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EQUALITY OF THE SEXES.

We have been requested to explain the status of women in Utah, in reference to the right to vote and hold office and serve on juries. In response we will say that under the Constitution of this State the political rights of the sexes are equal. It is provided therein that,

"The rights of citizens of the State of Utah to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this State shall enjoy equally all civil, political and religious rights and privileges."

This is sufficiently explicit for all practical purposes. But there are qualifications required of both sexes alike, for voting and holding office which need to be explained, in order that the subject may be fully understood. For voting each citizen must be twenty-one years of age or upwards, have been a citizen ninety days, and have been a resident in the State one year, in the county four months, and in the precinct sixty days next preceding any election. There is no property qualification required, except that in elections for levying a special tax or creating an indebtedness, voters must be property taxpayers.

For eligibility to the different offices in the State in the several departments, legislative, executive and judicial, there are qualifications as to age and residence and fitness, but no sex distinction is mentioned. It is the same as to jury service, except that female citizens are exempt. They are not disqualified by law. They are not debarred from sitting on juries by any statute. They are not pronounced incompetent. But in the list of persons "exempt from liability to act" as jurors, "a female citizen" is classed in the same category with persons holding certain public offices, attorneys, editors, physicians, surgeons, school teachers and employes in different capacities whose services ought not to be interfered with.

Therefore, as the law appears, while a female citizen of proper age and residence, who is a taxpayer and of sound mind and discretion, and can read and write the English language is not disqualified to be a juror, yet the jury commissioners are required to select from the names of legal voters on the assessment rolls, a list of names from which the jurors for the year are to be drawn, "only those who are not exempt to serve," that of course would leave out women citizens, as well as such male citizens as are exempted from being required to serve, and who could object if summoned to serve.

As to the principle involved, we do not care to say anything in this connection. The right to all political privileges is given to both sexes alike. It is supposed that the good sense of the voters will determine as to what offices women are specially adapted for, and what they should not be chosen or required to fill. But both sexes are equal before the law, and their rights are secured by the Constitution of the State.

FLUCTUATIONS OF SALT LAKE.

"Salt Lake will never, while irrigation is practiced, reach the old water line which prevailed when the pioneers first saw Salt Lake valley."

That is from the Ogden Standard. It is put forth in opposition to the argument that the present low water line is no guide to the future depth of the lake, and that it may return to the high level of former years. It exhibits lack of understanding of the lake conditions in 1847. "When the pioneers first saw Salt Lake valley," the lake was so low that anyone could walk from the shore to Black Rock without wetting his feet. That was before there was any irrigation here.

The volume of the lake increased during many years of irrigation. The snow deposits, of course, have had a great deal to do with the amount of water running into the lake. The streams that feed it are regulated in quantity, by the depth of the snow stored in the heights, and the rains of springtime. But there have been fluctuations in the depth of the lake, which have not been fully accounted for by the plenitude or scarcity of snow and rain, and the consequent increase or shrinkage of the mountain streams.

However that may be viewed, and whatever changes are liable or not likely to occur in the volume of water in the lake, it is certain that the lowest level known to residents of Utah, was when the pioneers first saw this valley, and before irrigation was in use in these parts.

"The laws of nature," referred to by our Ogden contemporary, operate equally in every place. But there are conditions existing in the body of salt water that rises and recedes in a remarkable manner, that are recognized by close observers as unique and which are not thoroughly comprehended. They would be easily explained, no doubt, by natural laws if the data were all available. We do not take any stock in the prognostications of dangerous elevations or disastrous depressions of the lake. But the facts are as we have related, and it is just as well that they should be known when the subject is agitated one way or another.

AS TO "FREAKS."

The Deseret News of Thursday evening contained a very pleasant notice of the visit to this city of ex-Secretary George A. Black, and mentioned some reminiscences of his career during his residence in Utah. The Tribune this morning states that this was done "sneeringly," and talks of a "freak demonstration" and "the law-defying element," and winds up by calling the "News" a "freak." That is of course the Tribune's pleasant and logical method of meeting a fact which it does not like, and a contemporary which it vainly tries to "muzzle or kill."

That paper on another than the editorial page, gives its own account of the very circumstances which appear to rasp the nerves of the editor. The different parts of the Tribune are frequently out of harmony, and make a curious and funny kind of combination. The "Wooden-gun rebellion" on July 4, 1871, was a humorous incident in Utah history, and the fiasco brought about by the then executive, was almost as ridiculous as the Tribune's present endeavor to revive the nonsense about "law-defying element," figuring with wooden guns and tin whistles, and the calling out of troops to quell that "treasonable" uprising on the Fourth of July!

As to the "freak" question," it would be a good idea for some friend of the Tribune editor to quote to him the lines in Burns about seeing ourselves as others see us, and then to hand him a mirror, that he may behold himself "as in a looking glass." One glance ought to be enough "on that head."

ABOUT AGUINALDO.

Strange to say, some of our contemporaries in this country seem unable to disguise their chagrin at the capture of Aguinaldo and the course he has taken. They even endeavor to make it appear that his address to his people is of no account, because it was not written by him and was signed under compulsion—an insinuation which is as mean as it is without foundatbion in fact.

The truth about Aguinaldo seems to be, that he, since his capture, has acted in a straightforward and open manner, making the best of the situation. He has endeavored to learn something about American institutions and methods, and seems pleased with both. That he did not take that course previous to the commencement of hostilities has cost him and his followers dearly—especially his followers. That was his great and deplorable mistake. But if he now sees the errors of his ways, generosity can afford to apply in his case the old adage, "better late than never."

The proclamation itself bears evidence that it is an expression of the true sentiment of the captive, even if the words and sentences are put together by another. He speaks very little of himself and of the supposed consequences to the Filipino cause of his capture. He speaks at length of the new light he has received, and makes the strong point that in his view American sovereignty will better serve the interests of the country than native rule.

If it is objected that the insurgent chief must have experienced a sudden change of heart, to speak like this, it is sufficient to reply that in all probability Aguinaldo has gradually arrived at this conviction, in his experiences with the Americans during the last year. He has seen their irresistible courage on the battle field, their generosity as conquerors, their wisdom and regard for the rights of others, in the arrangement of civil government and appointments to offices. The views expressed in his manifesto must be the result of a contemplation of these things for a long time, and there is no doubt of his sincerity when he expresses his conviction that the Filipino cause has no chance of success through insurrection.

Aguinaldo's complete self-surrender should be hailed with satisfaction by all friends of the inhabitants of the remote islands. It will be followed in due time by orderly conditions. From the first it has been the understanding that as soon as the insurgents were willing to lay down their arms, the American people would be prepared to listen to the suggestions, or even demands of the Filipinos. That time cannot now be far off, and the era of peace and prosperity will commence with the friendly negotiations and discussions of matters of mutual interest.

FAMINE IN SIBERIA.

From Siberia comes the report that famine and pestilence are ravaging several portions of that country. Even the tales of Indian horrors are said to be surpassed by actual conditions in Siberia, though news from that country generally is scarce.

It seems that last spring and summer western and central Siberia suffered from drouth, and the crops failed. Then came the transportation of troops to China. The railroad was monopolized. Stores of grain were seized for the troops; the able bodied men were drafted for the army, and the land was left very largely uncultivated. And now throughout the country, the people are eating weeds and clay, and are dying by starvation. Mothers, it is said, are actually selling, or even killing their children, so as not to see them suffering death of hunger and diseases.

War, pestilence, and famine often go together, and there is no use trying to disguise the fact that the world at present is passing through an experience with these three agencies of destruction, which in future histories will form a red letter page. Perhaps the present generation, as a rule, may not take much notice of the signs that portend a coming storm, but the thoughtful will heed them and govern themselves accordingly.

Russia has plenty of gold. For centuries it has hoarded its sacred treasure and added to it from year to year the gifts of the faithful. She could feed the hungry; she could build roads, furnish grain for seed, and cattle for meat, start the wheels of industry running, and make her people happy and prosperous. But her hoarded millions are kept for the purpose of providing means for defense, if all other resources should fail. The lives of her children must be sacrificed, rather than the gold that has been set apart for the service of the god of Mars. That, however, is not characteristic of Russia alone; it is the case wherever militarism predominates.

The general condition of the world should make every citizen of the United States appreciate the abundance, prosperity, liberty, health and other blessings here enjoyed. They will never be withdrawn as long as the people are true to the mission entrusted us, among the nations of the earth.

ENGLAND'S WAR LOAN.

The Springfield Republican, speaking of the new British war loan, says that at the close of the Napoleonic wars England's national debt amounted to $4,500,000,000. This was reduced during forty years by $284,000,000, but then the Crimean war was fought, and $165,000,000,000 had to be borrowed on that account. At the outbreak of the South African troubles the indebtedness was in the neighborhood of $3,170,000,000, the total reduction of the debt in 84 years being about $1,330,000,000. The present military operations have necessitated war loans to the amount of $669,750,000.

That is to say, the war with two insignificant republics in a remote corner of the earth has, in a couple of years, cost the mightiest empire in the world about half of what it has been able to save in almost a century. What a lesson is this against the national craving for glory on the battlefield! What a demonstration of the urgent need of some more rational means of settling international difficulties! Individuals sometimes squander fortunes in a few moments round a gambling table, and are then regarded as slaves of vice. But how about nations that ruin themselves, to "save" their "honor?"

Great Britain is a wealthy nation, and can afford to spend a billion dollars that way, but all the same, the burden will rest heavily on the tax-payer. The loan of $300,000,000 has been subscribed five times over, and the part of it that is allotted to American subscribers will also be taken up quickly, because there is unlimited confidence in the British resources. But the common people will be required to pay for this confidence, and sooner or later it will dawn upon them that war in this age is too expensive, even for wealthy nations.

The struggle which is costing Great Britain so vast sums of money, and so many lives, invites a comparison with the last contest between Greece and Turkey, in which the former country was completely subdued in a few weeks, throwing itself at the mercy of Europe for the continuation of its national independence. And Europe interfered. If Greece was deemed worthy of further existence as a sovereign state, after the exhibition of national weakness, the Orange Free State at least should be worthy of existence, after such a tremendous effort. A little nation that can exhibit such vitality, cannot be morally corrupt, nor far behind in civilization. The moral stamina and physical endurance of those African peasants, should render them worthy of the position of standard bearers of civilization, in the part of the dark continent in which their lot has been cast.

MATRIMONIAL LOTTERY.

There is a great deal of talk, in the press of the country, at the present time, of the necessity of legislation for the regulation of divorces. The subject is one of much importance. The divorce business is rapidly becoming a disgrace to the country and a blotch upon our advanced civilization.

But among the first measures necessary for eradicating the evil complained of, is one by which correct knowledge may be universally diffused as to the real nature and signification of marriage. If the union of man and woman is no more than a civil contract, it is difficult to understand why its annulment should be the subject of so much anxiety and discussion.

That there is much need of a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities involved in marriage appears from the manner in which the contracts too often are made. Only the other day, an enterprising New Yorker called at a newspaper office and said that he wanted to raffle himself off at $5 a chance. He wanted to marry and at the same time secure enough money to start the practice of medicine. The contest would be open to all white women not over thirty, and physically sound, and he firmly believed that he could sell between 2,000 and 3,000 tickets.

This way of selling oneself is, we presume, strictly original. But as rich women have set a precedent in buying husbands and titles, poor women cannot be blamed, if they take a chance for a husband and from $10,000 to $15,000. We are horrified at the oriental habit of paying the father a few hundred dollars for a girl that is desired for wife. We call that "slavery," and traffic in human beings. But we view with perfect stoicism the growing habit in western countries of speculating in the matrimonial market, more shamefully than was ever done by oriental dealers in youth and beauty.

Civilization has drifted away from the first principles, in this important matter. Our conceptions of marriage are becoming more and more pagan. Heathenism is laying hold upon the very foundations upon which our social institutions rest. That is the true cause of the growing immorality, one form of which appears in hastily contracted personal unions, and the breaking of vows that should be kept sacred. Were marriages more frequently contracted in the fear of the Lord, there would be fewer divorces, less scandals.

Many a public man thinks he sounds a bugle note when he is simply tooting his own horn.

They are breaking many record sales in Wall street these days. Some fine day there will come a break that will be a record, and a very disastrous one indeed.

Notwithstanding his name Senor Capote found it an impossible task to hoodwink Secy. Root.

So soon as the warring railroads reach the Pacific coast there will be peace, but not before, most likely.

There is a water famine at Colon. This seems to be a case of "water, water everywhere and never a drop to drink."

There should be no more crime or killings in Texas. The state is now producing enough oil to spread over the troubled waters of the whole earth.

The Ohio is behaving like a wayward son sowing his wild oats, while the Mississippi is calm and sedate, pursuing the even tenor of its way as becomes a Father of Waters.

The Salisbury ministry have determined to make the tax on exported coal a party question. The Liberals may be relied upon to heap burning coals upon the heads of the ministry if they do.

The physician who attended the late Christopher Magee of Pittsburg has rendered a bill for $190,000 to his estate for "professional services." The same result could have been attained with a "bare bodkin" that would not have cost to exceed a dollar.

W. T. Stead of London is of opinion that the hope of the Boers lies in the prospect of ill feeling between either England and Russia, or England and the United States. No true friend of mankind can wish to see Boer wrongs righted at the price of war between these countries. It could at best be but a wiping out of one crime at the price of a greater one. But then Mr. Stead is so often sensational or foretelling evil and great disaster.

The Cuban delegation has seen the President, the handshakings and greetings being most condial, and has dined at the White House. The only real business transacted was some pretty sparring between Secretary Root and Senor Capote over the interpretation to be placed upon the Platt amendment. Lively work and keen interest in the preliminary sparring usually presage earnest and honest hard work in the principal event. One great nation and one nation in potentia will watch the outcome with most bated breath.

SUPREME COURT ON DIVORCES.

San Francisco Call.

According to the reports from Washington the Supreme Court in deciding the cases declared "that decrees of divorce granted anywhere except in the matrimonial domicile of the parties concerned, are not entitled to faith and credit in the courts of any jurisdiction other than that in which the dissolution of the marriage bond was obtained." By the phrase "matrimonial domicile" is meant a place of residence where the parties to an action in divorce have lived together as husband and wife and with the intention to make the same their home. A domicile acquired in a new jurisdiction by either husband or wife alone will not satisfy the conditions required to validate a divorce outside of that jurisdiction.

Sacramento Record-Union.

The Alameda "Argus" thinks that a recent decision by the Supreme Court concerning divorces and acquisition of jurisdiction in divorce cases, will have a tendency to hurry up the passage of a national divorce law, that the conflict between the laws of the several states on the subject of marriage and divorce may be brought to an end. The "Argus" concludes that as a national divorce law is a "great desideratum," the sooner we have it the better. All which sounds well, but is valueless. The "Argus" ought to know, it does know if it reflects for a moment, that a national divorce law is an impossibility without amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

St. Paul Globe.

If the decision of the Supreme Court shall be found to render it impossible for parties resorting to other states for the mere purpose of securing divorces, to have their marital bonds dissolved, the result will prove of the highest moral gain to society. Even the advocates of the most liberal divorce laws will agree that the morally fraudulent divorces which have made the two Dakotas notorious, should be brought to an end, and that the citizens of a given state who desire to set aside the marriage which united them, should be confined, if possible, to the courts of the states in which they actually reside, in order to secure their release.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The effect of the decisions is far-reaching in its consequences. Persons who have been relieved of marital bonds on one pretext or another in the Dakotas, but who have not been legal residents of the state in which the decree was granted, and have been married a second time are bigamists under the law as soon as they enter any other state in the Union. In the Dakotas they are divorced, but in any other state the original marriage compact is undissolved. The decision merits the approbation of all right-minded people. The granting of divorces on such flimsy pretexts as are trumped up in the courts of the Dakotas, when neither party is a legal resident of the state and when one party seldom has a chance to be heard, is a scandal to the nation and a reproach to our civilization.

Boston Transcript.

But the decision is not as sweeping in its application as on its face it probably appears to a layman. It requires legal interpretation to make plain its real meaning, and with that key we learn that the word "residence" means simply the appearance of both husband and wife at the divorce proceedings. It is not necessary that both should put in a personal appearance at these proceedings, but both must be represented, otherwise the decree is not entitled to full faith and credit in another state. This being so it is rather to be wondered at that so few rather than that so many troubles have followed these snap divorces and suggests that many are living in so-called marriage relations under sufferance rather than under legal sanction.

Chicago Chronicle.

In the cases decided the parties did not reside respectively in the states where the decrees were granted, as the laws required that they must in order to be entitled to apply to the courts of those states for divorce. Therefore, the courts had no jurisdiction and their decrees could not be recognized in other states. The decision may make things very uncomfortable for some people who think they are safely divorced, but it does not upset the divorce law of any state or question the power of any state legislature to deal with the subject as it pleases.

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