

A REPROACH TO MEN.

IN THE early days of Utah's settlement, when "Mormon" rule held sway and civilization is said to have had no influence, in those times of "Mormon" barbarism and lack of "Gentile" refinement, people never locked their doors at night and a woman could travel, on foot or in a vehicle, alone at any hour by daylight or in the dark, without the slightest danger from man. Any departure from the strict rules of virtue was so rare that a case of unchastity was a shock to the whole community that stirred society to its depths and caused greater sadness than a death.

The change that has come needs no description from us. It is sometimes unsafe for a man to travel alone at night in Salt Lake or Ogden and no woman ought to be abroad after nightfall without an escort.

We were led to these brief reflections by the following, in the *North American Review* for January by Oscar Fay Adams, which shows up a state of affairs that is really "a reproach to men" and a disgrace to so-called "civilization:"

"Think for a moment what is implied in the single fact that in no part of the world is it deemed safe for a woman to go alone after dark, nor, in many localities, by day even. It is not enough to reply that woman must have a trustworthy masculine escort because she is timid. Why should she be timid? Under similar circumstances a man may fear the personal violence of an enemy or the loss of his money and valuables. A woman has to dread man's 'wildness and the chances of the dark.' In plain words, she fears that, if unattended, some man will seek to rob her of her honor. And is not this fear of hers an arraignment of civilization itself? How much better does civilized man show above his savage brother in relation to this matter? It may be urged that it is unfair to hold all men responsible for the lawlessness of a minority; but what is this but to confess that the majority are powerless to restrain the minority, or to say that improvement in this regard is impossible? If in the vicinity of every large town in the United States there lurked a dozen or more fierce wolves, that, after nightfall, went into the town and banqueted on such of the citizens as they could secure, we may without much doubt assert that such a state of things, when once found to exist, would come to a speedy termination; for every man would feel that the common safety of all demanded the exertion of his strength in the contest with the wild beasts. But let it be understood that the honor of every woman is endangered when she goes from place to place alone at night, and we accept the fact as no reproach on our common manhood, but merely fancy that all requirements of duty are satisfied if we provide defenseless women with a responsible male escort."

ALLEGED VACANCIES IN CERTAIN OFFICES.

THE announcement that a very large number of offices to which persons were elected last August are now

vacant, because the officers elect have not qualified according to law, has doubtless startled a good many of the people of this Territory. They naturally desire to know what it all means.

We understand that the objection is, they have not received their commissions from the Governor. If that is all, we are of the opinion that the trouble is not without remedy.

Under the Organic Act of Utah the Governor is authorized to "commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of said Territory." Some persons have construed this to cover all the offices in the Territory, whether elective or appointive. But examination of the Organic Act and other laws of Congress, and also of the laws of the Territory, will show that there is a clear line of distinction between them. Some officers are *elected* others are *appointed* to their several positions. It is the appointed officers who are to be commissioned by the Governor, under the general provision of the Organic Act.

But there are some *elected* officers who are required to obtain a commission from the Governor, and among these are Justices of the Peace and Constables. Section 162 of the Compiled laws of Utah provides:

"Each justice of the peace and constable shall take an oath of office and give bond, with approved securities in the sum of one thousand dollars, which bond shall be approved by, and filed in the office of, the probate judge of their respective counties; said justices and constables shall hold their offices for the term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and they shall be commissioned by the Governor."

Section 271 of the Compiled Laws has the following proviso:

"That each person elected or appointed to any county or precinct office shall qualify, as by law required, within twenty days after receiving notice of his election or appointment, and all persons re-elected to any office, thereby becoming their own successors, shall, when so elected, give bonds, qualify, and be commissioned by the Governor, as in other cases required by law."

Thus it is clear that Justices of the Peace and Constables and also all persons appointed under the laws of the Territory, and all who are re-elected to any office thus becoming their own successors, are to be commissioned by the Governor.

County and precinct officers must qualify within twenty days after receiving notice of their election. If any of these who were elected last August have failed to qualify as by law required, their offices may be declared vacant. But does this term "qualify" include obtaining a commission from the Governor? If not, there is no time fixed by law within which this commission must be obtained.

The term qualify has a definite meaning in the law. It signifies the taking of the oath of office. The word qualify is used sometimes as equivalent to making affidavit. The swearing-in of an officer-elect is what is legally understood as "qualifying."

That this does not include the receiving of a commission is evident from the wording of the law quoted above, which says concerning officers re-elected, they shall "give bonds, qualify and be commissioned."

The commission, then, is not part of the qualifying. It is merely evidence of election and qualifying. It is not required within twenty days. If some officers who are required by law to be commissioned by the Governor have not made application they should do so at once. They will then find out what views the Governor has on this question. He will doubtless be governed by the law. If there is yet legal time to obtain the proper commission, as there appears to be, the difficulty will be removed.

If there should be a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Peace or of Constable, the County Court is authorized by law to fill the vacancy until the next general election, and the person so appointed, whether it be the present incumbent or another, must not only qualify but obtain a commission from the Governor.

It would be well for all persons who were elected to office last August to see that they have all the qualifications and authority and documents necessary to the legal discharge of their official duties.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

A DEMAND of the Farmers' Alliance is that all telegraph, telephone and railway lines shall be owned and operated by the government.

The objections to this measure are insurmountable. It would throw a wet blanket over individual enterprise, the field of which would be immensely curtailed. The only progressive policy for a nation to pursue is to permit the people, so far as practicable, to transact their own business. The government should only do for the people what they are unable to do for themselves. In nations where this policy is adhered to the people are active and progressive; where the opposite condition exists they are comparatively far in the rear of the van of advancement.

Above and beyond all the evils that would grow out of such an ownership as the Farmers' Alliance demand, is the result politically. A situation would, under a system like ours, be