

self and neither voted for the other; and yet the tranquility of their domestic life suffered no disturbance.

The female pioneer element now, as in the days of old, develops the noblest womanly characteristics, and on the border a marked independence of action and character is observable, which unhappily is too seldom found in older civilizations where fashion and caste rule with autocratic sway. Some of the most worthy and talented women are not in political sympathy with their former "lords and masters," and yet domestic happiness, "the only bliss of paradise that has survived the fall," still dwells in their habitations and beautifies their lives. Female caucuses, in which the late lords could not participate, were held at various points; and although wordy warfare prevailed and shrill-voiced sovereigns piped without let or hindrance, no blows were exchanged, chignons smashed, or apparel otherwise injured. The deliberations were conducted with far greater propriety than usually characterized like assemblages composed exclusively of males; and if the report of a female unbeliever who participated therein is to be taken, their adhesion was given to a policy based on temperance, truth, and all the cardinal virtues. As yet the sex, except in a very few notable instances, has not acquired a love for the weed nicotine, or any other manly attribute save that of voting; and in the practice of equestrian exercises she still clings to the time-honored side-saddle, and by no means endorses the two-stirrups style lately practised by a distinguished female lecturer high in the councils of Sorosis. One of the most prominent leaders, while discussing woman's privilege with a gentleman, was challenged for a large pecuniary consideration to light a cigar and promenade with him through the principal streets. The challenge was accepted, fragrant Havanas provided, the gentle exercise performed, money paid and devoted to charitable uses. Charity was served; and it has not yet transpired that because of this action the lady became any the less a Christian wife and mother.

Woman's political equality in Wyoming, after an existence of two years, has demonstrated the following facts: Her domestic qualities have in no sense deteriorated because of the performance of a share of public duty. She has lost none of those womanly, wifely qualities that for all time have rendered the sex illustrious. Her influence is, almost without exception, exerted to purify the political atmosphere and secure a vigorous enforcement of existing laws. She manifests no inordinate ambition for official power, is content to vote her convictions, and is unwilling that her husband should perform the functions of lieutenant-governor in his own household. With the exception of a very few office-holders, the women occupy from a half hour to one day in each year in the performance of public duty at the ballot-box; and this trifling deduction from time, otherwise perhaps occupied in shopping, gossip, or other gentle female exercises, has not as yet disrupted the social fabric, produced chaos, or blown society to atoms. The pestiferous free-love doctrines, with which the atmosphere of certain Eastern platforms and editorial fields has lately been contaminated, find no converts in this sprightly young Territory; and the belief of her people in the time-honored ordinance of marriage is as eternal as the everlasting mountains whereon their hearthstones rest. Previous to the adoption of woman suffrage many portions of the Territory were in a virtually lawless condition. Now, after two years of political equality, it has become a law-abiding community, and life, liberty, and property are as well protected throughout its various cities, villages, and settlements, as in any other civilized community. A few disappointed politicians, at a recent session of the Legislature, endeavored to repeal the law, and thereby disfranchise a considerable portion of their constituency; but, representing no public sentiment upon the question, their efforts ingloriously failed, and the statute continues secure in the support of all law-abiding people.

Every argument heretofore advanced in opposition to impartial suffrage has been practically controverted by the citizens of this vigorous infant Territory; but whether the movement would be equally successful in older and more densely populated communities, constitutes a problem for future experiment and solution.

Wyoming, from her rocky eyrie on the continent's crest, looking eastward and downward toward the Atlantic, and westward and downward toward the Pacific, invites all other communities to

come up higher; to cut loose from the effete notions of a bygone age, and, standing with her on the skirmish line of civilization, in the full sunlight of complete political equality, assist in leading, guiding, and impelling the nations toward a nobler civilization and a better life.—*The Galaxy*.

EDWARD M. LEE.

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