

WOMAN'S CONFERENCE.

This has been an eventful day in the history of the woman suffrage movement in Utah. Monday morning the three days' conference of the Woman's National Suffrage association commenced in the convention hall in the joint city and county building, being presided over by Susan B. Anthony, ably and actively assisted by Mrs. E. B. Wells of this city. The platforms which were occupied by the most prominent ladies of the Territory had been transformed into a bower of beauty by great bouquets of flowers. Among those who sat on the stand with Miss Anthony and the Rev. Anna Shaw were noticed the following: Mrs. E. B. Wells, president of the National Woman's Suffrage association in Utah, Mrs. Zina D. H. Young, Mrs. E. S. Taylor, Mrs. Bathsheba Smith, Mrs. Dr. Ferguson, Dr. Ellis R. Shipps, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Daniels, the last two named from Provo, Mrs. Rogers, Farmington; Mrs. Ferry, Park City; Mrs. McVicker, Mrs. S. M. Kimball, Salt Lake; Mrs. C. C. Bradford and Mrs. L. M. Stansbury, Colorado. Just how many counties of the Territory were represented at the conference could not be learned, as the roll of membership was not called. That, however, will be done this evening. The conference was very well attended, the hall being packed in every part.

The conference was called to order by Miss Anthony, president of the National Woman's Suffrage association, at 10:30. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Anna Shaw, after which Governor West stepped forward and said in substance that as he was advised this conference was a council under the auspices of the Woman's National association of the United States and one of the four that would be held in this country this year, he thought it eminently proper that this city should have been chosen for one of these conferences as it was where the fundamental law of the new State had been framed and which contained a proviso that women in the affairs of government should be man's equal. Miss Anthony had been in this city twenty-five years ago and was well known here at that time and as a matter of fact needs very little if anything in the way of introduction.

Miss Anthony spoke substantially as follows: This had been the second time that she had been introduced by a governor to such a gathering. The first time that this distinction had been conferred upon her was at Cheyenne, Wyoming, a few days ago when Governor Richards graciously performed that act. She wanted her hearers to ask each other the question why it was that it had been left for these two mountain states to lead the van in this respect. It was because they had recognized the fact that women were a part of the people, of the governed, of the government. She didn't believe, in fact she knew the governor of New York or Pennsylvania would not have done what Governor West did and what Governor Richards did before him. But justice would yet be done—the cause of woman was growing. Three states, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah—for Utah was practically in the Union, had done the right

thing by her sex. In another state—Kansas—municipal suffrage had been granted to women. In twenty-three states they enjoyed the privilege of voting on school matters, and in five more the question of unqualified franchise was pending, and the rest of the states were more or less agitated on that subject. For fifty years or more the speaker had worked for the emancipation of woman. The women of Utah had always represented their Territory well in the national councils, and they had always been well received. She knew they would ever be. (Applause.)

Governor West here introduced the Rev. Anna Shaw, saying that it must be a matter of great gratification to the venerable lady suffrage champions to see the progress of the cause so near to their hearts. He, himself, believed in the movement and gave it his most hearty endorsement, and was of the opinion that it would very soon obtain all over the United States. It had been a hard, serious, and almost impossible work. It had been on the up grade all the time but finally the summit of the hill had been reached and from this on the road would be comparatively smooth and easy.

Miss Shaw said she could not say that she had worked for equal suffrage forty-eight or fifty years (laughter), but she commenced to work and fight for the cause when she first began to breathe. From the first she clenched her little fist and rebelled against restriction. From the time she was a little tot of a girl until she grew up she was called a Tom boy (laughter). She used to think if it was so nice to be a Tom boy it would be much better to be a full fledged boy (laughter). Her father was distracted at her conduct. He thought there was something the matter with her head (laughter). He thought a girl should be born with a burning desire to wash dishes.

The speaker never did like to wash dishes but she did like to chop wood. (Laughter and applause.) She had apparently always been on the wrong side in everything even on the wrong side of the fence. (Laughter.) When she decided to become a preacher her father said he knew there was something the matter with her head. But now he was glad of it. So were friends who once threw so many obstacles in her way. She couldn't understand the make up of the man's head who thought that he alone held relationship to the Lord. Such an individual had always found fault with women. As the speaker remembered it woman was made while man was asleep and ever since he has felt that he sustained an affront in that the Creator did not wake him and consult him in the work. (Laughter.)

Here the speaker tapped vigorously one of the puffed sleeves of her dress and said something about such things rising higher than the head. But woman was not the author of that kind of costume. It was invented by a man dressmaker in Paris. (Laughter and applause.) Woman should not be legislated for as a weaker vessel but as a responsible individual organism. The question was often asked as to what woman would do with the ballot.

Individually she would do as she

pleased and she presumed every other woman would do the same thing and it was none of man's business. (Applause.) She could tell very near how the women of Utah would vote if she knew the material, industrial and financial interests of the Territory. It was woman's province and right to work and vote for the home, the family and for those things that would develop character as it was man's right and province to work and vote the interests of salt, wood, pig iron, lead and other things material. Men have not failed because they have not once the best they could, but because men are not everybody and woman nobody. It takes men and women to be somebody. Man without woman was nobody, as women without man might be nobody. (Laughter.)

While the homes of spinsters might be happy, that of Miss Anthony was not as complete as would be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony or Mrs. somebody else. (Laughter.) President Eliot, of Harvard, an anti-equal suffragist, had said that the tap root of the state was the family. But anyone knew that if the tap root of any tree was blighted, it would sooner or later die. Then there was a particular kind of tree in old Babylon the half of which was dead and scraggy. So would government be with half of its population politically dead.

She and Miss Anthony had studied Cain's Financial School on their way west until they could vividly depict the evils, all the evils of the gold basis as a lone monetary standard. In that little book was the picture of a one-eyed man, trying to look squarely at things with the sound organ alone, trying to stand on one leg and carve a turkey with one hand. (Laughter.) That was precisely what the government had been doing all these years—going it one-eyed, one-legged and altogether one-sided.

The men who were continually declaring that women would do this thing or that they wouldn't do the other should go and soak their heads till they were blessed with a little sense. The persons best to be trusted were those who were willing to trust others. (Applause.) A Kansas city minister told her a few days ago that giving the ballot to woman would have a bad effect in politics; that bad men—bushands—would dictate their votes; that they would be beaten if they did not submit to that sort of thing. "I replied" said Miss Shaw, "that I didn't know you were that kind of a man." The preacher was mad in a minute and said, "I am not. I wouldn't do that kind of thing." The speaker asked him who would and he answered that it was the "other fellow." (Laughter.) "That's just it exactly" Miss Shaw went on, "men always want to blame the other fellow and in this case we are the other fellow and we deny the imputation that we won't do the right thing." (Applause.)

Women, the speaker said had been fed on poetry and sentiment until she had got enough of it. She must now have something more substantial. We had heard a great deal about the all-important influence of woman in politics. That was all right. It was beautiful. But the fact was woman was too silent. (Laughter.)