

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JULY 31, 1878.

PEOPLES' TICKET.

GENERAL ELECTION.

August 5th, 1878.

TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.

Commissioners to Locate University Lands.

JOHN VAN COTT,
JOHN ROWBERRY,
L. S. HILLS.

Treasurer.

JAMES JACK.

Auditor.

WILLIAM CLAYTON.

Representatives to Legislature.

ORSON PRATT, SEN.,
A. P. ROCKWOOD,
JOHN TAYLOR,
JAMES SHARP,
ALBERT CARRINGTON,
ARCHIBALD GARDNER.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Probate Judge.

ELIAS SMITH.

Selectman.

S. R. BENNION.

Sheriff.

THEODORE MCKEAN.

Assessor.

R. T. BURTON.

Collector.

GEORGE CRISMON.

Treasurer.

JAS. W. CUMMINGS.

County Surveyor.

CHARLES W. HARDY.

Prosecuting Attorney.

Z. SNOW.

Coroner.

GEORGE J. TAYLOR.

WOMAN IN POLITICS.

By reference to our local columns it will be seen that at three of the primary meetings last evening, ladies were chosen either as delegates or alternates to the County Convention to be held on Saturday the 27th inst., at the County Court House in this city.

This is a new departure in our local politics, and will most likely cause some discussion. For, while the right of woman to a voice in political matters is acknowledged by a great many thinking and progressive persons of both sexes, there are others who vehemently oppose the elevation of woman, or as some of them would put it, the degrading of woman, to the level of politics. Then again there are men who, while granting to women the right to vote, are unwilling to allow them to hold office or to have any audible voice in the selection of men to official positions. These varied views will cause debate, and we hope that those who engage in it will arrive at consistent and just conclusions.

The signs of the times plainly betoken the general extension of the elective franchise to the weaker sex. The arguments used against it are exceedingly weak. They are sure to fall to the ground in time. "Women must not vote because they are not qualified to bear arms." Nonsense. Are all the men who vote suitable for soldiers? Is military duty the highest vocation of the citizen? Are there not many positions, both peaceful and warlike, for which some men are unfit, and does this render them ineligible to the franchise, or incapable of its proper exercise? If not, why should women be debarred from the right

to vote, on such flimsy pretences? Under the laws of Congress a woman born in the United States is a citizen just as much as a man, and by the same laws an alien woman becomes a citizen by marriage to a citizen. If woman is entitled to the name and position of a citizen, should she not also be invested with the rights and privileges of a citizen, so far as she is capable of properly exercising them? There are offices under the government to which she is not eligible nor suitable. Shall it be said that because of this she must not vote nor hold any official position at all? If so, then a naturalized male citizen, who is ineligible to the Presidency, should not be elected to any other office nor be allowed to vote for those who may be elected. "It's a poor rule that will not work both ways." Are there not men who are totally unfit to be judges, but who are yet just the right kind for constables? And are there not women who would be entirely out of place as sheriffs, jailors, or judicial officers, who would fill to advantage the positions of post-mistress, enrolling clerk, superintendent of schools and other offices elective and appointive?

As to the degrading of women by giving her a place in politics, we think little ought to be said by the anti-women's men. It is a tacit confession that their sex has polluted politics, and suggests the propriety of giving woman a chance to aid in the work of purification which appears to be so necessary.

The old idea that because woman's special sphere is home she must remain there without an idea beyond rocking the cradle, knitting stockings, washing clothes, cooking food and cleaning dishes, or directing those necessary labors, is too antiquated for this progressive age. If woman is to be truly man's helpmeet, she must become acquainted with all that concerns him in public as well as private life, that she may be strength and assistance to him as part of the nation as well as the head of the household. "Woman was not formed to rule." True. Neither was she made for a mere plaything or servant, but was designed to be man's companion, his partner, the sharer of his joys and sorrows, his trials and triumphs. And she has just as much right to a voice in the affairs of the Government which concern her as a citizen as the man has, and it is rank injustice for one sex to exercise the power of might to the withholding of right from the grasp of the other sex because it is weaker.

Utah has given women the elective franchise. Is this a reality or is it a subterfuge? Do the men want the women to vote just as they tell them, or to exercise the suffrage intelligently and wisely? We take it that the extension to women of the power to vote was meant for their elevation, and to make them one with their husbands and brothers in politics as well as in religion. So that the man should not be "without the woman" nor the woman "without the man." Do we want to exclude the Lord from our politics? If not, the woman must go with the man in politics as well as in religion, or one part of our scriptural faith will be a nullity. If a woman may vote, may she not say something about the persons to be voted for? Every argument which will exclude her from the primaries and the conventions can with equal propriety be used to deprive her of the elective franchise. Let us be consistent. Either give woman her proper place in politics or shut her out altogether. Either let her say whom she wants in office, or do not ask her to go to the polls. If you stamp the seal of silence upon her lips, do not put the ballot in her hands.

The idea that if women are allowed to take part in our conventions, the door will be at once opened for her occupation of offices in which she would appear ridiculous, is not founded in good reason. It no more follows that on that account women will be made governors, judges and delegates to Congress, than that men will be relegated to the task of nursing babies and using the mop-stick and the scrubbing brush.

We believe in the right of woman to occupy every position for which she is adapted by nature and qualified by education and experience, and no other. And we think that the good sense of men, and the natural dignity, grace and keen perception of woman, will not be lowered in the least by the presence and assistance of ladies in a nomi-

noting convention for the selection of candidates who are to be voted for by both sexes. We welcome the new departure, and congratulate the ladies on this recognition of their rights and privileges as citizens of the United States and of Utah Territory. And we hope and believe that while they will not aspire to positions for which they are untrained, they will enter with renewed interest upon the study of questions that concern society at large as well as the family circle at home, and that thus, in all things social and national, as well as domestic and religious, they will be truly and fully the helpmeet of man.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

[From the Daily of July 29.]

On Monday next there will be a total eclipse of the sun, the first visible in this country since that of 1869. The moon's shadow will first touch the earth in Siberia and cross Behring's Straits. The line of totality will be about 116 miles wide, and will move from the northwest part of Montana, then southeast to the Gulf of Mexico, and passing over Cuba and San Domingo take its departure from our globe. The best points of observation will be in Wyoming, Colorado and Texas. The greatest duration of totality will be three minutes twelve seconds. At Denver, Colorado, it will begin at 2.20 p. m., and end at 4.31 p. m.

Congress having appropriated \$8,000 towards the expenses of a full observation, it is certain that this eclipse will receive thorough scientific attention. Parties have been organized under the direction of Admiral John Rodgers, Superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory. The best instruments in present use will be brought into requisition including the polariscope, the spectroscopic and the photoheliograph.

Following is the list of officers and others detailed to different points and duties connected with the observation:

Prof. S. Newcomb, Commander W. T. Sampson, Lieutenant C. G. Bowman and John Meier, will locate at Creston, Wyoming. This party will photograph with one of the photo-heliographs used in photographing the transit of Venus in December, 1874. They will also observe contacts and look for intra-Mercurial planets. The following party will be stationed at Pueblo, Colorado: Professor A. Hall, Professor J. A. Rogers, Professor A. W. Wright, H. F. Gardner, and A. B. Wheeler. They will take photographs of the eclipse, corona and all around it that can be gotten on a plate; make polariscope observations of the light of the corona; observe time of contacts and make a search for intra-Mercurial planets. The next party locates at Creston, Wyoming, and is made up as follows: Professor William Harkness, Lieutenant E. W. Sturdy, Assistant Astronomer A. M. Skinner, L. E. Walker, A. G. Clark and Professor O. H. Robinson. This party has the same instructions as Professor Hall's, except that instead of polariscope observations they will take spectroscopic and thermo-electric observations. At Pueblo, Colorado, there will also be stationed Prof. J. R. Eastman, Professor Lewis Boso, Assistant Astronomer H. M. Paul and Mr. H. S. Pritchett. This party will take polariscope observations, observe contacts, search for planets and make drawings of the corona. The following party will be at Central City, Colorado: Professor E. S. Holden, Lieutenant T. W. Very and Dr. C. S. Hastings. They will go into the mountains southwest of Denver, search for planets, and investigate structure of corona. Trouvelot, of Cambridge, Mass., a most skillful artist, accompanied by his son, will go to Rawlins, Wyoming, to make a drawing of the corona. G. W. Hill of the Nautical Almanac office, will be stationed on one of the mountains in Colorado to make drawings of the corona. Professor Ormond Stone of Cincinnati, and Winslow Upton of Cambridge, will observe the eclipse from the lofty peaks of Colorado. General Myers and Professor Able, of the Signal Office, and Professor Langley, of Pittsburg, will go to Pike's Peak. They will be obliged to take their instruments

apart and carry them by hand to an elevation exceeding 14,000 feet. D. P. Todd will go to Texas and make arrangements for observing duration of totality near the limits of total eclipse."

The observation of the corona, that is, the luminous ring which surrounds the dark body of the moon while eclipsing the greater body, has to be taken at the time of totality, and hence must be made very rapidly, the polariscope and spectroscopic being brought into requisition. The watch for intra-Mercurial planets is prompted by the calculations of the French astronomer Le Verrier, who discovered certain perturbations of the planet Mercury, which led him to declare that a planet existed between Mercury and the sun. He named it Vulcan, and predicted its re-appearance on a certain date, but the namesake of Jove's forger of thunderbolts did not show itself at the time appointed. However, the recent observation of the transit of Mercury proved that the generally accepted tables of that lively little planet were incorrect, and it is hoped that the careful photographs which will be taken during the eclipse will demonstrate the existence of Le Verrier's Vulcan.

In addition to these interesting points the physical constitution of the sun will be considered, and it is expected that greater accuracy will be reached in the solar and lunar tables, some little difference existing between the English and American.

Several English and French astronomers will observe the eclipse from points in the United States, and the celebrated Edison will make experiments with his new instrument the tasimeter, being now in Colorado for that purpose. The tasimeter is a heat measurer. It is so delicate that it has been found, in connection with the galvanometer, invented by Sir William Thompson, to record the pressure of one half millionth part of an inch. By the aid of the spectroscopic rays from the corona during the eclipse will be concentrated into a small opening in the tasimeter and, falling upon a piece of platina, which is peculiarly sensitive, the heat will cause expansion, making a corresponding pressure upon a carbon button, which will allow the passage of an electric current in a degree commensurate with the pressure, and the needle of the galvanometer will mark the amount of heat. To secure evenness of temperature during the process, the tasimeter is to be inclosed in a tin receptacle, which is to be placed in another, and boiling water kept between the two. It will thus be ascertained what heat, if any, comes from the edge of the sun's disc in comparison with that which comes from the centre of that body. Edison's instrument is so delicate that the heat from his little finger held four inches away has moved the needle of the galvanometer six degrees.

Altogether the observation of the eclipse on Monday next will, in all probability, be the most interesting and astronomically profitable of any that has been made since man on this globe began to take scientific notice of the heavenly bodies. The transit of Mercury was observed by a great many persons who lay no claim to the title of astronomers, showing that a taste for useful knowledge is increasing, and there is no doubt that while the professional sun-gazers are at work with their instruments, a great many amateur observers, of both sexes, will be taking learned notes of a phenomenon which was once regarded by all but a few enlightened students, as an occult mystery and a prestige of dreadful and unescapable calamities.

"THE DOWN TRODDEN WOMEN OF UTAH."

In another column will be found a communication from a lady of this city, in reference to the subject of the right of women to hold office. The question has been brought into prominence through the nomination of Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells to the office of County Treasurer, at the convention held on Saturday last. The nomination was withdrawn on the ground that under the Statutes of Utah women, though endowed with the elective franchise, are not eligible to hold office.

It is true that women have been admitted to practice at the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. And this is a great step towards the full recognition of woman's place in politics. But the point taken does not apply to the case question. Practising before the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and holding office under the laws of Utah Territory, are two very different positions. The qualifications of voters and of holding office are prescribed by the Legislative Assembly under powers granted by section five of the Organic Act. Congress provided who should vote at the first election in this Territory, as may be seen in the same section, and only free white male inhabitants of the Territory over twenty-one years of age were permitted to cast a ballot. It was evidently the intention of Congress that no colored person or female should vote at that election. As soon as our Legislative Assembly was organized, and commenced to make laws for the Territory, the qualifications necessary to enable a person to hold office were prescribed, and one of them was that he must be a free, white male citizen of the United States. Thus the words of the charter were copied into the statute. When the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, abolishing the color disability of citizens, the word "white" was expunged from our law. In 1872 the Act conferring upon women the elective franchise was passed, but there is nothing in it making it lawful for women to hold office in the Territory. So much of the former statute as conflicted with the new law was repealed. But this did not affect the word "male," so far as it applied to holding office. The statute reads, "Neither shall any person be entitled to hold any office of trust or profit in the Territory, or vote at any election, unless he is a male citizen of the United States over twenty-one years of age," &c. The act of '72 repeals that part of this provision requiring a voter to be a "male citizen," but does not affect its application to the qualification to hold office.

It is evident by the retention of the word "male," when the word "white" was expunged from the statute, that our legislators intended to exclude women from holding offices of profit and trust in the Territory. But times have changed. With the exercise of the franchise, women are becoming better acquainted with political affairs, and they are naturally desirous of obtaining and exercising all their rights and privileges under the law. The letter of our correspondent shows that she takes an interest in and studies those questions which relate to the advancement of her sex. There are many women whose minds are turned in this direction, and we consider it a favorable sign for the country and for the race. Great mothers produce great men. If women make themselves familiar with national questions and obtain clear perceptions of the affairs of state, they can impress the minds of their children properly, and thus knowledge will increase in the earth, and the influence of pure-minded, honorable and intelligent mothers will affect favorably their offspring, and tend to make the politics of the future something better than a murky pool of corruption.

We should have been pleased if the lady nominated for County Treasurer could have legally held that office. It is one which an intelligent, trustworthy woman is competent to fill. There are offices for which no woman is adapted. The good sense of the people would prevent the election of women to places of that character, if the law permitted them to perform the duties thereof. There is no danger, therefore, in admitting women to hold offices for which they are qualified, that they will obtain positions that they are not competent to occupy.

We would like to see the word "male" expunged from the statute to which we have referred. If "white" could be cast out, why cannot "male" be eliminated? If there is no law against the election of office of an ignorant male negro, there certainly should be no bar in the path of an intelligent white woman. Our legislators perceived this point at the last session, and