

NOTICE.

To the Executive Committee of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association: The time approaches when you must perfect and execute the plans you have laid to assist in conducting the fourth annual meeting of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association. It is with assurance that you are urged to work fast and work hard. Much depends upon the promptitude and efficiency of your efforts. In the short time now allotted you, gather together every possible material for the meeting. Procure good and novel plans for carrying on the meeting. Prevail upon speakers, writers, etc., to address us, and see that they are invited if they have not been before asked. Provide miscellaneous entertainments, anything suitable. Insist upon the attendance of friends. Create enthusiasm. Finally, endeavor to be promptly on the ground. A meeting of the Executive Committee is called at 12 o'clock Monday, February 7, 1876, at the Opera House. Be there.

J. DEVORE JOHNSON,
President O. S. W. S. A.

MAY WOMEN PRACTISE LAW IN THE SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN?

Miss Lavina Goodell, of Janesville, Wisconsin, was admitted to the Wisconsin bar by His Honor Judge Conger, at Janesville, more than a year ago, after the usual examination, and has since that time been engaged in the practice of her profession. One morning in December she appeared before the Supreme Court at Madison with an application for admission to its bar, and a written argument to enforce the same. Having a case in the Supreme Court, she found it necessary to make application for admission, and learning that there was a difference of opinion among the learned judges as to her right to be admitted, she came prepared to argue the case, should necessity require. Hon. J. C. Sloan, the Assistant Attorney-General, appeared with Miss Goodell, and in her behalf motioned her admission, read her petition and argument, and enforced the same with eloquence, vigor, and sound logic. The petition of Miss Goodell abounds in arguments that are unanswerable, and opens in this wise:

Now comes your petitioner, Miss L. LAVINA Goodell, a resident of Janesville, Wisconsin, over twenty-one years of age, and presents to your honors the certificate of A. W. Baldwin, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of the State of Wisconsin, stating that at a term of said Court, begun and held at the Court-house, in the city of Janesville aforesaid, on the 17th day of June, A. D. 1874, your petitioner was examined in open Court; and that, it appearing that she was a resident of the State of Wisconsin, more than twenty-one years of age, of good moral character, and possessed of sufficient legal knowledge and ability, she was duly admitted by said Court as an attorney and counselor-at-law; and moves your honors that an order of this honorable Court may be entered, granting a license to your petitioner to practice as an attorney in said Court.

Your petitioner respectfully suggests that the only question involved in her case—if indeed there be any question at all—is, whether the fact of her being a woman disqualifies her, under the laws of Wisconsin, or the rules of this honorable Court, for receiving a license to practice as attorney in said Court; and claims that she is not so disqualified.

After reading the statute providing for the admission of attorneys, she continues:

There is nothing contained in these provisions which can be so construed as to deprive a woman from the privilege of obtaining a license under them, unless it be the use of the masculine pronoun. But by statute, relating to the rules of interpretation, it is provided that "every word importing the masculine gender only may extend and be applied to females as well as to males." Wis. Stats., l. p. 38. This rule of interpretation is followed in the construction of all the statutes, and there appears no reason why it should not be applied to the particular statute under consideration, as well as to the statute providing for notaries public, and defining their duties, under which your petitioner has been appointed and now holds the office of notary.

The cases of Mrs. Myra Bradwell, who had been refused admission to the bar of the Supreme Court of Illinois, in September, 1869, and of Mrs. Belva Lockwood, who was refused admission to the Court of Claims, Washington, D. C., in 1874, solely on the ground of their disabilities as married women, were cited and were shown to be wholly inapplicable to the case of the petitioner. One of the limitations to the discretion left by legislation to the Court as specified by the Supreme Court of Illinois was that "the Court shall establish such terms of admission as will promote the proper administration of justice." No argument was made against the admission of women under this head, and Miss Goodell submitted that the "proper administration of justice" would be better promoted by the admission of women to the practice of law than by their exclusion, for the following reasons, among others:

1. That a class wholly unrepresented in courts of justice can never obtain full justice in such courts; and that when that class is as numerous as to include one-half the human race, the promotion of "the proper administration of justice" requires that they be represented.
 2. That a union of the peculiar delicacy, refinement, and conscientiousness attributed to women, with the decision, firmness, and vigor of man, are not only desirable, but necessary in promoting "the proper administration of justice" in our courts.
 3. That in excluding women from the practice of law, an injustice is done to the community in preventing free and wholesome competition of the best existing talent.
 4. That a great injustice is done to one-half the community, by shutting them out entirely from an honorable and remunerative field of industry, for which many of them have both taste and ability.
- The Court, after hearing the argument, reserved its decision. Its action, and if the motion is denied, its reason for such denial, will be looked for with more than ordinary interest, not only by the legal profession generally, but by the public, as involving principles of interest to the whole community.

CO-EDUCATION OF THE SEXES.

We find, amongst other rather singular statements made by a lady correspondent of the *Bea*, whose communication is referred to elsewhere, the following:

We are convinced that few persons, excepting parents, ever consider, much less are aware of the many evil effects arising from the education of both sexes in the same room.

Now, we are convinced that the method here condemned is the only correct and satisfactory way of educating children. The very act of separating the sexes in the schools establishes a sort of antagonism between them, which is not only contrary to nature, but is detrimental to the best interests of both. The idea that girls should be taught that boys are enemies whom they must shun is not calculated to inspire them with very charitable feelings toward them, while the sham protection that such a system would afford would teach boys to regard girls as their legitimate prey, whom they were expected to torment, because of their physical inability to resent harsh treatment, at every opportunity. This, of course, refers to small boys and girls, who are found in the middle and lower departments of our grammar schools. As they grow older and "the new warmth of life's ascending sun is felt by either," the advantages derived from their co-education is witnessed in every school where boys and girls work side by side in the same pursuits. It is true, as we presume this correspondent will admit, that women are more polite and refined in the company of gentlemen than when in a gathering composed entirely of their own sex; and we all know—unless our brethren are woefully belied—that men, when unrestrained by the presence of women—as, for instance, at the polls on election days—use language which they would not think of doing were women within hearing. So, also, boys and girls are more courteous and refined in their demeanor when associated together than when separated.

This idea of treating boys as though they are expected to be unrestrained barbarians, merely because they are boys, has a most pernicious effect upon them. It is as if we said to them, you are boys, hence rude and ungovernable; hence your playgrounds at school must be divided from those of your more refined sisters by high walls, which you can neither climb nor see over. We are compelled to dismiss these respectable children five minutes before you are allowed to go, so that they may get a safe start and stand a chance to get home before you can overtake and persecute them.

Now, is that not absurd? And in the name of common sense answer and tell us if this sort of treatment would not in a short time increase in ten-fold ratio the present stock of juvenile hoodlums? We cannot believe that the Creator made a mistake when He allowed boys and girls to be born of the same parents, share the same home, and possess the same knowledge of right and wrong. If this was not a mistake, then surely it can be none to follow up the same course in associating the sexes in the studies and pursuits that shall fit them for life, which they expect to spend together, and require of each the same personal accountability, and subject each to the same restraints.

We cannot believe the antagonism which this correspondent depicts can exist between the boys and girls attending our public schools, and if it does, an establishment of separate rooms, high walls between the playgrounds, separate dismissals, and any other rules and regulations having a tendency to convince boys that they are young reprobates, who are never courteous, kind, and pleasant but by compulsion, would certainly increase, rather than remedy the evil.

We are reminded, in this connection, of a friend who taught her children to let things alone by putting them out of their reach. If the two-year-old evinced a desire to play with the spittoon, he was prevented by his judicious (?) mother, who placed the article on the mantel-piece. Should he become seized with a desire to ride the shovel or tongs, these were hidden under the bed, and so on; and his good mother imagined she was, by this process, teaching the child to let things alone. Not a housewife in all the village but dreaded the advent of one of these children into her sitting-room, for being trained to believe that everything within their reach was their legitimate prey, they inaugurated a reign of terror wherever they went. We remember now with a smile the helpless, distressed look of that mother when on a certain occasion she had placed the spittoon in a neighbor's parlor on the highest shelf of the what-not, the books, albums, and other articles from the center-table on the farthest verge of a bed, the fire-shovel behind the same, the brass andirons out in the yard, and had poured out every drop of water which was up from the spring, to see the young hopeful bestride the melodeon and begin a vigorous bombardment on the polished sides of the same with his copper-toed shoes. Her distressed look was met by one of triumph from the boy, as he understood as plainly as she that she could not dispossess him of that article by placing it out of his reach. We leave our readers to make the application.

Facts are always the best arguments, and any one who will compare the slimping, self-conscious manners of the misses who file out of an exclusive school and ogle at the young gentlemen, who, in anticipation of their coming, stand upon the street-corners, with the independent, vivacious, and sensible deportment of the young ladies of the High School, as they walk beside their fellow-students, chatting without prudery or affectation of lessons recited together, will, we think, acknowledge the wisdom of the co-education of the sexes.

MORE LECTURES ON "WOMAN."

This time it is Dr. Lambert, President of the Popular Life Insurance Company of New York, who comes forward with a lecture upon the woman question. What would our erudite brethren, who annually inflict these chronic dissertations about women upon a long-suffering public, think of the impudence of the mothers of men, if those same mothers should continually make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of every wise person by lecturing upon the man question? But will they tell us why it is not just as seemly and sensible for woman, as man's sister, and indeed far more so, to lay down rules, occupations, regulations, and duties for her sons, whom she has nursed and swaddled in babyhood, kissed and spanked in boyhood, and educated and supported in incipient manhood, than for her sons to do the same by her as soon as the cigar gives place to the pinafore, and knee breeches yield to pantaloons? Scarcely a stripling of twenty in all the land but foolishly imagines that he knows more about woman than she knows about herself, and more about the "sphere" that she was destined to fill, and which he, forsooth, must assist the Almighty to keep her in (lest she defy Him, and forsake her natural state and become self-sustaining in spite of Deity), than God or woman could imagine.

And yet Dr. Lambert says every good thing. He says that the constitution of woman is substantially equal to the constitution of man; that what one lacks in force is made up by endurance, and vice versa; and, as a general rule, the duration of their earthly existence is about the same. Then comes the nonsense. "Every man has a woman beside him, and should work for her, instead of having her earn her own living outside of the household."

Surely, when he got rid of that skimble-scamble, the learned Doctor wasn't thinking of the half-million bachelors in the country; still less did he consider the equal number of widows and single women who have no "man" to work for them, although they must live, in spite of his buncombe. He forgets, as theorists usually do, that this is a world of facts, instead of fancies, and that the true humanitarian is dealing with what is, in order that he may more thoroughly build up his theory of what ought to be.

Ignoring the fact that women, as a class, are not, and under the reign of selfishness which an aristocracy of sex engenders, cannot be supported by men; ignoring the fact that labor, whether performed in the kitchen, laundry, or sewing room, or in the field, office, or blacksmith shop is, and of right ought to be considered self-sustaining, the sapient expounder of "woman's sphere" talks as though roast chickens and plum-pudding, and clothing and luxuries always come ready-made to women, without an effort upon their part, and that every light occupation they engage in, to relieve themselves of the drudgery of servitude without wages in the money-holders' kitchens, is a downright imposition upon the men, who always do the work of the world. Dr. Lambert says that he "would like to see women withdrawn from the post offices, counting rooms, and other positions of labor, where they are half-paid, and the young men put in and paid double the amount paid women. Then the men could support the women." But he fails to give woman any security by which she may be able to know that her half of this support would surely come under this regime. Were woman an idiot, or an automaton, instead of a creature of mind and will and preferences of her own, she might thus be moulded into a creature of man's selfishness, without a thought of the injustice of the condition ever arising to disturb the equilibrium of an insane animalism; but when man imagines that the mother of the race is not a responsible being, and essays to treat her as though she were a mere appendage to his often-failing philanthropy, he need not wonder that the free-thinking institution fails to appreciate his patronizing selfishness, and plants herself upon the pedestal of her own womanhood, in spite of his platitudinarianisms.

As Chairman of the Woman's Executive Committee for Oregon, we are deeply interested in showing the world what one woman of our State can furnish in the Young American line, and we know of none more worthy to be selected as the champion of this important department than Mrs. McGibeny. We look for a grand rally of our citizens in response to the benefits mentioned. Let a substantial sum be realized by the family, that they may visit the exposition, where a suitable hall will be erected for their accommodation, wherein they may reap a harvest that will enable the parents to give their little ones the advantages their extraordinary talents merit.

SELF-RELIANCE.

Only one of the one hundred and three women on board was saved.

So says the record of a recent shipwreck, and items of like significance accompany the recital of almost every disaster that consigns to an ocean grave a number of human beings.

In view of these facts, no one can dispute the far greater dangers which women encounter in travel than men do. We see also that the fine-spoken theories which men delight to dwell upon concerning the protection that women naturally receive from all men, will not bear the stress imposed by an awful calamity that threatens human life, but that here, self-preservation, which is nature's first law, asserts itself, and that strongly. The disposition of the strong to crowd down instead of to shield the weak, is clearly made manifest in a panic that ensues when a building containing a mixed audience is found to be on fire. It is well known that by far the greater number of persons who perish in these calamities are women and children. This being the case, girls should be educated to self-reliance, and taught that nerve, coolness, physical endurance, agility, and ability to swim, etc., would tend to save their lives, which might be thrown away by a reliance upon the delusive theory of masculine protection.

The *Evening Journal* appeared on Tuesday evening under the editorial control of Hon. Geo. L. Curry, a gentleman of literary ability and a politician of much experience. We congratulate the proprietors of the *Journal* on having secured an editor who is able to command respect.

TROUBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Considerable indignation has been created in school circles during the past week by a letter published in the *Bea*, over the signature of "Mrs. L.," in which the boys are accused of shamefully mistreating the girls. Who this "Mrs. L." is, or may be, is no concern of ours, but we are always safe in affirming that the daughters of a mother who is so ready at accusing other folks' boys of impertinence, are themselves excessively rude, forward, and vulgar.

The NEW NORTHWEST has been patronizing the public schools with both girls and boys for a number of years, and this woman's letter is the first complaint of the kind which has ever reached this office. That boys and girls, in the heat of fun and frolic, may, and sometimes do, tease each other with more roystering rudeness than strictest etiquette would excuse in older people, is not to be disputed nor wondered at. But we all very well know that girls are ever ready to hold their own in such contests, and we further know, that school-girls who are well trained by judicious mothers, and are, in consequence, modest and genteel in their deportment, stand in no more danger of being teased by school-boys, than the well-bred lady encounters when duty or pleasure takes her among men. The mother who is always listening to these tales from her children, unconsciously teaches them to gossip; and by fostering the habit, encourages them in reprehensible wantonness that invites rude treatment from their associates.

We do not say that the grievances set forth by "Mrs. L." are totally without foundation, but we do say that it is very strange that her daughters should be the only ones in the city who are troubled as she alleges; and that the best way to prevent a recurrence of the evils set forth is to keep their troubles out of the newspapers, and teach them to so conduct themselves that even "hoodlums" will instinctively respect them.

PRECEDENT.

The following precedents are in favor of admitting women to the practice of law in the various courts:

In 1869, Mrs. B. A. Mansfield was admitted to the bar of Iowa under a statute providing that "any white male person" with the requisite qualifications should be licensed to practice, by virtue of a statute providing that "words importing the masculine gender only, may be extended to females," and the court held that "the affirmative declaration that male persons may be admitted is not an implied denial to the right of females." (See *Legal News*, February 9, 1870).

Missouri, under a statute providing that "any person" possessing certain qualifications may be licensed and admitted to the bar of Iowa under a statute providing that "any white male person" with the requisite qualifications should be licensed to practice, by virtue of a statute providing that "words importing the masculine gender only, may be extended to females," and the court held that "the affirmative declaration that male persons may be admitted is not an implied denial to the right of females." (See *Legal News*, February 9, 1870).

Michigan, under a statute using the word "citizen," admits women to practice.

Maine, under a similar statute, admitted, in 1872, Mrs. C. H. Nash to the Supreme Court. (See *Legal News*, October 25, 1873).

In the District of Columbia, Miss Charlotte E. Ray was admitted in 1872, on graduating from Harvard University.

The Federal District Court of Illinois has admitted women. (See *Legal News*, May 23, 1874).

THE M'GIBENY FAMILY.

This wonderful family of Oregon songsters would create a greater sensation at the Centennial than any or all else of the productions of this State which the people of Oregon can send to Philadelphia for exhibition. We hear talk of a series of benefits for the different members of this singing band, to be given for the purpose of assisting them to the Centennial, which we are sure our public-spirited citizens will respond to with liberality. The little ones, eight in number, are musical prodigies, while Master Hugh and little Allie are absolutely wonderful.

As Chairman of the Woman's Executive Committee for Oregon, we are deeply interested in showing the world what one woman of our State can furnish in the Young American line, and we know of none more worthy to be selected as the champion of this important department than Mrs. McGibeny. We look for a grand rally of our citizens in response to the benefits mentioned. Let a substantial sum be realized by the family, that they may visit the exposition, where a suitable hall will be erected for their accommodation, wherein they may reap a harvest that will enable the parents to give their little ones the advantages their extraordinary talents merit.

TAKE NOTICE.

All persons attending the fourth annual meeting of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association, to convene at Salem on the 8th of February, 1876, may procure half-fare tickets at any station upon the Oregon & California Railroad. Such tickets will be good from February 7 to February 12.

F. F. VICTOR,
Cor. Sec'y O. S. W. S. A.

It may be interesting to the people of Salem who levied a kindly tax upon themselves and procured therewith a steamer passage from that city to San Francisco for Calvin B. McDonald, to learn that he intends shortly to return to Oregon to deliver a new and interesting lecture.

Those of our agents and friends who hold subscriptions due the NEW NORTHWEST, will please forward the same at once, as we are in urgent need of money.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

Two weeks ago, I took leave of your readers at the leap-year party given by the lady members of LaCreole Encampment, C. R. C., at Dallas.

On returning to the Lovelady Hotel, we found a number of ladies and gentlemen seated around a blazing hearth, engaged in earnest discussion of the temperance question.

Having been engaged in that work for a number of years, your correspondent was greatly interested, although she had felt convinced that the field had been so thoroughly explored years ago, that there was left no opportunity for even a Livingstone or a Stanley to immortalize himself by making any new discovery that would remedy the evil.

One of the most garrulous of the disputants, whose somewhat prominent forehead would excite a student of phrenology to expect more brilliant things of him, took the position that the agitation of the question was detrimental to temperance principles, and that if we wished our nation to attain the front rank in the world's temperance army, we must disband all our temperance organizations, and adopt the plan he alleged they followed in France and Germany—rear our children amongst a wilderness of wine-presses and breweries!

This phrenological mistake and prodigy of logicity even contended that the Wise Man was mistaken when he asserted that a child trained up in the way he should go would not depart from it when he was old, as those most carefully trained were more liable to become moral wrecks than were those who had no training at all. I could scarcely restrain myself from participation in the discussion; but seeing that the side of the question I would have taken was in safe hands, I obeyed the injunction to "keep silence."

During the following day I had an interesting interview with a Miss Lewis, who is totally blind, and is a student at the institute for that unfortunate class at Salem. She is remarkably cheerful and intelligent, and seemed to be a standing reproach to those of us who are blessed with all our senses, and yet go complaining through life. This young lady lost her sight at the age of ten years, but treasures in her memory those beautiful images that were photographed there in early childhood, as the most sacred of all others. Said she, "Could these sightless orbs but open again upon the dazzling beauties of creation, I could never tire of gazing with admiration and awe upon them—I would not—I could not complain at anything—nothing could make me unhappy."

In the evening, in company with friends, I attended service at one of the village churches, where I witnessed something that recalled memories of my girlhood days in the old Buckeye State—the minister "line" the hymn for the congregation. The minister manifested commendable zeal in his calling, and though he took special pains to assure us that it was no part of his mission to preach politics, I could but notice to the *ultima* of the name of the church to which he warned sinners to flee, was borrowed from that part of the compass opposite the polar star!

On Monday, my traveling companion and I made a number of calls among our friends of the Social Circle, and at Mrs. Lyle's comfortable and tasteful suburban home, we joined that happy and refined family in a splendid country dinner. Talk about city life! Compared with those who know how to enjoy the country, we don't live at all in the city; we only stay. By-the-way, we promised to visit Dallas again next summer, and join our friends in an excursion up the clear, pebbly LaCreole, in quest of glorious, speckled trout.

At night we attended the regular meeting of the Encampment, on which occasion the Grand Commander, through some mysterious psychical means, delivered the very speech we had been studying up for days, but who were happy, nevertheless, for who could be otherwise in the society of such people as compose the membership of that Encampment?

At a late hour we gave the parting hand to our companions in the Order, with a full heart—full of fraternal love for each of them, full of thankfulness that we had been permitted to visit them and cheer them on in their noble work, and full of love for the glorious Order, in which and through which we had found friends not only there, but elsewhere, whom we can trust in the storm, as well as in the sunshine.

WAILEU.
Portland, January 23, 1876.

DECEASE OF GRAND COMMANDER.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER OF THE CHAMPIONS OF THE RED CROSS FOR OREGON, WASHINGTON AND IDAHO.
Question: Can a member of the Order of C. R. C. be expelled for non-payment of dues?
His name may be stricken from the roll—he may cease membership, but, properly speaking, he cannot be expelled. The laws of the Order make a distinction between dropping from the roll and expulsion. A person who has ceased membership, or been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues only, may, after the lapse of one year, be admitted to the Order as an Ancient Champion—subject, of course, to the usual restrictions—whereas, a person who has been expelled cannot be readmitted only by expelling him (see Sec. 4 of Art. 3 of Constitution.) The law, however, requires Recording Secretaries to make the same disposition of the names in both cases (see Sec. 5 of Art. 9.)
A. F. JOHNSON, G. C.

James O'Meara, so long a disgrace to Oregon journalism, has again been superseded by a gentleman, and is once more out in the cold. He must be pretty well inured to outdoor atmosphere by this time, however.

Travel Between Northern Ports and San Francisco.

The panic, apprehension, and grief, to say nothing of the inconvenience, delay, and positive discomfort that has resulted from the inefficient and insufficient service rendered during the present winter by the steamers plying between San Francisco and northern ports, has become so wide-spread as to be the theme of universal comment. It is a common remark that a journey from San Francisco is fraught with more danger, discomfort and delay under the present management than is a trip from that point to Europe, and we hope the matter may be agitated until a much-needed reform in this regard is effected. With this view we submit the following letter from San Francisco, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Oregonian*, confident that an outraged traveling public will appreciate its just severity:

Doubtless your readers have learned through telegraphic or other reports, that a committee of investigation, appointed by the Legislature of California to inquire into and report on the condition and seaworthiness of passenger steamships running from this port, is now in session here. The committee has taken a mass of testimony, and the investigation is still going on. Of course, the object of the committee is to ascertain the condition of the steamers plying north, including those of the Oregon line; but it happens that, incidentally, as the testimony is delivered to the committee, a great deal is said about the Oregon steamers. The testimony is of such a nature as cannot be rehearsing to the Oregon public. Hitherto, as you know, there has been no little hesitation and timidity about these ships; people who have been compelled to travel on them and from Oregon have not felt comfortable, and this sense or fear of danger has for a long time made the voyage anything but an agreeable one. By the publication of the testimony called out in this investigation, the feeling is sure to be intensified. It is useless to try to disguise the fact that profound distrust of many coastwise steamers, including some or all of the Oregon line, has been created here. It is just as well to look the fact in the face. Oregon is isolated, having no railway connection, and this steamship line is of first importance to her business, her growth, and her prosperity. If people are afraid of the steamers—and unquestionably they are—Oregon suffers in consequence. California is interested in retaining the population that seeks the Pacific Coast for settlement, has an irresistible appeal to present to the emigrant to prevent him from going to Oregon. Many people, indeed, must have a natural reluctance to go to sea. It requires in those who have been brought up inland, and who have—as most such have—an instinct of the formidable nature of ocean travel, a great deal of fortitude to undertake a trip by sea to Oregon after the long journey either by rail. If we add to this natural hesitation on their part a feeling of insecurity, arising from a well-founded belief that the steamers are unsafe and unreliable, and likely as not at any time to go to the bottom, we have a state of facts extremely unfavorable to travel to Oregon.

This state of facts is very manifest here. There is a general feeling that the vessels of the Oregon line, as well as many others, are rotten carcasses of boats, which the very rats would instinctively quit; and since the newspapers here are publishing sworn statements by old shipmasters, caulkers, and others who claim to be familiar with the coast steamers, to the effect that they deem many of these vessels extremely frail and unsafe, so much so that they would not themselves, under any circumstances, venture to sea in them—it is by no means wonderful that the effect is to deter people from taking what they deem an extravagant risk, especially since the terrible disaster to the "Pacific" is so recent in the public mind.

I will not trouble you with a detailed recital of the testimony and opinions delivered before the committee. You will be able to collate this as it is published from day to day in the *Oregonian* papers. It may be, indeed, that the opinions given as to some of the vessels are ill-founded and erroneous; but the effect is the same as if, instead of being the language of exaggeration, it were the language of sober truth.

The Pacific Mail Company is now selling tickets to Portland, via Puget Sound, for \$20. Their steamer on that route, the "Panama," is considered sound. Certainly she is far superior in comfort, speed, and appointments to any vessel on the Oregon route. It is stated that many passengers destined for Oregon went on her upon her last trip, in preference to taking the steamer direct for Portland. The "Panama," I learn, was crowded, while the "Orlando" had only thirty or forty passengers. Yet I believe the latter to be a safe vessel. In the public mind, however, she is in the prescribed list. It is certain that she is filthy and uncomfortable, and has no speed. If she were cleaned, renovated, and provided with better power, she would answer for the trade.

It may as well be plainly said, for it is true, that the steamers of the Oregon line, apart from any question of seaworthiness or safety, are a disgrace to the State, and a reproach to those who own or control them. Passenger steamers they ought not to be called; they might answer tolerably for the transportation of cattle, but are too dirty and uncomfortable for human beings to travel upon. Many years ago, when they were new and clean, and before the demands of traffic had become so considerable, they were well enough. But they are now out of date, are too slow and too small, are filthy beyond description, and better fitted for the cooler trade than the route and the legitimate wants of the traveling public. Probably the fact that for years past they have not been renovated and had no new furnishings is due to the embarrassments of the person who has controlled them. It is known, however, by his business-like course and habits of prodigality he made it impossible for himself to serve the public on whom he depended for patronage; and yet he stood in the way and prevented the public from getting the better service from others to which it was entitled.

This state of things, let us hope, will soon end. It was announced in the newspapers here about a week since that Mr. Holladay's connection with business interests of Oregon would soon cease by transfer of railroads and steamers to the German bond-holders. The latter, to hold the trade, will find it indispensable to put new steamers on the Oregon coast route. That route certainly deserves better service. It is the best coast route in connection with San Francisco. Fares upon it have always been high, but have been freely paid. The line has made immense sums of money, no part of which, it is needless to say, has been expended in maintaining and improving the service for the public benefit. Every possible dollar has been extorted, and either recklessly

squandered or thrown in to support other enterprises, which, without mismanagement, would have supported themselves.

I have written plainly, because the subject is one that Oregon is deeply interested in, and the investigation in progress here makes it proper that the situation, as viewed in San Francisco and by people who arrive here with the thought of going to Oregon, should be set forth through the Oregon press. The subject has reached such a stage that there is no excuse for mining matters. The discussion should go on until it rises into a demand—and an imperative demand—that Oregon shall be served with a better line of steamers. San Francisco, as the commercial center of the Pacific Coast, is really interested in it also, and ought to desire that the demand shall meet with success.

Pioneer Association.

The board of managers of the Oregon Pioneer Association met at Salem, on the 20th of January, in the Secretary of State's office, and was called to order by Hon. W. W. Grim.

The following gentlemen were present: J. W. Grim, President; E. N. Cooke, Vice President; W. J. Herren; J. Henry Brown, Secretary; W. H. Rees, Corresponding Secretary; Hon. F. X. Mattson, ex-President.

Hon. S. F. Chadwick moved that the next reunion be held at the grounds of the Oregon-Agricultural Society, near Salem, as that was the only proffer made to the board of managers; carried.

On motion of W. J. Herren, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee on printing: Hon. E. N. Cooke, Hon. S. F. Chadwick, Hon. John Minto, and William H. Rees, Esq.

On motion, Rev. J. H. Withur was elected chaplain, and Rev. W. H. Robinson as alternate.

Hon. Jesse Applegate was chosen to deliver the annual address at the reunion, and Judge R. P. Boise as alternate.

On motion, a committee of five ladies was appointed to select a lady to deliver or read an address at the next reunion, and report to the secretary by the 22nd of February, next. Mrs. J. F. Miller, Mrs. S. A. Clarke, Mrs. Warner Breyman, Mrs. I. N. Gilbert and Mrs. J. H. Moores were appointed as said committee.

Mr. Thomas Shaw was chosen Chief Marshal, and Colonel T. R. Cornelius and E. C. Geer, Aids.

The following committee of arrangements was appointed: John F. Miller, Joseph Haman, John W. Minto, Mrs. B. H. Bowman, and Mrs. Minto. Mrs. J. F. Miller, Mrs. S. A. Clarke, Miss Clara Watt and Miss Marie Smith.

Committee of arrangements was instructed to attend to invited guests.

Hon. John Minto was invited to deliver an address at the reunion of 1876. Mrs. F. F. Victor was invited to write a biography of Colonel Joseph L. Meek, and publish it in the transactions of the Association.

Moved that the committee of arrangements examine the banners and have them retouched, if found necessary.

On motion, board adjourned until May 4, 1876.

A Prompt Denial.

The following communication, clipped from the Salem *Mercury*, explains itself, and we submit it without comment:

Editor Mercury—In the last issue of your paper, your Portland correspondent, "Casterlie," referring to the recent bankrupt proceedings in the matter of the *Bulletin* newspaper, in the United States District Court, makes the following utterly false statement to-wit: "During the examination of witnesses, the other day, T. B. Odeneal testified that he had been paid \$8,000 to stop the *Bulletin* and throw it into bankruptcy, and that of this sum, \$3,000 came from Harry W. Scott." On the 15th of 1874, T. B. Odeneal, of Portland, Ore., made the following statement to-wit: "I have never received from H. W. Scott any sum of money for any purpose connected with the suspension of the *Bulletin*. I never received from Harry W. Scott any sum of money whatever for any purpose. In fact, I had a dispute with H. W. Scott for several weeks prior to the suspension." T. B. ODENEAL.
Portland, January 18, 1876.

New Year's Receptions.

The Washington *Republican*, of the 3d inst., comments thus on the receptions given by the wives of our Senators on New Year's day:

Among the many receptions on New Year's day, that of Mrs. Senator J. H. Mitchell, of Oregon, deserves special notice. Mrs. Mitchell was assisted by the beautiful and highly accomplished Mrs. Foot, widow of the late Major Foot, U. S. A., in receiving her many friends at her elegant residence, No. 1607 I street. Mrs. Mitchell entertained in her usual hospitable manner, and was dressed in black velvet, trimmed with point lace, and wore splendid diamond ornaments. Mrs. Foot wore blue silk, trimmed with pink applique lace, fastened with pink flowers and coral jewelry. The spacious parlors were densely packed from noon until late in the evening with Senators and Representatives, army and navy officers, and private citizens. The table, for beauty of arrangement, good taste and profusion of choice delicacies, was not excelled by any in the city.

Mrs. Senator Kelly received at her pleasant home on K street, aided by her sister. Mrs. Kelly is acknowledged to be one of the most delightful and accomplished ladies in society, and her sister proved a valuable auxiliary. The duties of receiving were rendered doubly pleasant. The toilettes of both ladies were models of richness and taste.

C. R. C.

- The following officers have been installed for the term ending June 20th, 1876:
- Lewiston Encampment No. 1, I. T.—H. O. Adams, W. C.; M. S. A. Rowley, J. C.; E. A. Rowley, R. S.; S. E. Whitman, F. S.; Geo. Gass, Treas.; S. A. Newell, C. H.; Hattie Newell, I. G.; E. Pearey, O. G.
- Washington No. 3, W. T.—J. H. Munson, C.; Nina E. Treen, J. C.; W. H. Roberts, R. S.; Eliza B. Henry, F. S.; Amelia Abbott, Treas.; M. E. Hartsock, C. of H.; Melvina Hartsock, I. G.; G. F. Smith, O. G.
- Lee No. 7, Oregon—J. M. Starr, C.; Mary Starr, J. C.; J. M. Lafferty, R. S.; J. M. Wells, F. S.; Henry Moore, Treas.; J. E. Houston, C. of H.; W. A. Kirk, I. G.; John Calvert, O. G.
- Dayton No. 10, W. T.—J. H. Lister, C.; S. K. Smith, J. C.; J. H. Kennedy, R. S.; W. W. Day, F. S.; J. H. Kennedy, Treas.; W. O. Matzger, C. of H.; H. S. Wheeler, I. G.; W. S. Newland, O. G.