

The New Northwest.

A Journal for the People.
Independent in Politics and Religion.
Alive to all Live Issues, and Thoroughly Radical in Op-
posing and Exposing the Wrongs of the Masses.

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THE CONVENTION.

Public sentiment has lately grown rapidly in favor of the principle of "equal rights for all," which is so plainly right and just, as the expression itself implies. This growth is greatly due to the passage by the Legislature of the resolution for a Woman Suffrage amendment to the State Constitution, which served to rivet the attention and secure the support of many lukewarm friends. Hardly realizing the force the cause of woman was mustering, thousands had thought little and cared less about her wrongs. When suddenly the suffrage resolution was adopted without any organized effort on the part of women's societies to secure it, people were sharply awakened to a sense of the situation. The idea dawned that there must have been a radical change in the opinions and consciences of many men to cause the adoption of the resolution when the only work done to obtain it was the publication of an "open letter" to the law-makers from the senior editor of this paper. The handsome vote which the resolution received has shown many timid people that Woman Suffrage is popular, and they are now coming to the assistance of those who have had the courage to battle for the right in the face of fearful odds. These constant accessions to the ranks of the workers for the reform, and the wide notice which the resolution and debates attracted, and the respect commanded by the very favorable vote in both Houses of the Legislature, especially in the Senate, have contributed to and helped the workers in the cause until the development of popular good-will in its favor is vastly greater than has heretofore been noticeable.

The coming State Convention, to assemble in this city on the 8th proximo, will prove the truth of our statement that never before in the history of the Woman Suffrage cause in Oregon has there been such rapid and perceptible crystallization of public opinion in favor of the right of all persons to a voice in the Government which they are taxed to maintain. This Convention bids fair to surpass, in enthusiasm, numbers and exercises, any preceding one. Those held in the past few years have received respectful consideration from the press and the general public, and the approaching sessions will be even better received. Invitations have been mailed to prominent people all over the State, and many will be present and participate in the deliberations of the meeting, while those who cannot attend will doubtless send letters to be read. Efforts are being made to secure the help of the Ladies' Cornet Band of Albany, and will probably be successful. Members of the Committee on Programme inform us that they have met with the greatest success in securing the services of prominent ladies and gentlemen for essays, addresses, readings, and vocal and instrumental solos. In no instance have they encountered that snobbery and affectation of superiority which formerly caused excessively "nice" people to refuse to assist because they feared it would not be reckoned as "reputable" by their equally "nice" friends if they aided a society which is working to secure the freedom of woman and the consequent elevation of the race. The nearest approach to affectation yet met was the statement by a young lady that she "did not wish to be identified" with the meetings, but she would take a number on one evening's programme to "oblige" the committee. She was informed that she need not discommode herself, as there was no lack of talent to afford good exercises every evening; whereupon she declared that she was anxious to assist, and was partially promised a place. This young lady is but one of the multitude who are willing to join the crowd and help swell the ranks when they learn that the movement is being generally endorsed. Numbers of these people will all contribute their presence and assistance, and the coming meeting will be most interesting. Let all who can come from the country be present and aid in making an exceedingly interesting, enthusiastic and profitable time and a gigantic gathering.

Several California State officials have employed their wives as assistants in their offices, the women drawing pay for their work like other clerks or deputies, and the Legislature has ordered an investigation. The cause may be found in the fact that the husband and the wife are "one," and it is manifestly wrong for "one" to be holding two positions and drawing two salaries; or it may be that some voters want places, and are determined to crowd out political nonentities. In this latter case, the husbands of deputies will have direct proof of the value of the ballot, which, in the case of Comptroller Kentfield, is worth \$1700 a year, that being the salary his wife has drawn.

REPEATED QUESTIONS.

There is a never-failing supply of people who wish to investigate the woman movement, and who desire to know something of the aims, objects and probable results of Woman Suffrage; there is a constant succession of well-meaning conservatives, who are cognizant that woman should have equal rights with man, but who are worried about "expediency," and want to know if the ballot will not "unsex" women, as though that were possible; there is an unending train of timid mortals who fear the time for the adoption of Woman Suffrage has not yet come, and who embody their fears in questions as to the propriety of postponing the inauguration of the innovation to some future time; there is a small, persistent and disagreeable army of individuals who are always conjuring up impossible situations when women are enfranchised, and who must ask questions based on the imaginings; and there are some garrulous, unreasoning opponents, who can appreciate no argument, but regard the masculine sex of a human being as the only necessary qualification for the right of suffrage, and whose questions are foolish and often obscene.

The editors of Woman Suffrage papers are the recipients of the attention of the majority of these various classes, of which the two last-named have one virtue, at least—they generally answer their questions themselves, for fear the newspapers will not reply to suit them. The others are not so satisfied with their own knowledge, and the frequency with which it is necessary to answer them must give a suffrage journal a tone of sameness. Yet we hope no one will imagine we do not like to receive letters and questions from sincere persons. The objections to Woman Suffrage which rise before people may be entirely new to them, and are entitled to respectful treatment, though having been met and overcome many times. Tired as we may grow of answering the same old inquiries or objections, we do not hesitate. Respectful questions indicate interest, and we only want the interest and study of a reasoning mind to be sure that it will endorse equal rights for all.

This week we have received an anonymous communication from a "Young Farmer," who evidently feels his lack of knowledge, asking for a trite explanation of the claim of women that they are enfranchised by the amendments to the National Constitution. The agriculturist asks us to "print the amendments if not too long." We generally ignore unauthentic letters, but will deviate from the rule in this instance, and herewith give Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment (italics ours):

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.

And section 1 of the Fifteenth Amendment:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

"Young Farmer" can certainly interpret these words sensibly, if not legally, without our assistance.

Quite often the public advocates of Woman Suffrage are asked to privately answer objections to the movement and to furnish arguments in its favor. For instance, there recently arrived at the office of the NEW NORTHWEST a letter from a gentleman of an interior town, saying that the debating society of which he is a member will soon discuss the merits of the woman movement, and that he wished a concise statement of the reasons why women should vote, he being on the affirmative side. As a matter of course, the gentleman is not a subscriber of this paper, or he would be able to prepare his own case, and he failed to send a stamp for a reply. However, we wrote him a letter, sent him copies of the paper bearing on the subject, and also forwarded some pamphlets.

Occasionally we wonder if the many subscribers who have taken this paper since its birth do not tire of replies to questions that are hoary with age; but we reflect that it is easy for them to pass over anything that is familiar to them, while we must placidly repeat, with slight variation, answers to respectful inquiries if we hope to accomplish one of the objects of this paper—helping to mold public sentiment into a proper appreciation of the rights of all persons, including women.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Decatur, Ill., "receives ladies to associate membership, granting them all the privileges of the Association," such as "collecting funds, clothing and food for the poor," "reading to the old and the sick," "cleaning the rooms of the Association," "buying a new carpet" and "paying the rent of the hall;" but it expressly forbids them the right to hold office or vote on amendments to the Constitution. It is not surprising that men fail to realize the inconsistency of this thing while women are so slow to complain of injustice when they feel it, and so ready to work in subordinate positions and content themselves by complaining secretly. If women will do their duty by themselves, men will not be so slow in performing their part in recognizing their rights and liberties.

"Reminiscences of the Flood of '61," written for the Telegram by Mrs. Coburn, and copied by the Oregonian, is a graphic and interesting description of scenes and incidents of the great freshet. It is pleasant to note that the lady's abilities are recognized and appreciated.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN IDAHO.

Mrs. Packard has failed to get her bill "to establish and protect the rights of married women" through the Legislature of Idaho Territory.—*La Grande Republican.*

This action of the Territorial law-makers should awake Mrs. Packard to a realizing sense of the position occupied by women. Any person of average intellect and perception can see in what a servile attitude they are placed by reason of their disfranchisement; and Mrs. P. should discover, if she can comprehend any principle of justice and equity, that if they had the ballot they could "establish and protect their own rights," instead of being rebuffed as beggars when pleading for favor from the class in power. It would seem that such a rebuff would teach her the simple and plain fact that rights are superior to privileges, and that women will never be secure in personal and property privileges without political rights. Occasionally there may be found a Legislature which will pass a law making the property privileges of women equal to the property rights of men, but women have no assurance that some subsequent Legislature will not revoke the equitable statute; and they never will have such assurance until they have the ballot, to enable them to elect honorable candidates for the Legislature and defeat tricksters and schemers. The right of suffrage is paramount to all other rights, because it is the key to all other rights.

The Boise Statesman, in commenting on the bill presented to the Idaho Legislature to secure women their "property rights," denounces it as being "vague," "loose," "indefinite," "uncertain," "extravagant," and without "intelligent meaning." We have not seen the bill, and cannot say whether or not these strictures are merited; but there are two sentences in the Statesman's article that we will notice. One of them is:

If this bill is to become a law, the Legislature might as well dispense with the Probate Courts and repeal the statutes relating to husband and wife.

As the prime use of Probate Courts is to enable executors, administrators, appraisers, lawyers, etc., to absorb estates that rightfully belong to widows and children, it would be eminently right and proper to "dispense" with them, though many men would thereby be forced to work for a living. As the statutes "relating to husband and wife" are generally unjust and oppressive to women, their repeal would be cordially welcomed by all lovers of justice, and the world could do without any legislation in the matter until new laws, based on equity and common sense, could be framed.

The other sentence in the Statesman that particularly attracts our attention is:

We are as ready, and will go as far to protect woman in civil rights which she can enjoy as any one, consistent with the marriage relation.

Women of Idaho, read that. The Statesman could not more plainly state that you are the inferiors of your husbands. You are to be "protected" in the civil rights which you "can enjoy," as though you are not capable of "enjoying" every right that other persons "enjoy." What rights do your husbands possess that it would be inconsistent for you to have? Are you not all human beings, endowed with intelligence, reason, volition, ambition, hate and love, the same as they? Are you not as pure and honorable as they? Have you not the same inherent right as they to compensation for your labor? When you assist your husbands in the accumulation of property—rearing children during the while—have you not the same right to come into full possession of community property on the death of your husbands as they have on the death of their wives? Do you not endure more in rearing your and your husband's children than do the fathers? Have you not as deep affection for them as their fathers have? Will you not deal as justly by them as their fathers will? Are you not patriotic and as interested in good government as your husbands? You will certainly answer these queries in the affirmative. Then what rights that men have will be "inconsistent" for you to use?

The Amity correspondent of the Independence River Side includes the NEW NORTHWEST in a list of "patent" newspapers, and the Standard, the Bulletin and the Astorian copy the falsehood. The correspondent is ignorant of the printing business, or he would know that not a line of this paper is "patent;" and the River Side is evidently innocent of a desire to do an injury, as it is mentioned first in its list; but the other papers seem to have circulated the report maliciously. The NEW NORTHWEST gives a summary of current news, and when an event transpires, it cannot describe something else. When Garfield was successful, we did not choose to write up a dog fight, though knowing that every other paper in the land would note the result of the election; and we may occasionally publish a clipping that will appear in a "patent," because we cannot know what will be selected for the ready-prints; but anyone should be able to tell by the width of its columns, the face of its type, and the style of its composition, that the NEW NORTHWEST is not "patent."

The first number of the Northwestern Law Journal and Real Estate Reporter, edited and published by Benj. I. Cohen, Esq., has appeared. It is well edited and neatly printed, and should receive a liberal support from legal gentlemen, real estate dealers and insurance companies, in whose interests it is published. It will be issued weekly at \$5 per annum in advance. We wish the venture success.

CONGRESS OF GERMAN WOMEN.

From the Woman Suffrage Journal of Manchester, England, we learn that an interesting and somewhat novel experiment has been made very successfully at Berlin. On the 13th, 14th and 15th of October, a Congress of Women's Societies was held, for the purpose of discussing the education and employment of women. The Crown Princess of Prussia postponed her departure for Cologne for a day in order that she and the Crown Prince should honor the Congress by receiving the delegates at Potsdam in company with the Prince and Princess Christian. The party was conveyed from Wildpark Station to the Palace in the royal carriages and graciously entertained with music and refreshments, her Imperial Highness testifying cordial interest in the work of the association. Many of the papers read at the Congress were remarkable for good practical sense and thoughtfulness. One of them, on "Woman's Work in England during the Last Ten years," was read in German by Dr. Frances Hoggan, who had been specially invited to prepare it. After reviewing the results obtained in education, the opening up of new employments for women, and the various associations formed for their mutual protection and advantage, including the latest, the Somerville Club, she touched briefly but earnestly on the history of the Woman Suffrage movement, and on the legal disabilities and wrongs which underlie it. This part of her paper was listened to with the deepest interest and attention, which is the more noteworthy inasmuch as a paper on Woman Suffrage previously offered to the Congress was refused on the ground that any consideration or discussion of the subject in Germany would be premature and unwise. In discussing this paper, the members of the Congress were enabled to institute a comparison between the condition of women in Germany and in England; and the conclusion was drawn that, while England is before Germany generally in women's questions, there are departments of feminine work which are carried on in a thoroughly business-like and effective way in Germany that are sadly neglected in England. Great attention was paid to the address of Frau Lina Morgenstern, one of the most active and popular, and also the most frequently challenged and opposed, among the German advocates of the rights and obligations of women. She is evidently a most capable orator, ready to give blows, and equally ready at warding them off. The ladies were well supported at the first public appearance by a galaxy of eminent men, including among others Privy-Councillor Schneider, Professor Gneist, and Legationsrath von Bunsen. Delegates from the various branches of the German Frauen-bildungs-verein presented their reports from their various centers of action.

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION.

Although nothing has been proven derogatory to the character of Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague, yet for over a year past she has been virtually an outcast from the "polite society" in Washington City. The worst said of her is that her husband, who is foolishly jealous, suspicious and Senator Conkling of intimacy. "Polite society" accepts his suspicions as truth so far as Mrs. Sprague is concerned, and she is put under a ban; but "polite society" rejects the suspicions as lies so far as Mr. Conkling is implicated, and he is everywhere cordially received. As a matter of course, if one sinned, the other did; and if one is innocent, so is the other. But the "polite society" of Washington City decides in favor of the man and against the woman. It convicts, ostracises, punishes and damps her, but acquits, lionizes, applauds and caresses him. Both verdicts are derived from the same base suspicion, treated as evidence in one instance and as perjury in the other. This social discrimination is an outgrowth of the social and political system which prevails in this "free and equal" republic, and is another illustration of the "protection" women receive. Doubtless Mrs. Sprague has often heard boasts of "the duty of men to shield women," and the sentiment may have seemed pretty while she needed no help; but now she finds all such professions are mockeries.

A number of prominent journals have loudly denounced the unequal treatment of Mrs. Sprague and the "intellectual peacock of the Hyperion locks," but none more pointedly than the Sacramento Bee. We give its concluding remarks:

The prevalent custom of modern society to hurl its scorn upon the weak woman alone is neither just, fair nor manly. It is cowardly, for it strikes at the weak and cringes to the strong. It is contemptible, in that it wars upon defenseless women and smiles at those able to battle for themselves. It is neither Christian, nor human, nor decent.

If there is one thing in this world more disagreeable than another, it is an irrepressible bawler—one of those individuals who thinks he can sing, and must inflict his songful soul on everybody in his neighborhood. In a room next to the NEW NORTHWEST office there is a tailor, and this "one-ninth of a man" in rasping voice howls his serio-idiotic lay from rosy morn to dewy eve, and his buzz-saw tones get no sweeter very fast. The contents of our "office hell-box" are offered as a reward to induce some human benefactor to come forward with a device for his immediate and eternal suppression.

The official records of the great rebellion are now being published by the Government. The first volume has appeared.