

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

TEMPLE RE-OPENING.

The Salt Lake Temple, which has been closed during the present month, will re-open on Monday, July 29th. Up to the time of suspension, June 28th, the interest manifested by the Saints in the sacred work performed in that magnificent edifice, might be deemed phenomenal. As a rule the number of people who attended was fully up to the capacity of the building, and in numbers of instances exceeded it.

This interest in a department of the work of God so important is exceedingly gratifying. The heads of the Church, from the Prophet Joseph to the present, have sought to impress upon the Saints the urgency of their duty in regard to the labor necessary for the redemption of the dead who departed this life without a knowledge of the Gospel. The Church has listened to their teachings and the result has been highly satisfactory. The blessing of the Lord attends those who engage in this saving labor, which involves the execution of the scheme of salvation provided by the Father for the redemption of the race as a whole.

The facilities provided and now existing for the carrying forward of this part of the Gospel plan should continue to be fully economized. Those interested in it—all the Saints ought to be—need not wait until they are enabled to obtain a lengthy ancestral record. They can act upon whatever data they already possess regarding their kindred dead, and trust in the blessing of the Lord and their individual efforts for the obtaining of more extended information. They should always keep in mind the fact that they hold the keys connected with the redemption of the dead of their own kin. Thus the work of each individual or family is clearly defined, and it is not necessary that one should encroach upon the field of operation belonging to another.

Those who engage in this important work not only accomplish that which is of saving benefit to others, but when it is done properly it contributes to their own spiritual enlargement.

WOMEN CITIZENS.

A query with regard to the citizenship of women has been submitted to the NEWS as follows:

Does a woman, born in a foreign land, become a citizen of the United States by reason of her marriage to a citizen?

The question is one that has caused considerable discussion of late, owing to the anticipated casting of ballots by the women. It was thought by some that so far as her qualifications as a voter were concerned, the wife of a citizen did not stand in the same position as one who was native born or naturalized, but that her status would be considered apart from her marital relations. In this event, it was argued that women of alien birth, whether or not they were wives of citizens, would have to be naturalized in order to exercise the elective franchise. Those who took this position

argued that the former use of the ballot in this Territory, by women not naturalized but yet wives of citizens, was based on the express provisions of the Territorial statute, not on the national law, and therefore was not applicable to the present situation.

An examination into the law and court rulings on the case, however, confirms the view that the inquiry submitted should be answered in the affirmative. The provision of the old Territorial law on the subject was itself based on the rule laid down in the national enactment and court decisions thereunder, and the same general practice with which the people of Utah were familiar prior to the disfranchisement of the women by the Edmunds-Tucker law of 1887 may be expected to prevail under the equal suffrage clause of the Constitution of Utah.

In addition to careful investigation, the question was submitted to leading attorneys independent of political affiliations, the reply in each case being the same after the matter was looked up. It was cited that in the case of Kelly vs Owen et al, reported in Volume 7, Wallace's Reports of cases adjudged in the Supreme Court of the United States, the question of woman's citizenship was directly passed upon. Justice Field delivered the opinion of the court, in which it is said:

The case turns upon the construction given to the second section of the act of Congress of February 10, 1855, which declares "that any woman, who might lawfully be naturalized under the existing laws, married, or who shall be married to a citizen of the United States, shall be deemed and taken to be a citizen." As we construe this act, it confers the privileges of citizenship upon women married to citizens of the United States, if they are of the class of persons for whose naturalization the previous acts of Congress provide. * * * The terms, "who might lawfully be naturalized under existing laws," only limit the application of the law to free white women. The previous naturalization act, existing at the time, only required that the person applying for the benefits should be "a free white person," and not an alien enemy. * * *

It follows from these views, that the widow and the two sisters were citizens of the United States upon the decease of the intestate husband. The widow and Margaret Kahoe became such on the naturalization of their respective husbands, and Ellen Owen became such on her marriage.

This was in 1870; and the rule there laid down has been uniformly adhered to by the courts. In recent cases it has been held that if an American citizen goes to a foreign land and marries and rears a family, there being no renunciation of citizenship, the wife and children are citizens of the United States, although they may never have been in this country. One of the latest decisions upon this question is in the noted Blythe case, passed upon in California in 1892. On the same subject, and passing directly upon the qualifications of voters, the supreme court of Illinois, in the case of Kreltz vs Behrensmeier, reported in the 125th Ill., says that whenever a woman, alien born, who might be naturalized, is in a state of marriage

to a citizen, whether his citizenship existed at the time of the act of Congress of February 10, 1855, or before or after the marriage, she becomes by that fact a citizen also; and this citizenship is not lost by the subsequent death of her husband and her afterwards marrying an alien.

By the rulings referred to, the matter appears to be settled beyond all controversy. The United States Supreme Court is quite clear upon the question in the case of Kelly vs Owen, above referred to, laying down the rule that the act of Congress of February 10, 1855, which declares "that any woman who might lawfully be naturalized under the existing laws, married, or who shall be married to a citizen of the United States, shall be deemed and taken to be a citizen," confers the privileges of citizenship upon women married to citizens of the United States, if they are of the class of persons for whose naturalization the previous acts of Congress provide. The court states that the terms "married" or "who shall be married," in the act, do not refer to the time when the ceremony of marriage is celebrated, but to a state of marriage; and that they mean that whenever a woman, who under previous acts might be naturalized, is in a state of marriage to a citizen, she becomes, by that fact, a citizen also. Her citizenship, whenever it exists, confers citizenship upon her. The object of the act was to allow the citizenship of the wife to follow that of her husband, without the necessity of any application for naturalization on her part. The court's definition, thus given, is so explicit as to leave no room for doubt of the effect of the law. The wives of citizens are themselves citizens.

DISCOVERIES IN YUCATAN.

Highly interesting and important discoveries have been made, according to recent reports, in Central America, indicating, if we mistake not, that science at last is on the road to solve the mysteries connected with the aborigines of this continent. Dr. Augustus Le Plongeon, the eminent archaeologist, has devoted twelve years to the study of the monuments of the ancient race of that country and has at last succeeded in deciphering many of the inscriptions found in the ruins.

According to the account in the July number of the *Review of Reviews*, Dr. Plongeon surmised that the language still spoken by the aborigines of Yucatan would bear some resemblance to that of the first inhabitants, and acting on this supposition he soon found that by giving to the mysterious characters on the ruins the same phonetic value they possess in the language of the Quiches, they formed intelligible words and phrases. Then he discovered that the modern language of the natives was not materially different from that of the inscriptions. The archaeologist by this means obtained a key to the formerly incomprehensible hieroglyphics.

What may be regarded as a still more startling discovery is the fact that the hieratic, or sacred, alphabet of the Mayas, on comparison, was found to be practically identical with that of the Egyptians, and that the grammatical