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RALLY AT McMinnville.

MRS. DUNIWAY'S ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTING MEETING OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

McMinnville, January 17, 1881.

DEAR READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

Since the inauguration of the railroad era in the Yamhill Valley, there have been so many changes in the old landmarks that it is like visiting a strange country to alight at the McMinnville depot, where trains from both ways meet and stop, while passengers and employes take dinner at a pretentious hotel. The old stage-coach no longer toots its warning horn as of yore; but in its stead the snort of the iron horse awakes distant echoes, and the rumble of the railway cars resembles the warnings that precede an earthquake.

We see at a glance that McMinnville has more than doubled its former size and population since the railroad era. Miles and miles of good sidewalks lift the pedestrian above the soft prairie mud; new, neat and substantial dwellings abound on every hand; a half dozen churches are visible, and the main business street, as well as the town generally, very much reminds us of Albany.

Mrs. J. De Vore Johnson of Clackamas, and the undersigned from Multnomah, were the only guests from other counties who attended the Woman Suffrage rally of Yamhill as co-workers; but the resident friends of the cause were out in force, and we had a grand, grand time. The rally was held in the new, neat and commodious town hall lately erected by our old friend of equal rights, Mr. O. H. Adams. The meeting was called to order at 2 o'clock p. m. Friday by Mrs. H. A. Loughary, who briefly stated the objects of the meeting. The constitution of the Association was then read and circulated for signatures and dues, and was followed by the election of officers for the ensuing year. The election resulted as follows: President, Mrs. H. A. Loughary; Vice-President, Mrs. Ann M. Martin; Recording Secretary, Miss N. B. Martin; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. S. M. Kelly; Treasurer, Miss M. V. Olds.

The President appointed the following committees: On Resolutions—Dr. A. K. Olds, Mrs. J. De Vore Johnson, Mrs. A. S. Duniway. On Programme—Miss M. V. Olds, Mr. W. J. Loughary.

The following stirring communication from Hon. Lee Laughlin, of North Yamhill, was read by the Secretary:

Every organization having for its object the elevation, enlightenment and larger liberty of every individual, and which strives to secure to each member of the community all the rights to which all persons are entitled by nature, including, of course, the right of suffrage, has my hearty sympathy. This last most important right is unjustly withheld from all the women of this otherwise great country, and is withheld for no other reason than the alleged disability of sex. In all my observations of what has been said and written by the opponents of woman's enfranchisement, I have not seen or heard one valid reason, founded upon justice and equity, for depriving intelligent, patriotic, tax-paying women of the exercise of equal political rights with men. I have sufficient confidence in the intelligent desire of men to deal justly with the women of this State to believe, since the initiatory step has been taken for restoring women their rights—the passage of the Woman Suffrage resolution by the late Legislature for amending the State Constitution—that an active interest in the work, and a candid presentation of the subject before the people, will secure a Legislature for 1882 which will ratify the legislation already begun. And, after the endorsement of this resolution by two separate Legislatures, there will be no difficulty in securing a majority vote in its favor when it comes before the people; for surely there will not then be found enough voters in the State so selfish as to deny to others the right which they prize for themselves more highly than all others—the right to vote.

After brief addresses by Dr. Olds and the undersigned, the Convention adjourned till 7 o'clock p. m.

The evening session brought out a large audience. An excellent combination of brass and string music was furnished by an amateur band of young gentlemen, consisting of Messrs. Hawley, Loughary, Windom and the Sanders brothers.

Mrs. Loughary again stated the objects of the Convention, and then introduced Mrs. J. De Vore Johnson, who favored the meeting for half an hour with an interesting, spicy and logical essay, entitled "Our Thanksgiving," which we know was written on the train as the lady was coming up from Portland in the forenoon. The essayist was accorded the deepest attention, and retired amid hearty applause.

Brief speeches were then made by Rev. Mr. Russ, Professor Johnson and your correspondent.

Next came the reading by Mrs. Johnson of Tennyson's "Lady Godiva," followed by a tumultuous encore. The lady responded with an imimitable rendition of "Vas Bender Hendspecked?" Being again encored, she rendered a second Dutch selection, "He Vasn't Conschiliated," and retired amid tumultuous cheers.

The meeting closed for the evening with music. Convened again on Saturday at 2 p. m.

The Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

Resolved, That we heartily concur in the recent act of the

Legislature in granting equal property rights to the women of Oregon.

Resolved, That we thank the Legislature of 1880 for its just and generous act in passing a resolution for so amending the State Constitution that it may be legally possible for the next Legislature to submit the proposition for a Constitutional Woman Suffrage Amendment to the vote of the people in 1884.

Resolved, That our thanks are specially due to Senators Burch and McConnell and Representatives Laughlin and Galloway of Yamhill, who voted "aye" upon the Woman Suffrage resolution.

Resolved, That we urge the Suffragists of the county to form Woman Suffrage clubs, hold mass meetings and conferences, and strive in every other honorable way to render the movement acceptable to the people.

Resolved, That we will use all honorable means to elect men to the Legislature of 1882 who are pledged to sustain the Woman Suffrage resolution passed by the Legislature of 1880.

Resolved, That we believe our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons are not afraid to grant the women of the State equal rights with themselves, and we look confidently to them for the needed votes to insure a victory.

The resolutions called out speeches from Professor Johnson, Mr. Loughary, Dr. Olds, Mrs. Olds, Mrs. Loughary and the undersigned, and were unanimously adopted.

Adjourned to 7 p. m., when another immense audience assembled, very many not being able to obtain seats.

After music by the band, your correspondent was introduced by Mrs. Loughary as the speaker of the evening, "Why Not?" being the subject on hand. The argument occupied an hour and a half, amid the best order and most respectful attention.

Music was again furnished.

A brief address from the President closed the exercises, and the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

On Sunday, though there are six churches in McMinnville, there was no preacher, and no morning exercises except lay service by Mr. Henry Warren in the old college, where we used to go to "meeting" in the days of auld lang syne, to listen, with babe in arms, to the preaching of Father Chandler. But we were told that these failures of preachers do not often occur. Rev. Mr. Hoberg usually preaches in the M. E. church on the third Sunday of the month; Rev. Neill Johnson, though stricken with the weight of years, occupies the C. P. pulpit occasionally; the Church of England has locked its pastor out; the Catholic priest was away from town, and Rev. Mr. Burehett of the Baptist church played truant. Hence the lay service above mentioned was all we had; but it was good and acceptable. In the evening, the commodious and well-arranged M. E. church was opened by the obliging trustees for the large audience which assembled to hear our lecture on "Lessons of the Century." Good order, harmony and good cheer prevailed, and the friends of human rights were glad.

To-day (Monday) the meetings are over, and we are going out to canvass and reconnoiter. We will tell you more about the town and people in our next. A. S. D.

We find the following among the uncredited reprint items of an old paper: "The wife, the homemaker, devotes twenty or thirty of the best years of her life to bringing up her children. She is their care-taker (no matter how many nurses there may be) day and night. She is the nurse when they are ill, and often their physician too. She is companion, friend, counsellor and law to them till they are grown. During the years that her time has been so devoted, her husband has engaged in business that is respected—serious, worthy business that is counted in the census, and that made money. He has his profits, his wealth, to show for it. She has her fine sons and daughters. They are intelligent, conscientious, educated children. They are to be the future philanthropists like William Loyd Garrison, or statesmen like George F. Hoar, or good farmers or mechanics; or they will be authors like George Eliot or Louise M. Alcott, or artists like Harriet Hosmer and Annie Whitney, or good, sensible mothers, or honest, worthy workers at the handicrafts, or teachers. In whatever capacity they serve, they will be good citizens. If we estimate by results the life-work of man and woman, which is more serious, which is more important?"

Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood recently rose in the Supreme Court of the United States and said she would like to add a few words to an argument which had just been made. Chief Justice Waite said to her, "You may proceed, and the matter as to whether a woman lawyer can speak in the Supreme Court of our land is forever settled." The Clackamas Democrat adds: "One by one the cobwebs of prejudice and discrimination are being swept away by the iconoclastic hand of progress that respects not venerable age when allied with ignorance."

A short time since, Miss Annie J. Oliver, pastor of the Willoughby-avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, delivered a lecture on "Woman's Right to Vote," which has been extensively printed, it having got into the "patent" sides of papers.

FARMERS' WIVES AND THEIR NEEDS.

[From the New York Sun.]

Mrs. Clara Colby, of Nebraska, read a very sensible paper before the Women's Congress at Boston on the ill which attend the life of the farmer's wife. Her pictures of the characteristics of existence on a farm were drawn chiefly from observation of the farming communities of the West and of the far West; but the life she describes is little different from that we see in the agricultural portions of even the oldest States at the East.

There is the same monotony, the same seclusion, and the same lack of wholesome friction with society, whether the detached farm is in Nebraska or in New York, and the daily routine in the one place is very like that in the other. Moreover, we must remember that our great farming regions are no longer at the East; that the richest granaries of the country and of the world are not now in the Genesee Valley, but in Minnesota and beyond.

Mrs. Colby first spoke of early marriages as fruitful of many troubles. Matrimony is easily undertaken in rural life, and the country girl assumes the cares of a household and of maternity at an age when city and village girls are still at school. Her health is likely to break down in consequence, her nerves to become shattered, and the hardships which severe poverty adds to the many which are necessarily incident to farm life in its beginning make her old prematurely, and she may add another to "the long list of farmers' wives who are found in our insane asylums."

When a country boy thinks of starting out for himself in life, his first care is to look out for a wife among the neighboring girls. Perhaps there are not many competitors to interfere with him, and, if he is a likely young fellow, he is not apt to find it hard to win a helpmeet. He is not after money, nor a fine social alliance. All he wants is a wife, and because he has nothing to offer but his heart the girl is none the less ready to accept him. Worldly considerations do not affect her choice of a husband.

She receives a cow and a feather bed as her dowry, and he gets a team from his father as his capital in business, after having given his work under parental authority up to the age of twenty-one. This, Mrs. Colby says, is the common custom throughout the region of which she knows, and it is substantially the same as that prevalent in the old States.

The couple may begin house-keeping on a rented farm, one-third of the produce of which comes to them for their toil. If they get more than a bare subsistence, it must be an exceptionally good year for crops and prices. Perhaps some of the young men may be able to buy their own farms, or make a first payment on them. In the East the oldest and in the West the youngest son generally stays at the homestead; but the life is apt to be irksome to him, and at last he plucks up courage and goes after his brothers to new fields in the West.

The most eastern States for these pioneers nowadays are Iowa and Minnesota, but the chief objective points are Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas. Dug-outs, unhealthy and gloomy at the best, may be their first habitation, and even when houses are built, they are small, inconvenient, and finished only by degrees. The women's work in them is peculiarly trying. "No one only familiar with the comfortable homesteads of the East can form any conception of what farming is to the Western woman. The fuel is not under cover, the water is hard to draw. When the land is bought, and not homesteaded, there are the payments to be met; and until the land is clear, the farmer feels that nothing must be expended for comforts in the house."

Debt and poverty rest over these home. Overwork breaks down the women, who may rebel against the hardships of their lives, and seek to change them by escaping from the bonds of matrimony. "Divorces are frightfully common among the farmers of the West," Mrs. Colby tells us. And even when the farmer's wife sees her husband gaining in prosperity she finds no lessening of her arduous labors.—They may rather increase. "More stock, more grain and fruit, more help to the farmer, all these mean more work to the woman. She can seldom procure help, for such as there is naturally seeks the town." Besides taking care of the house and children, she must look after the poultry, and her husband having no time to "potter" in the garden, she must plant, hoe, and gather such vegetables as she needs for the table. She is cook, nurse, wash-maid, chore-boy, gardener, all in one. She loses regard for her personal appearance, and perhaps becomes an untidy drudge, careless of beauty in herself or her surroundings. "Anything will do at home or is good enough for the family. They live, as they tell you, a dog's life of it, but without a thought that they are in any way responsible for their wretchedness."

They do not even have the diversion and excite-

ment of buying their own clothes. "As a rule, the husband makes the purchases, even to procuring his wife's dresses, while she rarely or never has control of a dollar. The wife remains a child in finance, and if she is ever intrusted with the shopping, she does it awkwardly and unwisely." She may get to a town twice a year; her nearest neighbor may be miles away; the loneliness of the farm life drives the daughters to town to work, and leaves the mother to still greater loneliness at home, "in which, perhaps, the spirit chafes until it breaks the bounds of reason."

An early marriage has prevented her getting sufficient schooling, and she is lamentably deficient in intellectual resources. She knows nothing of hygiene, and only a stout constitution can resist the hard usage to which she subjects her health with indigestible food and impure air. What little social intercourse she has may serve to add to her labors rather than to relieve them; for when she entertains, she is overcome with the work of providing a profusion of food for her company, and "the extra fuss necessitates extra stinting afterward."

This is a gloomy picture certainly, and the life it holds up to us is one devoid of all those graces and beauties which make existence tolerable to a person of refinement or social tastes. And yet, that it truthfully represents the circumstances of the lives of many thousand farmers' wives, there can be no question. Their hard lot and the dreary monotony and coarse toil of their existence are told in their haggard faces and dull eyes.

But what is the remedy? Mrs. Colby advocates the establishment of agricultural colleges in every State, with free tuition for both men and women, for, by the census of 1870, there were over 20,000 women in the United States engaged in agricultural pursuits, besides five million farmers' wives. She would also have colleges of domestic economy for girls, where the proper preparation of food, care of the health and dwelling, and household thrift should be taught. "The educated woman will manage more economically, govern more wisely, and work more advantageously, besides having a better time in doing it." She should also be stimulated to interest herself in the county agricultural society, and these societies should become a guild looking after the welfare of their individual members, men and women both. "The grange might have been such a guild had it not undertaken to manage the politics and the finances of the Nation; yet even this has been a great educator to woman in districts where it has been successfully established."

There is no class in the country whose moral and intellectual improvement needs more care than these farmers' wives, and none whose social wants are so ill-supplied.

The San Francisco Chronicle speaks as follows of the case of Geo. A. Wheeler, who choked to death his sister-in-law, with whom he had been criminally intimate: "One very unusual circumstance connected with the forthcoming trial is that two women attorneys will appear in the case. Mrs. Clara Foltz has been engaged to assist the prosecuting attorney, and Mrs. Laura DeForce Gordon to assist the defense. The two women were once close friends, sleeping in the same bed, but lately a coldness sprang up between them. In the recent political campaign they were rivals on the political stump." The Telegram of this city says: "Mrs. Foltz is well known in this State, and being an uncompromising exponent and defender of the rights of women, will doubtless prove a valuable auxiliary in showing that one of these rights does not consist in being choked to death by a jealous paramour."

A correspondent in Ireland "blushes for his sex" when he sees the employment of women, young and old. They are patient drudges, staggering over the bogs with heavy creels of turf on their backs, or climbing the slopes from the sea shore, laden like beasts of burden, with the heavy, sand-trodden, dripping sea weed, or undertaking long journeys on foot into the market towns, carrying with them weighty hampers of farm produce.

A New Orleans lawyer, in arguing a divorce suit, held that a husband had a legal right to make his wife stand in a corner with a clothespin on her nose. "If such mild means of enforcing obedience are forbidden," he said, "what is to become of the husband's authority as the master of the household?"

The young daughter of the King and Queen of the Netherlands cannot inherit the throne because of the Salic law, which in some parts of Europe prohibits the throne to a woman.

Mrs. Helen E. Cunningham, of Elmira, N. Y., has recovered \$700 from a liquor firm, the complaint being an injury to means of support in consequence of liquor sold to her husband.