

## MORE FACTS FROM WYOMING.

Every governor of Wyoming during the last fifteen years has testified to the good effects of Woman Suffrage. Governors of Territories, be it remembered, are appointed by the President of the United States. They are not dependent upon the votes of the women, and therefore their testimony is impartial. From the mass of other evidence we select a few extracts:

### LETTER FROM EDITOR OF RAWLINS JOURNAL.

The editor of the *Rawlins* (Wy.) *Journal* writes as follows to one of the editors of the *WOMAN'S JOURNAL*:

RAWLINS, WYOMING, March 5, 1884.

Dear Madam:

Woman suffrage has elevated politics, had a beneficial influence in the way of temperance, and makes our elections as quiet as a Sunday school. If the question of woman suffrage were to-day left to a vote of the people of the Territory, four out of five would vote for its continuance; and among the best people, there is not to exceed one in fifty who is not in favor of it. Woman suffrage is very popular. There has been no opposition to it since the first year, and the men who opposed it then are among its warmest supporters now—the writer among the number.

JOHN C. FRIEND.

Mrs. L. W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools for the county in which Rawlins is situated, writes as follows to Mary E. Gray, of Foxboro', Mass:

### LETTER FROM CARBON CO. SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, }  
CARBON CO., WY., MARCH 3, 1884. }

Dear Madam—In regard to equal suffrage for women, it is my opinion, as a private citizen and as a public officer, that there is no way to secure to all equal compensation for equal services rendered, unless all enjoy an equal voice in the choice of legislators. The question is speedily resolved then. A woman's vote is respected, and carries the same weight as those of her brethren, and the laws are modified accordingly. No great revolution follows here when women vote. It seems most natural and proper that all should have a voice in the laws under which they live, and women do not undervalue it. The elections pass quietly, and in no voting precinct could the polls present a more orderly appearance. The women come quickly up and deposit their ballots, and go about their usual duties, without stopping

to talk over their act of devotion to their party, or to take a drink in some saloon at the expense of the candidates they support. The same person can mind the baby that minded it when the woman went to pay her taxes. To vote does not require so much time that it interferes either with household duties or with other business.

When nothing but qualification and ability to prove it stands between woman and equality in salary and a right of representation in the laws of the land, there is nothing to demand. A woman here can do anything she chooses to undertake, and the law expressly states that "there shall be no discrimination with regard to sex in the pay of any kind of work."

A woman is more apt to work for the individual than for party. If a candidate is not correct in character, the entire feminine vote is against him, irrespective of party. This fact renders it a necessity for each party to nominate good men, or their defeat is a foregone conclusion.

\*(MRS.) L. W. SMITH.

Dr. T. H. Hayford, editor of the *Laramie City Sentinel*, writes:

### LETTER FROM EDITOR LARAMIE SENTINEL.

LARAMIE CITY, WYOMING, }  
MARCH 3, 1884. }

Dear Madam: I have been a continuous resident of Wyoming ever since before its organization, have been six years auditor of the Territory, seven years postmaster of this city, and fifteen years editor of the *Laramie Sentinel*. After fifteen years of woman suffrage here, I do not know of a person in the Territory who does not most heartily endorse its results, and I do not think one could be found who would consent to its repeal, unless it be some one who belongs to that class who do not want to see good laws faithfully executed.

"No rogue e'er felt the halter draw  
With good opinion of the law."

The vicious and criminal classes instinctively fear and dread woman's power and influence in the government.

I have never seen or heard of a single bad result growing out of it. Women are no more demoralized by going to the polls with men to vote than by associating with men in any and every other relation in life, in the school and the church, in the ball-room or the theatre. I have never known a case of domestic infelicity growing out of it, though it occasionally happens that a wife votes one way and her husband the other. Here in the far West we may lack the culture and refinement of Boston, but we men are not such tyrants as to quarrel with and abuse our wives if they do not happen to think just as we do



## MORE FACTS FROM WYOMING.

on politics, or even on religion, which is still more sacred. And yet I notice that certain persons speak unfavorably of woman suffrage on the ground that "women will nearly always vote just as their husbands do," etc. This is true,—as a rule,—and herein lies the strongest argument in its favor—that it *doubles the power and influence of the home element* (always the best element) in the government of the country. It is the parents, those who are surrounded by home influences, who have children growing up around them, who are most desirous of, and interested in, good government. The wicked, vicious and criminal classes are not, as a rule, those with homes and families.

I do not know that women as a separate class are particularly benefited by the possession of political powers, aside from their general interest, as members of the community, in good laws faithfully executed. They are weaker, they are not so self-reliant and independent as men, not so given to boasting that they "can take care of themselves, law or no law"—as men, and are therefore more dependent upon and anxious for just and righteous laws. But they do not need the ballot half as much as the State needs their power and influence in the government.

Very respectfully yours,  
J. H. HAYFORD.

Hon. John W. Kingman, for four years a judge of the U. S. Supreme Court of Wyoming, spoke as follows before the Woman Suffrage Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Woman Suffrage was inaugurated in 1869 without much discussion and without any general movement of men or women in its favor. At that time few women voted. At each election since, they have voted in larger numbers, and now nearly all go to the polls. At our last election, a larger proportion of women voted than of men. Our women do not attend the caucuses in any considerable numbers, but they generally take an interest in the selection of candidates, and it is very common now, in considering the availability of an aspirant for office, to ask, "How does he stand with the ladies?" Frequently the men set aside certain applicants for office, because their characters would not stand the criticism of women. The women manifest a great deal of independence in their preference for candidates, and have frequently defeated bad nominations. They are becoming every year more and more interested in public affairs. They are less under the influence of private interest and party feeling, and are less subject to the temptations which bias the political action of men.

We have had no trouble from the presence of bad women at the polls. It has been said that the delicate and cultured women would shrink away, and the bold and indelicate come to the front in public affairs. This we feared, but certainly nothing of the kind has happened. At our first election, before women voted, we had a perfect pandemonium. At the next election, women voted, and perfect order prevailed, and has prevailed ever since. I have never heard of a single case of a lady being insulted or treated with disrespect at elections. Men are not less respectful toward women in Wyoming, but usually more so than in other sections. I do not believe that suffrage causes women to neglect their domestic affairs. Certainly, such has not been the case in Wyoming, and I never heard a man complain that his wife was less interested in domestic economy because she had the right, and took an interest in making the community respectable. The opposition to Woman Suffrage at first was pretty bitter. All that has died out, and in the Legislature of 1875 only one member was opposed to Woman Suffrage. He was an intemperate person, formerly Postmaster at Cheyenne, who had become a defaulter, had drifted off to another part of the Territory, and was there elected. This man made a motion to repeal, but could not find any one to second it, and was actually hooted down. This change of public sentiment is radical. Our Congressional delegate, Col. Steele, was formerly bitterly opposed, and in the Legislature of 1871 made a violent speech against it. Now he is strongly in its favor, and so is his wife. Another leading opponent, a member from Wisconsin, an ardent Democratic politician, was bitterly hostile, and so was his wife. But last summer, he announced that he and his wife had altered their minds; it had done a great deal of good. He was elected Speaker of the House, and he and his wife and daughter are entirely converted. A similar change has taken place in the views of intelligent women generally. For instance, a most charitable and exemplary English lady, the wife of a bank president in Laramie City, an Episcopalian, thought it was religiously wrong, and opposed it as unfeminine, unladylike and unchristian. Now she is earnestly in its favor, takes a personal interest in the selection of candidates, goes to her neighbors to ask them to vote for good men and against bad men. She now regards the exercise of suffrage as a duty. I could name many others; the change of sentiment is so general that no attempt to repeal the law would now avail. I do not think you could get a dozen respectable men in any locality to oppose it.

Office "Woman's Journal," 5 Park Street, Boston. A weekly paper devoted to the rights and interests of Women. Price \$2.50 a year.  
American Woman Suffrage Association.