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FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

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## THE WEST SIDE.

### MRS. DUNWAY AT CORVALLIS—BENTON COUNTY SUFFRAGE SOCIETY ORGANIZED—OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

INDEPENDENCE, March 14, 1881.

DEAR LEADERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:  
After hastily finishing our last week's letter, we as hastily repaired to the Court House, where we were greeted by a crowded house of eager and respectful listeners, whose attention was directed for two hours to the solution of the problem, "Why Not?" The woman question was the theme of conversation in every circle from that time forward during our visit; and it was regarded as an encouraging omen when nobody of any influence, brain or character could be found to oppose it. We found opposition in one quarter, however, of which it is well to make mention. It became necessary, in order to collect a subscription, for us to enter a saloon and present the bill in the presence of half a dozen protectors of women, who were sitting inside the screen, drinking, chatting or playing cards. Our business was with the proprietor, who made a personal explanation in reference to the account, and conducted himself in a gentlemanly and courteous manner; but there was one fellow, a voter, a bleary-eyed, silly loungeur around the bar, whose leering impertinence and imbecile giggling excited our lofty and supreme contempt. Our stay in that saloon (sacred to the presence of men only) lasted about half a minute, and then, bowing to our debtor, we made a hasty exit, hearing from the drunken imbecile above mentioned a loud, coarse guffaw as we went, followed by the exclamation, which he evidently thought witty, "I wonder if she's goin' out to vote!" Some other man, whom drink and beauty had not yet robbed of gentlemanly instincts, roundly rebuked his fellow sovereign, and we hurried on, out of further hearing, burdened with the humiliating reflection that the babbling idiot who got the rebuke has in his keeping the power of the ballot, of the nature of which he only understands enough to know that he can use it in opposition to the enfranchisement of his betters. We are glad the incident occurred, for we are sure there are men who heard him who will never again object to woman's right to a voice in making the necessary laws for restraining the political power of masculine imbeciles.

On Tuesday evening we were again greeted by an overflowing house, and on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock P. M., the friends of Woman Suffrage met and organized the Benton County Woman Suffrage Association. After temporary organization was effected and a Constitution made and adopted, the meeting adjourned till Thursday evening.

Wednesday was occupied by the undersigned in making calls, and otherwise "doing" the city, which has grown to such large proportions that it requires much locomotion to get over it. There are many ladies in business here, enjoying the supreme right of self-protection, and glorying in it. The Misses Tuller keep a first-class private boarding-house at their own handsome and well-ordered home; Mrs. Vincent runs the well-known Vincent Hotel, and Mrs. Hemphill is proprietor of a first-class restaurant. There is also the usual quota of millinery stores, dress-making and tailoring establishments, etc., owned by women, and there are three young ladies engaged as compositors in the *Blade* office. The *Gazette*, since the death of its lamented founder, Mr. W. B. Carter, has been under the control of Mrs. Carter and son, with Mr. Yantis as editor. Our old friends, Johnny Spangler and wife, formerly of Albany, reside here; also Mrs. Kitton, nee Day, and Mrs. Rinker, formerly of Portland.

A church social was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Sawtelle in the evening, where we met many new friends and quite a number of old ones; among the latter Mrs. Reasoner, whom we had not seen for twenty years, and Mrs. Spidell, nee Luper, once an Albany girl. The social was a complete success, and the refreshments proved a triumph in the culinary art. Of all men who favor Woman Suffrage, clergymen should be foremost, for they are compelled to depend for support chiefly upon the work of women. After the social we accepted the invitation of Dr. J. R. Bailey's family and repaired to their commodious and hospitable home, where we had a happy season of indulgence in reminiscences of the bygone days, when we all lived in Lafayette. Time is dealing gently with our friends as of yore, and the glad sunshine of harmony beams through their home as of yore.

Times in Corvallis are dull, duller, duller. The late freshets have added distress to misfortune in some cases, as the loss of stock and grain has been unprecedented. But the good people are looking for better times with the opening of Spring, as work will then begin on the Yaquina Bay railroad, and the women of the farms will soon be on hand with supplies of butter and eggs for market.

This will make the merchants happy, as it will revivify trade and set business in motion.

Promptly on the evening of Thursday, the friends of Woman Suffrage met at the Court House, among them as fine an array of young people as we ever saw together anywhere. Young ladies and young gentlemen, all happy in their belief in human rights, were present by scores, and men and women of mature and middle years were also there, all alike enjoying the occasion that called them out. After another discourse by the undersigned, the Benton County Woman Suffrage Association proceeded to the election of officers with the following result: Mrs. J. T. Vincent, President; Mr. Jas. A. Yantis, Vice-President; Miss Clemmie Tuller, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. Lafayette Wilson, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. Mason, Treasurer. The following standing committees were then chosen for the ensuing year: Executive Committee—Dr. J. R. Bailey, Mrs. E. A. Knight, Mrs. S. A. Hemphill, Mrs. Dollie Kiger, Mr. Greenberry Smith. Committee on Resolutions for future meetings—Judge F. A. Chenoweth, Judge J. Burnett, Hon. Bush Wilson. Committee on Programme and Order of Business—Dr. Frank Vincent, Mr. R. C. Kiger, Miss Cora Bailey, Miss Lizzie Chenoweth, Mr. Eli King. The election in each case was unanimous, and was received with applause. Judge Chenoweth, being called for, responded in a brief speech, saying that he was at one time opposed to Woman Suffrage, but his attention was called to its merits in '71 by Miss Anthony, whose sound logic and womanly manner had dissipated his prejudices; that his wife was an ardent advocate of the cause, and for her sake, if for no other reason, he considered it his duty to do what he could for its advancement. Dr. Bailey was also called for, and made an enthusiastic speech. He declared that Benton county would badly "scoop" any candidate of any party for any office who would refuse to pledge himself in favor of Woman Suffrage. He said that he was in Portland at the State Convention, and, though he tried for two evenings to attend the meetings, he was unable, as were hundreds of others, to get standing room in the hall, because of the crowd. Mr. Yantis was called for, but excused himself from speaking on account of the lateness of the hour. Adjourned to meet at the Court House on Saturday evening, March 26th.

Friday was a lowering day, in which snow and rain and hail and wind and sunshine struggled for the mastery, the latter decidedly in the rear. But we spent the day in canvassing, and at night returned to the home of the Chenoweths, preparatory to departing on the morrow.

President Arnold was to lecture in the evening in the college chapel, his subject "Tariff." A pouring rain did not prevent a fine audience, notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Watts was discoursing on temperance in the Methodist Church. President Arnold is a "free trade" man, and has evidently given the subject considerable attention. He is a pleasing and attractive speaker, but his argument was scattered over more ground than could be well harvested in one evening. Though a believer himself in the principle of free trade, we confess that part of his argument rather strengthened us in the idea of protection. He claimed that a removal of the tariff—on iron, for instance—would cause an increase in the price of the product, but, as England and Russia had time to increase their facilities for manufacturing it, the price in America would come down again. We could see nothing in this declaration in favor of his idea except the inference that free trade in the United States would be a good thing for Russia and England, but decidedly depressing to American industries. But he discerns the germ of a great truth in the fact that all tariff is ultimately paid by the producing and consuming classes. We confess that we feel as cautious about the tariff question as he does about Woman Suffrage, and we think our reasons for caution are better than his, since the freedom of humanity is our watchword, and the freedom of the traffic his. We are sorry we cannot hear his next discourse upon his favorite political theme, as we were deeply interested.

The lowering clouds gave way to a placid moon, and we returned with our friends to a quiet sleep in their pleasant home, from which we awoke in the morning to bid them good-by and hasten aboard the train, our destination Independence, whence more anon.  
A. S. D.

Miss Ida Lewis, keeper of the Lime Rock light-house, Newport harbor, saved the lives of two men who broke through the ice three weeks ago last Friday afternoon. This rescue makes in all sixteen or seventeen lives that have been saved by the heroine of Lime Rock light.

Mrs. Jessie Fremont has organized classes in history among the grown-up sons and daughters of the poor settlers of Arizona, whom she teaches gratuitously.

## HOW MUCH DO WE OWE SOCIETY?

[Josephine Jackson in *Woman's Journal*.]

A friend said to me not long ago: "We owe some regard to the usages of society. We have no right to wear such a dress that society feels itself aggrieved or outraged by our wearing it." Was she right?

It seems to me if we wear a dress that answers our purposes a great deal better than the dress society wants us to wear, and society feels aggrieved and outraged thereby, it is society's fault and not ours. Society has no business to complain. To be sure, it has a right to let us alone just as thoroughly as it likes, and of that we have no right to complain. If society chooses to get along without us on account of our clothes, and we choose to get along without society on account of its clothes, perhaps we are both as well off as we should be under other circumstances. Possibly neither party loses much by being let alone by the other, and neither can by right complain of being outraged or aggrieved.

But even admitting that society is aggrieved, has it a right to demand of us the sacrifice of our conscience, judgment, health, comfort, inclination and pocket? And are we justified in yielding to such a demand? If we can give twenty good reasons for preferring the clothes we wear while society can give only one in favor of the clothes it prefers, I think we have the best of it, and that it behoves society to look about for some solid reasons to offer why we should dress according to its dictum, before it complains of being "aggrieved," etc.

I find the following in a respectable and well-known health journal: "We would not ask you to defy society or put yourself in antagonism to it, for this is not necessary." I am not positive of it, but I think the numbers of that journal sent out to the public twenty years ago were not quite so deferential to society as are the present ones. Perhaps, however, society has made some concessions in the matter of dress since that time, but we are all more or less responsible for the fact that society's feelings are so easily aggrieved and outraged. We have humored and petted it, till, like a spoiled child, it raises such a hue and cry if all its whims are not complied with, that we make haste to gratify its wishes in order to stop its noise. It does seem as if society were old enough to use more reason. Perhaps if more of us would "defy" it and "put ourselves in antagonism to it," it would behave better.

The following are Professor Bertillon's statistics respecting the increase in the number of suicides in different countries. Why, however, a Dane should be so far more anxious to make an end of himself than any other human being, it would be difficult to explain. In every million of persons:

Country	From	Annually
Italy	1864 to 1878	30 to 32
Belgium	1831 to 1878	39 to 48
Great Britain and Ireland	1860 to 1878	65 to 70
Sweden and Norway	1820 to 1877	39 to 46
Austria	1860 to 1878	70 to 122
France	1827 to 1877	52 to 149
Prussia	1820 to 1878	71 to 153
United States	1845 to 1878	107 to 163
Denmark	1836 to 1876	213 to 238

Naples correspondence of the *New Era*: "When such women are found as Anna Maria Mozzoni, Jessie Mario, Laura Mantagazza and many others, a woman's claim to vote is incontestible. The Italian woman is a splendid manifestation of our present civilization—downtrodden and derided, she is none the less great and powerful; she is courageously advancing side by side with the people whose sufferings and oppressions she shares, as well as their generous struggles and noble aspirations; she is advancing like a rising tide, and nothing will be able to arrest her progress."

Hester M. Poole says: "Tired, worn, unappreciated mothers, your work is grand and serious. Never doubt it. The time will come when it will be classed in the census, and, in addition to the incomputable compensations which cannot be separated from it, it will have a money value which will be secured to you by law. Serious work may be sought for all other women, but not for you. You have it now."

It is said President Garfield will disregard the objections of some excessively "nice" people, to whom Fred Douglass's "complexion" is "offensive," and reappoint the colored orator Marshal of the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Mattie R. Field, of the editorial staff of the *New Orleans Times*, is a rising woman journalist. She is young, enthusiastic, and a great favorite in New Orleans.

The Archbishop of Dublin in a Lenten pastoral, condemns the Land League, particularly the women's branch of it. It is said the ladies intend to publish a reply.

## WOMAN'S SPHERE.

[From the *San Jose Mercury*.]

There is no end of everlasting nonsense written concerning woman's place in the economy of society and her relations to the world of work and use. The average thinker, conservative and torpid as he usually is, invariably anchors her to a home, and sets her at the supposed laudable work of raising a numerous family of children, as though the highest end of life was to increase and multiply as rapidly as possible; forgetting, seemingly, that the earth is not increasing in size, and that it were not of the first importance that it be densely populated at once. Now, a home and family are no doubt beautiful and desirable institutions, be the former never so humble, and the latter of never so inferior a grade. But a large portion of the human family are destined never to enjoy the former—at least not of their own; and surely no one will deny that the world would not be better off if they (many of them) would dispense with the latter.

Among the mass of sentimental rubbish uttered upon this subject, we find a specimen brick in *Scribner's Magazine* for February, where the writer emphasizes the idea that woman's exclusive place in the world is within the home at the head of a growing family. The writer seems to forget that nature has provided that but a small portion of a woman's life—her adolescent period, so to speak—can be devoted to this purpose. Her children grow up in a few years, and go out into the world for themselves, leaving her in the vigor of her years and the prime of her intellectual powers, to do—what? To keep on raising children till she reaches the allotted span of life? Well, hardly. And then there are multitudes of women who are denied the blessings of home and family, and must be their own bread-winners, or do worse. In all the older States the women greatly exceed in number the men, so that there are not husbands enough for all, even were it desirable that all should marry. This fact alone puts a damper on the universal home theory, and points the necessity for fitting woman for a larger sphere of use than that of motherhood. The fact that woman must of necessity become her own supporter in numerous instances—a condition of things to which every woman is liable—is a valid reason why she should prepare herself therefor in any and every field of work which she is capable of entering.

We are heartily sick of this maudlin dawdle about the vine and the oak, as illustrative of the so-called proper relation of the sexes. We go in for making the vine more self-supporting, and taking some of the conceit out of the oak. Let women do whatever they can do well, and let us give them an equal show with men in the competitive work of the world, say we. If this operates to diminish the number of their offspring, society will be benefited by the production of a better article of humanity. Let them fit themselves for intellectual companionship with intellectual husbands and sons—if needs be, for the bar, for the forum, and for a place in the halls of legislation. And especially, if we compel them to pay taxes, let us be generous enough to extend to them the same civil and political rights that we demand for ourselves.

From the *Woman's Journal* of February 26th: "At the great Irish Land League meeting in Faneuil Hall, recently, it was noticed by women who were present that the Irishmen who, in the Massachusetts Legislature, always vote against the rights of women, were loud in their applause of speeches for the rights of Irishmen. It is a curious fact that men will dare everything and do anything by pen and speech and blow for their own rights, and at the same time push over and tread down and hoot out of the land other men and women, and not even see their own cowardly attitude and actions."

A prominent socialist in New York says the death of the Czar of Russia has peculiar point in this country, and that "the heads of American monopoly have cause to tremble." He then names Vanderbilt and Gould as representatives of the class of which he speaks, saying they are guilty of oppressing the people, and that "for just such oppression Alexander was killed."

The coming city election in Chicago will be a close contest. Usually the whisky interest has been solid for the Democrats, giving them control; but this year the better class of saloon-keepers will unite with the Republicans to suppress low houses running as saloons and to bring about a Sunday ordinance which shall be enforced.

The *New York Times* severely criticizes President Garfield for nominating Stanley Matthews for the Supreme Bench, "in the face of an expression of public repugnance."