

## PROMINENT PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

Abigail Scott Duniway, like Julia Ward Howe, is "the despair of the photographer." No photo does her justice, and she is, for this reason, averse to submitting to what she calls "a printed attack upon her features."



ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

Mrs. Duniway, *nee* Scott, was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, near the center of the state, in the beautiful country home of her parents and grandparents, by them christened Pleasant Grove. Here, surrounded by the usual circumstances of border life on a primitive Illinois farm, she grew to girlhood, the second in a family of ten children, of whom all but one who attained maturity were girls. Her paternal grandfather, Hon. James Scott, was for eight years the sheriff of Tazewell county, one of the oldest counties in the state, and at the time he held the shrievalty it embraced all the adjoining counties, "reaching," as he used to say, "to Chicago." Mrs. D's maternal grandfather, Lawrence Rolofson, Esq., was widely known as an eloquent and fervent religious exhorter. Her father, J. T. Scott, Esq., shared the deep orthodox piety of the times, but removed to Oregon at too early a day, and brought up his growing family in the midst of too much that was new and conducive to independent religious thought to hold his children to the rigid Presbyterian lines marked out for them before their birth, which he, though always a liberal Christian, himself outgrew before his long and useful life was ended.

Mrs. Duniway says that the daughters of a strong-willed, practical and bravely independent man, like her honored father, could not be otherwise than like himself. Her living sisters, five in number, are each as remarkable as herself in literary power and originality of utterance; and all are her recognized co-workers in the equal suffrage movement. Three of these sisters, Mrs. M. F. Cooke, Mrs. C. A. Coburn and Mrs. H. L. McCord, reside in this city. Mrs. S. M. Kely, the fourth sister, lives in Lafayette, this state, and Mrs. R. E. Latourette, the youngest, resides in Oregon City. The Hon. H. W. Scott, editor of the *Oregonian*, is the only living full brother of this remarkable group, and strangely enough, this brother does not hesitate to use the powerful paper he controls as a weapon to oppose his sisters' demands for equal rights; although a younger half brother, Charles W. Scott, champions his sisters' side of the question.

Mrs. Duniway began her public career many years ago through necessity. Her husband, who still lives in very feeble health, has been an invalid for thirty years, as the result of an accident with a vicious horse. But the devoted wife, and mother of a large family, nothing daunted by this misfortune, bent resolutely to her duties, and kept her children together by teaching, keeping boarders, doing millinery work, dress making, and such literary work as she could find meager pay for, until her sons were large enough to become apprentices in a printing office. She then purchased a plant and removed, in 1871, from the then village of Albany to Portland, where her three oldest sons grew to manhood as publishers of the *New Northwest*, of which she was editor-in-chief, a position she held until January, 1887, when she withdrew from the newspaper field until the subsidence of what she called "prohibition craze," should make it worth while to resume her labors for temperance and liberty.

Mrs. Duniway is now in the prime of life. Her eldest son, Willis S., is a prominent lawyer in Idaho, where the family have large landed and livestock interests. The second son, H. R., is a successful lumberman in this city. The third son, W. C., is connected with the *Portland Evening Telegram*, in addition to his Idaho business, and the two youngest sons, Clyde A. and Ralph R., are making their mark in Cornell university, the first in the classic course and the latter in the law school.

Mrs. Duniway's family history is thus sketched, partly because of the widely spread interest attaching to "those we read about," and largely as an object lesson for other women, whose paths she made easy by her own perseverance. Of her public work so much is known that little remains to be told. As an extemporaneous speaker she is logical, sarcastic, witty, poetic and often truly eloquent. As a critic she is merciless, as an enemy, forgiving; and, after having her "say," conciliatory. As a writer she is forceful, argumentative and sometimes voluminous, but it is hardly necessary to add, never dull.



COLUMBIA RIVER, NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE LITTLE WHITE SALMON.—See Page 275.

M. M. HAZELTINE, Photo.