

### Annotations.

#### ILLUSTRIOUS WOMEN.

THE courteous and romantic treatment of women *and* wives by American men is one of the striking novelties which surprises Europeans in the States. In our opinion, it is the proof of Western progress, which is of the greatest importance—and the reason of the growing supremacy of America amongst the nations. No nation can be truly great which embryonates in the slave mother. And whilst the enfranchisement of British women is being contemptuously scoffed at and superseded by "verminous" legislation in our House of Commons, a Bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives in the United States which is intended to "establish a Pantheon for illustrious women at Washington, District of Columbia."

The proposed Statute in a quaint mixture of legal phraseology and charming sentiment, runs as follows:—

"Whereas every man worthy of the name loves and honours Woman; and

"Whereas Lincoln the incomparable, echoed the thought of millions of his sex when he said 'All I am or can be I owe to my angel mother,' and yet he and his prototype, Washington, left to others the pleasure of marking the last resting-place of her whose memory he so fondly cherished; and

"Whereas woman's sphere of usefulness is now too enlarged to leave her good deeds unacknowledged, except in response to toasts to 'the ladies' at annual banquets, where honeyed phrases without number are lavished upon them, but which fade from the memory with the sound of the speaker's voice; and

"Whereas gallantry suggests, and justice demands, at the hands of the men of our day, some fitting and tangible evidence of the wisdom and worth, as well as the noble self-sacrifice in peace and in war, in pestilence and in battle, of the 'women of America,' whose generosity and noble devotion to the cause of freedom in all our wars, as well as whose liberality in founding philanthropic and educational institutions, have made the names of Packer, Drexel, and Caldwell as familiar as those of Frances E. Willard, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Julia Ward Howe; and

"Whereas one of America's great women, Helen Gould, has generously founded a Temple of Fame for Men, it becomes the duty of the representatives of the people of the United States in Congress assembled to rise to the dignity of the subject, and to prove themselves equal to the occasion by passing the following measure: Therefore,

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of establishing and maintaining at Washington, District of Columbia, a Pantheon for illustrious American women, a corporation is hereby created, to be known and designated as the Woman's Pantheon Directors, to have perpetual succession, with power to contract and be contracted with,

and to have, hold, and use personal and real estate in trust for the United States; to have and use a common seal, adopt bye-laws, rules, and regulations expedient or necessary."

The Bill then proceeds to define the powers and duties of the five Directors, three of whom at least must always be women, and to appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the erection of an appropriate building for the exhibition of statues of illustrious American women. It concludes with the declaration that each State of the Union shall have the right to present, "at its sole charge and expense," three "illustrious women," in bronze or marble, for admission to "the said Pantheon." No doubt the virtues of Clara Barton, the President of the American Red Cross, will thus "stand in marble" for all time.

#### POOR INDIA.

The terrible famine in India is being supplemented, we deeply regret to read, by an equally terrible visitation of cholera.

Mr. Vaughan Nash, who is travelling in India on behalf of the *Manchester Guardian*, has cabled from Haida:

"The cholera is spreading fast in the famine-stricken districts.

"The pestilence is attacking famine camps, towns, and villages.

"In one division no fewer than forty-five famine camps have been attacked.

"The type is more virulent in Gujerat, where many thousands of people have perished.

"In the Godhra camp alone there were a thousand victims.

"I fear that an appalling loss of life is inevitable."

Writing home to the Church Missionary Society, the Rev. C. Stewart Thompson says: "The famine among the poor Bhils is becoming more and more acute. We are passing through a bitter experience. The people have been carried off in such large numbers that one can go for miles through the jungles without meeting a single soul. Corpses and skeletons are lying about in all directions. The mortality has been very great among the little children and old people. The Bhils have suffered so much that the starving crowds who come to the relief centres seem to have lost every bit of feeling except the intense craving for food. We are now feeding about 4,000 hunger-bitten persons daily. Oh! how we are longing for rains!"

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