

was the first president; Elder David Johnston is president for the present term; Wm. Crompton and Charles Reid are his counselors.

A week since we received a visit from Sisters Snow and Davis from Salt Lake City. They gave some very good and practical instruction. Whilst staying here they organized a Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association, with Mrs. Mary Henry as president.

Our Sunday School is in good condition, with a very good attendance. In our last report we had 106 names on the book, 50 males and 56 females, with 15 teachers to instruct them. Our classes are: One Book of Mormon, one Doctrine and Covenants, two Catechism, Bible, Testament, First, Second and Third National Readers and Primer. The Articles of Faith are repeated and learned, with the names of the authorities of the Church. The Bishop and his counselors are sustaining all these institutions and encouraging the Saints generally.

THOMAS BAKER,
Clerk of Ward.

Opening Scenes in Congress. The Architects of their Country's History at It Again. How they Look after Storms and Political Vicissitudes of Recent Campaigns. Honorable Sayler, Cox, Garfield, Butler, Foster, Hill, Lamar, Cameron, etc., etc. Senator Blaine Secures the Initiative. Presidential Aspirants. The Chinese Embassy in the Diplomatic Gallery of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2d, 1878.

Everybody in Washington got up this morning with the recollection that it was the day for Congress to meet, and everybody's wife and daughter looked at the leaden sky, threatening protaxyd of hydrogen in some shape or other, with a regret that it would be perilous to wear her best hat. Still she wore it, trusting to luck and her umbrella. There are certain days on which feminine Washington literally inundates the Capitol. They are the first day of Congress, the last day, and the intermediate days on which great lions are killed to roar. I have seen it crowded for Andrew Johnston, Sumner, Morton, Conkling, Thurman, Voorhees, Hill, Blaine, Butler, and, sometimes, when grave charges or crises give very little men fictitious prominence, as when Patterson, of South Carolina, defended his vote for the admission of M. C. Butler. But, usually, when the ladies and the third estate are in the gallery, you may know that somebody will say something that will find its way into at least four thousand American journals, and maybe will be cabled, after reduction to three sentences, across the Atlantic. Pity that the cable tariff cannot be placed on all oratory, there would be fewer of what Hamlet calls "words, words, words."

By 11 o'clock, the galleries of the House were densely crowded, and the adjoining lobbies and stairways were filled with a disappointed throng who had come too late, or without sufficient influence to get a seat. I imagine they manage things better in the capital of the Utopian Republic. There the galleries of the capital are *Res publicæ*, and the lady from Oregon has equal rights with the lady from the district to a seat from which she may look down upon the great(?) men, but courtesy gives the preference to the lady from a distance, and a judicious distribution of tickets prevents the crowding out of those who have come from afar, with a patriotic desire to see the architects of history at work, by residents who can go to the capital any day, and select this day simply for its attraction of a crowd.

By half-past 11, nearly all the members were in the hall, and this is how they appeared to your correspondent who, like any other Christian, sees men and masses through the distorting lenses of his prejudices. Whitthorne of the naval committee, sat alone, thinking seriously, I imagine, of the not distant day when his *bate noir*, ex-secretary, Geo. M. Rebeson, will occupy a seat on the republican side of the House. Hon. Sam. Cox has shaved his chin, but he still resembles, in one respect, those old Norwegians whose ideal of happiness was to fight all day and drink all night. Milton Sayler, of Ohio, I thought, had a defeated air; he came in for a large share of hand shaking, congratulations(?) I suppose, and assurances that he should have a cabinet position, a foreign mission, or

a port collectorship after 1880, when Thurman shall be made President. Alex. Stephens wheeled himself into the arena just before prayers, but he was not received with his usual warmth by democratic members. His independent course since the adjournment has not endeared him to those who hold that political success can be obtained only through party discipline. The venerable Georgian has gained two pounds since his last appearance, and now weighs 87. He appeared to-day in a new chair, with a high back. Gen. Butler was not seen until after prayers. Garfield has not changed a hair. Waddell, of North Carolina, and Foster, of Ohio, wear their recent defeat with the grace of men who expect another chance, or that they will be remembered when their respective parties come into power. Many members had their desks decorated with bouquets, and the Speakers' stand was adorned with a pyramid of rare flowers.

When the large clock in the hall indicated, to the second, 12 o'clock m., the Speaker's gavel fell, and most of the members rising to their feet, the sonorous voice of the chaplain was heard in prayer. After this began the calling of the roll, and your correspondent hastened to the Senate end of the Capitol. This smaller and more widely mass of presidential aspirants had passed the preliminaries and were already at work. Senator Blaine, who looks fresher and in better training than at any time since the Cincinnati convention, had just taken the initiative by proposing a bill directed against the alleged recent election frauds and intimidation in the South. It was edifying to see Secretary Sherman, who was in the chamber, come around to Thurman's seat and shake hands with him in the friendliest manner, and "bloody" M. C. Butler, with a rose in his button hole, go over to Don Cameron and exchange greetings. What must those political antipodes think of one another! The two southern sons of thunder, Lamar and Hill, appear to be in fine health, and the former will probably break his long silence during this session, when Mr. Blaine's bill comes up for debate. Senator Davis, of Illinois, has not decreased in tonnage, and looks as guileless and cherubic as when he wore a silk gown and rested his enormous chin on the desk in the Supreme Court. Senator Davis, of West Virginia, actually begins to look somewhat clerical and statesmanlike. He was in Paris last Summer. Among the notables on the Senate floor were Secretary Evarts, and General Sherman. In the diplomatic gallery the attraction was the venerable and imposing presence of the Chinese ambassador, dressed in the flowing robes of his country and reminding one of pictures of Confucius.

C. A. S.

LINEN AS A HOME PRODUCTION.

There is one branch of home industry which promises good results if once established, and that is the cultivation of flax and the manufacture of linen. That flax is indigenous to the country is well known. It is met with from the bottom lands to the mountain peaks, and though in some respects the cultivated variety may differ from the native, the former could soon be naturalized and its cultivation become a full success. Indeed many years of experience have shown that the raising of flax is more easy than most would imagine, for when counsel for experiment was given many years ago, patches were cultivated in widely different localities, demonstrating that if such pursuit were systematized and machinery erected to manipulate the raw material it could be produced in abundance.

If in the commencement, toweling could be made in the form of crash only, it would be quite an important item. Then hand towels, tablecloths, grain sacks, tent and wagon covers would follow in progressive order; brown linens for ladies summer wear, heavier goods for gents pants and coats, also similar fabrics to Hollands and brown apron goods for children would be more easy than bleached, but the latter would inevitably come. First, rough shirting, then bleached as "Irish," then sheetings, than which in this climate for summer use nothing could be more pleasant or refreshing; following these would

come tickings, ducks, diapers, and the whole line of linen goods.

Many a woman now living in Utah can no doubt recollect when the spinning wheel was a regularly acknowledged aid to domestic comfort and convenience. Indeed the ancient name of spinster given to unmarried women in England originated in that now defunct practice of preparing previous to marriage the bed, body and table linen. To manufacture this was considered the indispensable duty of the expectant bride, and one who did not so provide was, in good families, considered ineligible for matrimonial honors. Who in our day considers this (one of the lost arts), a prerequisite for desirable alliance? Those sheets and pillow cases laid away in lavender, were the boasted insignia of industry, while the table linen, etc., gave a more easily exhibited recommend for frugal housewifery and prophesied of the good qualities of the presiding dame.

A bed tick of those days would almost stand on edge, as impervious to straw or feathers as a sheet of metal, and almost as enduring; for grandma often left as an heir-loom the ancient bed to the last young baby girl, when she passed away.

It is pretty well received among the Latter-day Saints that their sacred dead should be clad in robes of linen. How pleasant if from our own skill this final investiture could be created; instead of sustaining the looms and spindles of northern Ireland our own machinery could do our own work and thus glorify both the living and the dead.

Here is a wide reach of fabrics and goods for which there is an indefinite demand, to say nothing of many small items such as handkerchiefs, thread, lines, (garden and other), also rope, bed cords, &c., &c., to say nothing of the oil coming from the flax seed which we need in abundance for painting purposes, this in turn gives us oil cake which is a really fine feed for all kinds of stock, invaluable to the farmer and almost indispensable in fact.

The cottonizing of flax by which softness is secured, would bring this material into combination with either wool, silk or cotton and so multiply the variety of dress fabrics as to meet either purse or fancy and still further extend home industry. This mixing of linen and wool may have been forbidden in the Jewish economy, but it is probable that the liberty of the gospel would not interfere with a custom now almost universal.

Hemp also, and some grasses which are now used for various industrial purposes would give the larger rope, rough cloth such as gunnies, and help to supply our paper mills, but these are comparatively small in contrast with the great article of flax. It leads, and a great avenue for labor remains unopened, a great outlet for capital remains unclosed, the longer its growth and manufacture are deferred.

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