

HAVE FAITH.

BY THE LATE GOV. GEO. L. CURRY.

She was as beautiful and sweet, as Ruth,
Gleaming among the sheaves, to Boaz seemed,
As the fit wording of some happy thought
Or dreams that we have dreamed.

Her voice was a delightful harmony,
Like the rare melody of singing birds
In spring's green gorges; what wonder when she spoke
The heart thrilled with her words.

In faultless face—in gracefulness of form—
O mind, with culture bright, there was such charm
As made the wrapt soul worship and believe
The worship was no harm.

O form, so fair! O mind, so rich in thought!
O voice so sweet! O happiness, so brief!
Alas! that such perfections had no power
To save from pain and grief.

Why were we born, and wherefore do we live?
Good strives with evil, pleasure yields to pain,
And love is hurt by hate; must every life
Suffer the curse of Cain?

We are but earth, though imaged after God,
The soul shares sometimes its immortal germ,
And though the weaker in the good fight fall,
How many have stood firm!

In loving-kindness, too, hath God ordained,
That suffering shall purify the soul;
That after great affliction, comfort comes,
And faith that maketh whole.

Love is a part of life—life's better part:
We shall be saved through Love from all our sins,
But we set idols up and worship them,
And then the evil wins.

The Arabs say life has two precious gems:
That those who find them shall be surely blest,
How many seek! alas! how few have found
Where those bright jewels rest.

One like the Pearl; who bravely seeks must plunge
Into the depths of life's sea, forsooth,
And oft be wounded on Time's flinty rocks,
To get the priceless Truth.

The other, diamond-like, with its own light
Brightens the desert, and makes faith secure
In prizing honor more than worldly wealth—
There Love is true and pure.

O my lost "Love!" Field of my heaven!
Who made life beautiful! even now she saith,
In winning tones, that thrill my longing heart,
"Patience! have hope, have faith!"

"Have faith in Love and Truth: they are of God,
"And make life nobler in the life you live,
"For like the sunshine even to common things
"A comeliness they give.

"Take up your cross! Each has a cross to bear;
"Bear it up bravely, never sinking down;
"Grief shall have comfort, weariness repose,
"Your cross, celestial crown.

"There is great work to do: in all you do,
"In iron mobility, without parade,
"Do even more than duty may demand,
"In the great plan God made.

"Bind up your wounds, and with a fearless front
"Press firmly on—life's pathway leads through death.
"Fight the good fight, and steadfastly keep the faith,
"With the last gasp of breath.

"Death is only a change that gives new life
"That sets you free from all the ills of this,
"That leads from darkness to eternal light,
"To peace, and love, and bliss;

"To an eternity of all that's good—
"Unceasing fragrance of unfolding flowers—
"Unending influence of unselfish deeds—
"Youth and immortal powers!"

O perfect spirit of sweet womanhood!
Whose influence lingers with our latest breath,
Your love has sanctified—your faith shall win
Its triumph over death.

THE PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT.
ITS ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY.

The Portland Fire Department is within a few years as old as the city itself. The first effort towards organizing for protection against fire, was in the spring of 1851, but no definite plan of action was agreed upon until the 6th of May, in that year, when a public meeting was convened, and a fire company organized under the appellation of PIONEER ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1. The names of members were enrolled at once and an election of officers ensued, with the following result: Foreman, Thos. J. Dryer, at present residing in the city; Assistant Foreman, D. C. Coleman, at present residing in Yamhill county; Secretary, J. B. Meer; Treasurer, Wm. Seton Ogden. Both the latter gentlemen have since died. Among the original members of this, the pioneer of the Portland Fire Department, we recognize the following valued citizens who still reside in the city: Dr. R. B. Wilson, Captain Geo. H. Flanders, A. B. Hallock, Shubrick Norris, and John M. Breck.

No further steps were taken in the matter of securing protection against fire until 1853, when the City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the formation of hook and ladder companies within the city limits. This arm of the service was found to be more efficient than engine companies without apparatus. Hooks, ladders, buckets, and all the paraphernalia of such a company could easily be procured in Portland, whilst engines would have to be imported from the East by sailing vessels around Cape Horn, and by the time they might arrive the company thus formed to man them would fall to pieces through inertia.

On the 28th of July, 1853, a meeting was convened at the Dennison house, and the primary steps taken for the organization of a fire department. The whole city was formed into one district in order to secure a large roll of members for the contemplated hook and ladder company, whilst two engine companies were to be organized, one of which was to be located on the north line of Washington street, and the other in the southern portion of the city.

After making these preliminary ar-

rangements, the meeting adjourned until the following evening, when it was again convened for the adoption of a name for the hook and ladder company and the election of officers. The result of the meeting was the organization of

VIGILANCE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY NO. 1,

With the following officers: Foreman, I. B. Smith; Assistant Foreman, H. W. Davis; Secretary, Chas. A. Poore; Treasurer, S. J. McCormick. An adjournment was then made until the evening of August 1, 1853, at which time the constitution and by-laws of the company were adopted, and the company was recognized by the city authorities, by an ordinance passed August 4, 1854, since which time they have continuously rendered valuable service in the salvation of property in this city. The officers at present are: President, Geo. H. Clarke; Secretary, R. M. McMaster; Treasurer, I. Kaufman; Foreman, H. J. Scherner; First Assistant, W. Lundberg; Second Assistant, J. Hornung; Delegates, I. Kaufman, T. Wygant, E. H. Stolte. This company occupy a good brick building and is well equipped for service at fires.

WILLAMETTE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

Was organized August 3d, 1853, at which time the following officers were elected: Foreman, N. Ham; Assistant Foreman, David Monnastes; Second Assistant, A. Strong; Secretary, A. M. Berry; Treasurer, Chas. E. Williams. This company was admitted into the Department July 7th, 1854. The first machine used by this company was a small tub, owned by Geo. W. Vaughn, but, finally, in June, 1855, the City Council passed an ordinance providing for the purchase of an engine for this company. The selection fell upon one of Smith's New York machines, which arrived at this port in 1856, and was used by the Willamettes up to within a few years, when it was replaced by their present steam apparatus. The officers now are: President, Joseph Simon; Secretary, A. H. Tanner; Treasurer, W. H. Andrus; Foreman, A. R. Church; First Assistant, T. Richet; Second Assistant, J. D. King; Delegates, Joseph Simon, A. W. Witherell, John O'Connor. The beautiful brick building they now oc-