

THE RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE.

There is nothing which women need more to learn than that they must decide all questions of conscience for themselves.

But in matters of importance women have too long been accustomed to evade, if not to ignore, moral responsibility.

In Catholic countries we see the same thing, just in proportion to the general intelligence or ignorance of the male part of the population.

In Christian, Protestant America, female children are not destroyed at birth, widows are not burned upon funeral pyres, women do not go to the confessional as to a brothel.

Admitting that this course would answer best the ends of happiness on earth, how will it be in that final reckoning up which comes at last.

Even the Protestant churches—the most advanced in enlightenment of any in the world—are not innocent of willfully or unwittingly abetting this moral degradation of women.

The sooner women comprehend their individual accountability to God and to society, the sooner will society be purged of its manifold corruptions.

Illinois has extended to married women every right but that of suffrage. They can keep their own earnings, and transact business with their husbands as with strangers.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The present is replete with swiftly recurring events of great and momentous interest, and numerous and unmistakable signs foretell yet greater in the not distant future.

We who stand upon the shores of the Pacific, working, waiting, watching, hoping, striving by whatsoever means in our power lies to hasten the glorious day of woman's enfranchisement.

The Legislature of Michigan has submitted Woman Suffrage to the people by a vote of more than two-thirds of its members.

Similar bills passed the Senate of Kansas, and only failed in the House by a small majority.

In Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Ohio the question is assuming vast proportions, and these and some other States will soon follow in the wake of Michigan.

From eminent persons and influential newspapers come statements of the impetus which the work has received from the Temperance Crusade, while we can scarcely open an Eastern paper without seeing a call for a Woman Suffrage Convention.

It must be apparent to those who have watched and worked for the cause in our own State that it is rapidly gaining in public favor.

On the afternoon of the 16th inst., between fifteen and twenty ladies assembled at the corner of Morrison and First streets, and taking up their position on the outer edge of the sidewalk, began to sing and pray.

It was further shown by the evidence that at Mr. Moffett's instigation every lowest device was resorted to in insult and frighten the ladies, even to presenting pistols.

Now, although we are sorry for the defeat of the ladies, as a defeat, and ashamed of Portland morals as shown by that verdict, we are glad that this strong and pointed case has occurred just as it has.

But that which is most vividly presented to us in this case is the need of something stronger than moral suasion in the hands of women.

It is perhaps superfluous to comment upon this decision, except to say that it did not take its origin from the charge of Judge Denny, as has been unjustly presumed by some.

After three days' trial, and the above-mentioned verdict, the ladies, attended by many friends, appeared for sentence on Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock, and were fined five dollars each and costs, or, in default of fine, one day's imprisonment in the city jail.

The defence was ably conducted by Messrs. A. C. Gibbs, C. W. Parrish, H. H. Northrup and—Shoup, who volunteered their services and contested inch by inch the ground, as points were made and objections raised.

It is our opinion that the Police Court never before was the scene of any trial similar to this; nor was it probably ever more orderly, quiet and respectable.

First—The verdict was contrary to the testimony, and to the charge of your Honor, in that the testimony clearly shows, by numerous witnesses, that we were quiet and orderly in our conduct.

Second—We, as Temperance women, do earnestly protest against being sentenced on the finding of a jury composed in part of liquor dealers, who, according to the words of their oath, had already prejudiced us.

It may be alleged to maintain the work in which we are engaged, we should like to do so. The crime being supposed to be in the intent, we would remind your Honor that the husbands and fathers of the land are being stricken down on every hand by this vile traffic.

WHAT NEXT? It needed just such a trial as that of the crusaders in the Police Court to show up the whiskey influence in this city.

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Oregon are not ashamed of their record in this matter, they should be. We believe they will soon be convinced of the necessity of their past blindness in this respect.

Not as a prisoner, you will please to understand. No, thank you. Not while juries are composed of saloon-keepers and whiskey sympathizers.

But as Yours Truly had heard many and various opinions expressed upon that all-absorbing topic, the offense and trial of the crusaders, she became possessed with a desire to see and hear for herself.

Undaunted by the imposing presence of Chief Lappets himself, Yours Truly mounted the iron staircase, bowed her way through the gaping, staring crowd, and finally, with a little flutter of ribbons, and a careful disposition of flourishes, settled herself and glanced around.

High on his throne of royal state sat His Honor, the Judge, grave and silent, as if upon his shoulders rested the weight of mightiest monarchies.

After the farce of empanelling a jury of their peers (?) had been gone through, the trial proceeded.

An individual, whose nose was sufficient introduction as counsel for the prosecution, after a glaring misstatement of facts, proceeded with that redolent assumption of superiority, so common in animals of his mental calibre, to inform the jury that he did not "consider the defendants as accountable beings," meaning, of course, that they were nothing but women.

THE END OF IT. About half-past eight o'clock Wednesday evening, as the lady prisoners were preparing to spend the night with what comfort they could in apartments so unusual, a Captain of Police suddenly appeared upon the scene and turned them all out of doors.

Well, the ladies, finding they were homeless for that night if they did not go home, asked a young gentleman, a stranger whom they found near, to escort them to the church, where a meeting was being held, and where they knew their friends could be found.

While in Nevada we indulged in a visit to the hydraulic mining works. Steady streams of water with over two hundred feet fall, are brought through large pipes, with six-inch nozzles, to bear upon the solid mountain sides with a force that dismembers the complaining earth, and sends it crashing to the plain below.

MRS. DUNWAY'S LECTURE.—The lecture at the theater on Thursday evening was of the highest order. Every one who attended, with whom we have spoken, speak in the highest praise of it.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE. DEAR READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST. Leaving Stockton on Monday the 12th inst., after having closed our lectures with a very large audience on Sunday evening in the Methodist church, we took the overland train at noonday, by the way of Colfax, for Nevada City, where we had an appointment for the evening.

Arriving at Colfax, a little railway station, perched among the foothills of the bold Sierras, we learned to our disappointment that the staging to Nevada City would occupy us till far into the night, and prevent the possibility of our meeting our engagement for the evening.

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THE INDEPENDENTS. Now come the Independents with their ticket, prating of the political millennium. We confess that we would have much more confidence in the professions of the party through its platform if it were not engineered and controlled by disappointed place-seekers and men with old political grievances to redress.

Be this as it may, we are sure that when the smoke of the June battle shall have vanished, leaving the political atmosphere again clear, that the shattered fragments of the "Independent party" will be sought in vain.

AN OPEN LETTER.

TO ANY MAN WHO MAY CLAIM IT. (See New Northwest of March 27th.) They tell me you are what the world calls a "rake"; that whatever little attractions nature may have thoughtlessly given you have been subordinated to base uses, and that, instead of being a strong, noble, manly protector of the "weaker sex," you have openly boasted of your power to win the hearts of too susceptible maidens, and then cast them aside as lightly as though they were made of caoutchouc.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.—A gentleman advertised for a boy to assist him in his office, and nearly fifty applicants presented themselves to him. Out of the whole number he selected one and dismissed the rest.

COL. BAKER.—The lecture to-night, on the subject of Col. Baker, will be well worth listening to. All who were admirers of his eloquence, bravery and patriotism, ought to hear his merits rehearsed by Mrs. A. J. Dunway, who knew him from childhood, and who is familiar with his record, public and private, and who has the ability to raise the same in a manner that will do credit to the memory of that great orator and statesman.—Nevada City (Cal.) Transcript.

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Everywhere we are greeted by the press and pulpit with the utmost courtesy, though in many places we are compelled to fight our way through many obstacles engendered by the "shrieking sisterhood," whose rabid "Woman's Rights" doctrines have thrown the Woman Movement into disrepute.

A few evenings ago we were met at the residence of Mrs. Rolfe by a party of ladies and gentlemen who are well known suffragists, and a few others who have not yet identified themselves with the movement but are becoming sympathizers through the Temperance reform. How we wish some of the stupid mortals who hold back from active work in this great moral field, for fear they may lose caste, could travel for a few months among the people and note the high degree of intellectuality and refinement, as well as wealth and domestic happiness, of those who are so far emancipated from Miss Nancy-Isness that they dare to speak what they think!

THE HOUSE BEING WELL CROWDED AT AN EARLY HOUR, THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER. A president and competent corps of associate judges were chosen, after which the address speakers proceeded to "speak." And (parolon the expression), there was some "spotting," which was pretty warm on both sides, and lasted until a late hour, when the question was submitted to the judges, who, being both honest and impartial, were obliged to decide in favor of the affirmative.

THE QUESTION WAS: Resolved, That women should have equal rights with men before the law. The participants in the debate—six in number—were as follows: In the Affirmative, James C. Woods (brother of ex-Governor Woods), Uncle Caleb Woods, and Wm. Clark; in the Negative, Professor E. G. Adams, Dr. C. G. Caples and Geo. W. Merrill.

HO! FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.

I take the liberty of announcing to you the result of a very interesting debate which took place in the new school building at Columbia City recently.

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