

The New Northwest.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME X.—NO. 34.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1881.

PER YEAR—\$3.00.

EASTERN OREGON.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM A DIP IN THE COLUMBIA—FACTS FROM THE "SEAT OF WAR"—WASCO COUNTY SUFFRAGISTS.

PORTLAND, May 2, 1881.

DEAR READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:
"Stepping aboard the steamer Mountain Queen," which was the next move in prospect after we posted the last letter at Hood River, was an incident that came within an inch of being a tragedy. The wind was blowing a high gale, and the steamer could not reach the land by about two-thirds the length of that dilapidated bridge apron of which we last week wrote you; so a gangway was laid from the steamer's prow into the raging water, pieced out by a slender strip of scantling about twenty feet in length. The boat rocked and the scantling ditto. The postal agent rushed aboard with a thin mail sack, and the purser rushed down the rickety, rocking incline, clasped the writer's hand, and rushed back again, we following because we couldn't help it.

"We had about an inch to spare," said the purser, coolly, as we stepped on deck. The scantling slipped off the gangway immediately after and fell into the water below with a splash that convinced us that an inch, in this instance, had been as good as a mile. We confess a lingering interest in that strip of scantling. We watched a deck hand as he drew it from the water by a slender rope and laid it dripping upon a pile of its fellows, and then we sought the ladies' cabin, shivering but happy.

On board were our old friends, Dr. H. McCornack and wife, of Eugene, who are going to Walla Walla to live; Mrs. C. St. Louis, of Baker City; Mrs. Rev. Condon, of Eugene; and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brown, who are moving from North Yamhill to Dayton. Besides these personal friends and advocates of equal rights, there was a large company of immigrants, multitudes of whom go up the Columbia by every boat. One little mite of a woman with three rollicking babies was traveling alone—barring the babies—her baggage a huge lunch basket and several paper bundles. She was weary and anxious, and we soon learned that she had been compelled to leave her trunk behind, entrusting her neck to a Portland land-lord, who was to forward it the next day. Her anxiety and restlessness were pitiable to witness. There were those present who could not repress a smile at her solicitude about her trunk, but there is no doubt that it was of more value to her, with those little children to clothe and her scarcity of means, than a fine farm or a steamboat would be to men with no babies clinging to their skirts and money to buy a new wardrobe. We lost sight of the little tired mother at The Dalles, but we do hope she got her clothing all right the next day; and we further hope that she escaped a lecture from her husband when she met him, because of the unavoidable accident that detained it. "What a little matter for a long paragraph," says the reader.

But you wouldn't think it a little matter, good friend, if you were similarly situated. Scarcely less helpless than the

"Little children clinging to their gowns"

are the weary mothers upon whom Nature has lavished a wealth of responsibility that is inconceivable to those who have never experienced it when accompanied by circumstances of pinching poverty and rigid economy which must be felt to be realized.

But, here we are, at the Umatilla House, and with us a number of guests for this famous hotel. We always "cap" for the Umatilla House because we can never forget that Messrs. Handley & Sinnott once gave us the free use of their bar-room for a lecture on the Woman Question, in the old dark days of the man's rights era when The Dalles churches were locked against us, and men of whom we had a right to expect better things were fighting our gospel of liberty with bolts and keys. It's a part of our religion to remember our friends, and do our best to forget our enemies, or make friends of them if we can, which is far better.

Found the good brother who had been led by the Times and the church bandle to believe that his wife had been insulted by us at our previous visit far more sensible than anybody who had been howling against us because we had kindly shown her the error of her vote. Learned that the good woman had not thought of being "insulted" till a few meddling simpletons had made her believe it—among them the Times reporter, one Dunne, who is trying, so rumor says, to cross the "color line" (of which we had no knowledge till this furor was raised) and thereby get a conjugal interest in a certain sheep ranch. There is hope that the estimable young lady can do better than to accept as a husband the played-out super of the defunct Bandmann combination. The young lady's mother, who is quite a talented woman, and perfectly able to take care of

herself, is now in serene possession of the fact that she has been over-served to her own detriment by the fawning knave who is courting her daughter, and the officious bandle who is in her husband's employ. The next time these fellows mistake the good Deacon or his wife for helpless idiots, whom they are called upon to defend because unable to defend themselves, they will not get off so easily. This episode will, we hope, make Woman Suffragists of the worthy couple, for it has awakened ideas in their minds that had not before occurred to them, and they will hereafter fully comprehend the position of Fred Douglass, and what we meant by quoting him. They are leading people in the community, and deserve to be. The cause of liberty needs their support, and we believe it will receive it, for they are clear-headed enough to be able to change an opinion, which is more than can be said of some people. Some of the leading advocates of the cause to-day were the persecuting Pauls of a decade gone. We are never discouraged.

On Saturday evening, the Blue Ribbon club met for the first time since Mrs. H. B. Tucker became President. As we had caused the lady's election to the position, and as more than half the community were exceedingly opposed to her as such officer (the retiring President, as we are told, having been afraid to put the negative for fear she would be voted down), we were exceedingly anxious to see her acquit herself creditably. And we are proud to say that she did. She has a good voice, a commanding presence, and, but for a disposition to smile continually, that smacks of vanity and giddiness, does first-rate. But it was amusing to oneself and annoying to our friends to see her "snub her creator." The Committee on Programme had booked us for a speech, and we sat there waiting for an opportunity to congratulate our handiwork, but—the chance didn't come. We were ignored as completely by this new light as though we hadn't kindled it. But it was fun, and we enjoyed it hugely. Her paper was good, and the young girls she has in training are making commendable progress, getting ready for the permanent place which many of them will hold in public under the forthcoming dispensation when women will be free. Thus is kind Providence at work everywhere, and in all directions, breaking the way for liberty through all obstructed channels, and making straight the paths of progress by the aid of the very hands that would hinder.

Dr. May, formerly Rabbi of the Synagogue Beth Israel in Portland, is in The Dalles, engaged in the drug business. The doctor has advertised for a lady physician as partner, and we learn is about to supply the want from California. He says there is a splendid opening for a lady M. D., and we shall be glad to see it occupied. Every woman who fills a niche that was formerly closed against her because of her sex is a living brick in the great temple of human rights, the keystone of whose arch is liberty.

On Monday afternoon, April 26th, the Wasco County Woman Suffrage Association held its second meeting in the Court House, the President, Mr. W. R. Crandall, in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and corrected, and speeches were made by Hon. G. O. Holman, the President, and the writer. Mr. Holman is a forcible, pleasing, argumentative and eloquent speaker, who will do valiant service for woman's cause in the next two and a half years. His sallies of wit are keenly enjoyable and his sarcasm cunning and sharp. Mr. Crandall, though not accustomed to public speaking, already talks like an oracle. The State Suffrage Association should have a year's work from him among the voters before this question goes to the people on its final passage. The Committee on Resolutions submitted a report, which, after some discussion, was unanimously adopted.

Our work over for the present in The Dalles, we again took the steamer for Cascade Locks, where we had an appointment to speak on Tuesday evening; but the rain spoiled the engagement for all concerned, and we spent the night in the hospital home of the McKays, and on the morrow departed for Portland, from where we are to start anew anon. A. S. D.

Late experiments have shown that about twenty per cent of the pupils in the deaf and dumb schools of London are, by means of the audiphone, enabled to hear sufficiently well to take their places in the classes of ordinary schools. It is known that increases of deafness, where the auditory nerves are unaffected, the audiphone enables the patient to hear with distinctness; but where the auditory nerves are destroyed or diseased no appliance at present known is of any utility.

The "dead-lock" in the Senate was broken yesterday on motion of Dawes, and several uncontented nominations were confirmed. The Chinese treaties are under consideration, and will doubtless be ratified.

A REMINISCENCE.

"Women can never exercise the right of suffrage, because they are such slaves to dress that their locomotion is hindered, their strength undermined, their health impaired and their intellect constantly dimmed by their vassalage!" exclaimed a young man, fresh from college, in our hearing the other day.

"Is that all?" we asked, demurely, as we looked at the spoiled darling's curled and waxed mustache, seal ring, patent leather boots, nobby hat and natty cane, to say nothing of a delicate button-hole bouquet and a peacock-colored necktie, which were absolutely stunning.

"As if that wasn't enough!" was the pert rejoinder, uttered with the air of easy self-complacency that made him a great favorite among silly girls, not one of whom would have been favored by his smiles if she had not been bedecked and bedizened to the extreme of the fashion.

"I am aware, sir, that women are guilty of many fashionable follies, but you will pardon me, since you began it, if I tell you frankly that all shortcomings in that line are not monopolized by the genus feminine," we replied, blandly.

The censor blushed and looked somewhat crestfallen for an instant, but he soon rallied.

"We don't wear ruffles and flounces and trailing skirts and hoops and stays and bangs and curls and frizzes and panniers and rats and bugles and puffs and ruchings!" he said, with a light laugh.

"Nor do we array ourselves in pantaloons and boots," we answered, mildly, "for the reason that wearing men's apparel is not one of our rights. And yet, when I look at your dress and remember that of the young ladies to whom you bowed and chatted so earnestly before we changed cars, I cannot see wherein you are more sensibly attired for your duties than they for theirs."

"But women can't do any of the out-door work that belongs to man's sphere, in their present style of clothing."

"So far as I know, they are not asking for the right to do anybody's out-door work."

"They are asking to vote."

"Of course they are, and will succeed in getting what they ask, too."

"Then why do you say they are not asking to do men's work?"

"Because it is true. They expect to monopolize the in-door offices, and let men do the out-door work the same as now. Their curls and puffs and ruffles and what not—I'm not as expert as you in naming varieties—will not interfere with their duties in any of the manifold in-door occupations which rightfully belong to them, and which men have usurped unjustly. Then, sir, when women get something besides clothes to think about, they'll simplify their attire wonderfully. As matters now stand, it is well that they have an opportunity to expend their surplus mentality on clothes. If not, they would soon reach insane asylums."

"And you'd deprive men of all the in-door offices?"

"Yes, sir! Of every easy in-door position, where labor is lightest."

"And what would become of the babies?"

"Rearing babies is a business, young man; and when mothers have that job on hand they will not be candidates for office. Don't be alarmed about the babies, friend. Nature has assigned their care to women. The laws of men can neither make nor break the laws of Nature."

The young gentleman brushed the dust from his faultless suit of clothes, and stroked his mustache gently.

"I must say," he exclaimed, honestly, "that you've given me an idea that I hadn't before thought of. It hadn't occurred to me to notice before how many men take in-door positions that women might fill as well as not, ruffles or no ruffles."

A New York telegram says that Samuel S. Morey, a broken-down cripple, who was bribed to swear that he was a nephew of the mythical Henry L. Morey, and who was indicted for perjury, has been discharged from custody, he having confessed his guilt under promise of immunity from prosecution. He hobbled slowly from the courtroom.

It is mentioned as a singular coincidence that President Elliot, of Harvard, Mary L. Booth, editor of Harper's Bazar, and the cook at Parker's restaurant, Boston, receive the same salary. Some paragrapher thinks "the cook should strike for higher wages," for "they are mere educators, while he is an edu-caterer."

From the Standard: "If any of our readers wish to see a thoroughly neat paper typographically, we recommend them to take a look at the New Northwest, printed by the Dunway boys, who are masters of the 'art preservative,' and truly 'intelligent' compositors."

RIGHTS.

[From the Western Woman's Journal.]

No subjects are of greater importance than questions affecting the political condition of the people. The mental, moral and physical welfare of the citizens of a state or nation depends more upon the degree of liberty of thought and action enjoyed by the individual citizen than upon anything else.

By reason of the mere fact of existence, every human being possesses certain inherent personal rights. Among these are the right to live, the right to think and act, and the right of enjoyment. In addition to these, certain other rights belong to every human being not incapacitated by infancy, insanity, idiocy or crime. Among these rights are the right to acquire and control property, the right to have and express opinions, and the right of a voice in the organization and management of such societies, associations or governments as may be organized to limit, restrict or control his or her personal rights or privileges.

These rights are not determined by the sex of the individual, nor are they dependent upon any other physical qualification or accident, but pertain equally to all persons. They are birth-rights founded upon the broad magna charta of humanity, and are as inherent and indefeasible as the eternal and immutable principles of truth and justice are indestructible. No person can justly be deprived of these rights, or any of them, except by his or her own voluntary relinquishment, or as a punishment for crime, of which the person punished shall first have been duly convicted by a fair and impartial trial. These rights are not derived from governments, because they existed before governments were instituted. On the contrary, governments are established for the protection of these rights, and can only derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. For this reason, the people have the right, whenever they deem it for their best interests, to change or amend the constitution by which they are governed. Governments which do not give just and equal protection and privileges to all citizens fail to carry out the principles of true government.

The constitution of the State of Nebraska and the constitutions of other States composing the Union do not provide for equal political rights for women, but authorize an aristocracy of sex, repugnant alike to natural right, justice, and the principles of republican government. The educational, social, legal, industrial and property rights of women depend, as do those of men, upon their political rights. The ballot secures and protects these rights, and is the means by which the people declare their will.

Those who advocate Woman Suffrage do not ask as a favor or privilege for the removal of the unjust restrictions that now prevent women from receiving the just and equal benefits of full citizenship. They ask for the ballot as a right, and maintain that by whatever tenures of right men hold the ballot, women claim it upon the same grounds. Upon every basis of equity, of justice, and of a wise and enlightened public policy, the amendment to the constitution providing for equal political rights for women should receive the sanction and support of all citizens who believe in progress as opposed to prejudice and injustice, and who have the best interests of the State at heart.

Lucy Stone says that early in the legislative session in Maine Senator Dudley moved to amend the Constitution by striking out the word "male." He was denied a special committee, and his bill was not fairly treated. Then the women of Maine sent in a petition for school suffrage sixty feet long, with a double row of names. On this petition there were a majority and a minority report. A motion to accept the minority report in favor of the petitioners was carried by one vote. Immediately a motion was made to indefinitely postpone the whole question, which was carried by the majority, at which there was "loud applause." The bold legislators had put down the women in a place where no woman could speak or vote, and then they applauded themselves!

Mrs. H. L. Patterson, of Muncie, Indiana, writes: "Among the many reasons why women should have the ballot, the two following are to me the most potent: 1st. I believe the right of suffrage to be inherent in woman as in man. 2d. I believe that the cooperation of woman with man in affairs of state will bring about a better condition of society. Therefore I want to vote."

The women employed as clerks in the Treasury Department, Washington, are highly commended by the chief clerks of the various bureaus as efficient, faithful and accurate. The majority of the clerks who count the vast sums of money daily passing in and out of the treasury are women, and it is said mistakes very rarely occur.