

be increased by the change; but it is doubtful whether Conservatism of the ordinary type would realize the party gain which in England, at least, it scents. Women of Conservative tendencies are likely to stay at home, while the revolutionary female mounts the Socialistic platform at Chicago, and bids the poor put their trust in dynamite and not in God.

Petitions of course are got up in favour of the Bill. A petition was got up in fulfilment of a wager, and was respectably signed praying for the immediate execution of the leading clergyman at Albany. No one who is in daily contact with society in Ontario and has opportunities of feeling its pulse can imagine that by the women of this Province generally the change has been demanded or is desired. The mass of women are domestic and feel that their kingdom is the home. The number is small of those who long for public life, who think with Mrs. Cady Stanton that maternity is a low object of ambition, or whose characters and aspirations have shared the general change which the utterance of such a sentiment denotes. They know that a perfect co-equality of the sexes is consistent with an assignment to each by nature of distinct functions in the organism of humanity. They know that as a sex they have privileges which they would not like to lose, that these are dependent on the existing relations between the sexes, and that if they insisted on becoming the rivals and competitors of man they would renounce their claim to his chivalrous protection. They know that they are not a class but a sex, and that they have not suffered, nor are they likely to suffer, any wrong at the hands of male legislatures the members of which are their husbands and brothers. It is at least doubtful whether, if invested with political power themselves, they would be able to extort by its use as much as they now freely obtain from the tutelary sentiment of the other sex. With regard to the mutual rights of married people, male legislatures have already gone as far as they could go without such destruction of all community of interest between man and wife as would loosen the conjugal tie; if they went too far, and made marriage a burden to the man without compensation, the consequence would be that men would begin to decline wedlock, as they did under the Roman Empire; and it would then be seen whether philosophic babble had power to control the strongest passions of the human breast. The property held by unmarried women differs in no respect from that held by men, nor is it likely to suffer any special detriment from legislation not directly controlled by its owners.

Nothing is settled by repeating the phrase that taxation and representation must go together. Everybody pays taxes direct or indirect. Our seamen pay them though they can hardly ever vote. Married women, as the partners of their husbands' fortunes, pay them just as much as spinsters. No property is represented in any case saving the minimum required as a qualification for the suffrage. The practical question to be answered in the common interest of both sexes is whether government would be improved by putting political power into the hands of women. The men have made the laws because law rests at bottom upon the force of the community and the force of the community is male. If women made laws to which men were opposed, the men would refuse to execute them and the authority of government would fall. This would be the fate of those arbitrary enactments on moral and social subjects which the advocates of sentimental legislation always dream of carrying by the help of the women's vote. The women of France would at this time make laws respecting religion which the men would practically annul. Men alone can perform the full duties of citizens, since they alone can take part in the defence of the country, an obligation most properly attached to the suffrage by the present law of the Dominion. Men alone can be made thoroughly responsible for their public conduct; a woman arraigned for parliamentary or official misbehaviour would plead her sex. Political character must be formed in action and practical life, which as a rule is the sphere of man, while other qualities not less valuable in their way are formed in the home which is the sphere of woman. Certainly the contrary has not yet been proved by the examples of the women who have gone into public life in the United States; nor have those ladies given us reason to believe that tenderness will enter politics with woman; they have rather given us reason to believe that the tenderness of woman and the general beauty of her character depend on her exemption from political strife.

In the United States the community possesses a safeguard against rash measures of fundamental change with which we unfortunately have failed to provide ourselves. There every such change must be submitted in the form of a constitutional amendment to the people, who vote on public grounds and in the mass are not amenable to personal cajoling or bullying. Here a majority in the Legislature is decisive, and that majority may be obtained by arts of persuasion brought to bear by an active clique upon members personally behind the scenes. But let members of the Ontario Legislature when they are subjected to this process, if their gallantry

shrinks from refusing anything which is asked questionably, however, by a woman, remember that for one woman who asks there are hundreds who ask not.

YORK.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE SOUDAN.

THE fall of Khartoum and the rumoured death of General Gordon have changed the whole aspect of affairs in the Soudan, and have caused great anxiety and apprehension as to the result of the campaign. The difficulties General Wolseley has had to face have been enormous, and the advance by the Nile, which had been held to be impossible, has been successfully accomplished as far as Korti. Here, however, the strategical difficulties came into play, and it will depend upon the skill and determination of the General and the steadiness and bravery of the troops whether the campaign ends in victory or disaster.

When General Wolseley arrived at Korti, it was open to him to have marched his whole force across the desert to Metemneh, or to continue the ascent of the river, or to divide his forces and send a portion each way. It is manifest that dividing the army was to be avoided if possible. To have taken the whole army round by Abou Hamed would have left the line of communications at Korti open to attack by the Mehdi in force from Metemneh *via* Gakdul; and Wolseley could hardly march across from Korti to Metemneh without securing his left flank from attack by the line of the river from Aben Hamed. General Stewart's dash across the desert to Metemneh has secured the caravan route and the possession of the wells, and it is possible now that Wolseley may be able to march his main force from Korti to Metemneh without much difficulty. The reports seem to show that supplies have been pushed forward to Gakdul and beyond in large quantities, Stewart's position at the end of the route covering this work and rendering it possible. General Buller with a large reinforcement reached Gakdul on Thursday last, and he should arrive at Metemneh in a day or two. It was much better to retain the main force at Korti as long as possible while the stores were being forwarded, as it could be fed there so much more easily.

All this work had been going on successfully and without any check up to the capture of Khartoum. The fall of that city is a serious blow for many reasons. It will release for active operations the whole of the Mehdi's besieging force; it will furnish him with a strong base and with supplies, guns, ammunition, etc. If the rumour is correct that General Gordon is dead, it may still be found necessary to attack and re-conquer the place, and here is the greatest difficulty of all. If Gordon was able to hold it for so many months only to be overcome by treachery, it will be very difficult for Wolseley to capture it. This can only be done by storming it, by a regular siege, or by blockade and so starving it out. Wolseley's force is so small that it would be difficult to take it by storm. He has no siege train to batter down its walls, and his force is insufficient to invest it so as to keep out supplies. These difficulties at present are enormous, and it may require a very large additional force to finish the war. The capture of Khartoum has no doubt encouraged the enemy and depressed our army; but a little consideration will show that there should not be such despondency as to the safety of Wolseley's army. Suppose that Gordon had not been entrapped, but was still in possession of Khartoum; our army would still have had to fight its way there, and to face the main army of the Mehdi between Metemneh and that city. If our force was sufficient to do it under those circumstances it should be able to do so now. The Mehdi might at any time have raised the siege and marched down to Metemneh to meet Wolseley with his whole force; and that is all he can do to-day, unless he elects to remain in Khartoum and stand a siege—which is not at all probable.

There seems to be one course only open for our army under the present state of affairs, and that is to push on more vigorously than ever. If the indications are that Earle would be able to fight his way *via* Berber to Metemneh, he should adhere to that route; but if there is any doubt he should be withdrawn rapidly to Korti. A large garrison should be left there strongly entrenched to guard the depot of supplies, and the whole force should be massed at Metemneh. By this plan Wolseley would be acting on the interior lines, and would practically sever the Mehdi's strength into two parts. It would never do now to wait behind entrenchments for reinforcements. Our army should fight the enemy in the open, as Stewart did, wherever they can find him. If our men get shut up in intrenchments the game is over. They would never fight so well in the open again. The tribes all along the river would rise against them, the communications would be cut off, and in the end they would have to fight their way out or surrender. It is much better to do the fighting at once, and the loss would be far less than it otherwise would. One or two victo-