tree seeds, and the distribution of them gratuitously to those who would be most interested in planting and fostering their growth. There is an abundance of black and honey locust seed in the Territory, but we could import seed of the walnut, chestnut, the lems, black and green ash, the maples, butternut, sycamore, beech, oak and also cones of the larch to be grown for railroad ties, and some other varieties. With one or two exceptions these grow well and rapidly in this climate and would soon give profitable returns, and a wagon the product of Utah grown timber well watered and matured would be in the near future, while the present policy pursued indefinitely will never create such a thing, worlds without end.

Now is time to send for seeds, when there is a little money in every county and city treasury. Soon spring will give opportunity for action, and for these few dollars, this little effort, in a year from date one or more millions of trees could be growing in Utah as a preparatory process for the coming industry, not for wagons only, but for plows and many other implements, for furniture and other house furnishings, for building and railroad ties, and countless uses which minister to the growth and prosperity of any people.

How many of our officials will take this into consideration, how many will give their voice and vote for the first purchase and distribution, and who are the men of enterprise in our counties and among our land-owners, who will see to the care and cultivation of that which will bring beauty, verdure, industry and profit to a people lacking in that direction, yet ever expecting to triumph at the last, and become virtually a nation capable of self-sustenance and consequent independence.

EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

A BILL has been passed by Congress and has received the signature of the President, extending the Eleventh Session of the Legislative Assembly of Idaho from forty to sixty days. This will keep the members at work a little longer than they expected, and as they are engaged in measures of great importance it will be time well spent, and the extension will be a great benefit to their constituents.

A forty days' session once in two years is a very brief term for the enactment of laws necessary to the welfare of a new and rapidly growing community. As the region is occupied with new settlements, and new conditions spring up, and the first crude legislative measures become unadapted to the altered situation, laws are needed which will meet existing requirements; and those which worked well enough at one time require repeal and to be substituted by others more advanced, or to be so changed as to apply to larger interests and increased populations.

There should be some latitude given to the Territorial Legislatures as to the length of their sessions. There is seldom time enough in any one term for that deliberation necessary in framing and passing important measures, and the consequence is that legislators are frequently blamed for passing over some clause or phrase which is not worded so as to express, exactly what is desired, or for omitting to insert some provision considered needful in a particular locality. The wonder is, not that errors creep into our local statutes, but that the laws are so free from glaring inconsistencies and inaccuracies, considering the haste which necessarily attends their enactment under the restriction as to time.

It is not fair to the Governors either. Generally, bills are crowded upon their attention towards the close of the session, and in order to consider them fairly and carefully, they must work night and day, and often have to stretch the time over the proper hour of dissolving the Assembly, in order to finish the business before them. And in Utah, where the Executive is constituted a "one man power" more potent than any king or President, his failure to sign a law being death to the measure, enactments to which he can offer no reasonable objection, are often flung into a corner, unsigned and uninvestigated, because time will not permit of careful examination.

A general law permitting the Territories, when necessary, to extend the time of their legislative sessions to a maximum of sixty days, would be of great benefit to the people in the newly settled but valuable portions of this great republic.

"A MORE EXCELLENT WAY."

A GREAT deal has been said lately in relation to the evils of the habitual use of intoxicants and the spread of alcoholism. The pictures presented of the results of the pernicious practice have not been, and perhaps cannot be, overdrawn or painted in too vivid colors. The public rebukes also, administered to those who, professing to be Saints, indulge in habits which are debasing to body and mind, have been timely and well-deserved. The efforts made to curtail, restrain and regulate the liquor traffic are, too, designed in a commendable spirit and presented with good intent.

The subject, however, is one of great magnitude, and involves many questions and interests. How far legislation can be made efficacious in preventing the consumption of alcoholic drinks, and consequently the evils growing therefrom, is still a knotty problem. The business of manufacturing and that of selling liquors are very extensive and a great amount of capital is represented therein, constituting a formidable opponent to measures that promise to be effective. The large degree of liberty also which is the heritage of the citizens of this republic, interferes with anything that would prevent freedom of trade in any large degree.

But the greatest obstacle in the way of that reform which so many good men and women desire, is the widespread appetite for stimulants, and the lack of moral power to resist its cravings. Against that