

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1895.

The Cause of the Women.

EQUAL RIGHTS—CIVIL, INDUSTRIAL, POLITICAL.

Mrs. Young and Miss Clay Present Their Side to a Large Audience.

From The Daily Item, May, 17.

The Women Suffragists have every reason to be gratified with the audience that was present to hear the addresses of Mrs. Young and Miss Clay last night. It was composed of men and women, young and old, and was representative of the community—every religion, trade and profession had representatives present. There were not less than three hundred persons in attendance, the crowd being about equally divided between the sexes.

The speakers, Mrs. Virginia Durant Young, of Fairfax, S. C., and Miss Laura Clay, of Kentucky, entered the hall accompanied by Col. John J. Dargan, and took their places on the platform. Col. Dargan called the meeting to order and announced that the exercises would be opened with prayer by Miss Clay. Miss Clay offered a brief prayer.

Mrs. Young was then introduced as the first speaker by Col. Dargan. Mrs. Young confined herself to manuscript, speaking for about a half hour altogether. She said that in the natural course of the development of the world and the growth of civilization, old things must pass away and new things take their place—it is the law of growth. The demand for female suffrage is in obedience to this recognized law.

To restrict the functions of government to one-half the people—the men—is both unjust and unwise. Several thousand years ago might have been right, and government was based upon brute force. Women were kept in servile subjection because they were unfitted by the cares of maternity and a weaker physique to contest with the men on the plane of brute force. Even to this day, brute force prevails among some savage tribes, and the lordly man goes wooing with a club.

Humane and benevolent progress, the speaker said, is and has been essentially womanly. Wherever the women have obtained the rights to which they are entitled, better conditions have prevailed and civilization has advanced.

She argued that government is like a family and in those places where it most nearly approaches the family the government is the best. The women—the other half of the people governed—should have an equal share in the government as she has in the family. Men have been wiser than they knew when they made women puppets, toys or hermit crabs.

Taking up the Declaration of Independence, the speaker discussed the principles there laid down and applied them to the demand for female suffrage. Women should have all rights accorded men, civil, political and industrial. Placing the ballot in the hands of the women would be a protection against fraud, and would prove the salvation of the State. It would preserve white supremacy. There is no use for South Carolina to wait for a precedent to raise women above the level of idiots, maniacs and criminals.

Mrs. Young concluded by giving a sketch of the progress of the campaign in the interest of equal rights. Greenville, Spartanburg, Columbia, Charleston, Florence, Marion, Latta, Timmonsville, Georgetown and Darlington. In all of these places Equal Rights Associations had been formed, except Spartanburg, Georgetown and Darlington.

Before taking her seat Mrs. Young introduced Miss Laura Clay of Kentucky.

Miss Clay put the audience in a smiling humor, by saying that she felt highly honored when she was invited to address audiences of men and women in the grand old State of South Carolina—one of the Original Thirteen, that made the glorious struggle for freedom liberty and equality. Referring briefly to the principles of the Declaration of Independence which guaranteed equal rights to all, special privileges to none, she proceeded to discuss the equality of men and women from a Biblical standpoint. Her argument was clear and forcible in support of the contention that man and woman were created co-ordinate in power, equal before God, and that the sphere of each was limited only by capacity. Man was not created superior to woman, nor woman superior to man; nor was one subordinate to the other. Woman was the complement of man, and man of woman. The subordination of woman to man was the result of sin, and was a part of the penalty of the fall of the first man and woman. By the redemption provided in the Christian faith women as well as men have been freed from sin and the effects, therefore they are entitled to all the rights and privileges that men demand for themselves. Referring to the interpretation of the scriptures Miss Clay said that men had misquoted and misinterpreted them so long for the purpose of supporting the common view of the position and sphere of woman that the errors had come to be accepted and believed to be true. However, the position women have occupied in the civil and political systems is not due wholly to the oppression of men—the women are equally to blame.

The most forcible part of Miss Clay's speech was a review of the industrial conditions of the country a-half century ago and now, and the sphere occupied by women under the old order, and the sphere that she is now forced to occupy, or sit in idleness, a burden upon her male relatives.

She discussed the effect of disfranchisement of women on the character of the women themselves and ultimately upon the character of the nation. The debt this country owes to women for the work they did when the land was a wilderness and people were so few that there could be no idle hands, when war time was upon the land and men were hurried to the front and the women left at home to provide food and clothing for the men, when peace and liberty had been wrong from England and freedom assured to all people, and at all times during the comparatively brief but wonderful history of the United States, was brought out with eloquence and earnest force.

Turning to the political phase of the question Miss Clay talked like a practical politician. She spoke of the negro question and the necessity of preserving white supremacy with all the earnestness of a South Carolinian. With statistics she illustrated her argument and proved that by granting the ballot and providing an educational qualification that a white majority of 25,000 would be secured in this State.

She closed with a plea for South Carolina to take the initiative in favor of Woman's Suffrage in the approaching Constitutional Convention, for, said she, "as South Carolina goes, so goes the South" after a collection had been taken up, Mrs. Young requested all who wished to join an Equal Rights Association to give in their names. The meeting was then declared closed.

While the crowd was leaving the hall nine persons, several of whom were men, gave their names to Mrs. Young for enrollment in the Sumter Equal Rights Association. A meeting for the purpose of organization will be held at an early date.

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Hawaiian Unrest.

Secretary Gresham Will Protect American Citizens—The Arbitrary Power Assumed by the Dole Government will Not be Tolerated.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—Mail advices from Honolulu May 8th, bring two communications from Secretary Gresham to Minister Willis. The first, dated Washington, February 25, relates to the forcible deportation of J. Cranston and encloses depositions made by Cranston, February 11 and 12 before the American consular agent, Peterson, at Vancouver. This letter continues as follows:

"These depositions leave the question of Mr. Cranston's nationality in doubt and Mr. Peterson has been instructed to obtain further statements from him on that subject.

"Under these circumstances the department does not now instruct you to make any representations to the Hawaiian government in regard to Mr. Cranston, but it is proper to express to you, for your own guidance in similar cases, should they arise, the views here entertained in regard to the course of action taken in that case.

"It appears that after having been kept in jail for nearly a month without any charges having been made against him, he was taken under a heavy guard to a steamer and would, in spite of his request to see you, have been deported without having had an opportunity then to do so, had it not been for the accidental but timely interposition of the British commissioner.

"You state that when you asked the attorney general for an explanation of the proceedings, he replied that the cabinet had determined to deport the men 'in the exercise of the arbitrary power conferred by martial law.' As this was the only explanation he gave, it is assumed that it was all that he had to offer and he gave it without suggesting any question as to Mr. Cranston's nationality.

"If the position thus assumed is sound, the very proclamation of martial law in Hawaii renders all foreigners there residing, including Americans, liable to arrest and deportation without cause and without any reason other than the fact that the executive power wills it. They may be taken from their homes and their business, they may be deprived of their liberty, and banished, they may be denied the ordinary as well as the special treaty rights of residence without offence or misconduct on their part, simply in the exercise of 'arbitrary power.'

"To state such a proposition is, in the opinion of the President, to refute it. Your course in protesting against the position assumed by the Attorney General of Hawaii is approved."

The other letter from Secretary Gresham, which left the Department of State April 5, relates to the case of J. F. Bowler, who broke the oath of allegiance to the Hawaiian government, and closes by saying:

"The President directs that you inform Mr. Bowler that he is not entitled to the protection of the United States."

REVOLUTION INEVITABLE.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—Private letters received from Honolulu by the steamer Australia declare that a change of administration will soon take place there, and that the change is advocated by no less an important personage than ex-Minister Thurston, says an evening paper.

The information comes from a most reliable source, and cannot be questioned. According to the letters, all that is preserving the present government is the fact that it possesses the arms necessary to quell another outbreak, and is exerting itself in its efforts to prevent the landing of contraband arms. It is well known that the government forces, numerically, are greatly in the minority, and no one has been made to realize this fact more than Minister Thurston.

One of the letters says that at a recent conference between ex-Minister Thurston, President Dole and other members of his cabinet, the former declared that the only hope of permanent peace on the island will be realized in placing Princess Kaiulani in a position which the former monarchy proposed that she should some day have. Mr. Thurston is reported to have advocated this step so strongly that President Dole and his cabinet became alarmed, and have since given the matter many hours of consideration. There is probably no one who understands Hawaii's position better than Mr. Thurston, and it did not take him long after his arrival in Honolulu to fully appreciate the danger that threatens the republic.

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PUBLIC NOTICE.

Street Commutation Tax.

CLERK AND TREASURER'S OFFICE, SUMTER, S. C., May 14th, 1895.

ALL PERSONS LIABLE TO STREET or Road duty in City of Sumter, are required to perform three (3) days work yearly, upon the public streets and roads of said city, under supervision and direction of the officers of said city—without compensation therefor—or, instead of said three (3) days work, may pay to the Clerk and Treasurer the sum of one dollar and fifty cents as a commutation tax for one year, ending 30th day of April 1896, as required by an Ordinance of City of Sumter, dated August 18th, 1893. Person liable to Street duty are required to report for enrollment at Clerk and Treasurer's Office without delay.

By order of Council. C. M. HURST, Clerk and Treasurer.

"AN ORDINANCE"

"Entitled An Ordinance to call a Special Election, to be held in the City of Sumter, on 27th day of June, A. D., 1895, to elect a Local Board of Health for City of Sumter, and to regulate the registration of Voters—Freeholders qualified to vote at said Election.

WHEREAS, An Act of General Assembly of State of South Carolina, entitled "An Act to establish Local Boards of Health in the Cities and Incorporated Towns of the State, and to define the powers thereof, approved January 5th, A. D., 1895," directs, "That it shall be the duty of the Mayor or Intendant of every incorporated City, Town or Village in the State of South Carolina, within six months after the passage of this Act, to call an election by the freeholders of such city or town to elect five persons, not members of such council, in towns of five thousand or less population, and in cities exceeding five thousand in population, the number may be increased to twenty, as the city council may determine, one or more of whom shall be reputable physicians of not less than two years standing in the practice of his profession, &c., &c., &c."

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Sumter in Council assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. That, in compliance with the Act of General Assembly of South Carolina, above recited—a Special Election to elect a Local Board of Health for City of Sumter, is hereby ordered, to be held on Thursday, 27th day of June, A. D., 1895, between the hours of 8 o'clock a. m. and 5 p. m., at the usual polling place in said city; and for the purpose of said election, Books of Registration for the registration of persons (freeholders) qualified to vote at said election, shall be opened at the Office of the Clerk and Treasurer of City of Sumter on Monday, 27th day of May, instant, that said books of registration shall be kept open for the registration of voters (freeholders) during fifteen (15) days thereafter from 9 o'clock a. m. until 2 o'clock p. m., each day, (except Sunday) and shall be finally closed on Tuesday, 1st day of June thereafter, at 5 o'clock p. m., and only such persons as are duly registered in said books of registration shall be entitled to vote at said election.

SEC. 2. That each person (freeholder) presenting himself for registration at said Office of Clerk and Treasurer shall give his name, age, residence, and satisfactory proof of his qualification to vote, and shall be entitled to receive a certificate of registration, which certificate may be required of any voter at said election as a condition precedent to voting.

SEC. 3. That at the next meeting of the City Council of City of Sumter, after the closing of the books of registration, to be held on Tuesday, 18th day of June thereafter at 4 o'clock p. m., all complaints and petitions of any person or persons (freeholder or freeholders) who may have been refused a certificate of registration by reason of any doubt of right to register, shall be made to said City Council, and all persons so refused and demanding such certificate of registration, are hereby notified to be and appear before said City Council, with evidence necessary to establish such right as may be claimed, and if so established to the satisfaction of Council, such person or persons (freeholder or freeholders) shall receive such certificate.

SEC. 4. That after a certificate of registration has been issued to any person, and has been lost or destroyed, such person may apply to the Clerk and Treasurer for a duplicate certificate; and the Clerk and Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a duplicate certificate upon proof of loss or destruction of the original certificate of registration, and upon payment of twenty-five cents, for use of said City of Sumter, for every duplicate certificate so issued.

Done and ratified in City Council assembled and under the Corporate Seal of the City of Sumter, S. C., this 8th day of May, A. D., 1895. B. G. PIERSON, Mayor. C. M. HURST, Clerk and Treasurer. May 15.

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THE HERALD, Herald Square, New York. May 1.

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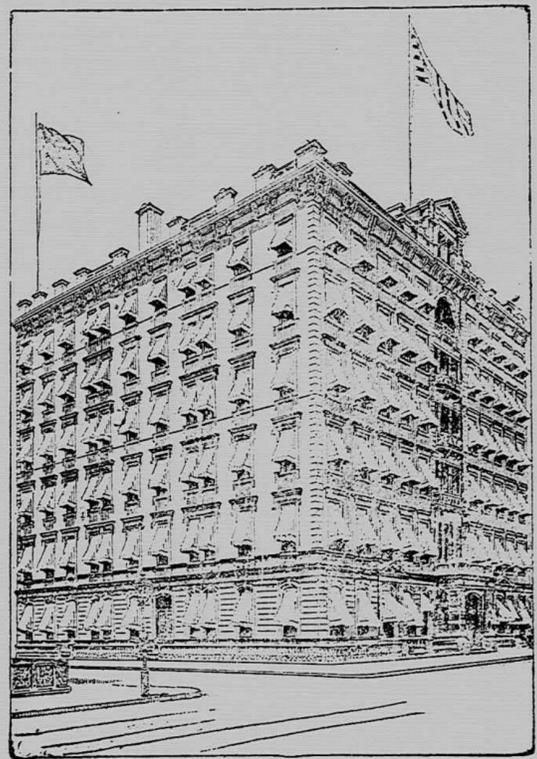
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