

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 29, 1878.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ORGAN.

THE National Woman Suffrage Association has a monthly organ which is now called *The National Citizen and Ballot Box*. The first number of the paper, under its new name and management, comes to us with this request from its editor, Mrs. Matilda Joselyn Gage:

"If you like this paper, say so; if you do not like it, say so, and give your reasons why."

We have examined the paper and find that in some respects we like it, and in others we do not. Our reasons for both likes and dislikes we will endeavor to give.

We like the paper for its neat appearance, outspoken language, and general object, that is, the elevation and political emancipation of woman. We do not like it for its tone of hostility to the male sex; its peremptory manner, which is common to many "Woman's Rights" advocates; and for its ground and arguments in relation to State rights and the suffrage, considering its position incorrect and its reasonings fallacious. Neither do we like a small monthly paper to announce to larger journals more frequently issued, that it "will exchange with papers publishing its prospectus and giving it occasional mention;" as that is requiring something in return for nothing, and is in the spirit of the claims which are made by so many prominent female asserters of the "equality of the sexes," who demand, as a right, those courtesies which polite men are always pleased to accord to ladies, as their privilege, and who shrink from masculine responsibilities while they require, as their due, more than masculine privileges.

One of the aims of the paper is stated to be "to make these women discontented who are now content." We fear that this has been one of the most complete successes that those manly women who have agitated the country for some time past have been able to accomplish. We do not like this either. We cannot see the good effected when unsexed female orators and "reformers" succeed in planting jealousy and suspicion in the heart of trusting women, as many of them have done by their wholesale denunciation of masculine perfidy, or by throwing the apple of discord into the family circle, and turning the pliant, happy wife into a discontented, distrustful and disputing shrew.

The position taken by the woman suffrage organ that States should possess power to "regulate suffrage but not prohibit it," we regard as unsound. Also that the elective franchise is a right. Under our form of government the franchise is a privilege, and it is conferred by the respective States, according to local provisions, upon the citizens of the United States who may reside within the jurisdiction of those States. That paper says, "The ballot is the very foundation of citizenship." This is a mistake, and the reverse is the true position; for, while there are many citizens who cannot vote, there are no voters who are not citizens. An attempt is made in the same article from which we have quoted above, to show that United States law has secured the ballot to every enfranchised male slave, to all southern men to whom amnesty was granted, and to every naturalized foreigner. Neither the Constitution nor the law of the United States does any such thing. They give the ballot to no man. They secure the rights of citizenship, but do not confer the power to vote, that belongs of right to the States because it was not incorporated in the Constitution nor conferred upon the Congress, and therefore inheres in the States according to the express terms of the Constitution itself. Chief Justice Waite truly declared that "the United States has no voters."

"We sympathize with the movement to extend the suffrage to women, because we believe that every valid argument used in favor of the ballot for male citizens can be used

with equal reason in favor of female citizens, and that the discrimination in hostility to one sex is unjust and unreasonable. We also approve of the *National Citizen's* defence of the women of Utah, from which we quote, as follows:

"From him that hath not, shall be taken away even that which he hath."

"The Utah question at every session of Congress illustrates the above Scripture. Not a session for the last half dozen but a bill has been introduced to disfranchise the women of Utah. Who supposes this attempt would dare be made if the women of the United States possessed the ballot? Nobody! Who supposes such a suggestion would ever have been made in regard to Wyoming, if the women of the United States possessed the ballot? Not a single politician has such an idea in his head. He knows that he strikes at the women of the Territories because the women of the States are politically powerless. If the women of the States possessed the ballot they could not only protect themselves, but protect other women also."

But while we support the main principle advocated by that paper, we do not endorse all its methods, nor admire its style of enforcing them. And we think the ladies engaged in the agitation of the important question of woman suffrage, will make greater and surer progress by fair argument, and a just recognition of the good qualities of the opposite sex, than by making violent demands, or pretending to think that there is no virtue except in women.

VIEWS ON THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

IN the absence of any definite news in regard to the little misunderstanding between England and Russia, and while waiting for tidings of war or arrangements for peace, the views of prominent men who have better means than most people of knowing the movements that are taking place, will be of considerable interest.

A correspondent of the *New York Herald*, now in Russia, has obtained, through "a friend," the opinions of several ambassadors and statesmen at St. Petersburg, which he communicates to his paper. We will give the substance of their expressions, condensed from the *Herald* into a few words.

Baron Jomini, of the Russian Chancellerie, believes that there are hopes for a congress, and that it ought to meet after the sacrifices made by Russia, which though a conqueror is now acting as the conquered.

Lord Loftus, English ambassador, says England does not want the treaty of San Stefano; that England will need no alliances; he believes the congress will meet, but that England will maintain her position and her interests and remain the "preponderating nation."

General Von Schweinitz, German minister, thinks the result will be as determined by the German Chancellor; is convinced the congress will not meet; but in any case Germany will be neutral, and that if there is war it will be between England and Russia alone.

Gen. Langman, Austrian minister, thinks the congress will meet; that Austria will come into accord with Russia, though not actively; that Germany, Italy, and France intend to remain quiet, but that if the bullets should reach further than to the Russians and English, France would be the counterweight to Germany; Austria will be ready for any emergency.

Baron Hamburger, of the Russian Chancellerie, does not want a congress since the telegraph renders such a gathering unnecessary; Russia he considers ready to fight, which she will do if necessary; he is irritated at the dilly-dallying.

Prince Ghika of Roumania, sees war in the near future; thinks nothing will be left of the treaty of San Stefano; that Bulgaria cares not whether it is under the Turkish or Russian yoke; that it is "simply revolting" to see Russia, "who knows nothing but arbitrary government and police espionage, set herself up as a civilizing nation, and wish to put Roumania, which enjoys nearly as much liberty as the

people of England, under her arbitrary laws;" that England will reduce Russia to a shadow; that Austria cannot remain neutral, and will be compelled to join Roumania and England.

Chevalier Nigra, Italian Minister, believes the Congress will meet; that England has ulterior intentions, that there will be war within two months; that the result will be as with a fight between a whale and an elephant, the whale—England, will increase her power on water, the elephant—Russia, extend its possessions on land; Italy will preserve neutrality, and England will occupy Egypt.

Gen. Leflo, French Minister, thinks the English Government and the Russian people desire war, while the Russian Government and English people desire peace; that the result will be a congress and a settlement; but that if a row should succeed, England and Russia would go to war alone, and the rest of the Powers would go to the Paris Exposition; France would remain neutral.

Here is a variety of news, but all uttered by sagacious men who are within the circle of diplomacy, and understand better than outsiders what the probabilities are. Yet they seem to be in the same condition as the learned theologians who are discussing the questions of human depravity and eternal punishment; they are all able to express an opinion but they don't know anything at all about it. In terseness of expression and definiteness of theory, however, the ministers of politics are far ahead of the ministers of theology. The readers and hearers in both cases, after all the differing remarks, are thrown upon their own resources, and left entirely free to take their choice.

MASCULINE CHASTITY.

ONE of the most remarkable things in human nature is this willingness of women to sacrifice a girl's life for the chance of saving the morals of a scapegrace man. If a pious mother can only marry her son to some "good religious girl," the chance of his reformation is greatly increased. The girl is neither here nor there, when one considers the necessity of saving the dear Beelzebub.

The above remarks are by Edward Eggleston, in *Sunday Afternoon*. They touch on a very important point. There is something very revolting in the complacency and even approbation with which society regards the union of a pure, virtuous and honorable maiden with a tainted, *blase* rake, who has dipped into the corrupt pool of fast life until his soul is steeped in its deadly influence, and his body is poisoned with the virus of licentiousness.

According to the one-sided customs of modern Christian social life, the slightest misstep of a thoughtless girl makes her an object of scorn and reproach. But a young "blood" may "sow his wild oats" with comparative impunity. And after becoming familiar with the lowest forms of vice, and throwing chastity to the winds or burning it up in the fire of passion, an alliance with some spotless daughter of an unsullied family, is considered the correct thing, to settle him in society and keep him from farther roving.

Our mothers should teach their daughters to detest and avoid the libertine and the *roue*. He should have no passport into virtuous society. A man who is known to be stained with the sin of seduction, or smirched with the vices which are winked at in the world as indiscretions, is not a fit associate for the daughters of Zion, and the thought of marriage with such a being, should be regarded by all chaste women with horror.

Much of the blame which attaches to the unfit unions that take place, belong to the matrons who permit polluted but polite, vicious but handsome, scoundrels to enter freely into the sacred circle of virtuous homes, and who meet them as equals, and smile upon them as worthy, in the ball room and in select social gatherings.

Not until lapses from purity are considered as disreputable and defiling in man as in woman, and justice is equally dealt out to both sexes, will society be purged from the evils which permeate it, and sexual chastity be seated upon the throne and wear the regal crown to which it is entitled.

INDIAN TROUBLES.

REPORTS are in circulation, eastward, of the disaffection of the Bannack Indians. If there is any trouble with that tribe of red skins it is caused, as usual, by wrong treatment on the part of the whites. An investigation is now pending at Washington over the conduct of the agent among them, who is accused of appropriating to his own use, the goods supplied for their annuities, and shipping large quantities to Wisconsin, where it is said he has an interest in a store.

The Bannacks at Fort Hall are not allowed to meet and mingle with the Bannacks at the Lemhi reservation. Tin Doy, the chief of the reds at the latter place, recently took his people away from the reservation, but was induced to return.

He told the commandant at Fort Ellis that his people had been cheated and robbed by the agents for years. When he asked the present agent for a little calico to make a dress for his wife, who was nearly naked, he was refused with harsh words. At one time his people had been "six days without food, and only managed to live by boiling old bones, cracking them and eating the marrow." They could not stay on the reservation and starve, so he told them to pack up, go into the mountains and hunt for a living.

The Indians have been pillaged and plundered and scattered and peeled, robbed of their hunting grounds, driven from their rightful possessions, cheated out of the pay for their lands, and shot down like dogs for resenting, in their own savage fashion, the injuries heaped upon their untutored heads. With proper treatment many of them could have been turned from their wild life and cruel ways to industry and civilization, and the troubles that perpetually arise from the Indian question may be chiefly laid at the door of their Christian conquerors and oppressors.

Father Beson had this to say, a short time since, in a lecture upon the red men, delivered at Brooklyn, N. Y.:

"I lived among them (Indians) for years. I found them a harmless race, and I could go among the fiercest of them to-day without a shadow of fear. They have been cheated, and robbed, and abused, and trodden on until they could no longer restrain themselves. And they have in consequence, in a number of instances, turned upon their oppressors. A corrupt Indian ring is responsible largely for this; and to still further their ends, they are now trying to get a bill through Congress transferring the care of the Indians from the civil to the military arm of government. It is a most unjust act, and we hope to defeat it."

At the meeting of the American Social Science Association in Cincinnati, on the 20th inst., General Pope read a paper on the Indian question, in which he claimed that the present agents were better than their predecessors, but they were men ignorant alike of the habits of the frontier whites and the Indians among whom they were sent. He said it appeared to be the only function of the army stationed near the Indian agencies to force the Indians to submit to suffering quietly and without disturbance, whether the necessity resulted from the deficiency of appropriations, bad management of the agent or actual fraud. He attributed Indian wars to the encroachment of whites and the maladministrations of the Indian agents, and considered the army the victim in these wars. His plan for the settlement of the difficulty is as follows:

First—That the Indian tribes now on the reservations along the frontier and such as it may be necessary hereafter so to place, be transferred to points far in the rear of advancing emigration and placed on reservations in populous districts where no hostility to the Indians is felt and he is secure against want and protected from doing or suffering violence.

Second—That thus surrounded by good influences, and in a condition the most favorable to success, an honest and earnest effort be made to civilize him by teaching him the pursuits and restraints of civilized life, so that if capable of becoming a part of our population he may

be absorbed among us and disappear as a distinct race in this country.

The great mistake and sin of the policy pursued with the remnants of the aborigines consist in treating them, not as human beings with human rights, but as a species of animal to be got rid of as safely and expeditiously as possible. They are a fallen race, degraded, savage, cruel and barbarous in many respects; but they are beings with souls, a part of the diversified family of man; and a Christian nation has duties to perform in relation to them, and they do not involve the destruction but the redemption of the native inhabitants of this great country, in which there is room enough for all. The wrongs of the red men are a stain upon the nation, and the injustice and inhumanity of the treatment they have received from their conquerors, if continued, will bring down upon the "superior race" the vengeance and displeasure of Eternal Justice.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *Monarch*, *Alexander* and *Temeraire*, English monitors, are to be fitted with the electric light, by which the sea around can be illuminated for an immense distance and the approach of torpedoes be thus discovered.

Experiments have been successfully made in Germany for working the common nettle in the same manner as hemp. The fibers are as fine as silk, and very tough and durable. Instead of rooting up this weed, the nettle is now being cultivated in considerable quantities.

"Without holiness no man shall see the Lord," so says the scripture. But what is holiness? No crisper and better answer to this question can be given than that of a little girl in a Sunday school: "Please, sir, it's to be clean inside."

The municipal council of the city of Paris has decided to adopt the new electric light for illuminating the Avenue de l'Opera, Rue de la Paix, and Place de la Concorde. This will turn night into day in the central portion of the gay French capital.

The English cavalry preparing for active service are being armed with the Martini-Henry carbine. Russia was defeated in the early part of its last campaign, in a great degree, because of the superiority of the Turkish rifle. In this case to be forewarned is not exactly to be forearmed.

John Carey, a deck hand on a New York ferry boat, has saved 12 human beings from drowning. The government, in a fit of liberality, has rewarded him with a gold medal. But John Carey still works on the ferry boat deck for a precarious living. If he had kept many persons in war as he has saved in peace, he would be pampered and pensioned by an applauding nation. Curious world, isn't it?

Henry Bergh, who has rendered himself famous by his care for animals, it is stated owns one of the filthiest tenement houses in New York, where people are packed in almost as thick as herrings in a box. Bergh is nearly crazy over cruelty to animals, but doesn't reflect on the cruelty to humans involved in the ill ventilated, over crowded fever den he owns in Mulberry Street. Another case of the mote and the beam.

The *Omaha Bee* comes out in a new dress, but doesn't say anything about it. This is different from the usual "modesty" of the press. Papers are generally as vain of new clothes as giddy girls. The *Bee* is a live, newswy, good looking journal, and, with its new heading with vignette of Omaha and its fresh type, it is vastly improved. We wish the *Bee* continued success, not only in gathering the honey of general news, but that financial sweetness which is necessary to the success of all enterprises.

Brother A. Croll, of Springville, continues to write able articles for the *Confectioner's Journal*. We would be pleased to reproduce them if we had space to spare, also his lecture on the dietetic habits of the laboring class, delivered before the M. I. A. of Springville, which we duly received. He expects to publish a book on bread making, shortly, and also to introduce a new baker's oven, both of which will no doubt prove of great benefit to the bakers and confectioners of this Territory.