

The New Northwest.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME X.—NO. 24.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1881.

PER YEAR—\$3 00.

N. W. S. A.

THE RECENT CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

LUCRETIA MOTT AND HER INVALUABLE SERVICES FITLY COMMEMORATED.

[From the Washington Post of January 19th.]

In former years, flowers, bright colors, music, and quiet, elegantly dressed women were not the surroundings and personnel of the National Woman Suffrage Association; but reform has pervaded the reformers, and the changes that have been wrought this year were a pleasant surprise to those who attended the first meeting of the Association yesterday morning at Lincoln Hall. Instead of the bare stage, filled with dowdy and grotesque women, haranguing to empty benches, in a cold and cheerless hall, the stage was as bright and pretty as flowers and a tasteful arrangement of colors could make it; while the audience, which filled every seat in the large hall, flooded with the bright sunlight, represented the best people of the city. Mrs. Hayes, in company with several of her lady guests, occupied seats near the front. Upon the stage were seated the following: Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Miss Phoebe W. Cousins, Miss Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Lozier, Mrs. Sheldon, Mrs. Spofford, Dr. Caroline Winslow, Mrs. Joy; Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. Godbe, both of Utah; Mrs. Lapham, wife of Representative Lapham, of New York; May Wright Sewall, of Indiana; Rachel Foster, Dr. Edson, Mrs. Lockwood, Ruth Dennison, Julia Foster, R. J. Hinton, M. M. Ricker; Mrs. C. V. Waite, of Chicago; Marshal Douglass; ex-Senator Pomeroy and Robert Purvis. It was a collection of well-dressed, thoughtful women, with no oddity in pantaloon or masculine Miss Nancy in long hair to excite the laughter and the pity of the audience. On the contrary, there were at least two ladies on the platform with seal-skin sacques, while fashionably cut silk dresses and fur-lined circulars were the prevailing costumes.

The decorations of the stage, which have seldom been surpassed in point of beauty and tastefulness of arrangement, formed a fitting setting for the notable assemblage of women. The background was a mass of colors, formed by the graceful draping of National flags, with here and there a streamer of old gold with heavy gold fringe to give variety, while forming the center was a National shield surmounted by two flags. On each side flags had been draped and festooned, and falling at each extremity of the front of the stage were the folds of the rich maroon curtains. Here graceful ferns and foliage plants had been arranged, while on a table stood a large harp, formed of beautiful red and white flowers. At the other end was a graceful stand of hot-house flowers, while in the center, resting on a background of red drapery, was a large crayon picture of the late Lucretia Mott, in whose memory the meeting was held. Above the picture a snow-white dove held in its beak sprays of smilax, which trailed down on each side, and below was a sheaf of ripened wheat, typical of the life that had ended. The occasion which had brought the ladies together, the placid features of that kind and well-remembered face, had a solemnizing effect upon all, and quietly, and without disorder, the vast audience passed into the hall and took their seats. The late-comers, finding all the seats occupied, stood in the rear and sat in the aisles. The lady delegates were already seated on the platform, and in a silence which was impressive the large assemblage waited.

Presently Miss Phoebe W. Cousins arose, and stepping to the front of the stage, said, gently, "In accordance with the custom of Mrs. Mott and the time-honored practice of the Quakers, I ask you to unite in an invocation to the spirit." She bowed her head. The audience followed her example. For several minutes the solemn silence of devotion pervaded the hall. When Miss Cousins had taken her seat, the quartette choir of St. Augustine's Church (colored), which was seated on the platform, sang sweetly an appropriate selection.

The venerable Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, whose portly form and lovely white hair has been the central figure in these annual conventions for years, then came forward and, adjusting her spectacles, placed her manuscript on the desk and commenced to read in a low but distinct voice. She began: "On the 3d day of January, 1793, there was born on the Island of Nantucket the most remarkable woman of her time." The first part of the eulogy was biographical in character, and a tone of quiet appreciation pervaded it throughout. The tribute paid to her as a wife and mother was especially beautiful, and the contrast, which ran through a number of antithetical sentences between Mrs. Mott and her husband, John Mott, showed a power of analysis and a conception

of character which was striking. The speaker said that Mr. Mott loved quiet, but she loved nothing better than talking. This statement sent a gentle ripple of laughter over the audience. She described her home in Philadelphia, the headquarters of the reformers and the refuge of runaway slaves. Here came women and men of distinction from this and foreign lands, and, while Mrs. Mott attended to her household duties, discussions of great topics were had, which Mrs. Mott, pausing in her work, joined. Sagacity, the speaker thought, was her chief characteristic, or, rather, it might be called a wise diplomacy. In June, 1840, the speaker met Mrs. Mott for the first time in London, and found her to be the greatest wonder of the world—a woman who thought and had opinions of her own. "She was a woman emancipated from all man-made creeds, and not afraid to question anything. It was like meeting a creature from a higher sphere to meet one who dared to recognize the judgment of a woman's mind." In closing, the speaker referred to the numerous tributes that had been paid to the life and character of Mrs. Mott in the public press, and the vast strides that public sentiment had made since Mrs. Mott first appeared before the public. But amid all this no mention has been made of her political degradation, which she so deeply deplored during her life. When the Nation mourns the grandest of her sex, no tear is shed, no mention is made of her disfranchisement.

When Mrs. Stanton had taken her seat, Fred Douglass arose and said that he had listened with interest to the fine analysis of the life and services of Lucretia Mott. He was almost unwilling to have his voice heard after what had been said. He was there to show by his presence his profound respect and earnest love for Lucretia Mott. He recognized none whose services in behalf of his race were equal to hers. Her silence, even, in that cause was more than the speech of others. He said that he had no words for this occasion, and took his seat.

Miss Susan B. Anthony, with tears in her eyes, arose and said: "I am sure if Frederick Douglass cannot speak I cannot. Next to the feeling that we have the love and confidence of the great Creator is to have the love and confidence of a grand human being. Such was Lucretia Mott, and such was my lot. I say to you I cannot speak." The speaker, whose voice had become choked with emotion, sat down and buried her face in her handkerchief.

Dr. Purvis said that at the request of a number of citizens of Washington, he wished to present the floral harp to Mr. Edward M. Davis, the son-in-law of Mrs. Mott. He then read a brief tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. Davis, who is a middle-aged gentleman, had a seat on the platform, and received the floral gift with appropriate words of thanks. He said that he would follow the example of Mrs. Mott, who seldom retained a gift long, and present it to Mrs. Spofford, the Treasurer of the Association.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, a rather young-looking lady, dressed in a fashionable walking dress of blue silk, trimmed with dark fringed satin, was the next speaker. After speaking of the many admirable qualities of heart and mind of the deceased, she said that while she heard on all sides that this was a magnificent audience, and thought so herself, yet, as she looked around, she could not help asking this question, "Where are the young girl faces?" They should be here. It is the birthright of every girl to know the life and deeds of every noble woman. She thought that Lucretia Mott was as much above the average woman as Abraham Lincoln was above the average man.

Miss Cousins was the last speaker. She wore a dark green dress, of fashionable cut, and a circular, lined with delicate white fur. Her short, curling hair crowned a face that bore the impress of thought. She said that it had been the intention to secure the House of Representatives in which to hold these services, but the necessary arrangements had not been made. The meeting was not what it had been intended to be, but she hoped the mothers present would carry away the impressions received. The members of Congress from Pennsylvania had been invited to take their seats on the platform, but one said that he belonged to the Ways and Means Committee, and would not be able to come. Think of this. If he had been called to attend the funeral of such a man as Abraham Lincoln, that fact would not have prevented his going. The speaker then read an eloquent tribute to the life, character and services of Lucretia Mott.

The choir then sang "Nearer My God to Thee," and the entire audience arose and joined in the singing, after which the meeting adjourned.

When the Convention met in the afternoon at two o'clock, Mrs. Stanton presided and made a brief speech.

Mrs. Martha McClellan Brown, of Pittsburg, followed. She spoke of the value of individual character, and said any obstacle placed in the way

of its proper and free development was a crime against God and man. The obstacles placed in the way of woman to prevent her from exercising the right of suffrage were of this kind.

The next speaker, Mrs. Ricker, of this city, said she had three reasons for not speaking: 1. She was afraid; 2. She knew that she would always be afraid; and 3. She always was afraid. The confession was received with much laughter, and, after some urging, the lady consented to give some account of her work among the prisoners, which proved very interesting.

Fred Douglass arose to compliment Mrs. Ricker, which he did very handsomely, and then branched off into quite a little speech.

Mr. E. M. Davis then spoke briefly, and he was followed by Miss Mary Foster, of Philadelphia.

Miss Anthony made a financial statement, and then the Convention adjourned until the evening.

There was a very good attendance at the evening session, an admission of twenty-five cents being charged. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Edward M. Davis, who introduced Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, who read a paper on "Why Women Should Practice Law." She thought that women should study law, because, in a few years, they would have the right of suffrage, and this profession was the road to the Capitol and the White House. Further, the study of law taught women when to speak and when to keep silent.

Mrs. Charlotte Ives Godbe, of Utah, was the next speaker, and gave an account of Woman Suffrage in Utah, which she said was of great advantage to women.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, thought that the right of women to vote was as patent and as much an axiom as that the sun is bright or a tea rose sweet; but that logic was of little avail on the suffrage question. The various arguments raised against giving women this right were then taken up and answered with considerable wit and skill, and were loudly applauded.

Miss Anthony said that she knew she was on the bill, but she did not feel like speaking when the spirit did not move her. Then, again, she had been here so often. For eleven years she had come up here to shout freedom for women. What she wanted to know was what could be done to make it disreputable for politicians to vote against Woman Suffrage. She said that Ben Butler told her last Winter that the way to accomplish this was to go out and educate the people. Why, that is what they had been doing for the last thirty years. The trouble was that women did not have the ballot, and Congress would not listen to them. If politicians can keep women crying and praying, they are willing to let them go on.

At the close of Miss Anthony's remarks, the Convention adjourned until this morning.

At the morning session of the Convention, which will begin at 10:30 A. M., reports of delegates from local societies will be received, from May Wright Sewall, Phoebe W. Cousins, Martha McClellan Brown, Edward M. Davis, Dr. Clemence Lozier, George S. Stearns, and others. A letter will also be read from Isabella Beecher Hooker. At the afternoon session, at 2:30 P. M., short speeches will be made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, May Wright Sewall, and others. At the evening session, at 7:30 P. M., speeches will be made by Phoebe W. Cousins, Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony.

Of the floral decorations, to which reference is made above as contributing so largely to the handsome appearance of the stage, the harp was furnished through Mr. Wormley, in behalf of the colored admirers of Mrs. Mott, and the *epergne* was provided for the occasion by the National Association. There was also a basket of flowers, conspicuous for its beauty, sent in by Senator Cameron.

Miss Helena Gladstone, a young daughter of the Prime Minister of England, is causing quite a sensation in England and on the Continent by the moral courage developed in her recent determination to enter an active and useful career, and to give the young women of England a good example. The idea of the daughter of the Prime Minister becoming a teacher, or, as some other authorities state, secretary and active agent, is something so new to the aristocratic feminine world of Europe that it is marking an "epoch," as they say.

The mother of the late Professor Watson, astronomer of Michigan University, supported him by her daily labor until he graduated. In his will he gave all he possessed to a scientific society, leaving his mother \$150 a year, all she has to depend upon. His brother, criticizing the will, says: "I was proud of my brother; his ability was an honor to him, and his life a valuable one to be lost. His will is a disgrace to his name."

Mr. J. W. Strange has assumed control of the *Roseburg Plaindealer*, and promises to keep the paper up to its standard of excellence.

ONE WEEK OF SUFFRAGE WORK.

[From the Woman's Journal.]

The last week of January, 1881, can be commended with genuine satisfaction to those who think the cause of Woman Suffrage is dying out. Not for many a day has there been seen a week so full of activity in the line of the enfranchisement of women.

In six States the question of an amendment to secure full suffrage for women was either directly before the legislatures or before legislative committees.

In Maine, on the 27th, Senator Dudley was heard on his own bill to strike out the word "male" from the Constitution of that State. At the same time and place, Mrs. Dr. Devoll, Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens and Mrs. Geo. S. Hunt were heard for petitioners, whose names covered sixty feet in length, for school suffrage. So acceptable was their plea that there is little doubt it will be granted.

In Massachusetts, on the same day, the Green Room was crowded with those who came to hear the plea for an amendment to secure Presidential and municipal suffrage, H. B. Blackwell, Wendell Phillips, Mary F. Eastman and Lucy Stone speaking for the petitioners.

On the evening of that day began the twelfth annual meeting of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Society, which continued through four full sessions, with the fine list of speeches before announced in these columns. Thanks to the efficient Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Mr. S. C. Hopkins, there were clergymen and clergywomen, lawyers, students, young men and elderly women, helping on the cause of equal rights. The Boston papers gave friendly reports.

In Rhode Island, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Chace and Miss Mary F. Eastman spoke before a special committee of the Senate, to whom suffrage petitions had been referred. Governor Littlefield, Lieutenant-Governor Fay and many others were attentive listeners to these able and eloquent advocates of equal rights.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Miss Susan B. Anthony and Miss Mary Stuart were heard before the Delaware Legislature, on an amendment to expunge the word "male" from the State Constitution. Governor Hall and many other prominent gentlemen were well entertained by the eloquent advocates of woman's rights.

One branch of the Missouri Suffrage Society voted thanks to Governor Long for the encouraging words of his message, and the other appointed a committee to go to the Legislature of that State in the interest of equal rights for women.

In Colorado, the hall of the House of Representatives was granted for the formation of the Colorado State Suffrage Society. While in the Legislature of that State, the bill to extend suffrage to women, introduced by Governor Brush, went to its third reading. A motion was then made that it be indefinitely postponed, which was lost by one vote, 20 to 21; but on the motion that the bill do pass, it was defeated, 24 to 18. The next day Mr. Bryan moved to reconsider the vote on the Woman Suffrage bill, and said: "Mr. Speaker—yesterday, from deep-rooted conviction, I voted against bill No. 60 in relation to Woman Suffrage. My convictions have not changed, but, learning that the honorable Senators are aggrieved that the charming pet of my valued friend from Weld county should have been torn from their expectant arms, I move a reconsideration of the vote on that question, in order to give the Senate and the sovereign people a chance." The motion was carried and consideration of the bill was fixed for Tuesday of this week. We shall soon hear the result.

The Massachusetts School Suffrage Association held its annual meeting. Other States, Indiana, Pennsylvania, California, are in active preparation for appeal to their respective State Legislatures.

This abundant and independent effort is a most hopeful indication of a fresh purpose on the part of suffragists to do what in them lies to secure equal rights for women. The year is well begun.

Commenting on the hanging at Newark, N. J., of Frank Laman and Mrs. Meierhoffer, for the murder of the woman's husband, the *Western Light* says: "When the hangman's rope is ready for adjustment, the Government suddenly recognizes an equal platform for the sexes; but when delegates are sent to Jefferson City to lay before the Legislature its sins of omission by excluding the women tax-payers from equality before the law, this same Government is oblivious to an equal platform for men and women."

The *Englishwomen's Review* says the English suffragists "are much interested in the woman question and its results in Oregon and Wisconsin. The suffrage is the basis of any real amendment in the legal or social status of women."