

ADDRESS OF MRS. BERTHA HONORE PALMER.

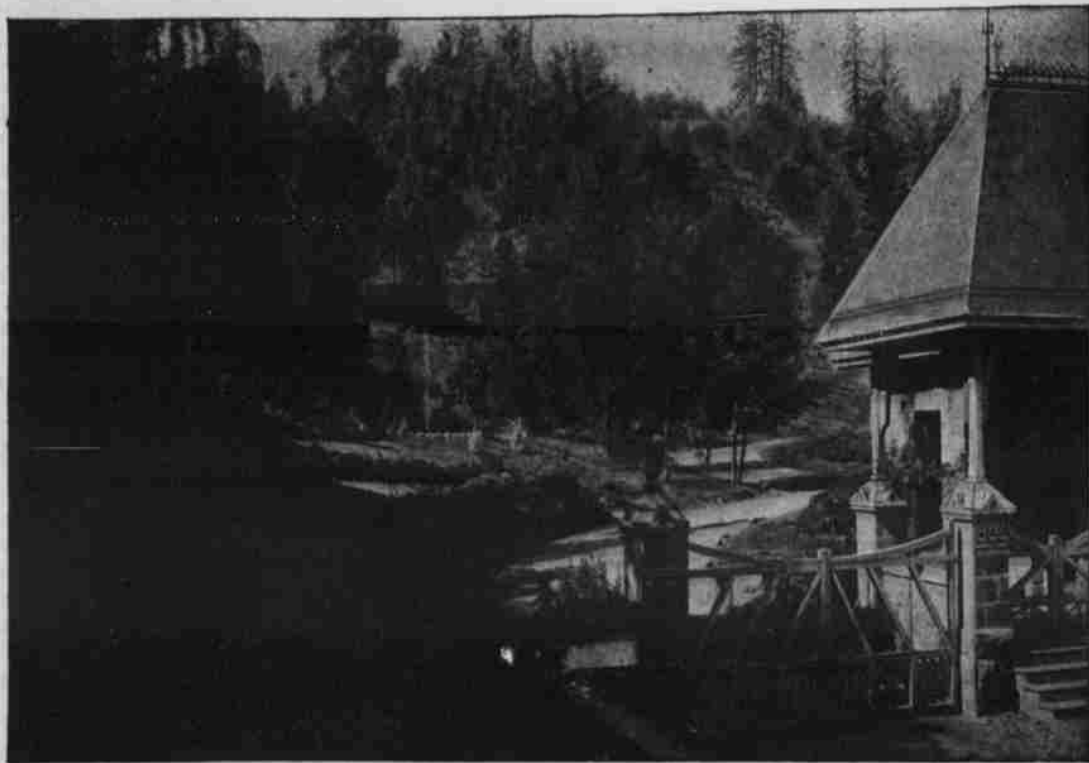
[President Board Lady Managers, delivered before the Woman's National Council.]

I came to listen and learn in this assembly of women of broad views and high ideals, and I feel assured that the purposes of our board will be greatly furthered by our having been put in sympathetic touch with the leaders of thought in the various departments of woman's work. A magnificent site has been assigned us, and \$200,000 appropriated for the construction of the woman's building at the world's fair. Such will be, undoubtedly, kept as a permanent memorial of woman's work after the fair is over, and in it all women's organizations and convocations will find a home. This building is to be designed by a woman, competitive sketches having already been advertised for from the women architects of the country, three prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively, being offered for the three best designs. We hope by thus calling attention to the work of women in architecture to aid them to occupy a field which naturally belongs to them, that of domestic architecture, for every man is gradually being educated by the women for whom he builds to know what is required in a home.

We shall try to provide in this building for all possible wants of women, having in view a bureau of information with interpreters and guides for stran-

representing missionary societies to realize that they may aid both themselves and us by showing the life and work of women in heathen countries. If a child widow, for instance, from a Zenanna, could be brought, with her native dress and surroundings, and the suffering and inhumanity to which she is subjected shown, it would arouse such an interest on the subject as years of talk would not produce. The native weaving, pottery, ornaments, costumes, household utensils, etc., from these countries would also be of the greatest interest and value. * * * Our building and its facilities will be offered free to all the women of the country.

For the first time in our history the mothers, wives and daughters of America have been permitted to assist in the management of an important national enterprise, and have been allowed the the high, but demoralizing privilege of slipping their fingers into the national purse [laughter] in order that they might prepare an object lesson showing the progress of women during the century in which educational and other privileges have been accorded her. We wish to show that with the enlargement of her opportunities, her sphere has extended and broadened until she works successfully in almost every field heretofore given up exclusively to her, except that she can do many things and do them all well, and that there are no intellectual heights she can not scale. Hers are essentially the arts of peace and progress, and her best work is shown in the reforms she has had the courage and the ideality to inaugurate



ENTRANCE TO RIVERVIEW CEMETERY, PORTLAND, OREGON.—See Page 247.

ers, parlors and balconies where ladies may rest and chat, an exhibitors' club room, a model kitchen where demonstrative lessons may be given, we hope, without charge; a loan exhibit of colonial, old Dutch, Scandinavian and other relics recalling the early history of our country and the various nationalities from which we are sprung, and also of objects developed in the home by the taste of women. One wing of the building will possibly be devoted to showing the reform and charitable organizations originated and carried on by women, and the other to the exhibit which will be sent by our auxiliary associations formed through the instrumentality of our foreign ministers in the countries to which they are accredited, and by means of which we shall be enabled to indicate the condition and attainments of women in every part of the world.

We shall also have an administration room, committee rooms, and an assembly room for all lectures, congresses and assemblies which may be desired by women. In the main gallery there will be probably shown some of the most brilliant achievements of woman's hand and brain. There will doubtless be in many cases duplicates of objects entered for competition in the general exhibit under the regular classification, the duplicates being placed in our building to emphasize the fact that they are the work of women.

In reading a list of the organizations represented here it occurred to me that we might obtain also a most unusual exhibit from the missionary stations in the inaccessible and unfrequented parts of the earth, and I beg the ladies

against time-honored wrongs, both legislative and social, and in the gradual elevation of the standard of morality.

We feel the necessity of showing this beautiful influence and the advance which it has caused, but are handicapped by the fact that the most valuable part is spiritual and that it is difficult to show progress in abstract things, except by a mass of statistics which become significant only when intelligently and systematically read. Will you not aid us with your experience and thought to show woman's work as a beautiful whole, with its animating spirit, and not as a mere mass of material things? We wish the world's fair of 1893 to be memorable as a great exhibition, greater than any which ever preceded it, but we also wish its history to be a golden page in the annals of woman's advancement.

We urgently request, therefore, that each organization represented here appoint a committee of five of its most able women to consider the work we are trying to do for our sex at the fair, and to present to us at an early day their suggestions and advice as to how we may best accomplish the great end we have in view, and to inform us in what manner their associations will be able to co-operate with our board in its work, and we ask that they send their suggestions, applications for space, etc., to our headquarters in Chicago, where they will be gladly received and most carefully considered and acted upon. The board most cordially and pressing invites this council to hold its inter-