

WOMAN A PREEMPTRESS.

It has been a question whether woman could preempt with men the public lands. The question being raised, whether "an unmarried woman, over twenty-one years of age, not the head of a family," had the right to preempt, the law extending that privilege to: 1. "Every person being the head of a family;" 2. "A widow;" 3. "A single man over the age of twenty-one years," a decision was rendered that, in the spirit of the law, the "unmarried woman" was "a single man."

The argument through which this just conclusion was reached, it is said, was this:

The Anglo-Saxon word "mag-in" means to be able, or strong; this, by elision, naturally glides into the word "man," a generic term, applying to both sexes, the original Saxon, from which the English word is derived, having been used in a sense so comprehensive as to mean "mankind," man, woman; a vassal, also any one like the French "on," Gothic "mann" — the Hebrew, meaning species or kind. "That's woman's ripe age, as full as thou art: at one and twenty." Understanding the terms of the law in their wider sense the office decided that an unmarried or single woman over the age of twenty-one years, not the head of a family, but able to meet all the requirements of the preemption law, has a right to claim its benefits.

GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.—The people are continually stunned, or would be, were their ears not of lead, at new announcements of government expenditure. The democrats might be worse, but the republicans certainly exceed all former parallel. And they grow worse and worse. Only the blindness of the people to the outrages continually imposed on them, keeps the government out of a Revolution as bloody as that which overthrew the throne of France in 1793. Here is a trifling but recent report:

The expense of the House in 1863, exclusive of the pay of members and mileage, was \$198,000. Mr. McPherson took possession of the office in June, 1864. That year the expenses were \$328,384; in 1865, \$481,854; in 1866, \$462,481; in 1867, \$564,810; in 1868, \$685,281. From 1863 to 1868 the expenses of the House have increased nearly \$500,000. It must be borne in mind that all this time there has not been a full House, the southern states being out. The expenditures for furniture alone were for 1865-6, \$40,000; 1866-7, \$50,000; 1867-8, 60,000. This does not include the amount for furnishing the Speaker's room, which is about \$6,000, and which has not as yet been allowed by the Committee on Accounts.

FORTUNATE DECISION.—The Georgia legislature has been discussing Woman's Suffrage. A resolution was offered proposing to invite Lucy Stone to come into the state to instruct the committee and the people on the subject, which certainly would have been well. But a sadly-informed member proposed to amend by substituting the name of Horace Greeley for Lucy Stone which, fortunately, found no favor. Dark as Georgia is she can see better than that. The whole question was finally dropped.

WORKING WOMEN'S MEETING.—The regular meeting of the Working Women's Association will be held at Cooper Institute (room 24) on Wednesday evening, Feb. 10th, at 8 o'clock. All who believe in educating women to self-reliance and self-support are cordially invited to attend and become members of the Association. The one great need of the hour is to qualify the women workers to really earn equal wages with men; we must have TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR WOMEN in all the industrial vocations. Who will help the working women devise ways and means to establish them?

S. B. A.

ATROCIOUS.

SOME time ago, the English courts tried a minister for holding the hand of a poor ignorant girl in a burning candle to give her an idea, or foretaste, of "eternal burning." The following account of another ministerial monster, comes in the *London Star*:

At Lincoln, England, last month, the first private execution of a woman took place under the new law which prohibits public hangings.

One would have thought that the hangman would at least have been allowed to get his work over as quickly as possible; but will it be believed that his preparations were delayed in order to give the chaplain a further opportunity of extorting a confession from the culprit. The woman did not confess; she had all along maintained a stubborn silence; and all the efforts of the chaplain had been unavailing to draw from her one word of penitence and submission; and he had made great efforts. The woman had fainted when she was plied, and her incoherent expressions on the way to the gallows showed clearly enough she had lost all the little power she had ever possessed over her own thoughts, and that, in fact, her mind was wandering. In this state she arrived at the drop, and the chaplain then thought fit to ask her if she still persisted in declaring that she had nothing to do with the crime. She replied, "No, I had not, sir." This would have been enough for most people, but it did not satisfy the chaplain. She was then accommodated with a chair. While she was sitting in the chair the chaplain delivered a discourse of over a dozen lines on the sinfulness of obstinacy and the duty of the confession. "Do you say now you did not commit the crime?" he asked in conclusion. The prisoner—"Yes." The chaplain—"There is only one hope left;" and so on, through another discourse, before the executioner was suffered to do his work. Her obstinacy was deeply to be lamented; but as the chaplain had failed to shake it during the period allotted to his ministrations, he certainly should not have been permitted to extend that period for the purpose of torturing her into a confession. Least of all did it become a clergyman of a protestant church to admonish a dying woman in the following language: "Had you made a declaration of your sins, I should have done what, as a minister of Christ, I am entitled to do. I should have told you that your sins, though many, are forgiven. I am sorry I cannot exercise that authority at the present moment. I must leave you to God." These seem to be words of sacerdotal pride rather than of spiritual consolation.

BISHOP'S SALARIES IN ENGLAND.—The annual incomes of the various English Bishops range from \$10,000 to \$75,000. Canterbury enjoys the latter and Sodor the former amount. London and Windsor have each an income of \$50,000 a year, and Durham \$40,000. The other Bishoprics are worth from \$20,000 to \$27,000 a year. Worth that to the bishops, perhaps; but what are the bishops worth to the people who drudge life away to pay them, and live themselves, so many of them in starving poverty?

GOOD AND TRUE.—Mrs. Dr. Hathaway said, at the Woman's Rights meeting in Washington, that it would not look half so bad to see women with babies in their arms in the seats of Congress, as it now does to see men nursing bottles of whiskey there.

LEFT OUT.—Mrs. Stanton's address before the Congressional Committee on Suffrage in the District of Columbia, accidentally mislaid, will appear next week.

Boston papers report that prominent members of the Anti-Slavery Society say it will disband if Boutwell's reconstruction measures, now before Congress, are adopted.

Some of the most amusing sporting pictures in Punch are from the pencil of a young lady, who, it is said, can draw and ride with equal daring and freedom.

LITERARY.

GARDENING FOR THE SOUTH; OR, HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES AND FRUITS. By the late Wm. N. White, of Georgia. New York: Orange, Judd & Co., 245 Broadway.

Here is a book of nearly 450 pages, on one of the most important subjects, that can engage the human mind. It is of southern origin, too, and so appeals to that section of the country without fear of exciting the prejudices of the people there, as it might, had it been a carpet-bag production. And the south needs it more a great deal than the publishers do the profits of its sale.

Gardening seems to have been the original occupation of man. And of woman also. And what they both have now to do is, to regenerate and reconstruct this shipwrecked earth into another garden of Eden. And the sooner they understand and set about that work the better. It has been a wilderness for wild beasts, and pasture for all sorts of brute animals, unclean and clean (if there be any clean), long enough, and too long. A pound of pork costs a peck of corn, and will then at one eating poison, or taint the blood of the whole family; while the peck of corn, well-cooked, in bread or other ways, would feed wholesomely and healthfully that same family all day. The domesticated brutes altogether, exhaust more of the life-giving forces of the earth in one year, than do the whole human family in a hundred years. The earth, properly-treated, and with no hard labor, would feed millions on millions of human beings, and grow more fertile all the time. And agriculture is, at the same time, counted among the basest and most menial of all human callings. The garden is the first attempt at recovery from the Fall. Even women are going rapidly and joyfully into it; and those other beings, called *ladies*. Let them go, and God speed them. The men will follow fast, as soon as they see (as they will see) that it pays; and that they have been herdsmen, and groomsmen, and swine-feeders, and waiters, and chamber-maids to all sorts of four-footed beasts long enough. Indeed, until they have become awfully brutish themselves. Meantime, let the sale and circulation of books like the one before us, be as rapid and extensive as possible.

HARPER'S *Weekly* and Harper's *Bazar* are weekly and welcome visitors. Four dollars per annum; ten cents single. The latter is the best of authorities on modes and styles for the outer adornment (or otherwise) of women, and contains, at the same time, much excellent reading matter on more important, indeed, on the most important, things. It is progressive, too, and intends to be as early in the market of new ideas, as of styles and fashions. We might more frequently quote from its pages only that it seems a pity to plunge the murderous scissors into them beheading or belibrating at the same time, on the opposite side of the leaf, some beautiful belle, or other form of dry and fancy goods advertisement. As we only spoil a pattern in clipping the following, headed *Woman's Literature*, we extract it from the *Bazar* of the 6th of Feb., for readers of THE REVOLUTION:

"A thing greatly to be deplored is the love of women for sensationalism in literature, and the extreme aversion which most of them feel for 'dull reading,' as they call anything grave or solid. What do they first claim at the circulating libraries—history or fiction? Kingslake's *Crimea*, or *Charlotte's Inheritance*? Carlyle's *Frederick*, or Guy Livingstone's latest? What do they read in newspapers? the leading articles? the letters from great names on grave subjects? the Congressional debates? or the murders, the police-reports, the little bits of news and gossip, and that awful column of facsimile, table-talk, odds and ends. These are the woman's hits in a newspaper, with occasional interludes of foreign correspondence, which must be written for ladies only! This dread of dullness is one of the most foolish things about women, and one of the causes, *inter alia*, why their conversation is so often not worth listening to. They gossip because they cannot converse. They do not cultivate that art of pleasant, easy, sprightly conversation, which comes in as part of the education of a Frenchwoman, and which is as necessary for her social success as the art of dress or the science of appearances. Those few women who can talk easily and brightly on the current topics of the day are always sought in society, and never in want of partners for a conversation. They may be old and ugly; but men with brains will leave the prettiest girl in the room, if a fool, for them, and neither wrinkles nor harsh lines will repel them if the wit is keen and sense is clear. But women in general think that their only social value lies in their outside prettiness and the amount of personal admiration they can excite; and so they neglect the beauty which lasts for that which fades; and when they are no longer charm-