

# WOMAN'S EXPONENT.

The Ballot in the hands of the Women of Utah should be a Power to better the Home, the State and the Nation.

Vol. 40.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, MAY, 1912

No. 9.

## THE "EXPONENT."

On the first day of June, nineteen hundred twelve, the WOMAN'S EXPONENT will have reached its fortieth anniversary. Measured by human life and accomplishment, forty years is a long time. Forty years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. Forty years elapsed between the laying of the corner stone and the laying of the capstone of the Salt Lake Temple. So forty years represents a goodly age for a periodical, especially such forty as those last past. What a vast amount of history this little sheet has been able to accumulate and record! What changes in the world's condition! What discoveries of new lands, new elements! What linking of nations with steel and wire, the overthrow of kingdoms and principalities and the building up of new and broader government! What marvelous development in art, science, and literature, and the greatest possible educational advancement! Aye, this little eight-page paper has chronicled from year to year such interesting and worthy knowledge that the yellow lines of its bound volumes are more precious than fine gold.

Its pages have largely been devoted to the progress, advancement, and work of women; that knowledge in itself is a marvel to contemplate, for forty years ago woman did not hold in the world's activities a very enlarged place. In January, 1870, the legislature of the Territory of Utah passed an act enfranchising the women of this commonwealth. The act was duly signed by acting Governor Mann, the Federal appointee of President Ulysses S. Grant, and at a municipal election the following month the women cast their first ballot. Miss Seraph Young, a grand-niece of President Brigham Young, was the first woman in

the territory to cast a ballot at a general election.

The women of Utah had always taken an active part in the settlement and development of the community, and through their splendid organization, the Relief Society, had wielded a strong and forceful influence; so when the suffrage was given them the

voting, he suggested the thought to Miss L. Lula Greene, a young writer of promise, of starting a woman's paper. Miss Greene was a grand-niece of President Brigham Young, and she immediately wrote her uncle a letter for advice in the matter. He sent for Eliza R. Snow and other leading women, and put the matter before them. The result

of the conference was the starting of a paper and Miss Greene was summoned to become the first editor. President Young gave the work to her as a mission; and had it not been for this phase of the call, in all probability the inexperienced young woman would have hesitated long before assuming such an unusual undertaking. However, what her whole life has shown was shown in her youth—she was obedient to counsel; and she entered upon her novel duties with a firm resolve to do her best with the Lord's help. She brought to the work the freshness and fragrance of youthful enthusiasm subdued by a religious sentiment; and her work will stand unique among her people for the beginning of a paper that has wrought so much of good. The felicitous and expressive name EXPONENT was given by President Young, and the paper was to proclaim the views and sentiments of the women of the Latter-day Saints.

Miss Greene was married to Levi W. Richards in 1874, and her home duties demanding first attention, it became necessary to have an associate editor. For this position, the choice naturally fell upon Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells, who had been a valued contributor to the paper both of prose and poetry. Shortly after Mrs. Richards withdrew altogether from editorial work, and Mrs. Wells became editor, a position held by her to the present time, a period of over thirty-five years, all the time keeping it in the eight-page newspaper form. Perhaps

## Woman's Exponent.

Vol. I.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JUNE 1, 1872.

No. 1.

### NEWS AND VIEWS.

Women are now admitted to fifty American colleges.

Rev. De Witt Talmage is pronounced a success as a sensation preacher.

Theodore Tilton says the best brains in northern New York are wearing white hats. They might wear chapeaux of a more objectionable color.

Daniel W. Voorhees in one day destroyed the political record of a life-time, and that was when he became henchman to a judge with an ecclesiastical mission.

An Alabamian writes "United States" and refuses to write "United States"—a straw to show how Southern sentiment runs. What a state he must be in?

The season of scattering intellectual filth has set in over the country. It occurs quadrannially in the United States, commencing a few months before the Presidential election.

Dr. Newman failed to become a Bishop at the Methodist General Conference, and Dr. Newman mourns this second great defeat. He has remembrances of Salt Lake in connection with the previous one.

Great outcry is raised against the much marrying of the Latter-day Saints. The tendency of the age is to disregard marriage altogether, but there seems no indication of a desire to have the race die out.

The "Alabama" muddle like "confusion worse confounded" becomes worse mixed the more it is stirred. It stretches itself over the path of time, and "like a wounded snake drags its slow length along." The country has become heartily sick of it.

Some Eastern journals head their Utah news with "Deseret." With keen appreciation of the coming and inevitable, they accept the mellifluous name chosen for the region wrested by that industry which "the honey bee" represents, from the barren wilds of nature.

George Francis Train sends us a bundle of Train Liques. The compliment is appreciated, but the act is like sweetness wasted. We can vote, but not for "the next President of America." Utah has not become Deseret yet, nor can it participate in Presidential making.

The last week of May, 1872, will be memorable in American annals as the first time since the first ordinance of secession was passed in the South, that both houses of Congress had their full list of members. Statesmanship can retain a complete Federal legislature, but the article has grown somewhat scarce.

To pardon the worst class of criminals on condition that they emigrate to the United States, is growing in favor with European monarchies. Germany and Greece so far have done the largest business in this line, the latest batch of villains thus disposed of being the Marathon murderers from Greece. Orders have been forwarded by President Grant to New Orleans, to which port it is understood they have been sent, to prevent their landing. They should be captured, ironed, returned to Athens with Uncle Samuel's compliments, and a bill for direct and "consequential" damages presented.

News comes from France that trailing dresses for street wear are going out of fashion. So many absurd and ridiculous fashions come from Paris that the wonder is thinking American women do not, with honest republican spirit, reject them entirely. The latter one, however, is so sensible that its immediate adoption will be an evidence of good sense wisely directed.

The anti-Mormon bill of Judge Hinckham seems to have fared no better in the judiciary committee of the House of Representatives than the one to which Mr. Voorhees stood sponsor. It is gratifying to think that a majority of that committee yet respect the antiquated and once revered instrument still occasionally referred to as the Constitution.

Rev. James Freeman Clark claims "that if it is an advantage to state, women ought to have it; if a disadvantage men ought not to be obliged to bear it alone." Speaking from experience we feel safe in affirming that the Rev. gentleman is right, and we hope for a time when this immunity may be universally enjoyed by our pure-minded and light-loving sisters. We don't presume that those belonging to the opposite class care anything about it.

Mrs. Carrie F. Young, editor of the "Pacific Journal of Health," has been lecturing in Idaho on Temperance and Woman Suffrage. The editor of the "Idaho World" was not present, but did not regret his absence. He says, "We feel a most decided repugnance to the exhibition of a woman upon the rostrum, advocating such degrading theories as 'woman suffrage' and other cognate subjects." He omits to state whether "Temperance" is one of the "degrading theories" to which he refers.

Force is ever the argument of a bad cause. The principles which cannot be overcome except by the exercise of physical power, present a front that arrests the attention of thinking minds. Where argument fails and force is employed to overcome an opponent, the power of the principles to which opposition is made is admitted. Will those who urge repressive legislation against the people of Utah think of it? Witness the Voorhees bill as an illustration.

A notable event, as a result of the late terrible Franco-German war, is the opening of the German University in Strasbourg, which takes place June 1st—to-day. That famous city on the Rhine, after a siege memorable in the annals of warfare, passed into the hands of the Germans, and now they take the surest means to permanently consolidate their power, by establishing there one of those seats of learning for which Germany has become enviably famous.

Miss Susan B. Anthony, it is said, declared before the Cincinnati Convention met, that if it gave her cause "the cold shoulder," she would go to Philadelphia and pledge the ballots of the women of America to U. S. Grant. As the women of America are yet without ballots, and as it is very questionable, if they had them, whether they would authorize any single individual to pledge them for any candidate, the supposition is fair that Miss Anthony possesses too much good sense to have made any such declaration.

Rev. Mr. Peirce, a Methodist clergyman who has made Salt Lake his headquarters for some time, in lecturing east proposed the extinction of polygamy by the introduction here of vast quantities of expensive millinery goods, and by inducing "Gentile" women to dress in gorgeous style that "Mormon" women might imitate them and run up such heavy dry goods bills that it would be impossible for a man to support more than one wife, if even one. Mr. Peirce, no doubt, practices modesty and humility occasionally, by way of variety; now he recommends the encouragement of pride, vanity and extravagance to accomplish his "Christian" designs. The course he advises has been largely followed in many places, has tempted brothers, aided to fill prisons, broken up families, hurried women of reputation and position down to degradation and infamy, and has met heavy denunciations from inspired men whom Mr. Peirce professes to reverence. He would steal the livery of evil to serve religion in. There is not much of this reverend gentleman, and what little there is must be either very silly or very wicked.

The editor of "The Present Age" has been to a church and heard an orthodox sermon, in which the preacher took occasion to say that all religious "isms," including Mohammedanism, Mormonism and Spiritualism, rested their claims for being true "upon miracles." The "Age" is a Spiritualist and denies that his "ism" lays its claims to be true upon miracles. Latter-day Saints deny that Mormonism basis any claim for credence in it on miracles; the reverse is the truth. The "Age" defines a miracle to be "the setting aside for the time being of a natural law to meet an unexpected emergency." Had he said a miracle was the bringing into operation of certain natural laws not generally understood or comprehended, he would have been nearer correct. When somebody can tell how a natural law may be or can be set aside, except by the operation of some other natural law, his definition, which is the generally received one, may be entitled to more consideration. We imagine the working of the overland telegraph is as great a miracle to the Cheyenne Indians as any recorded miracle that the "Age" or the orthodox minister can quote.

Mrs. Laura De Force Gordon attended the Cincinnati Convention and claimed a seat as a delegate from California. Her claim was treated with hisses and laughter. She took a position in front of the stand and endeavored to speak, but her voice was drowned by a tumultuous discord. Her persistence in seeking to address an assemblage that treated her claim in such a manner was undignified; while the action of the Convention in receiving her with hisses and uproarious laughter, was disgraceful. The Liberal Republicans assembled in Cincinnati for a general work of purification and reform, evidently stood greatly in need of general reform themselves, in the matter of manners as well as in politics. Mrs. Gordon was as much entitled to a seat in that Convention as Carl Schurz himself, for we have yet to learn that the call for it specified that "male" Republicans only were admissible. A new periodical in London is called "The Ladies."

### "THE EXPONENT," FORTY YEARS AGO.

time was surely ripe for a woman's paper wherein they might better tell to those in the world who would read, the truth about their condition, sentiments and position. Edward L. Sloan, the gifted editor of the Salt Lake Herald, was probably the one who took the initiative in the matter. Realizing that the time was propitious and the field in-

line B. Wells, who had been a valued contributor to the paper both of prose and poetry. Shortly after Mrs. Richards withdrew altogether from editorial work, and Mrs. Wells became editor, a position held by her to the present time, a period of over thirty-five years, all the time keeping it in the eight-page newspaper form. Perhaps