The New Northwest.

FRIDAY.....DECEMBER 15, 1871.

THE "OREGONIAN" ON COUNTY FINANCES.

Our contemporary of the *Oregonian* has a huge-sized elephant on his hands in the shape of clearing up the mishaps of the Multnomah Ring, and we deeply sympathize with him. Of course he is bound, by the rule of party politics, if he would retain a position of prominence or fill public positions of ease and emolument, to defend his political friends, right or wrong. But we are sorry he does not meet the issue squarely and fairly. Usually, heretofore, he has enjoyed the reputation of being quite an adept at figures; but then we must take into consideration that it is something of a task for even so experienced a politician as the editor of the *Oregonian* to present a plausible defense of the Multnomah Ring. Here is the way he starts with his figuring:

"The expenditures of the county for the fiscal year ending July 6, 1871, were $54,478 32, against $45,582 24 for the previous year. Here is an increased expenditure of $8,895 08."

Notice the unfairness of the manner in which this statement is put forth. Nothing whatever is said of the payment of a judgment against the county for $4,882 76 in 1870, the particulars of which we gave in our last issue, and which swells the increase in our county expenses proper to $13,786 83. Further on we come to this:

"The last item, rewards for capture of criminals, is exceptional, and was incurred in ridding the community of the worst gang that plagued and terrorized it."

Accepting this statement as correct, for the sake of the argument, Mr. *Oregonian*, permit us to inquire why you did not state that the amount of the judgment against the county, paid in 1870, was also "exceptional?" Be candid, brother.

Allowing that the expenditure of $1,119 91 for capture of criminals was correct and proper—and we wouldn't for the world vouch that it was—the increase in county expenses would still be $12,666 92½.

The following table is next presented:

Keeping prisoners, increase	$1,408 61
Keeping paupers, increase	2,356 11
Circuit Court, increase	4,049 19
Roads and bridges, increase	1,081 79
Reward and capture of criminals	1,119 91
Total	$10,061 13

Then follows a labored but unsuccessful attempt to justify these expenditures.

As the statistics given in the table have been taken from our columns and published in a garbled manner—sharing the fate of the Grand Jury Report—we present again the items, showing wherein there has been increased expense and the amount:

	Expenditures for 1870.	Ex. for 1871.	Increase.
Keeping prisoners	$4,000 00	$5,408 61	$1,408 61
Keeping paupers	4,581 42	6,937 53	2,356 11
Salaries	6,000 00	6,000 00	00 00
Circuit Court	8,465 76	12,514 95	4,049 19
Militia	1,000 00	1,325 00	325 00
Fuel for Ct. House	279 12	297 00	17 88
Roads and bridges	749 36	2,830 15	1,081 79
Gas and water in Court House	227 00	354 00	127 00
School Supts.	214 50	441 00	227 00
Expense County Commissioners	191 50	398 00	206 50
Rewards for criminals and capture	000 00	1,119 91	1,119 91
Total	$26,708 70	$38,086 83	$12,666 92

It will thus be seen that outside of these items the county expense for 1870 was greater than for the year following. Our county officials have not managed their embezzlements discreetly. That there should be a decrease in the other expenditures and such an extraordinary increase in these is remarkable, and is susceptible of but one reasonable explanation.

We are curious to know why the *Oregonian* skipped some of the items—like, for instance, the militia, fuel and stationery. Rather hard things to "explain," aren't they, neighbor?

We close this article by asking the *Oregonian*, as it has assumed the role of apologist for the Ring, what it has not seen fit to answer heretofore: Why did not our County Clerk publish the usual financial exhibit this year? It will be no answer to say that the books of the county are open for inspection, as it is out of the question for the great majority of the tax-payers of Multnomah to examine them.

We wait for an answer.

SMOKED OUT.

Our man's rights brethren of the Portland daily press with one accord entirely ignored the Grand Jury Report until the NEW NORTHWEST unearthed and presented it to the tax-paying people of Multnomah county, showing them and the entire State wherein they had been robbed by Rings, and creating such excitement as has not been known in political circles here since the last State election.

Not one of these daily papers has as yet alluded to the fact that a woman has forced them to speak. They wait until our articles are copied and commented upon by the interior press, and they then come timidly to the front and hold up the Salem *Mercury* as a shield, from behind which they may to strike us while making feints at Mr. Pennoyer.

First comes the *Bulletin*, (which has become the mouth-piece of the Republican party in this city, and from which the *Oregonian* must take its cue before it dares to say a word), and in a long, personal diatribe against the Foreman of the Grand Jury declares that the Report—which was furnished the NEW NORTHWEST by the County Clerk as official, when that document was called for, as he was in duty bound to do, although it evidently was not given joyfully—is a spurious document, gotten up for "political effect."

The *Oregonian* speaks as soon as the *Bulletin* tells it what to say, of course reiterating the same charges.

Then comes the *Herald*—the last and weakest of them all—and in its feeble defense of Pennoyer exposes its connivance at and complicity with the Court House Ring, in language unmistakable.

THE "OREGONIAN" "HERE TO EXPLAIN."

The *Oregonian* of Wednesday contains a long and studied article upon the county administration, which, as it is the first even apparently honest handling of the matter by the daily press which has yet come to our notice, we present, in the main, to our readers this week; and we ask any and all honest, candid, sensible men, who read these columns, if they do not see the necessity of a reform in our political management—a reform which shall be inaugurated irrespective of party or sex? Says the *Oregonian*:

The court and jury rooms and the various offices are all to be swept and put in order daily, wood is to be carried in and fires are to be kept up. For this service and for pay for a jailor $125 a month has been allowed.

Now, we speak of what we do know and testify of that which we have seen when we declare that the court and jury rooms are the farthest possible removed from all political ideas of good "order." And, but for this item from the *Oregonian*, we should never dream that "sweeping and putting in order daily" was any part of the official programme. We know many women in Portland who would be glad to be allowed to do this work, and do it *well*, for half the money.

To show that the expose does not result from the extreme virtue of Democratic influence, and also to prove that Democrats think these expenditures are all right when their hands are in the office crib, the *Oregonian* says truthfully:

As to the $600 allowed the Clerk for keeping the county books, the Commissioners have their option of paying it to him or paying it to some one else, since this work is not part of the duty required of the Clerk by law. We may add that to the last Clerk (who was a Democrat) the sum of $700 a year was allowed for this service. It strikes me that if there is a "Tammany Ring" here now, there was a very strong flavor of Tammany then. Yet the foreman of the late Grand Jury, who was then editor of the *Herald*, had no indignation at that time to expend on the subject. Expenditures like these were not "profligate and unwarranted" when they were made (and at higher rates than now) by his own party.

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Last year and the year before when the county was in Democratic hands these expenses were paid out of the treasury with great punctuality and without a word of opposition from the gentleman who in his recent "report" characterizes them as "profligate and unwarranted"—though he was then editor of the journal which now thinks that the county authorities which allow them are a "Tammany Ring."

Tax-payers of Multnomah county, don't you see that it is not merely *Republicans alone* or *Democrats alone* who waste your money? Cannot you see that *both* are guilty of gross extravagance? And do you not clearly see that *men alone* are making bad work of our national house-keeping? Women have exposed these matters, else our Tammany Ring would have yet gone on, increasing these extravagances, until there is no telling where they would have ended. The people, men and women, are awakened now, and they will speak next June.

We elsewhere give the *Oregonian's* financial exhibit, with comments which we deem appropriate. Let the people judge of all these matters with a calm, unbiased judgment.

THE "HERALD" FORCED TO COME OUT.

The *Herald*, in commenting upon a letter of explanation from the Foreman of the late Grand Jury, which we publish elsewhere, says:

The communication sets right a matter about which our two contemporaries, in this city, have been disturbed, namely: as to the value and authenticity of a certain report, appertaining to the finances of the county, made by the Grand Jury at the late term of the Court. Mr. Pennoyer states, as will be seen, that the report as he made it, was first submitted to the Grand Jury by himself, and received their approval by a unanimous vote, no one objecting, and it was submitted to the Court as the report of the Grand Jury. We add, what Mr. Pennoyer assures us, that, the Grand Jury being present in Court, were asked by the Judge if this (holding it in his hand) was their report, to which he, as foreman, answered affirmatively for the Jury, and no one dissented. There can be, then, no doubt that it was and is a genuine document. As Mr. Pennoyer says, the report is not a partisan document, the majority of the Jury being Radicals, while Mr. Pennoyer is a Democrat. Had it been partisan, it would, no doubt, have been ignored by the majority. These facts, which have been the subject of some debate in social circles and in the newspapers, are now all settled and set right.

Things being thus understood, the *Herald* is now able to say what it was not prepared to say until now.

Did the *Herald*, for a time, believe that the Grand Jury Report was a "partisan document?" And did it therefore ignore it, lest its publication might injure its friends, the Multnomah county Court House Ring? If the *Herald* is not a party to this mal-administration, why did it garble the Report? Why has it not *yet* published it?

Ah, Mr. *Herald!* The people's eyes are open! They are determined to repudiate all Rings and get control of the offices themselves. It matters not to them how much you shake your fist and shout "no gentlemen" or "no lady." Neither do they fail to understand your present conscientious (?) disclaimer, since they know that you were hunted from your hiding place by the women of the county and compelled to turn State's evidence to save, for the time being, your own political position.

Enjoy it while you may, poor man! Your time is short!

CHANGE OF BASE.

The other day the *Herald* told its readers with great gusto that Joaquin Miller was going to select a handsome residence and take up his abode in Portland. Now, this same reliable publication tells us that he is to wed a Scotch lassie and make his home in England. Will our friend Davidson be so good as to reserve that beautiful site in Portland as a future home for our aspiring will?

NEW POLITICAL PARTIES.

"Are you going over to the Democracy?"

This question was suddenly asked us by a prominent Republican editor, who would doubtless like the aid of the Woman's vote in his coming political campaign.

A little anecdote, which we will here relate, will serve to illustrate our position.

A certain darkie was claimed by two masters, one of whom, being of a religious turn of mind, sent the vassal regularly to church to learn obedience to the Scripture command, "Servants, obey," etc.

When the slave returned one day, his master asked him how he liked the sermon.

"No like him, massa! Preacher tell a big lie!"

"Tut! tut! Sambo! You mustn't talk that way about the minister. But what did he say that was false?"

"Massa, sure as you born, he say no man can serve two massas. He say, 'He'll hate de one an' hub de udder, or cleave to one an' 'spise de udder.' Taint true, massa. I hate you both alike."

Time was when the Republican party was the party of progress. And to that party we then fondly looked for the realization of our hopes, for the enfranchisement of one half of the human family and the establishment of a government of economy, equality, purity and justice. But alas! this party which promised so much, and which did accomplish so much good for a season, has bowed down to the shrine of Mammon! It exhausted its one idea when it suppressed the great Rebellion, and its work is done.

The Democratic party is a galvanized corpse, nothing more, nothing less; therefore the women hope for nothing at its hands, as it has indeed all that it can manage in its efforts to make believe that it exists.

Both have done their work and both must pass away. And while many men and women from each will coalesce into a Republican or Democratic *fusion*, taking one name or the other, the progressive spirit of the age will see the necessity of a party of Principle, with justice, progression and harmony as its foundation, and upon this rock will we build our trust.

AUTHENTICITY OF THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

The *Oregonian* and *Bulletin* say that the Report of the Grand Jury is the Report of one man, and not the opinion of the entire Jury. How is this? Is this not casting a reflection upon our Honorable Circuit Judge, whose duty it is to ask the persons composing the Grand Jury, after receiving the Report from the hands of their Foreman, if this is the Report of the Grand Jury, and, if not responded to affirmatively, to return it to them? Is it not also casting a reflection upon the remaining portion of the Jury, to intimate that they consented to indorse a document without knowing its contents? Nonsense! That document *is* the Report of the Grand Jury. To doubt it is to cast discredit on any and every official document, and destroy confidence in them. The law presumes it to be correct until the contrary is shown. Not a single word of *contradiction* has been offered by those papers, and we challenge them to prove the Report false if they can.

If the figures and statements given there are true, they speak for themselves, and it matters not who does or does not indorse them. If they are not true, disprove them. The books of the county are open for the inspection of every citizen.

Then, gentlemen, meet the facts fairly. The public want to know them.

ISN'T IT FUNNY?

Last spring, when we began the publication of the NEW NORTHWEST, the people said: "Her *brother* helps her! No woman could manage such a paper! He'll get tired of his trouble after a while, and then the breeze will blow itself out." But the weeks and months have glided on, and the paper improves with every issue, while the public, learning that the *Oregonian* and ourself are not only not in each other's interest, but are engaged in spirited controversy, now conclude that Pennoyer is our mentor, counsellor and friend.

The fact is, that neither of these gentlemen are noted for their espousal of our cause—one of them needing a hunting over our editorial coals every week or two for his opposition, and the other having subsided long ago because he was too "courteous" to hold his own in an argument in which he had been badly worsted.

Strange that politicians cannot learn that it requires nothing but a woman's brain to unravel politics.

Wonder who'll be appointed as our next assistant?

DEMOCRACY VS. REPUBLICANISM.

We learn from friends in the city, and by numerous letters from the interior, that Democrats are exultant over the expose of the Multnomah Ring, and that they are just now jubilant over Woman Suffrage and the NEW NORTHWEST. Don't crow too loudly, gentlemen. We're glad of your help for our enfranchisement, but we must tell the truth. Remember Tammany. And also please remember that you have a Salem Ring, by the side of which Multnomah's Ring is infinitesimal. We're getting the official documents connecting this Ring, and shall spread them before the public just as soon as we can get them ready. Our war is not upon parties, but corruption. Politicians have shown woman no favors, and they must not expect favors for themselves. We own our own office, pay our own boys, run our own machine and are personally responsible for our own statements.

RIVALRY.

The Kalama *Beacon* had another article worth clipping five or three weeks ago. Here is one of it:

"The number of divorces now [illegible] the present term of the Circuit Court [illegible] seems to deny [illegible] charge of the Oregon press, that attribute this "frightful decay of morals" to the "brilliant success of Susan B.'s doctrines!" While we "don't go a cent" on "Susan B.'s" sex her doctrines, it is proper for us to "vindicate the truth of history," and place some of the responsibility for "frightful decay of morals" upon other shoulders.

Then follows a dissertation upon many of the prominent causes of divorce in Oregon, some of which are substantially correct. But our contemporary's conclusions are illegitimate, as are most men's ole-timed theories where woman is concerned. After telling us that the Donation Act was largely productive of ill-assorted marriages, he says:

"The tendency to divorce was constantly presented to female temptation from the fact that the wife was endowed by the Federal law with a half-section of land, while local legislation and the courts add alimony, etc., to an extent that makes it *profitable* to seek a divorce, especially among the early landholding class of females!" [Query: women?]

Our brother doesn't see that the tendency for divorce came, not because woman owned their own county estate property in fee simple, but because it was more profitable for them to control it than allow somebody else to do it. A property-owning woman will no more brook the despotism and overbearing control of her husband over her property, when she can help herself, than will men permit the same usurpation. It is a *shame* that the laws of the land are such that a woman who owns property in her own right can hold such meager control of it that it makes it "*profitable* to seek a divorce."

The cause does indeed lie "deeper than the brilliant success of Susan B's doctrines." We also agree that "Susan B. did not create this history." It is this history which she deplores; but, when woman becomes emancipated from the pecuniary and political domination of man, she will not be compelled to obtain a divorce in order to control her own person or property. Then harmony will arise from chaos and confusion, and woman, the peer of man in all things, will be, in reality as well as in song, the queen of home.

A SAD CASE.

All the absconders have not yet been reported. We have a case to report and a moral to point. Some three weeks ago, a man, having a wife and several children, living on the hills west of the city, concluded he was tired of his family, gathered up all the money which had been saved by two years' hard labor of the twain in the milk and butter business, amounting to some six hundred dollars, and decamped for California, leaving his poor wife a large quantity of children to support, and nothing but three cows to aid her. With a brave heart, which shows the woman to be in truth the "better half," she courageously faced her hard fortune, and may every morning be seen wending her lonely way (walking) to this city, through two long miles of muddy woods, with a milk-can full of milk in each hand, which she sells to their old customers, and then walks back, to cut fire-wood, feed her cows and take care of her children.

This is hard; but harder still is the *law*, made by chivalrous men, which prohibits that poor woman from selling one of those cows, renting their little place, or making in fact any contract about the property left on her hands to lighten her toil, which is enough to kill strong men, and all because she is the *wife* of a cowardly sneak of a runaway husband. It seems to us that even a woman, if she were in the Oregon Legislature, would have sense and ability enough to draw up about ten lines of law that would offer a poor, deserted wife some protection in such cases.

INVESTIGATION ASSOCIATION.

If women everywhere in the United States would go to work, as have the intelligent and conscientious ladies of Forest Grove, in their attempts to investigate the science of government and the present political situation, they would speedily see that it is a matter of duty for them to take hold of the affairs of State and help their brothers to purify the Augean stable of political corruption, whose noisome rankings extend throughout our moral atmosphere. The Forest Grove ladies have gone after politics just as many of the Portland women are doing, and we shall look for much good to result from their Investigation Association.

HE'S DEAD.

The *Herald* thinks that such rhymes as recently appeared in the NEW NORTHWEST, addressed to Uncle Ike by his niece Patsy, are nothing but "doggerel" when *he* is the subject of song; but when the same rhyme and meter appeared in the *Herald*, opposing Woman Suffrage, the same journal was delighted. Now, if Brother Ike had known that the lines which he calls "doggerel" were written by the wife of one of the most prominent Democrats in Portland, and approved by her husband, who brought them to this office for publication, he would not have dared to make such an assertion. Such is the fact, however, and "Uncle Ike" is politically "dead."

QUESTION ANSWERED.

We ask the *Oregonian* in simplicity and earnestness to tell us what Victoria Woodhull is to us? What have we to do with her? And what business is it of ours whether her husband be her "affinity" or not?—*New Northwest.*

Candidly, we don't know.—*Oregonian.*

That settles it.

WHAT "DOG OIL" MEANS.

EDITOR NEW NORTHWEST:

The expression "Dog Oil," used by your Salem correspondent in the last number of the NEW NORTHWEST, evidently refers to important political events, in which he appears to be well posted. Having been referred to, it might as well be brought to the surface and aired a little.

Several years ago, but within the memory of many, an extensive and profitable smuggling operation was carried on between Victoria and Portland, which prominent officials were accused of countenancing at. Casks and barrels of brandy, marked "Dog Fish Oil," were flooding our market. No official could see it. Finally the parties engaged in the business quarreled about the division of the spoils, and the whole affair became public, and everybody knew what "Dog Fish Oil" meant, but did not know how to apply it to politics, until the affair of Jack Burchard presented a solution.

Some of the parties engaged in the former transaction were able to deposit $1,000 as bail money for the appearance of said Jack Burchard, then lying in the county jail, awaiting a trial under an indictment for murder. The deposit was made on election day, under an arrangement with the (Roughs) friends and co-workers of Burchard (said to be forty in number), who agreed, if their comrade was released, that they (his friends) would vote a certain ticket. The deposit was made, the votes were cast, as per agreement, and Jack Burchard walked boldly out into the fresh air, and that is the last ever heard of Jack. The ticket was triumphantly elected, and the Roughs became satisfied that they were a power in politics.

Taking these two transactions together, no wonder that your Salem correspondent thought there was efficacy in "Dog Fish Oil" in oiling the political machine in this county. It is the business of the Ring to know how to obtain the "Oil," as well as to apply it to the machinery—and well they know their business.

CUMTUX.

PORTLAND, Dec. 13, 1871.

SALEM, Oregon, Dec. 9, 1871.

EDITOR NEW NORTHWEST:

The honest people here of all parties are delighted with your recent expose of the Multnomah Ring. Many are talking of taking the NEW NORTHWEST. I send you the name of Judge C., of Corvallis, who gave me $3 00, which I shall pay over to you when I come to Portland. The Judge said for me to tell you that your article on Multnomah's Ring had caused him to subscribe. Why don't you show up the Salem Ring?

S.

Subscribers are coming in from every quarter; and if the demand becomes much greater we shall start a daily paper.

We're getting ready for the Salem Ring, good friend. Be patient.

OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The *Oregonian* says that the County Commissioners are honest men, and argues that therefore our county affairs are all right. Doesn't the *Oregonian* remember that three of the most honest men in New York city, of whom Marshall O. Roberts was one, had the wool so completely drawn over their eyes by Tammany that they reported the city finances all right?

Honest men may be deceived sometimes.

RING ORGAN.

Our Salem correspondent last week stated that the *Oregonian* was owned by the Court House Ring. This we did not believe at first, but have since reluctantly come to the conclusion that it is so, from its feeble efforts to shield our transgressing county officials.

How have the mighty fallen!

CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICIALS.

The correspondent who has favored us with an explanation of "Dog Oil," as applied to politics, says to us in a private note that the transactions related to occurred before the present Custom House officials were in power, and consequently cannot apply in any way to them.

ACCOUNTED FOR.

We are not surprised at the increased expenses of the Multnomah Court House "wood bill," since the *Oregonian* has explained that the increase of our population justifies it.

STATIONERY.

In 1870 it cost $540 51 to supply the Court House with stationery. In 1871 it cost $672 05. Increase, $131 54. Another effect of the increase of population, according to the *Oregonian*.

PREPARING FOR WAR.

In 1870 the militia cost Multnomah county $628 07; in 1871, $1,363 13. Our county government is evidently preparing for war.

"TO A POET."—We publish on the first page a poem from the pen of Mrs. M. M. Miller, entitled as above, and addressed to her husband, Joaquin Miller, whose verses have recently elicited such high encomiums in the literary circles of England. Some fugitive pieces and many extracts from Joaquin's poems have met our eyes; in none have we detected a merit equal to that which pervades every sentence of the verses written by his neglected wife. They appeared originally in the NEW NORTHWEST. We commend their perusal to critical and discriminating readers, and challenge a comparison with the best of Joaquin's poems.—*Pacific Tribune.*

"I don't miss my church as much as you suppose," said a lady to her minister, who had called upon her during her illness, "for I make Betsey sit at the window as soon as the bell begins to chime, and tell me who are going to church, and whether they have anything new.

Some of the Queer Things to be Seen in Mormondom.

You are struck by the great number of children everywhere here. Some houses absolutely overflowing with them; some families are embowered in "olive-branches." The different sets get along very well together generally, yet that is little wonder, after the manner of agreement between the mothers. Polygamy does not seem to spare women the cares of maternity. I know a Mormon household in which two middle-aged wives count about two dozen children between them. I took two little fair-haired girls for twins and they were a sort of polygamatic twins, born almost at the same time in the same house, of different mothers. It seems to me that the children here do not look as happy and bright as in our towns; I fancy that the little girls, at least, have something of the subdued, repressed look of their mothers. But some few of them are pretty, and nearly all neatly and comfortably dressed. I hear that they have very good schools, and are under good discipline at home, answering to the roll-call at night, and duly honoring their father and their mothers.

Many Mormon wives are sisters, and it is said they get along quite harmoniously. The very nature of women seems to be changed here, and turned upside down and inside out. An intelligent first wife told a Gentile neighbor that the only wicked feeling she had about her husband taking a second wife was that he did not take her sister, who wanted him, or rather a share in him. She would have liked to have the property kept in the family. I saw the other day a pair of young wives, sisters, walking hand in hand, dressed alike in every particular, of the same height and complexion, and of the same apparent age—indeed, looking so exactly alike that it was almost a case of mitigated bigamy. It must seem queer, even to them, to say "our husband," as they used to say "our piano," or "our pony."

The most singular and unnatural marriages here are those of men with their wives' mothers. These are not unfrequent. It strikes me this is a seditious plot against immemorial domestic authority, the most ancient court of feminine appeal—that it is an attempt to do away with mother-in-law. When young wives are taken, the three or four or five do not always become one flesh, there is sometimes rebellion and even hostility on the part of the old wife. Occasionally a husband objects to having even a second wife imposed on him. I heard of one the other day who, though he finally submitted to the command of the imperial Brigham, that he should take and provide for a certain poor woman—"a lone, lone cretur"—declared that that he couldn't "bear her," and at once put her away on a ranch forty miles from town—pensioned and pastured her out.—*Grace Greenwood in New York Times.*

Bishop Simpson's Views.

Bishop Simpson, having recently been invited to attend the annual meeting of the Woman Suffrage Association of Iowa, responded as follows:—

OWATOMA, Oct. 2, '71.

HON. J. HARLAN—*Dear Senator:*—Yours inclosing Mrs. Savery's kind invitation was received before I left Mankota. I would be pleased to comply with her invitation, joined as it is with your earnest solicitation. But I am under bonds—if not to keep the peace, at least to keep silence—so far as either sermons or public addresses are concerned, until the full restoration of my health. I am glad to say my health is improving. I have presided at five conferences this fall—two still await me. But I have not ventured any extra labor, nor shall I for some time to come.

Please convey to Mrs. Savery my thanks for her kind invitation, and say to her that I sympathize fully with the Woman Suffrage Association in its desire to attain for women the ballot. And I hope the association will keep clear from all other topics and questions with which the movement is elsewhere entangled. It is for its moral influence I desire it; this gives it strength. The imprudent speeches of some of its advocates are injuring it more than all the arguments and efforts of its opponents.

Yours, truly. M. SIMPSON.

We are glad to lay before our readers this cordial letter of sympathy for woman's enfranchisement from so eminent a man. We appreciate the full force of Bishop Simpson's statement at the close of his note, and deeply regret that he has occasion to write in this way. There are a few identified with the Woman Suffrage cause, who advocate the most obnoxious sentiments on other questions, which do great harm to the suffrage movement. The true friends of woman's enfranchisement everywhere feel this, and many feel called upon to publicly protest against it. In Polk County, Iowa, a Woman Suffrage Convention was recently held, and was largely represented by its members and friends, who protested against a paper published in New York, which advocates, in connection with suffrage, "free love," and "licensing houses of prostitution."—*Woman's Journal.*

Mrs. Leary denies that her cow kicked over the lamp that set fire to the straw that burned the stable that caused the destruction of half of Chicago. Which is rendered exceedingly probable by the well-known fact that Chicago cows never kick, and Chicago kerosene is a non-combustible fluid, and Chicago hay is gathered from marshes and is so saturated with salt that it will not burn, and that Mrs. Leary's shed was built of fire-proof materials, and that the destruction of Chicago was in punishment of its sins, and, moreover, is a great blessing for which those who were not burned out are exceedingly grateful. The cow must be exonerated.

SIXTY MILES OF FIRE.—The Chicago *Journal* says that an approximate measurement of the lines of streets destroyed by the great fire shows that about *sixty miles* of street were laid waste. This gives the reader a fair idea of the extent of the conflagration; and the fact that nearly all these ruined streets were literally lined with buildings, some of which were among the finest in the world, will give him a fair idea of the magnitude of the destruction.

Jones says that he first met his wife in a storm, took her to the first ball in a storm, popped the question in a storm, married her in a storm, lived his subsequent married life in a storm, but buried her in pleasant weather.

In a late vacation letter Henry Ward Beecher enumerates as among the delights of summer rest, the privilege of wearing old clothes. This is a privilege that a good many clergymen have the whole year round.

An enthusiastic editor, speaking of a new prima donna, says: "Her voice is as soft as a roll of velvet, and as tender as a pair of slop-shop pantaloons."

A Cincinnati horse doctor advertises to teach a horse to sing, which suggests to the Boston *Post* that we have enough one-horse singers already.

George Sand is writing a novel which, it is said, will attack "all that was pure, virtuous and good" in the life of the ex-Empress Eugenie.

Letter from Mr. Pennoyer.

PORTLAND, Dec. 9th.

To the Editor of the Herald:—The *Oregonian* of this morning designates the report of the Grand Jury for this county as "a spurious document," and asserts that it "was not made by the Grand Jury," but that it "was written, accepted and signed by only one member of that body." In reply, I have to say that such report is not a spurious document; that it was made by the Grand Jury, and was by that body accepted. On the last day of its session I wrote that report in the Grand Jury room, read it to the Jury after being finished, whereupon, by vote of the Grand Jury, it was indorsed as their report, and so presented to the Court. Now, one word as to its contents. It has been charged that it was written in a partisan spirit. Such a charge is utterly groundless, as the imprisonment of witnesses with criminals and the payment of unlawful stipends to the Clerk and Sheriff had been done under Democratic as well as Republican county administrations. It was the abuses that were complained of, and not the county officials. It was the unanimous opinion of the Grand Jury that while the imprisonment of witnesses with criminals was an outrage, yet that the jailor could not be in the least blamed, as he was responsible for the safe keeping of such witnesses, and had nowhere else to keep them. The several items of county expenditures were merely given for public information, and were accompanied by no comments whatever. Allow me to say, that to the very best of my ability, I avoided making what might be deemed a partisan report, but that being placed in a position where it was my duty to speak plainly, I did so, and was sustained therein by the entire Grand Jury, the majority of which was Republican. I am pleased to say this to their credit. It was a matter of surprise to me that the unlawful payment, of the sums designated, to the Clerk and Sheriff, had never before been noticed by previous Grand Juries, but that such wrongs had become sanctioned by the precedent of several years. And it is equally a matter of surprise to me that there should be found one single paper in Multnomah county ready to malign the Grand Jury for discharging its simple duty, in denouncing this profligate expenditure of money upon office-holders, who, without it, are the recipients of munificent salaries.

SYLVESTER PENNOYER.

OUR AGENTS.

The following persons are duly authorized to act as Agents for the NEW NORTHWEST:

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SPECIAL NOTICES.