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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS FOR CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILERS WEEKLY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Drunkard Senators.

Nascent, nor fit, is as true of the members of the upper house of the British Parliament as it is of poets. The peers of Great Britain are born legislators. Now and then one is made, it is true; but not until he has first given evidence of his having also been born for the station. It sometimes happens, too, that there are foolish peers and worthless peers; but then, no less than the fools and knaves do not find it convenient to attempt to exercise their inherited function as legislators. The House of Lords is always eminently decorous and dignified, let it be what else it may. Its members well understand that, if they did not maintain their dignity, their order would not long be maintained. Our national Senate is modelled on the House of Lords, except that its members are not hereditary, nor elected for life; but they are chosen by the highest legislative authorities of the States, their terms of office are three times longer than those of the members of the lower House, and when they are as far removed from popular influences as may be possible in a representative government. If dignity of character and decorous deportment can be looked for anywhere, surely it ought to be in the Senate of the United States. It is the last place in the world where common drunkards and boisterous ruffians should be found or tolerated. The Senate is very properly made the sole judge of the fitness of its members to seats in its body. They may deny admission to whom they please and expel whom they please; and therefore the Senate is responsible for the conduct of its members. If they permit their chamber to be polluted by the presence of habitual drunkards and ruffians, who obstruct the public business and endanger the safety of the nation, they are to be held responsible to the nation, and must be regarded as *perjures et tyranni*. In the high and palmy days of the Democratic party, when Polk was President and the slaveocracy had things all their own way, the State of Indiana chose to be represented in the Senate by a drunken ruffian, whose habits were a disgrace to civilization. The dominant party had no desire to expel him, and the other had no power. At the end of his term, Mr. Polk sent him to represent us at the Court of Berlin, where his conduct was so outrageously vile and indecent that he had to be recalled. He returned to Indiana; where, soon after, he murdered his brother-in-law who was a drunken ruffian. It used to be said of this disgraceful wretch, by way of extenuation, as is usually said in other similar cases, that he was "a good fellow when he was sober;" and since he killed his brother-in-law we have seen reports of his reformation. We hope the reports are true; but if the Senate had done its duty and expelled him when it could, that act might have not only sobered him and prevented the mischief which he afterwards was guilty of, but have prevented other Senators from disgracing the Senate Chamber by coming into it in a state of intoxication. It might, also, have saved us from the terrible disgrace which afterwards befell us when the President of that august body, the newly chosen Vice-President of the United States, appeared in his place to take his oath of office in a state of maudlin intoxication. During the past five years the Senate has been daily disgraced by the presence of two drunken members, whom no Senator had the moral courage to move the expulsion of. In the case of one of these Senators, whose term has just expired, it has been alleged that he was permitted to remain out of regard to his amiable wife and daughter, whose presence in the galleries, watching with anxious eyes the husband and father, touched the sympathies of Senators. "Wives and weans," as Burns says,

"Wad brak the very hearts of stanes,"

and the weakness of Senators might be overbalanced by their feelings as men. But there was another sad example before them—a daily disgrace and a daily nuisance, as outrageously drunk as a Toodles—whose outrage ought not to have been tolerated for an hour:—Saulsbury, of Delaware, who was re-elected at the end of his term, as if on purpose to defy and insult the Senate. At last Mr. Sumner, the most courageous man in the Senate, had the courage to move the expulsion of this drunken Senator; but his resolution has not been acted upon, in deference, it is said, to Mr. Saulsbury's wife, and a promise that he would resign. But he should not be permitted to resign. The character of the Senate is likely to undergo a great change before long, by the introduction of some rough elements. The gentlemen from Russian-America, the gentlemen from New Mexico, and the gentlemen from Lower California, to say nothing of the retiring members from Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi, will be likely to unsettle the decorous habits which have heretofore characterized the upper house of our national legislature. It behoves the Senate, therefore, while it has the power, to establish some safe precedent by which its decorum and dignity may be hereafter insured. Let it be understood, when a member comes to his desk intoxicated, that his expulsion will immediately follow, and there will be no more drunken Senators.

Women's Opinion of Themselves.

From the Independent. An unprecedented activity of the public mind has lately arisen on the subject of Woman's work, wages, and franchise.

On our editorial table, at this moment, lie forty manuscripts—and many of them very able and interesting—all treating of these great questions, and all written by women. Some of these are replies to our esteemed contributor, Professor Taylor Lewis; which, out of compassion for that gentleman, we withhold from the public eye. Others are expressions of thanks to this journal for its advocacy of woman's suffrage; which, of course, our modesty forbids us to print. Others fly, like many arrows, to various marks. Let us give specimens of the thoughts of these thinkers. Marian Martin calls special attention to the fact that in some of the States "the law decides that a married woman cannot, by will, devise lands to her husband, because she is supposed to be under his coercion; therefore, the law takes no cognizance of deeds executed while in subjection to her husband; a most humiliating position for a woman—the law acting upon the assumption that she shall submit to the tyranny of her husband and the tyranny of the law."

Mrs. Jessie M. House, of Chicago, says—"The great field of labor which I would have opened to, and made honorable for women, is the labor of the household. It is a well-known fact that, while it is perfectly respectable for men to work for men, and for women to work in men's stores and offices, yet for woman to enter the homes of these same men and work for their wives is to degrade herself. Instead of being an honored assistant, she thereby becomes a servant—nothing more." In a somewhat similar vein, "S. S." says—"The American women have become such slaves to the Irish that we think we can hardly breathe without them; and certainly some of us have learned from experience that we can hardly breathe without them!" Mrs. Erastus Blakester, of Plymouth, Conn., says—"O fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, do not prate to those you love about being *wise*; teach them to be true and noble women." Mrs. R. S. Bates, of Kansas, writes—"I have always believed that woman had a right to vote; but always thought it a question for the far-off future, until the death of my husband in the war left me to join the legion of those who (in the phrase of Professor Lewis) have taken a very unnatural departure from domesticity." Grace Ashwood says—"I know of several highly educated women who, by force of circumstances, are dressmakers; yet they do not feel degraded by their employment." (Which is because they are sensible women.) "Brown" of Aurora, Ill. (but whether Mr. Mrs., or Miss Brown we know not), informs us that she (or he) knows of a woman who cleared fifteen thousand dollars in one year as an agent for the sale of popular books. A correspondent to us writing from Nuremberg, Bavaria, mentions that "women in Southern Germany have access to many methods of making a livelihood to which American women are as yet strangers." "E. A. E." says to her sisterhood—"You are not to be unmindful of personal comeliness. Every day you are to be as clean as a bride." You are not to suffer the stain of sin upon your soul, of ignorance and error upon your mind, or of filth upon your person or garments. It is your duty to be as beautiful in person as, with the form and features God has given you, it is possible to be.

A factory girl complains that manual labor is looked upon by many educated women as degrading; but adds, justly, "work and education ought to go hand in hand in the American republic." "H. M." writing from Washington, says—"To equalize the pay of the male and the female clerks in Washington would have an effect to better the condition of working women all over the country." A correspondent at Lima, New York, informs us in glowing terms that Genesee College, at that place—an institution open, as all schools and colleges ought to be, on equal terms to both sexes—has had great success in this experiment ever since the adoption of the plan in 1849. "We owe it to the cause of universal education, and to the cause of woman, that the presence of females in our classes have exercised a very marked influence on the young men, constituting an efficient agency in their culture, and counteracting the coarseness and boorishness into which young men are prone to fall during a quadrennium of separation from the refining influences of home. Contrary to all the *a priori* reasoning of monkish philosophers, the discipline of the college is not embarrassed, but greatly promoted, by the intermingling of the sexes in the same lecture-room. Experience demonstrates that three or four ladies in a recitation room are better than so many paid proctors to promote good order. We no longer wonder that the righteous souls of college presidents are vexed with the ungodly deeds of young men, for years secluded from female society, in manifest violation of the law of the Creator, who places sons and daughters in the same family, to secure the symmetrical moral development of both." Helen Downs, of Hartford, Conn., makes a vigorous protest against the use of the phrase "Universal Suffrage," until it shall cover the suffrage of women as well as of men. "H. U." of Chautauque, N. Y., mentions the following incident.—"I once had a classmate, passionately fond of books, to whom a library would have been like a gift from the gods; and another whose passion was chemistry and natural philosophy, and her highest ambition the possession of a laboratory and its apparatus. Yet both have been able to earn only a scanty livelihood, and library and laboratory exist only in dream-land. The gentlemen of the class, however, with less ability, with less purity of life and earnestness of purpose, have risen to positions of affluence, which the former can never hope to attain." Sarah R. Plummer, Washington, D. C., says that the majority of poor girls must either get married or else work at starvation prices. "A Woman in Behalf of Women" has sent us two essays, giving reasons why her sisters should have the ballot; and cogent reasons they are, and altogether unanswerable. A lady writing from Kansas murmurs at the scanty pittance ekeed out to female school teachers, "even in cases of first-class ability and aptitude." "E. S. T." discusses "Women's Dress," and says that whenever a woman goes on a picnic her dress is generally so ill-suited to the occasion that she loses at least one-third of her time in disengaging herself from roots and branches, in which she is perpetually caught as in a trap." This writer puts us to the following question:—"Mr. Editor (this strictly between ourselves), will you impart to the writer in confidence, why gentlemen are so peculiarly sensitive on the subject of ladies' costume?" To which we respectfully reply that, on the subject of ladies' costume, gentlemen are generally less sensitive (and generally more sensible) than ladies themselves. An anonymous correspondent writes:—"If exercising the right of suffrage is in itself, the best school for man's political education, so will it be for woman's." "H. M." of the District of Columbia, holds that "the right of self-government" belongs equally to all men and all women; and she adds:—"It is in vain to attempt to elevate the sex by establishing female schools or colleges or gymnasia; by inventing new styles of dress for women; or by any reforms that do not reach the root of the evil. The only efficient remedy is the ballot." Now we have mentioned these manuscripts, and given these glimpses at their contents, to show how wide-spread is the spirit of inquiry on the subject of woman's industrial and political relations to society. It is generally said that as soon as women ask for the elective franchise they will get it. Undoubtedly this is true. Hitherto women have not generally asked for it. Nor do a majority of women ask for it now. Nevertheless, the number who, both in England and America, are opening their eyes to the importance of an improved political status for their sex is daily increasing. We have repeatedly said in these columns that the next great public question in this country is the question of woman's enfranchisement. All the signs of the times point to an approaching national discussion of this subject. Already some of the States are changing their Constitutions in a recognition of the political equality of

the sexes. The cause needs first a fair hearing, then a disentanglement from past prejudices, and then it will win a speedy victory.

**The Reconstruction Act in Georgia.**  
From the Times. Although General Pope's intimation to the Governor of Georgia wears an arbitrary aspect, and reveals one of the unpleasant characteristics of military government, it can scarcely be deemed unwarranted or unjust. Governor Jenkins has publicly exerted his official influence in opposition to the law. In his official capacity he has raised the issue of its constitutionality, and has advised the citizens of his State to disregard its requirements. Besides invoking the interference of the Supreme Court, he had counselled indifference to the law, whatever be the judicial decision in the case, alleging his preference for any course that would practically nullify the act, and necessitate the continuance of military rule.

We said the other day, commenting upon the proceedings of Governor Jenkins and other Southern officials who share his views, that they have misinterpreted the leniency of General Pope's administration of affairs. Of this fact, probably, they are now convinced. For the terms of the General's commutation and pardon are so plain that the relation which the executive officers of a Southern State hold to the Military Law. They are, as he says, simply provisional, exercising their authority only by sufferance, and with special reference to the work to be performed. In other words, the law has permitted them to retain their positions in order that, by becoming its agents, they may prevent needless disturbance of the local machinery of government. To use these positions, then, to defeat the law and postpone the business of reconstruction, is to abuse the forbearance of the General. 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