The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....JULY 15, 1880.

THE CHARGES REFUTED.

The Committee appointed last Spring by the tax-payers of School District No. 1, to investigate the charges against the efficiency of the public schools of Portland, have rendered their report, in nearly every instance refuting the accusations of the enemies of the common schools. The report is quite lengthy; therefore these columns will admit portions only of it.

In reply to the assertion that "the machinery of the schools has grown to a too expensive and cumbrous system," the Committee find that, while the tax to support the schools has increased but 20 per cent in thirteen years, the cost of the police department has increased 50 per cent in five years and the fire department 44 per cent; that the increase of school population in the last four years is four per cent greater than the increase in expenses in that time; that the growth of the school population has required annually a more thorough grading of pupils, and more buildings, rooms and furniture, and teachers of more skill and devotion, in order to do good work in all the classes.

In refutation of the criticism that too too many studies are crowded upon the pupils, the Committee state that such studies only are pursued as are authorized by law, and that they are much the same as in the old-style schools, but that "the present systematic course gives definite and better results of study to larger numbers." The Committee in this connection take exception to the number of readers, geographies, arithmetics and grammars used. They especially denounce Clark's grammar, which is almost universally recognized as the finest text-book extant on the subject. In particular should it be retained in the High School, where its complete analysis of sentences and careful explanations of the idioms of the English language can be comprehended by all who are qualified to enter the school. After the Committee's laudation of the Portland schools for keeping pace with the times, it is in bad taste to assert that grammar, one of the principal studies, "can be taught orally with a few varied sentences on the blackboard in two or three terms." Clark would laugh at the construction of numerous sentences in the report.

In reply to the charge that "the High School is not a proper part of the system of public education," the Committee report that they find "the High School only an extension of the grades and classes"—its name "only a term to denote the necessary advance grades of large public schools like those of Portland." The name is convenient, but not essential. If offensive, it can be dropped, though its classes remain.

The Committee recommend, in reference to teaching languages, that English only be free, and that tuition be charged for instruction in foreign languages.

To refute the charge that the criminal and pauper classes come from the attendants of the common schools, much statistical matter from the school reports of great cities is employed, showing the falsity of the assertion. In Portland, the case is as follows: "Of the 68 graduates of the High School, 58 (88 per cent) are engaged in useful work, and 8 (12 per cent) are in professional study. Of the 204 graduates of the grammar schools, 113 (37½ per cent) are pursuing higher studies; 167 (55½ per cent) are in useful work; 21 (7 per cent) are unknown; 3 (1 per cent) are of questionable character."

Taken as a whole, the report is satisfactory to the tax-payers and the upholders of the public school system. It was adopted at the citizens' meeting at the Court House last Monday evening without a dissenting voice. However, if the friends of common education think the war on the schools is settled by this report, they greatly mistake. The mutterings are already heard, and next year the assault will be renewed. Let friends all remember that "eternal vigilance" on their part is necessary to keep off the treacherous hands of the enemy.

THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT A HUSBAND.

The action of the Chicago School Board in forbidding the employment of married women as teachers has been denounced as a crime by the Woman Suffragists of the country, some of them asserting that a woman has as much right to support a husband as a man has to support a wife. This statement surprises many opposition journals, which think the "antiquated sisterhood" are so desirous of "catching the men" that they are willing to support husbands. The truth is that no person of sound body and mind has a right to be supported, though, if men claim to support women, the latter may as well "have the game as the name." There is nothing more despicable than a robust man who lives off the earnings of his wife; and an idle, healthy wife would be equally despicable were she endowed with the same privileges in the world as her husband. As the matter stands to-day, a woman may perform the home duties for a generation, and her husband will be credited with supporting her. To get any credit at all, she must do both her work and her husband's. If she wishes to support him, nobody will deny her the privilege of doing so; but all will think her more generous than wise, and that her husband is certainly little of a man. The Chicago teachers may suffer some inconvenience from the senseless ruling of the School Board, but the Woman Suffrage cause will be the gainer, as it will arouse many persons (particularly the husbands of the teachers) to the fact that woman must have the ballot if her rights are to be respected and her husband is to be supported.

RULING THE HEART.

An Olympia minister recently delivered an address on "Woman's Rights and the Secret of Woman's Influence," based on the history of Queen Esther, and which was replete with nicely-worded sophistries. His claim is that woman must rule man through his heart, as a pilot controls a vessel by its helm, and that Esther saved her people by controlling the heart of Ahasueras. This is a neat comparison—only comparing a gigantic collection of matter with a sentient human being is very silly. Why should a woman control man through his heart? To gratify his vanity by making him think he is exercising his own volition? If woman's ideas are right, why is it necessary that she should waste time in laying siege to the heart of man? Ought she not rather to have the power of openly expressing her convictions? Is not Vashti's sad fate good proof that the hearts of men are sometimes inconstant? Does not her history testify that woman must be uncertain as to her ability to control man through his heart?

A portion of this minister's twaddle is insulting to every noble-souled woman, and proves his failure to comprehend the duties and responsibilities of womanhood. He says that "the destiny of woman is to be admired;" that "to fail of this, would be to fail of the appointed end of her being." This frank assertion of the imbecility and worthlessness of one-half the people of the world is enough to curl with scorn the lip of every care-worn mother, every loving wife and every dutiful daughter.

The incorrectness of his assertions regarding woman's "omnipotent" power over man can be so easily shown, and is so potent to every one who will take the trouble to think for a moment, that it is surprising that he fell into the error. If woman possessed the unlimited power he professes to believe she does, she would not be a victim of one-sided laws. She would not be taxed without representation, governed without consent, robbed by probate courts, tried by a jury not her peers, denied the benefits of land laws when married, and in many other ways be made to feel that she is a slave instead of a ruler.

The *Washington Standard* has these remarks to make upon the reverend gentleman's conclusions from the history of Esther:

> It is a waste of rhetoric to assume that woman is protected as she should be under man-made laws, although "the charms which make her omnipotent" have been exerted ever since the historical event upon which the argument depends passed into the annals of antiquity. If woman rules the heart, she does not always sway the judgment of men.

POLITICS FOR WOMEN.

Viscountess Harberton's remarkable speech at the recent mass meeting at St. James's Hall, London, on the subject of Woman Suffrage, has attracted much attention in England, and some in America. The *Times* and other great journals of the old country contained lengthy and respectful reports of the meeting, and mentioned the Viscountess's speech in particular, calling the attention of the nation to the fact that the woman movement can be no longer ignored. The New York *Evening Post*, the San Francisco *Chronicle*, and other journals in the New World, have been equally just. They have published a small portion of the lady's remarks. She said that the objection is made that women cannot understand politics, and that the word "politics" is used to mislead. It generally conjures up visions of drainage acts, army estimates, judicature bills and agricultural holdings; but her hearers must remember that it refers also to married women's property, and to laws touching the care (at present denied to them, except on sufferance by their husbands) of their own children. Politics includes all questions relating to drink, in which women are greatly, though indirectly, interested; also the question whether the labor of women is to be free, whether they are to have the right of making the best arrangement they can for employment, or whether they are to be harassed by absurd restrictions made by men. It is said that if women are allowed to vote, they must be prepared to take the rough with the smooth. They agree to that, for at present they take the rough without the smooth. She understands "the rough" to be paying taxes and "the smooth" to be having votes.

WAXING WARM.

We are sorry to see the war between "H. H. M." and "N. E. Z." waxing so warm. Evidently both are in earnest; and certainly each carries the argument well. But, as their differences are such as preclude the possibility of an amicable conclusion, we hope they will let the matter rest hereafter. We confess that the principles advanced by "H. H. M." are much to our liking, though we agree with "N. E. Z." as to the means to be adopted to gain the end for which both are striving. Having given both a fair hearing, we now rest the case with our readers, believing their honesty and intelligence will lead them to do just what is best.

All persons attending the Spiritualist grove meeting at New Era, Clackamas county, will be returned free by the railroad and steamship companies upon presenting a certificate of attendance from Mr. Thomas Buckman. This arrangement will prevail from July 23d to 26th, inclusive.

Hon. Allen Parker, of Yaquina, is in the city. He is a member of the Legislature from Benton county, and will ever be found on the side of right and justice. The women may rely on his friendship and assistance when any measure for their relief comes before the House this Fall.

The New England Woman Suffrage Association will co-operate with the Vermont suffragists in holding a grand convention in October.

A NECESSITY.

In 1862, in 1876 and in 1880 has the northern part of the city of Portland been submerged by the June floods. It is a possibility that the overflow may occur every year; hence it is evident to all that the grade of the lower portion of the city should be raised. A levee will not prevent the overflow, as the flood is caused by "back water," which seeps through the soil. The *Oregonian* speaks as follows of the necessity of immediate action in this matter:

> To establish such grade is the first thing to be done. The plane of beginning on Front and First might properly be Alder or even Morrison, and from there it should be carried regularly so as to give a fill of at least four feet where the Clarendon Hotel stands. The lower part of Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth should be raised in similar manner. It is no great undertaking, and can be done easily if the city only resolves to do it.
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> In many of the large cities of the United States it has been necessary to elevate the grades. In Chicago, many of the heaviest buildings stand on ground which was raised from five to twelve feet, while in San Francisco blocks of fine buildings occupy manufactured land, acre upon acre having been made by filling in the bay. For instance, the Niantic building, corner Clay and Sansome streets, and several squares from the city front, stands over the spot where a vessel of the same name sank. We quote from the *Oregonian* again:
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> If we now establish a new grade for the lower end of the city, it will not be necessary to raise many large buildings—and the change is indispensable if the business streets north of Washington are to continue the business streets of the city. Business cannot be subject to these interruptions and the expense they entail, and owners of property in that part of the city must look at the fact as it is.

General James B. Weaver, the Greenback candidate for President, is said to be confident of his ability to carry Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, West Virginia, Missouri and Kansas, and that he will make heavy gains in Maryland, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota. He asserts that if he does not receive a majority of the electoral votes, neither of the other candidates will, and the matter will go to the House of Representatives. If thrown into the House, he will stand an equal chance with the rest. De la Matyr, he claims, has the balance of power there, and no concession will there be made by his partisans favorable either to Democrats or Republicans. In the event that no agreement is reached there, the matter becomes a constitutional question, and it will be with the Senate to decide what disposition to make of it. He will stump every State he can before election, but confines himself to no section, and thinks Kearney's support will enable him to carry California. He will doubtless find that Kearney is a heavy load when the California returns are counted. The Greenbackers of the Golden State have repudiated the blatant agitator.

An exchange says: "Among the fiercest assailants of Mr. Bradlaugh's right to a seat [in the House of Commons] were the Jewish and Roman Catholic members. Although they had to fight their way into the House, a generation back, against a similar exclusion, they opposed the removal of the restriction in this case, and set themselves against Mr. Bradlaugh's admission, not on moral, but on theological grounds." 'Twas ever thus. Among the most rabid opponents of individual political liberty for all, are the immigrants from foreign lands, who come to America to escape tyranny, and yet endeavor to prevent American women's emancipation from oppression.

Mrs. Julia Foster writes as follows to *Woman's Words*: "Grace Greenwood speaks of Miss Abbott as the 'little woman' and the 'brave little woman.' It seems to me it would be better to speak of women as women, without adding the word 'little.' It always seems to me to suggest something inferior, or to be used to increase their attractiveness; but it should not. We never speak of a man as a 'noble *little* man,' no matter how small he may be; indeed, we avoid speaking of his stature, if he is, unfortunately, below the medium."

Anna Randall-Diehl, to whom the New York *Times* gives the credit of clambering upon the railing, waving a flag in each hand, and at the same time shouting in the Republican Convention at Chicago, writes to that paper to say she was in her country home on Long Island all the time, and in reading the reports of the Convention was shocked to find herself paraded in that undignified and untrue manner. She says: "Oh, Grant me honest fame, or Grant me none."

In the July number of the *North American Review*, Miss M. A. Hardaker tries to prove the inferiority of women. Mary Ann is doubtless able to speak about herself, but is altogether too general with regard to the rest of her sex. However, she will secure the adoration of men like Francis Parkman. It will tickle his vanity to have one simpering Miss coyly acknowledge his worth.

Messrs. J. R. Lewis, Francis Henry and J. S. Herndon, the Committee appointed by Governor Ferry to investigate certain charges against Dr. Willard, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane of Washington Territory, report that they "are convinced that there are no just grounds for complaint against the hospital or its management."

The *Woman's Journal* says that never since its establishment has it been so often asked to "exchange" as now. The requests come from all shades of belief in politics and religion, and indicate a growing interest in Woman Suffrage. The NEW NORTHWEST's experience is similar.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

Now that the State Fair is over, a few thoughts in reference to its management will probably be in order. Only those who have attempted the management of any like unwieldy enterprise can form an idea of the perplexity and worriment arising from it. There are a thousand annoyances continually coming up, which no amount of sagacity could have foreseen or prevented. Everybody whose only business consists in looking on and criticising feels perfectly able to manage the whole business in whole, in part, or in detail. Then, too, everybody has a hobby, and delights in riding it.

It would be vastly amusing, were it not so suggestive of woman's impecuniosity, as well as her inborn acquisitiveness, to note the many little expedients the sex resort to in order to obtain a premium of a few dollars. Many of the articles they enter for competition are wholly useless, and certainly possess not the slightest claim to being beautiful. One little rocking chair, that we have noticed every year for a long time in a conspicuous position, has become so old and worn that the bits of silk that form its upholstered covering cannot last many decades longer. The number of dollars that chair has brought at different fairs in premiums would form an interesting example for the new lightning computator. Some of the quaint devices of women suggest a struggling genius for invention that makes us fairly tremble with eager desire to strike the shackles from their hampered lives and permit them to indulge their wonderful gifts in Edisonian enterprises, where money could aid their efforts in a practical direction.

One of the greatest curiosities of the fair was a pair of landscape pictures, made of the hair from the heads of the Oregon pioneers. Judged merely as pictures, these landscapes were nothing remarkable; but the material of which they were made will startle any beholder into an exclamation of surprise and wonder. Houses, windows, trees, rocks, mountains, flowers, rivers, boats and boatmen are all made of human hair, in every hue and shade, ingenuously interwoven according to its color. The author of this unique specimen of handiwork is Mrs. Ross, of Monmouth, who designs it for the State House when another landscape is completed.

Our hobby is (and we've said before that everybody has a hobby) to offer premiums to women's handiwork a little more on a par with those offered for horse-racing. Let these extra premiums be for babies, butter, starch, soap, candles, cookery, etc., etc., not omitting any one of the thousand feminilities already named, unless it be the ever obtruding and always ugly patchwork quilt. Any fool can make a quilt; and, after we had made a couple of dozen over twenty years ago, we quit the business with a conviction that nobody but a fool would spend so much time in cutting bits of dry goods into yet smaller bits and sewing them together again, just for the sake of making believe that they were busy at practical work. A dozen such quilts as we saw at the fair would be needed to keep one comfortable through an Oregon Summer night, and any one of the dozen would require two months' labor to complete it.

Though the officers of the fair made no provision for premiums for human stock, Dr. Pfunder of this city and Dr. Weatherford of Salem, assisted by E. O. Norton of the *Vidette*, got up a side show and offered premiums for the prettiest girl and boy babies, the choice falling upon two very pretty and promising ones that carried off the blue ribbon amid the general rejoicing of friends and relatives. If the Society will offer a handsome premium next year for the largest family of healthy and bright and pretty children, accompanied by the fresh, healthy and happy mother, we'll give more to see that show than any other, and so would any intelligent lover of humanity. Thoroughbred humanity must be the next consideration of agriculturists.

One very grievous detriment to the fair—how grievous nobody yet can tell—was the illegal and yet constant exhibition of monstrosities. One of these was a woman without feet and legs, who sat upon a rocking chair and propelled herself by trestles worked by hand power. She was accompanied by a villainous accordion and two women, each armed with a like abomination, with which they attracted large crowds about the monstrosity, and told pitiful tales, in broken French and jargon English, of their "sister's" misfortunes. One of these beggars rattled a cup under the face and eyes of the undersigned, and asked alms as follows:

"Will ye, madame, be so good as to give one leetle zum for ze zupport of me zister, who iz ze cripple from ze typhoid fevare?"

"Before I'd make such an exhibition as that of my sister's misfortunes, if she were my sister, I'd open a wash-house by the side of a Chinaman," we were foolhardy enough to reply.

"An' you're a China lover, that ye are—*bad loock* to ye! Niver a bit would I demane meself by wor-r-kin' alongside o' a Chinaman, at all, at all! But, if yez wants to put yerself on a live! with the dirthy haythen, there's no law in Amerika to hinder yez; but I'll let yez know that I'm a dacent woman, an' will put up with none o' your insults!" she exclaimed, marching off with a lofty air, and doubtless remembering her French again when she encountered a wiser customer.

We went on our way rejoicing; but we'll soon see whether or not the Grand Jury will do its duty by enforcing the law against such exhibitions.

There are scores of temporary booths for trading purposes on the grounds that ought to be destroyed. The new Pavilion is so much finer that its presence calls loudly for better surroundings. The camping grounds for men and horses should be kept separate. The premiums on racing should be so reduced that a hundred dollars could be afforded for the best bushel of wheat, fifty dollars for the best butter, and a like sum for cheese, etc., etc. There should also be premiums for authorship, agricultural essays, poetry, and the like, and a liberal reward for the best treatise on cookery, accompanied by practical illustrations by the author of the same. This would call forth a sharp contest among women, and effectually floor patch-work and kindred nonsense.

The Agricultural Society deserve great praise for their zeal and enterprise in carrying forward the work for so many years under so many difficulties. We are glad to learn that the receipts of the present year are sufficient to so reduce the indebtedness as to place the Society beyond the power of speculators, who have been hoping to secure the lands through mortgages and twelve per cents.

Salem, after the fair, relaxed into her wonted quietude. The hotels once more assumed their normal condition, and the merchants and restaurant-keepers relapsed into their usual non-exciting routine of plodding endeavor. The Supreme Court is now in session, and, though the figure of Justice yet stands on the Court House steeple with her back to the State House and the scales in her left hand as of yore, she no longer looks hopelessly solemn and despairingly anxious, as she did while Prim and Kelly swayed her scepter to suit themselves, regardless of her claims for one-half of her people.

So many smiling faces of old-time friends greeted us everywhere that we were hardly conscious of the passing hours. Spent Friday at the Penitentiary, and were much pleased with what we saw of its general management. But, how our heart did *ache* for the weeping mothers—some of whom we met—whose sons are here suffering the penalties of outraged law. If all erring sons could see the terrible suffering that is brought upon parents through the misconduct of those incarcerated here, it would certainly put a check upon their downward career, now and forever.

On Saturday afternoon we took the express train for Jefferson, the quiet little home of many a friend of human rights, and here we remained for two days, the guest of good Mother Roland, and the recipient of the glad greetings of everybody. We were too tired for lectures, and just in the mood for visiting. The Sunday School, with its quaint leader, seemed not to have changed a particle since our visit a year ago. Uncle Jimmy Bates, the leader in question, is the oldest of all the Oregon pioneers, having first set foot upon the soil in 1832. He retains and teaches the theology of the Puritans, and has an abiding faith in the power and personality of "the old serpent, called the devil." Take the belief in the doctrine of total depravity and eternal damnation from him, and he'd be so upset that he'd relapse into insanity. He's an interesting character in his way, and he ought to visit the next Pioneer meeting and make a speech. Such men as Chadwick, Deady, Nesmith et al would be nowhere.

A year has brought death to some Jefferson households, and marriage and birth to others, but this is about all the change we note. The people are sober, steady and industrious, and deserve the prosperity that crowns them with peace and plenty.

Monday, and Salem and the Chemeketa Hotel again. Here we spend another day in active association with many friends, and retire early, only to be forgotten by the call-boy on Tuesday morning, and so miss the express train. But the forenoon is agreeably and profitably spent among the friends of Human Rights, who are looking forward with much anticipation to the work of the Suffrage Convention before the coming Legislature.

Afternoon train, and home, where again we sigh for a lodge on an Ararat, or a boat on the "raging canawl." What North Portland is going to do with her superabundance of dirty water this Summer we cannot even guess.

A. S. D.

Portland, July 14, 1880.

From the *Woman's Journal*: "The late Mrs. Elizabeth Waldron Wiggin, of Stratham, was a lady of great patriotism. Her father, Lieutenant Wm. Shannon, was an officer in the war of 1812, and gave his life for his country. And on her mother's side she was a direct descendant of the celebrated Major Waldron of Dover, who was killed by the Indians in a most barbarous manner in the 17th century. In the recent civil war, Mrs. Wiggin saw five of her six sons go forth to battle. One of them was killed at the storming of Fort Wagner, and another was seriously wounded in the military service. And yet, because women do not fight, this woman, who reared six sons to serve their country and fight its battles, is disfranchised along with criminals and imbecile men."

An editorial correspondent of the English *Woman's Suffrage Journal* states that "the first official measure creating any form of systematic provision for the poor was passed since Victoria ascended the throne. By that act women rate-payers are admitted to vote in the election of poor-law guardians, which continues to this day to be the the only local franchise of any description which is enjoyed by duly qualified women in all parts of Ireland."

Howard's "Art of Computation" beats the "Lightning Calculator" all hollow. As a concise and comprehensive teacher of business arithmetic, it is certainly worthy of notice.

A new Spiritual paper, entitled the *Rising Sun*, has been laid on our table. We have sketched it through, and find it too intensely spiritual for our comprehension.

FURTHER CONTROVERSY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

A careful perusal of "H. H. M.'s" last effusion, which your native charity so far got the better of your judgment as to cause you to designate as "thoughtful and dispassionate," to my mind clearly reveals the ambush that hides the enemy's gun. I fail to find one word in either of his letters to convince the reader that he is a friend, much less an advocate, of Woman Suffrage. He must know that the "Greenback Labor party" has no power, except it be to divide the vote and thus elect an anti-suffragist. That I am a Republican, I freely admit. Will "H. H. M." deny that he is a Democrat? Now for the facts: There are two great parties—and no other—before the country, demanding power and place. The Republican party—based on man's supremacy, and therefore deserving defeat, if it were possible to do better—is one, and the stronger faction. The Democratic party—based on slavery and disunion, and, because of its past record and present friends, demanding defeat—is the other and weaker faction. The party of the first part is not a good party, because it is one-sexed, and consequently incapable of attaining to excellence; but it is the best we have, and the only hope we have for preserving the Nation's existence. The party of the second part is also one-sexed, in addition to its well-known opposition as a party to woman's rights. That one of these parties is to be successful, "H. H. M." well knows, and there is no difficulty in deciding as to his preference, for he has built an ambush and called it "Greenbacks," with which he hopes to decoy a few votes from the Republican candidate, to form half votes for the Democratic nominee. By talking to the Woman Suffragists through the People's Paper about the semblance to a "plank" which he invites them to stand upon inside the ambush, well knowing the while that if they accept the invitation the plank will sink, he expects to do good service for General Hancock.

I am not only a Republican, but a Woman Suffragist. I know the party will never do its duty till it has enfranchised woman; but I also know that the Democratic party will not only never enfranchise woman, but will re-enslave the colored man if it ever gets the power. I believe the Republican party can and will be compelled, by stress of public intelligence, to accept this next great phase of human progress. I have no such hope for the Democratic party, hence my desire to warn the Woman Suffragists to steer clear of the Greenback ambush. I trust that I am now understood.

"H. H. M." asks me to tell him who the enemies of human liberty are. I answer unhesitatingly—Everybody, individually or collectively, who is opposed to the enfranchisement and equality of every other human being under the sun.

I made no attempt to belittle or disparage the Greenback party. I simply told the truth when I called it a "boomerang." And I only make the argument yet more emphatic when I pronounce it an ambush.

"H. H. M." says truly that an upright man when leading a band of robbers is a robber himself; and in this sense all men are robbers, for we have robbed woman of her natural right to equality with us before the law. Until we demand the restoration of her rights, and demand them in such a way that our claims and hers may be made effective, we have no right, while excusing a Hancock for being a robber and glorying in it, to attack a Garfield, who protests against a like robbery.

With all my heart, I wish the Greenback party was of a nature that it could command national respect; but, while it works hand in glove with its present leaders—composed of the kicks-and-cuffers, fanatics and dreamers of the rag-baby stamp, whose chief claim to financial leadership consists in their inability to earn their own livelihood—you will excuse me if I prefer better company.

N. E. Z.

Portland, July 12, 1880.

MRS. JOHNS HEARD FROM.

SALEM, July 10, 1880.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

Women have been blessed from time to time by the passage of Acts by the Legislature, professing to give them equal property rights with men; but women are not free, nor can they be till they are enfranchised. Men may deny this as much as they please, but the denial will not change the fact of woman's subjugation. Nor need they lay the flattering unction to their souls that women will grow tired of demanding their freedom. Men will continually be reminded that rebellious women live and are constantly recruiting their ranks. The lordly usurpers of women's inalienable rights will never know peace again until they put forth their utmost ability to secure the enfranchisement of the subjugated sex.

Let but one man of influence and power contend as earnestly for the liberties of women as he would contend for his own freedom were it denied him, and much would be gained for our cause. Man has no more right to rule woman than woman has to rule the Deity. Man never obtained the right to rule woman in the first place except by force or fraud.

An Assessor, in pursuing the duties for which the privileged class gets remuneration for labor at the expense of the taxed and unrepresented class, demanded that Mrs. Ramp, of this city, should give in her individual property for taxation. Mrs. R. referred the officer to her husband—her representative and head. But the protector of women proceeded at once, and upon his own motion, to levy a tax upon his own estimate of her personal effects, placing them at six thousand dollars. Mrs. R. refused to pay the tax, and the sum was so large that it was not pleasant for Mr. R. to settle it, so it required a good deal of official crookedness to set the matter straight. Just how the affair was settled, I cannot tell; but I do know that the lady would not pay the tax. If every unrepresented woman who is taxed would stand her ground as firmly as Mrs. Ramp did, they would soon worry the men into granting them their inalienable right to vote as to the manner of applying their taxes to public use.

Our Suffrage Society in Salem still keeps up its organization. I can seldom attend of late, on account of making me a home in the mountains—a home of which I shall tell you the particulars in a future letter.

MRS. J. A. JOHNS.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Hoosac tunnel is flooded.

Minneapolis has 48,325 inhabitants.

Wm. T. Pelton, nephew of Tilden, is dead.

Tucson, Arizona, has 7,000 inhabitants.

Vermont's population is smaller than in 1870.

Cotton is said to be in fine condition in the South.

Stevens & Wilcox, dry goods dealers of Omaha, have failed.

San Francisco's population is 233,000, including 20,549 Chinese.

Hancock is said to be weak in his own State, Pennsylvania.

Drouth has caused the exhaustion of the water supply of Petersburg, Va.

Mohr & Mohr's Cincinnati whisky house is burned. Loss, $60,000; insured.

The Cabinet is resolved on a thorough investigation of the Narragansett disaster.

A "corner" in pork has been put up in Chicago and New York by Armour & Co.

President Hayes has appointed John B. Neil, of Salt Lake City, Governor of Idaho.

Disastrous storms in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin are reported.

Last Saturday 134 deaths occurred in New York, 60 being children under five years of age.

The conclonce fund since the war amounts to $200,000, and contributions are increasing.

Merced, Cal., is overrun with roughs, and the citizens have formed a Committee of Safety.

In Baltimore, the heat is very oppressive. Several deaths have resulted from sunstroke.

The Orangemen celebrated the 12th in New York, Cleveland and Montreal without trouble.

Dr. Tanner has now fasted seventeen days in New York. He is weak and evidently failing.

The readjusters of Virginia have nominated a full electoral ticket for the coming campaign.

The thermometer at Chicago has reached 102°. Several deaths from sunstroke are reported.

Don Cameron's health is said to be badly shattered, and fears are entertained that he will not recover.

The schooner Joe Duvall has been wrecked on Lake Michigan, and it is feared the crew are all drowned.

Mrs. Brown, of Indianapolis, Ind., has been convicted of the murder of her husband, with the penalty of death.

Blanchet, a French engineer, denounces De Lesseps's canal scheme, showing Nicaragua to be preferable to Panama.

Colonel Cash, who killed Colonel Shannon in a duel in South Carolina last week, is under arrest for the crime.

In a roadside fight between Texas desperadoes and rangers, one on each side was killed, when the outlaws surrendered.

One-fourth of the force of the Government printing office will be discharged, the appropriation for maintaining it being small.

The Germans of Indianapolis (English's home) are very severe in their denunciation of the Democratic nominee for Vice-President.

Capt. Lincoln, of the Tenth Infantry, who shot and killed a drunken private soldier who insulted him, has been acquitted by court-martial.

Very large numbers of immigrants are marching on Indian Territory, and if the military are instructed to eject the invaders there will be trouble.

Beecher denies that he has abandoned the orthodox faith, and says he believes in the inspiration of the Bible, the doctrines of the trinity and atonement, and the apostles' creed.

A Milwaukee woman of excellent family is under arrest, charged with having having poisoned her step-mother and step-brother in order to get possession of their property.

The Commissioner of Agriculture says tea can and will be extensively raised in the Gulf States in the future. It will yield 250 pounds to the acre, at a profit of 20 cents a pound.

Lawrence R. Jerome and Edward M. Patchell, two well-known and wealthy young men of New York, recently stole $87,200 worth of stock from a messenger boy, and have been arrested.

The removal of U. S. Marshal Fitzsimmons of Georgia is asked, because he is in sympathy with "moonshiners," and retards the U. S. revenue officers in their efforts to capture illicit stills.

The National Educational Association began its nineteenth annual session at Chatauqua, N. Y., on the 13th, with encouraging attendance. Prominent educators from all parts of the country were present.

Yellow fever has appeared in New Orleans. A sailor of a Rio Janeiro vessel died there of the disease. The crew were put in quarantine, and every precaution has been taken to protect the city's health.

It is impossible at present to tell anything about the crops in the West, as manipulators of the grain market have their agents in all localities, and magnificent lying is done both as regards failure and success.

Kearney was not present on the sand lots of San Francisco last Sunday. Three meetings were running, and there doubtless would have been a row had not the police, to the number of 100, been detailed to prevent disturbances.

The Minneapolis Republicans have nominated Washburne for Congress without a dissenting voice. This will severely rebuke the attempt of Ignatius Donnelly to overthrow the will of the people as expressed at the polls two years ago.

At Danville, Va., on the 9th, Thomas DeJarnette, aged 20, shot his sister Mollie five times in an effort to kill her. She was an inmate of a bagnio, and he wished to "wipe out the disgrace of his family." The girl embraced him before he was taken to prison, saying he was right, and begging that he be not punished.