

The New Northwest.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME X.—NO. 7.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1880.

PER YEAR—\$3.00.

THE RATIFICATION.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE RESOLUTION ENDORSED BY THE LARGEST AND MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ASSEMBLAGE EVER CONVENED IN THE CAPITAL CITY.

GOOD MUSIC, EXCELLENT SPEECHES, AND GENERAL ENJOYING, DESPITE THE DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT OF AN ALBANY "DIVINE" AND HIS BOODLEK ALLIES.

Agreeable to previous announcement, the Woman Suffragists, to the number of many hundreds, met on the evening of the 21st instant at Reed's Opera House, Salem, to ratify the action of the Legislature in passing a resolution to submit to the voters an amendment to the Constitution forbidding the future disfranchisement of any citizen on account of sex. The platform was gaily festooned with flags and evergreens, giving a brilliant effect in the glistening gaslight. The doors were thrown open at seven o'clock, and in less than half an hour the spacious hall was filled to its utmost capacity by an eager, curious and expectant throng of ladies and gentlemen, the former largely predominating. Both Houses of the Legislature were so badly crowded with business on the closing days of the session that they found it impossible to adjourn at an early hour, as they had promised, and the audience was compelled to be content with the receipt of their respectful excuses till the evening was half spent; but their absence in no way cooled the enthusiasm of the citizens, who were bent upon a ratification jubilee and determined not to stop at such trifles as unfinished business or the "third reading of bills."

The Albany Ladies' Cornet Band, which had been advertised as a leading attraction, was compelled to disappoint themselves and the State at the last moment through the tyranny of the clerical father of one of the girls, who compelled her to remain at home. Mrs. Duniway explained the cause of the disappointment in an earnest and candid way, stating that the reverend gentleman who had been guilty of this outrage upon the Ladies' Band and the Oregon public had no other excuse for it than the fact that he had once been guilty of slandering herself, and had been "raked over the coals" for it in the presence of some of his very best church members, who had nobly stood by her, in spite of his unclerical and ungentlemanly attempts at defamation.

The exercises of the evening were opened with a violin solo by Miss Dora McCord, accompanied on the piano by Miss Anna Fearnside. The effect upon the turbulent crowd of boys in the gallery was wonderful. Respectful silence fell upon them like a mantle of peace. Even boys who were hired to disturb the meeting forgot for the nonce to indulge in the hideous cat-calls that whipped out the police an hour later, and compelled the voting citizens of Salem to sit by and watch the suffering multitude, who endured the torture of their unseemly racket till they were fairly frantic with disgust. Surely it is time that another element should come into public authority, when men are unable to induce their own boys to behave decently.

After the music, Mrs. Duniway delivered a brief address of welcome, and ended by introducing Col. C. A. Reed, who, she said, had been the first man in Oregon to come to the Woman Suffrage platform, and who had introduced in the Legislature in '74 the very resolution they were here tonight to ratify.

Colonel Reed was enthusiastically applauded as he responded to the call, and his speech, though brief, was worthy of the man and the occasion. The women of Oregon have no truer, stancher friend, or one upon whom they more implicitly rely for their final success in securing their political rights, than this gentleman.

Mrs. Loughary, the "Patrick Henry of the new dispensation," was the next speaker. She said that she had on the previous Monday received a card from Mrs. Duniway with some hieroglyphics upon it, which, after considerable trouble, she had deciphered, and the words were: "Eureka! The resolution has passed. Come up to Salem next Thursday and help us ratify." She had responded to the call, and was here to lift her voice in unison with the general notes of rejoicing that were welling up from patriotic hearts in every precinct, village and town in the State. She was proud of the Legislature of 1880. She believed it had been predicted that this was to be a historic year. The recent election returns from Indiana and Ohio had seemed like a fulfillment of that prediction; but the act of the Oregon Legislature in submitting the suffrage resolution to the voice of the people was a yet more notable event. She was especially proud of Yamhill and her Senators and Representatives, every one of whom had voted right upon the resolution; and she felt like repeating the ringing words that the Oregon people had often heard before, "Yamhill against the

world!" "We are not here," she said, "to make argumentative speeches, but to ratify and rejoice. The action of Oregon's law-makers has been flashed along the electric wires of the mighty continent, and the news is already making glad the hearts of women in every State in the Union. The progress of Liberty is onward, and women will be free." In the language of the immortal Baker, she was ready to say, "As for me, I dare not, will not be false to Freedom. I will walk beneath her banner. I will glory in her strength. I have seen her in history struck down on a hundred fields of battle. I have seen her friends flee from her; her foes gather around her. I have seen her bound to a stake. I have seen them give her ashes to the winds. But when they turned to exult, I have seen her again meet them face to face, resplendent in complete steel, brandishing in her strong right hand a flaming sword, red with insufferable light. I take courage."

Mrs. Loughary's address was received with the hearty and respectful applause invariably accorded her whenever she appears in public. God made her for a stateswoman.

As the "bullet argument" had frequently come up in the Legislature in opposition to the ballot for woman, Mrs. Aurora Bowman favored the audience with a reading, entitled "Mother and Poet," illustrative of woman's terrible interest in war. The poem was read with thrilling effect, and the character of a bereaved widow was well sustained.

Misses Fearnside and McCord again rendered delightful music with piano and violin.

Mrs. L. M. Lowe made a brief and pleasing address, eulogizing the action of the Legislature, and concluded with an excellent rendition of Mrs. Duniway's Centennial poem, "The Spirits of '76."

Miss Olive Chamberlain favored the audience with a beautiful song, her sister, Miss Julia, presiding at the piano. Miss Chamberlain possesses one of the sweetest, richest and best modulated voices in the State.

Mrs. Duniway read stirring letters of congratulation from Mrs. A. M. Martin, of Yamhill, and from Hon. J. F. Caples and Geo. P. Riley, Esq., of Portland. She alluded to Mr. Riley, the colored orator, as the "Fred Douglass of Oregon," and related what she called her "Fred Douglass story," which brought down the house.

Ex-Senator Mitchell was then introduced. His speech was a gem, logically and rhetorically. No synopsis could do it justice. He expressed himself strongly in favor of the cause of liberty for woman; stated with pride that he had had the honor of voting for Woman Suffrage in the United States Senate, and had also gladly given his vote to open the doors of the Supreme Court to the women who wished to practice law. The star of Liberty was ever advancing. A move like the one we were celebrating to-night could never retrograde. Oregon's opportunity to lead off as the first State in the Union enfranchising the mothers of men was one which would arouse the patriotism of the voters to a high pitch of enthusiasm. He had watched the progress of the movement from the beginning; was in favor of it from principle; and at any and every time when it was possible for him to aid the glorious work by voice or pen, he was ready to do so.

Hon. John Minto, introduced as "the ladies' man of the House of Representatives," was the next speaker. He said that the principle of equality for men and women before the law was innate; that men and women had inherited the power of joint dominion over all the earth from Omnipotent beneficence; that both men and women are by nature tyrannical, but that men have gained the advantage in law and finance and theology through brute force, and women have long been the victims of the law of might over right. This law would be equalized again in time by the ballot in her hand. As an example of a father's tyranny, he cited the fact that the young lady who had been compelled to break the engagement of the Albany band through a bigoted and wicked parental mandate was twenty-five years old! "Where," said he, "is the young man of twenty-five, or twenty-one, whose sense of right could be thus trampled upon by the unreasonable fiat of an angry father? Where is the young woman who ought to submit to such a despotism? No wonder our women are so often sycophantic, deceptive and cowardly. Deception is the counteracting influence that finally dethrones tyranny; but it does it at the expense of principle." He spoke of witnessing a marriage ceremony a few days since, wherein the bride was compelled by her father to sign away her right to superintend the education of her unborn children. "All of this is tyranny. The ballot in woman's hand alone can correct it. The fight before us is no easy one. But the agitation will help to educate the voters, and I hope for a final triumph."

Ex-Governor Gibbs was next introduced, and proceeded in his peculiarly pleasant and logical way to plant his convictions squarely on the side of right and liberty. He said the moral forces of

any government are its only lasting foundation. The experience of a hundred years of American politics had proved that there is a want of moral balance in the councils of the Nation. He did not predict any great or sudden revolution from the enfranchisement of women; but he looked for a gradual restoration of a higher moral standard of political and civil power through the combined equality of men and women as expressed through the ballot. In conclusion, he wished to know how many of the ladies and gentlemen present were anxious for the women of the State to become voters, and asked all such to rise to their feet. The audience arose, amid great enthusiasm.

Mrs. Duniway said that, as they had a through with the evening, though not half through with the programme, they would be compelled to adjourn.

Thus ended the first ratification meeting in honor of a Legislature ever given under the auspices of ladies in any State in the Union. Men may wrangle as they may over the action of the Oregon Legislature in connection with their many conflicting financial interests, but the history of the session of 1880, in its action on the Woman Suffrage resolution, will grow brighter and grander in the annals of the Nation, as the years roll on forever.

THE CAPITAL.

THE LEGISLATURE AS IT APPEARED IN ITS HOUR OF DISSOLUTION—OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

The struggle to pass the notorious "levee bill," by which a railway corporation is to have and hold a certain piece of unimproved triangular property in the city of Portland, occupied the closing days and hours of the law-makers' session at the Capital City, to the exclusion of almost everything else of any particular importance. The Governor's veto, which was certainly a sensibly considered and carefully prepared document, came down upon the unterrified friends of the bill with all the force of a Woman Suffrage resolution. All of them were excited, and some were frantic. The opponents of "the steal," as they styled it, were not less earnest and energetic, but it was plainly to be seen, as the hours sped away, that "British gold" was at a premium, and the Scotch company held the winning card. Much heated discussion on both sides resulted in occasional forfeiture of all decorum, and aroused open defiance against all parliamentary courtesy. President Hirsch grew weary enough of the debate, as anyone could see; but he preserved his gentlemanly demeanor to the last, inspiring the Senators, as he had done all through the session, with the profoundest respect for his coolness of head and clearness of judgment. The struggle to pass the bill over the veto at last ended in success, and the Legislature proceeded to occupy the remainder of the session in rushing through with other equally important but sadly neglected business.

In both Houses the confusion and hurry was like that of a band of blackberry pickers who had played at "adjourning" till the coming darkness had made the berries nearly invisible, and each was frantic for a particular "grab" during the last moment of daylight. House bills were crowded upon the Senate, and Senate bills were crowded upon the House, in the most rapid and inconceivable confusion. Resolutions thanking the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, the reporters of the press, and the various clerks and committees, were hurriedly passed. A committee of two on the part of the Senate and three on the part of the House was appointed to wait upon Governor Thayer and inform him that the eleventh biennial session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon was now about to adjourn, and to ascertain if he had any further communication to make to the Senate and House of Representatives.

A resolution was proposed in the Senate, that "it is the sense of the House that, as the special committee of the Senate, to whom was referred the petition of a large number of citizens asking for a local option law, has failed to report, the failure is regretted by the Senate." [Much laughter.] There was no second. A member from Yamhill opened the table drawer of a well-known Senator from another county and drew forth a dozen empty whiskey flasks, which he offered as a "minority report." [Up-roarious laughter.] Thus ended the vaunted "temperance legislation" of Dr. J. W. Watts, Master Eugene Skipworth, Hon. B. F. Dorris and Rev. S. G. Irvine. They succeeded in "stopping the cat-hole with a stove-pipe," just as had been seriously predicted months before, when they had blown so lustily that woman need not vote, for they would do the work without her aid.

In the House a dozen members sprang to their feet at once, each frantically waving a Senate bill

and shouting "Mr. Speaker." Speaker Moody was pale and evidently nervous, but he did not lose his presence of mind.

The noise and laughter in both Houses died away at last, and each became strangely quiet. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House both made able, bold and thrilling valedictory speeches. Each came to his chair without experience, and each had endeavored himself to his fellows by his unbiased rulings and his variable courtesy and kindness. The marvels, and the merits and demerits of the Legislative Assembly of 1880 are left upon the records of the State, to become a part of its history. Whatever has been done of good will live forever, for good can never die. Whatever of evil has been committed must perish with the march of progress, for evil will ultimately be overcome by good in all things pertaining to the destiny of nations. The Senators and Representatives have returned to their homes, and the Capital City has donned its Autumn dress of somber quietude.

The mute school received an appropriation of \$8000 for the two forthcoming years. "Just enough," says Mr. Knight, "to comfortably surmount the superintendent and his wife." The school is most ably conducted by Rev. and Mrs. Knight, and has, at this writing, about a dozen pupils, all of whom are evidently happy and well cared for. The facility with which they learn, and the readiness with which they use the English language is astonishing.

As an illustration of the names of quite a number of the lady workers in the Women's College was inadvertently made in our last week's report, we hereby append the list of officers as furnished us by Mrs. Miner, the capable and energetic matron of the institute: Mrs. Van Scoy is Dean; Mrs. Clark, President; Miss Lizzie Boise, Secretary; and Mrs. Van Wagner, Treasurer, with Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Deans, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Jessup, Mrs. England, Mrs. Rowland, Mrs. Willis and many others as assistant officers and general advisers.

The Orphan's Home is a triumph of woman's successful management, and was proudly pointed to by a pajama member of the Legislature, on the floor of the House, as an achievement in the annals of economy and thrift well worthy of emulation of men. The State's orphans are well housed, well fed, well clothed and well educated, and are properly taught to work in this institution. The bereaved little ones are to be congratulated upon finding so good a home in their tender years. Quite a number of left-orphan, or children without living mothers, have been admitted from time to time, but it is very seldom that those without living fathers ever seek admission, except it may be sometimes temporarily, while their mothers are at some kind of work that will not admit of their presence with themselves.

Rev. Mr. Dennison is still working faithfully, though against fearful odds, in his endeavor to create enthusiasm upon the temperance question. The regular open meeting was held last Tuesday evening in Good Templar Hall, about thirty persons being present. As it is always necessary in a religious revival that the Christians first get themselves into a harmonious condition to bring about expected results, so it is equally important in a temperance revival that the great body of teetotalers do likewise, and it shall be possible to succeed. They may preach and they may sing and they may pray till doomsday, but all in vain, unless they are ready and willing for women to vote. Luckily, Rev. Mr. Dennison is a Woman Suffragist and one who is not afraid to avow his sentiments from platform and pulpit alike. Rev. P. H. Burnett, of the Christian church, is another outspoken advocate of the right. When we have heard from other Salem clergymen we shall be happy to report them also.

Among the industries of women which deserve special notice, we are pleased to mention the book-binding of Mrs. Snyder, where you can get any style of binding you choose, from a paper cover on a last year's almanac to the Morocco lids of an embossed Bible. Mrs. J. A. Johns is driving a market wagon, engaged in selling the golden pears and yellow apples from her own fruit orchard, and is doing a splendid business. Mrs. Nash, of the milk-cart, also has her own business, and others of the supported sex may be seen on the streets, selling fruits and vegetables. It will be impossible to keep such women in political subjugation, as it was to keep the friends of Fred Douglass in a state of seclusion. "Sisterhood is the name." A. S. D., Salem, October 25, 1880.

The records of the Probation Office show that Wm. H. English gained the foundation for his fortune by stealing \$3,044.44 from the other heirs of his grandmother, the amount according to her services of her husband in the Revolution. The roots of this steal turned the tide in Indiana, and on next Tuesday the result will probably be more than \$100,000 to the Democrats.