

NOTICE.

Agents will please take notice that it is a great tax upon us to pay express charges upon small sums, and they will confer a great favor by remitting to us through money orders or registered letters.

THE LATE CONVENTION.

Our columns come to you this week teeming with the records of an enthusiastic meeting of laborers, friends, and sympathizers in the cause of woman's enfranchisement—the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association. The details given are, as far as our space will permit, complete, but columns of description, minutes, and letters, would fail to convey an idea of the earnestness and enthusiasm with which the friends of equal rights rallied around its standard. The business of the Association at first lagged somewhat, owing to the absence, on account of illness, of the President, Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson, and the Recording Secretary, Miss Ella Scott. The mantle of the former, however, fell upon the shoulders of Mrs. Belle W. Cooke, who wore it with becoming dignity and grace, while the quill of the latter was taken up by Mr. R. T. Hawley, who performed the duties of the office in a faithful and acceptable manner.

The members of the Marion County Woman Suffrage Association responded nobly to the call of the Executive Committee for aid, and worked throughout the entire session with commendable zeal and energy.

The evening sessions took rather the form of entertainments, and these were attended by large audiences, comprising the best and most intelligent of the citizens of our capital city. The exercises abounded in pleasing features, among which we will mention a poem written by Mr. O. C. Applegate, dedicated to the pioneer women of Oregon, and most excellently read by Miss Clara Watt. Our readers will have an opportunity to peruse this tribute to a noble and fearless woman in our next issue. A pleasing incident was the presentation of a "Snow-Drop," emblem of purity, to the Association, by a gentleman who ranks high in the educational and social circles of the capital. The presentation was responded to by Mrs. Dunaway in a few appropriate words, supplemented by the following impromptu verses:

A snow-drop, as pure as a virgin arrayed For the bridal, to us has been given; As an emblem I hold it before you to-night Of a forest on earth, or the heaven That to man and to woman in future shall come.

When we've cleansed the political walls That today reek with all that pollutes and interests And disgraces Columbia's halls. We thank the kind donor whose delicate tact, In expressing regard and esteem, To us gave this token, as an emblem quite fit To herald our Liberty-dream.

That peaceful and pure as the snow-drop that lifts Its delicate head in the air, The mothers of men and their sons may become, Is our earnest and holiest prayer.

The recitation of Misses Hensley and Strong and an admirable essay upon "Our right to Health," by Miss Clawson, showed plainly that culture can give breadth and depth to the brains of young women as well as to those of young men.

Of the arguments advanced to establish the justice of the claims of women to equal rights, we will not speak further than to say that they were well fortified by reason, common sense, and justice.

The tableaux that closed the entertainment were exquisite, pointing a moral so plainly that a glance sufficed to disclose it.

The proceedings of the fourth annual convention of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association have passed into history; its records will be read by thousands with thrills of pride and pleasure, and its influence be felt in hundreds of minds ere while governed by the tyranny of prejudice, and narrowed by the barbaric customs, fruits of centuries of darkness, that now happily near their final overthrow.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN CHILL.

A curious question has arisen in some towns in Chill on the occasion of the inscription of citizens in the electoral registers. At San Felipe one woman presented herself for registration, one at Casablanca, and ten at La Serena. As the law makes no distinction of sex, and as the only qualifications required for citizenship are to have attained one's majority, and possess a knowledge of reading and writing, the Boards decided to register said representatives of the weaker sex, so that, at the coming elections, women will be admitted to vote.

Reverdy Johnson, the distinguished statesman and jurist, was found dead on the evening of the 10th inst., at 8:15 P. M., in the grounds surrounding the executive mansion at Annapolis. Johnson was the guest of Gov. Carroll, and had dined with other gentlemen at the executive mansion. He was found dead in the yard by a servant. His funeral took place on the 13th at the family residence in Baltimore, and was attended by many of the most distinguished persons in the land.

The January number of the West Shore contains a paper upon the "Literature of Oregon," from the graceful pen of Mrs. F. F. Victor, a lady who has herself contributed much that is substantial and valuable to the literature of the Pacific Coast. The sketch is evidently the product of thorough research, and, indeed, in the careful statement of facts, Mrs. Victor is unsurpassed. Though but a sketch; the paper is in itself a valuable addition to Oregon literature.

OREGON STATE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION. The Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association met in annual Convention at Reed's Opera House in Salem on Tuesday, February 8th, 1876.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION. The President not being present, Mr. D. D. Gray was called to the chair. On motion, R. J. Hawley was elected Secretary pro tem.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the session held at Portland last year. The Constitution was then read, and circulated among the audience for signatures.

On motion, the President appointed a Committee on Programme, consisting of Mrs. Dunaway, Mrs. Minto, and Mrs. McCaslin.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Convention met at 2 P. M.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved. The Constitution being called for, was read by the Secretary, and circulated for names.

On motion, Mrs. Rook, Mrs. Dunaway, and Mrs. Victor were appointed a Committee on Resolutions.

On motion, the Committee on Music selected by the Marion County Association was appointed by the Convention with the addition of Mrs. Prentice.

On motion, the chair appointed a Committee on Finance, consisting of Mrs. Minto, Mrs. McCaslin, and Mrs. Rook.

On motion, Mr. Reed, Mrs. Prentice, and Mrs. Minto were appointed a Committee on Revision of the Constitution.

On motion, Mr. Jacob Conser, Mrs. Minto, and Mrs. Prentice were appointed a Committee on Political Action.

The Convention then listened to the address of the President.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary was then read, and many letters of encouragement from friends who could not be present were read.

The Committee on Resolutions made their report, which was read and adopted as far as the fourth.

On motion, adjourned to 7 1/2 P. M. EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at 7 1/2 P. M.

Mrs. Belle Cooke announced the programme of the evening, which was adopted.

Misses Dora Hernandez and Myra Belt favored the audience with a piano duet, which was rendered in excellent style and highly applauded at its conclusion.

Dr. C. H. Hall then addressed the Convention at considerable length, which was a scholarly effort, and attentively listened to by the entire audience.

A song excellently rendered by a large number of gentlemen and ladies was followed by a recitation by Richard Hensley.

Mrs. Dunaway followed with an address of some length.

Several short impromptu speeches were made, after which the Convention adjourned until 10:30 A. M. on Wednesday.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION. Convention met as adjourned.

The President being absent, D. D. Gray, of Linn county, took the chair.

The minutes of the last session being read and approved, the Corresponding Secretary proceeded to read a number of interesting communications.

On motion, the Convention resumed the discussion of the resolutions presented by the committee, and adopted the following:

Resolved, That while woman is amenable to all the laws, she claims and demands all the privileges (of law) enjoyed by her brother man.

Resolved, That the laws of this State ought to be so amended that woman may hold and control her own property on the same footing with men.

Resolved, That woman ought to receive equal pay for equal work.

Resolved, That the women of this Republic solemnly protest against that species of polite robbery generally known as "administering upon the estate."

Resolved, That women cannot heartily participate in the celebration of this Centennial year, on account of their political disabilities.

On motion, Convention adjourned till 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President, and the minutes of the morning session read.

The President read a communication from Mr. Buckman, of Canby.

Mrs. Johns offered a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Convention then listened to a very able address by Hon. John Minto. The following resolution was offered by Mr. Minto:

Resolved, That the right of suffrage is inherent and inalienable in every American citizen of mature age who is capable of self-support, and no State constitution or law should be allowed to abridge or limit its free use.

On Political Action, reported the following: REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL ACTION.

WHEREAS, All constitutional and statutory laws prohibiting women from exercising the elective franchise are arbitrary and contrary to the principles of free and independent government; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this Association to present to the next Oregon Legislative Assembly, which convenes in September, 1876, all memorials, petitions, etc., asking for an amendment to our laws allowing women equal political rights; and this committee shall have full control and management of all bills presented.

Resolved, That each county Association be authorized and requested to circulate petitions addressed to the Oregon Legislature, asking for amendments to our laws, so as to allow every woman the exercise of the elective franchise.

JACOB CONSER, M. A. MINTO.

The Committee on Resolutions reported a resolution from Mrs. Johns, which, after some discussion, was indefinitely postponed.

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Coburn:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the members of the Marion County Woman Suffrage Association for the valuable aid rendered in maturing and carrying forward the plans of this Association; also, that the thanks of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association are tendered to the officers of the O. & C. R. R. for half-free tickets granted to and from this Convention; also, that the thanks of this Association are tendered to the people of Salem for their hospitality to members and friends from abroad.

Pending the discussion of a resolution offered by Mrs. Dr. Thompson, the Association adjourned to 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Convention met as per adjournment, the President in the chair.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

The following, by Mrs. Dr. Thompson, was, after discussion, adopted:

WHEREAS, The Oregon State Legislature, at its last regular session, gave stated time and friendly countenance to a bill, introduced for the purpose of giving to women the same political privileges as her brother man; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of this Association in particular, and the friends of equal rights in general, are due, and are hereby tendered to the members of that honorable body who defended the bill by their eloquent words and endorsed it by their votes.

Resolved, That should any of the members who thus evinced their interest, and gave their votes, be candidates for re-election, that we pledge ourselves to use our influence and our votes, to return them to the council chambers of the State for as long a time as they remain true to the principles thus expressed.

A resolution offered by Mr. Minto in reference to the Daily Mercury was lost.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws reported the following:

That the "one dollar" qualification of members of the State Association be stricken out.

Reported, after discussion, rejected.

The Convention then listened to an address by Mr. D. D. Gray, of Albany, after which a piece of instrumental music was performed by Miss E. Owens.

On motion, the rules were suspended, and the Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice of Mrs. H. A. Loughary, President; Mrs. F. F. Victor, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. W. McCaslin, Treasurer; Mrs. Dunaway, Mrs. Rook, and Mr. Conser, Executive Committee.

The following persons were elected Vice Presidents for the several counties of the State: Marion, Mrs. Minto; Linn, D. D. Gray; Multnomah, Mrs. C. A. Coburn; Clatsop, Mrs. Mary Shae Smith; Tillamook, Mrs. E. A. Corwin; Union, Mrs. Hanna; Douglas, Mrs. Dr. Hoover; Baker, Mrs. M. Cleaver; Yamhill, W. B. Dunn; Washington, Wm. McLeod; Polk, Mrs. B. F. Nichols; Lake, O. C. Applegate; Columbia, Mrs. Susan Giltner; Lane, Mr. Howe; Benton, Mrs. Fanny Greer; Jackson, B. F. Dowell; Coos and Curry, Hon. Eugene Skinner; Clackamas, Mrs. S. McCaslin; Wasco, Col. James Fulton; McCall, Mrs. O. H. Hallock.

On motion, the Corresponding Secretary was authorized to supply Vice Presidents for vacant counties.

Music by Mrs. Crawford.

On motion of Mrs. Dunaway, the President elect was escorted to the chair.

On motion, Association adjourned to 7 1/2 P. M.

EVENING SESSION. Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The minutes of the afternoon session were read, after which the following programme was carried into effect: Music, Instrumental; Address, Mrs. F. F. Victor; Dialogue, Master Cooke and Addie Hartman; Music, Solo, Miss Ada May; Address, Mrs. Dr. Thompson; Recitation, Miss Hensley; Recitation, Miss Mary Strog; Music, Trio; Recitation, Mrs. George Jones; Tableau, Liberty and Justice.

Convention adjourned to 9 A. M., Friday.

FOURTH DAY—MORNING SESSION. The Convention being called to order by the President, the business of electing delegates to the State Temperance Alliance was taken up, and resulted in the election of the following named persons: Miss Mary Kier, Captain O. C. Applegate, Mrs. A. J. Dunaway, Mrs. J. Erbe, Mrs. C. A. Coburn, F. Martin, Esq., Colonel C. A. Reed, Mrs. F. F. Victor, Alternates, Mrs. H. A. Loughary and Major George Williams.

Mrs. Dunaway was called to the chair, and the President gave some cogent reasons for employing speakers in the evening, who can make themselves heard, and thus hold audiences properly.

Mrs. Dr. Thompson addressed the Convention at some length upon dress reform, and also offered some practical suggestions relative to the proper method of classifying work for the future.

The Committee on Finance reported

a sufficient sum in the treasury to pay current expenses and liquidate all outstanding debts, with a small balance on hand.

Portland, Salem, and Albany were placed in nomination as places to hold the next annual meeting. The ballot stood: For Salem, 16; Albany, 12; Portland, 2. Salem, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared the choice of the Convention for the place of next meeting.

On motion, the Executive Committee was requested to call a special meeting, to be held during the next session of the Legislature.

Mrs. Cooke offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered the editor of the Mercury for the kindness he has shown us in printing an article for our use, and for courteous notice in his paper.

On motion, Convention adjourned, subject to call of the Executive Committee. F. F. VICTOR, Recording Secretary.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY MRS. BELLE W. COOKE, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE O. S. W. S. A., AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

I suppose it is necessary in times of war that soldiers should be prepared for emergencies; and when an officer is disabled on the field, another should stand ready to step up and take his place. This is of course understood and prepared for; and the officer who stands next the commander is, no doubt, always well qualified to take his place. Our war is a bloodless war; a war of words, and of influence against old-time customs, but it needs leaders with sagacious and well-trained minds to take the front in the battle, and mature plans for action.

Such, I think we have had in our leader, the President of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson. Yesterday, we received word that she is unable to be with us, being disabled by a temporary but severe illness. We have some hope that she may be restored to health in time to be here before the close of the meeting, but fear it will not be so.

I am very sorry that the officer who happens for the time to be chosen to take the place of commander, should be so entirely unprepared to fill the place as myself; but I cannot desert my colors and leave the field at this stage of the conflict, just on the eve of an engagement. So I am here to do my best, and hope to have the support of all the brave defenders of our cause.

The work of advocating our cause in the face of prejudice is not an easy one, and it is made doubly difficult in that our antagonists are often our best friends. The old, trite arguments are constantly being brought out and hurled in our faces, as though they had not already—every one of them—been answered a thousand times.

The fact is, woman's right to equality before the law does not rest in intelligence, so that it can be grasped by argument. It has no intellectual foundation anywhere; no good logic sustains it; it does not rest upon any element of the human understanding; hence, we make slow progress in combatting it. As Mr. Mills says, "The worse it is beaten in argument, the stronger it is fortified in prejudice." If, as is everywhere asserted in any of the forty or fifty American Constitutions that have been promulgated, self-government is a natural and inherent right, then does it pertain to every human being alike, and no argument under the heavens can ever prove to an enlightened woman that her right to self-government is not as good and natural as that of man. This is our only plea. There is no question whether she deserves it. There is no question whether she is capable of using it well. The only question is, whether it is right to have justice; and, in this country, justice cannot exist without equality of privilege. This was conceded without a question to the negro. He was not asked to prove himself capable of voting before the right to vote was granted. He was not asked to show that it would be the better for him if he could vote. Every intelligent American citizen knew that without asking. He was not even asked to say he wanted to vote; but it was thrust upon him, along with his freedom. And thus should it be with woman. Her right to choose her rulers should be given her without a question of its expediency, trusting, as in the case of the negro, in the power of justice to protect her children in the right.

It is said that the effects of giving to woman the ballot will be evil and injurious; but no argument can ever prove this position. Nothing but trial—full and thorough trial—can do it. Nothing else can ever test the fallacy of the arguments of our opposers, or the truth of our position. And nothing but trial will ever satisfy the thousands of overburdened, self-supporting women who have so long groaned under their load of disadvantages. Nothing is surer to convert a woman to the cause of suffrage than to find herself thrown upon her own resources for support, and to find how unjust is law and custom whenever she is obliged to appeal to either. And yet, we are compelled to argue our cause over and over with many women that we meet, and present what seem to us to be self-evident truths, to persons who are our superiors in culture and judgment on almost every other subject. We feel convinced that all that is necessary for many such persons is to give their attention to the subject, and they will speedily find that it is contrary to the spirit of our government to deny the right of suffrage to any one of its law-abiding citizens.

The most stubborn of our opponents among our own sex will assert that she has a right to her opinion, and that, if she does not wish to vote, she has a right to say so. How can she do this in any public cause, but by voting against her own right to vote, thereby acknowledging the fallacy of her position by the very means she takes to sustain it. I think that, (so far as my observation goes), the women who say they do not wish to vote, are as firmly established in their opinions as other women, but they do not know that it does no good for women to have opinions unless they can express them; and how can a woman express her opinion on temperance, on morality, or on any point of equity or expediency in a way sure to benefit herself or others, save by the ballot. The time is surely coming when man will consider the waste of the purifying influence of women, and gladly seize upon this great power to assist him in producing a more stable and perfect government.

A friend, speaking on this subject a short time since, said: "I have found, by consulting history, that men have never been known to yield an advantage that they possessed, unless compelled to do so by force." All that remains for us to do is to announce to them that it will be to their advantage to have the help of women in perfecting their laws and elevating their standard of morals; in ridding the land of the curses of intemperance and dishonesty; in educating their sons and daughters in the principles of a pure and just government, and our work is done.

taken by our Supreme Judges is that a citizen of the United States has no right to vote by virtue of his citizenship. It seems they were forced to adopt this decision in order to exclude the women citizens from the exercise of that right; for if one citizen, by virtue of his rights of citizenship, cannot be deprived of the exercise of a certain right, they (the Judges) were logical enough to see that another citizen could not constitutionally be deprived of exercising the same right. So in order to get out of one dilemma, they have got into a worse one; for in deciding that a citizen has no right of franchise, by virtue of his citizenship, they have knocked away the prop by which the right of men citizens to vote is supported. In this case of franchise, the rights of one citizen is the same as those of another, and if these rights are not based on citizenship, then on what are they based? This is a question for the people to decide.

Wishing you every success, and a glorious good time, I bid you God-speed in the noble work for the elevation of humanity. MARY OLNEY BROWN, Pres't W. S. A., W. T.

Mrs. F. F. Victor, Cor. Sec'y O. S. W. S. A.—Dear Madam:—I have the honor to be in receipt of your communication inviting me to attend the forthcoming rally of the friends of justice and liberty. I cannot sufficiently express my regrets in that it is impossible for me to be present.

There are many hundreds of enthusiastic believers in our noble principles who, much against their wishes, are destined to remain away also. With them I sympathize, and with them send greeting and good cheer to our co-workers in convention assembled. We have much to encourage us, though it seems a slow process to bring the average mind to understand the difference between equal rights for men and women, and brutishness. That may be a hard term, but it does seem that every objector's mind is largely composed of that unmanly element. I confess that I pity as well as despise the small, narrow minds of those who cannot discern the justice in this matter. But nothing aside of patient working and waiting will change the state of *littleness* in which they have their being. They will change, though. I hope, too, before the Celestial leaves our kitchens, to help elect our representatives. "Truth is mighty, and will prevail." Let us hold up her hands, for her enemies are legion.

To do this, let us give our aid to the People's Paper—the NEW NORTHWEST. 'Tis a dignified and powerful agent in the furtherance of our cause and principles. Especially is this the case with it since it acquired the good judgment, able pen, and mere discretion of an Associate Editor.

I believe you will have a harmonious meeting, and sincerely hope you will strike such blows for the right as shall cause the next Legislature to at least change some of the odious property laws as relating to women, which now grace, or rather disgrace the pages of that masculine thing—"The General Laws of Oregon."

Enclosed, find one dollar for the treasury. As ever, for equal rights. S. MIRANDA BUCK. Oak Point, W. T.

Mrs. F. F. Victor, Cor. Sec'y O. S. W. S. A.—Dear Madam:—Your notice of the fourth annual meeting of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association, with the request to be present and address the Association and co-operate in its work and aims, was received a few days ago.

I feel honored by the invitation, and should be pleased to attend. Circumstances forbid my indulging the hope of such a privilege. I shall, however, be with you in spirit, sympathizing in your trials and difficulties, rejoicing in your triumphs and success. I am more than ever convinced of the necessity of Woman Suffrage. The ignorant, stupid selfishness of men and indifference of women may render the progress of our cause slow. It is, however, none the less sure. I am boldly a believer in the progress of the race. God made us to grow, and grow we will, up and out from all that is low and groveling, cruel and unjust, to the grandest conceivable heights of purity, nobility, justice, and benevolence. Let us, resolutely refusing to be discouraged by the most provoking opposition, look away from the darkness of the past unto the things that are before in the glorious era of woman's rights. Let none be discouraged by fear or doubt. The victory is sure as the flight of time. In this, as in other things, the maxim holds true, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The history of the cause fully justifies the most ardent hopes. Should women be aroused, become interested and well informed, the work would soon be done. They would unite in working and asking. The result would speedily be "an unconditional surrender." It seems to me the effort is mainly needed among the women. When a woman wills, she will, you know. The men will not long be ignorant when the women are enlightened. Nor will they long neglect co-operation when requested by the majority of women.

The machinery of progress must be increased. Conventions and organizations, county, State, and national; papers, pamphlets, books, must be multiplied until the field is won, and our stately banner waves over a nation of men and women free! Fraternally, GEORGE H. GREER. Lake View, W. T.

One hundred and fifty men left Cheyenne on the 14th for the Black Hills. A party who came in last night reports that during the eight days of his trip from Custer, he counted 185 wagons en route for the hills. Two hundred more are outfitting now and will start this week. The incoming trains bring scores of gold-seekers daily.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST: In pursuance to my promise, I send you some notes of my journey.

Leaving home on Saturday, the 5th inst., I proceeded to Woodburn Station, in Marion county, in the vicinity of which I spent about ten years of my early manhood. But the ruthless hand of time has been constantly at work, and many are the changes it has wrought. Not only is the face of the country so changed as to be scarcely recognizable, but a majority of friends of the long ago are gone—some to try their fortunes in other parts, and some to "that bourne whence no traveler returns."

On the following day, in company with a cherished sister and her husband, I visited the cemetery near the old Belpassi church, and read upon the marble many familiar names—among them that of a long-absent brother, an idolized sister, and a saluted mother. What a throng of memories rushed in upon me at the sight of those names!

Returning to Woodburn in the evening, I passed a most pleasant time at the comfortable residence of Mr. Mathiot, and, besides greeting a number of friends of other days, I listened to music—vocal and instrumental—such as one is seldom privileged to hear.

Taking the cars for Junction the next day, I had the misfortune to be seated near a disappointed home-seeker. He, like many others, had come here expecting to find thousands of acres of smooth, prairie land within a few miles of Portland, subject to homestead, or pre-emption, and seemed displeased with the *people* here because he had not found things as his fancies had painted them. Many of the expressions he made use of when complaining of his disappointment sounded so much like swearing of the most forcible kind that I was forced to conclude that he would not swell the aggregate of piety in any community. He seemed to have made it a study to invent the most blasphemous oaths; and the cool, slow and decided manner in which these imprecations were uttered, showed that however much of labor his remarkable proficiency had cost him, he was willing that all within hearing should have the full benefit of it gratuitously. I ventured to ask him, after he had finished a sentence thus profusely embellished, what vocation he had adorned in previous life, and was informed that he had been an ox-driver.

It cannot be wondered at, however, that immigrants arriving here in mid-winter are not generally well pleased with the appearance of the country. Indeed, had I never traveled over the fertile prairies of Marion, of Benton and of Lane counties before, I might probably have been induced to take a share or two in an enterprise that I had spoken of as we whirled along—that of building an ark. But I had. There is now an almost interminable sheet of water, will, in a few short weeks, be a very garden resplendent with flowers. Where now the duck and the goose sport in their favorite element, the reaper will soon be gathering the golden sheaves. Twenty-four years ago I first set (bare) foot on Albany prairie. I had just emerged from the Cascade Mountains, where my buckskin bifurcates, from being most thoroughly water-soaked, had attained such proportions that I was compelled to curtail them of a foot of their extra length. But the September sun poured his desiccating rays down upon my head and my pantaloons until, from my knees down, I was dressed in the fashion adopted in the earliest history of the race.

There was certainly no surplus water on the prairie then; for, in travelling over the unsettled wild acres between the upper Calapooia and Albany, I suffered from thirst. What a change since then! I do not remember to have seen a living creature between Kirk's and Albany, with the exception of a skulking coyote and a horned owl. The former was as shabbily dressed, and looked as dejected and lonely as myself, and I left him to his own meditations; but the latter displayed such gravity of deportment and solemnity of mien, that I could not pass him by unnoticed. Perched upon a gnarled oak, he seemed a very king in dignity, as I pompously "bled" by him in my comic habiliments. I was probably the first specimen of the genus *homo* he had ever seen, and when I shied a finger-stone at him, he did not even deign to dodge, but sat earnestly surveying me from head to foot without a change of countenance. But long since the coyote and owl have been driven back to the mountains, and to-day tasteful cottages and well-filled barns and granaries are visible in all directions, as far as the eye can reach.

At Junction City, I visited Lee Encampment C. R. Co., and witnessed the induction of two persons into the R. C., and one into the S. C. degree of the Order. They have a comfortable and well-furnished hall, and their membership comprises many of the leading men and women of the place. A few days previous to my visit, the relentless hand of death had visited their circle and robbed them of a much-loved member—Mrs. Kirk. Her bereaved husband (an officer, and an active and influential member of the Encampment), finds true friends to sustain him in his great loss.

Sister K. was borne to her last resting place, near Eugene City, by her loving Companions, and interred with the solemn and imposing ceremonies of the Order she so much loved, and in whose ranks she so nobly worked. More anon. A. F. J. Harrisburg, February 10, 1876.

A lady member of LaCreole Encampment writes: "Our Encampment is in a flourishing condition. We have now none but good, earnest, substantial members, and with such there is no danger of failure."