

The New Northwest.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME X.—NO. 30.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1881.

PER YEAR—\$3 00.

NATIONAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION, 1881.

The thirteenth anniversary meeting of the National Woman Suffrage Association will be held in Tremont Temple, Boston, on Thursday and Friday, May 26th and 27th. All persons interested in this great reform are invited to be present.

The question whether we are a nation or a simple confederacy of States; that has agitated our country from the inauguration of the Government, was supposed to have been settled by the war and confirmed by the amendments, making United States citizenship and suffrage practically synonymous. Not, however, having been pressed to their logical results, the question as to the limits of State rights and national power is still under discussion and divides the great political parties. As the final settlement of this principle involves the enfranchisement of women, our question is one of national politics and the real issue of the hour. It not only divides the political parties of the country, but also the leaders in this movement who are seeking the recognition of their political rights.

The National Woman Suffrage Association demands national protection in the citizens' exercise of the right of suffrage to be secured by a Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution. A right so vital should not be left to the legislation of the States. So long as woman is ostracized anywhere, she is humiliated everywhere. What would it avail if within one State her political rights could be secured, if the moment she passed an imaginary line, by the law of another State she could be disfranchised—compelled to exchange the seal of the citizen for the badge of the slave?

Having declared the theory of universal suffrage, the nation must stand or fall by that principle. It has not stopped at education or property or nationality or color; it must not stop at sex.

Impelled by the constantly growing demand among women for a voice in making the laws they are required to obey, various State Legislatures have extended partial suffrage to them; but the great duty still remains—that of securing to woman by national law the right to have her opinions counted at the ballot-box upon all questions of public welfare. No man, no body of men, no party, no State, can represent woman or exercise this right for her.

The highest judicial authority, the Supreme Court of the United States, having decided that the letter of the present Constitution is not explicit enough to protect woman in her political rights, we are compelled to demand a Sixteenth Amendment which shall thereafter render sex legislation an impossibility. Women, being citizens of the United States, if defrauded or insulted, have the same right to national protection against the State as against a foreign power. But while the Constitution has been careful to guard the rights of citizens on various minor subjects, such as holding national control over peace and war, trade and commerce, boundaries, postal affairs, etc., it has left the great fundamental right of self-government under the control of States, each separate State fixing its limitations according to its own enlightenments, except in the case of the colored male citizen. The natural and inalienable right of self-government thus having been but partially confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, the pressing of this important phase of our question has become the great duty of the National Woman Suffrage Association. The security not alone of woman, but of all citizens, depends upon its final decision.

The speakers will be Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Zerelda G. Wallace, Belya A. Lockwood, Rev. Olympia Brown, Rev. Frederick A. Hinckley, Phoebe W. Cousins, Elizabeth Boynton Harbert, Rachel Foster, Frederick Douglass, Lillie Devereux Blake, May Wright Sewall, Marilla M. Ricker, Elizabeth L. Saxon, J. Ellen Foster, Edward M. Davis, F. Ellen Burr, Elizabeth Avery Merriweather, Clemence S. Lozier, Rosamond Dale Owen, Laura De Force Gordon, Robert Purvis, Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joselyn Gage.

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, President.
SUSAN B. ANTHONY, Vice-Pres't-at-Large.
MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE, Ch'm'n-Ex. Com.
RACHEL FOSTER, Corresponding Sec'y,
1909 North 12th street, Philadelphia.

A determined agitation against increased rents is going on in Chicago. The late advances fall very heavily on the working classes, who also have to pay high rates for food and clothing. Without increase in wages, it is very difficult for them to meet the demands on their purses, and they are resolved to fight what amounts to nothing less than robbery on the part of landlords.

A band of crusaders, fifty strong, has been organized at Beaverton, Washington county, for the purpose of suppressing the tobacco and whisky traffic.

LETTER FROM MARION COUNTY.

MARION COUNTY, Or., March 28, 1881.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

During the two years I have been reading your paper, my mind has dwelt much on the subject of woman's enfranchisement. All of the arguments for and against this question I have weighed, so far as my judgment is capable of doing, and as yet I have failed to see one solitary valid reason against the movement. Indeed, from the very nature of things, there can be none. The fact that the two sexes are fellow creatures settles the matter at once. Both alike are, under the law, subject to its pains and penalties; and for the stronger to assert that they alone are the law-making power is a proposition too absurd for argument.

The writer has traveled much over the county of Marion for the last twelve months, and he finds that the opposition to the woman movement is mostly from the vicious and the illiterate. The better classes of society are favorable to the cause, and when the time for action comes, they will attest the sincerity of their convictions in a way which cannot be doubted.

The seeming indifference on the part of "society ladies" is, perhaps, the greatest obstacle which the friends of the woman question are called upon to combat. "See," say the enemies of the cause, "the educated and refined ladies of the land take no stock in this thing—none but the strong-minded women are favorable to it." It is too true that these "society" ladies are still in bondage to a base public opinion; but many of them, the better part, are chafing under the chains which for so long a time have enslaved them. Some time ago, in conversation with one of these ladies in Portland, I expressed myself as a "woman's rights" man. "Are you really favorable to women's voting?" said the lady. "So am I; but I have been afraid to avow my sentiments."

It is a most unfortunate circumstance that the leading paper devoted to the cause of woman's enfranchisement in the Northwest should take a stand of open hostility to the church. Nothing, in my judgment, is doing so much injury to the cause as this fact. Without the aid of church people in this matter, the cause is hopeless. Churchmen generally know that, without the cooperation of women in certain moral questions, the millennium will never be ushered into the world; hence they will sustain the woman movement in spite of the aforesaid hostility. A few weak-minded people, however, will let side issues bias their minds, and be led to oppose the truth from insufficient grounds.

In viewing this, the great question of the day, the writer stands upon an eminence not accorded to all. In a certain organization to which he has been attached all his life, the question of women's voting is no novelty. With his past experience and observation in full view, he has no fears as to the result—nay, the future would be dark but for his hopeful anticipations of the day when women will help make the laws which they alike with men must obey. C.

From a recent number of the *Atchison Champion*: "A jury in Cincinnati has just acquitted a bar-keeper named Joe Payton, who shot and killed his mistress two years ago. The poor girl's name was Nellie Stickney. Growing tired of the continued brutality and neglect of her 'protector,' she fell into unfaithful ways. The moral Joseph was so shocked by her infidelity that his noble reason was dethroned for about five minutes. During the time that he was bereft of his intellect, he shot and killed the poor creature, and a jury of fools has just declared that he was not guilty of any offense against society, because he was insane at the time of committing the murder. It is not claimed that Payton is crazy now. On the contrary, he is quite sane. When the verdict of acquittal was rendered, he exultingly shouted, 'I beat them.'"

Miss Jennie C. Speir, a native of New York, aged 35 years, committed suicide in San Francisco on the 21st ult. The deceased was formerly a school-teacher in Humboldt county, and for the past three months resided at No. 1509 Pine street. She was very religious and frequently attended the revival of Moody and Sankey and other religious meetings. She had been known to remain in her room for hours praying and reading her Bible. An autopsy showed that death resulted from submersion.

Miss Daisy Stott, of North Yamhill, aged twelve years, was awarded the prize for the best essay at the close of the school term in that town recently. Her subject, "Is the Mind of Woman Inferior to That of Man?" was handled with a skill beyond her years. It is needless to say that her mother is an able woman and a suffragist.

It is proposed to have girls for pages in the Ohio Legislature.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

TURNER, Or., April 4, 1881.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

In the Autumn of 1880, this benevolent society for the aid of homeless and destitute children was fully matured. It is but just to give all honor to the ladies of Salem whose love and pity for suffering, neglected waifs of humanity prompted them to such heroic action; for to their almost unaided efforts do the people of Oregon owe their gratitude for a shelter for their homeless. Mrs. Joseph Wilson, dear departed mother, donated ten acres of land, upon which the two-story building now known as the Orphans' Home is located.

And now, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and little children, this Home still needs your aid, your watchful care and sympathy. It is the outgrowth of women's charity and women's love. Then come to their aid. Little children are there gathered from the ages of two months to twelve years—poor, neglected, castaway little ones. At the present writing, seventeen there find a home. The sewing for these little folks is almost all done by the Board of Managers. Bedding, clothing, etc., must be made and the same repaired. Anything in the line of the above would be most gratefully received. When children are taken at the Home, they are usually destitute of clothing other than dirty rags. I might suggest, also, little chairs, picture-books, children's papers, toys, etc.—anything to gladden their hearts and lend an air of home to their temporary abode—for it is understood that permanent homes are procured by the time they reach the age of twelve years.

True and strict economy is practiced at the Home. Vegetables, fruits, milk and butter are raised on the farm, and something over, which is taken to market and sold, sometimes amounting to over \$50, which is a goodly sum, considering all things. The wages paid the matron is \$400 per annum, everything furnished. She seems a true mother, kind, patient and watchful; and my silent thought was, "What a great, loving heart, to take in all those little castaways!" The little ones go to her with all their childish griefs, cares, joys and troubles, and are duly sympathized with. The house and the bedding are airy and cleanly, and the cooking wholesome, plentiful and good. At present a home is wanted for one little boy, aged about six years, a pleasant, well-looking and promising little fellow. The others, though homeless and destitute, are not wholly under the control of the Board, having one or both parents living.

Mrs. Martha Minto is acting President of the society, which has twenty-five life members. The ladies most sincerely hope all will take a lively interest in this Home, and that the Legislature may be more charitably inclined in the future and double its \$3000 for the steady increase in numbers of those homeless little ones demands a larger building, more extensive grounds, and more means generally to increase their comfort and help relieve the pressing demands of time and funds on the members of the Board. These helpless little ones surely need the care and aid of the State as much or more than our convicts, who are well-fed, clothed and housed. The former are innocent, the latter dyed in crime. Mrs. I. L. H.

The restive and anarchical condition of things in Russia is bearing some good fruit. The first step toward representation of the people has been taken. With a view to restoration of complete security in the capital, an ukase has been promulgated, ordering the creation of a temporary Council charged to assist the commandant of the city. This Council will consist of a member for each of the 228 city districts, to be elected by the votes of all landlords and independent tenants. It is understood that the Council will decide by a majority vote on all measures submitted by the commandant, and that decisions of the majority will be executed on receiving the Emperor's sanction. Persons who vote will be eligible as candidates. A fund for carrying out this measure will be provided from the imperial treasury. The *Agence Russe* says that the measure is part of a scheme for the whole empire projected by the late Czar.

Owing to the heavy demand on the population of Ohio for Federal officials, it is feared the State cannot furnish hands enough to harvest its wheat crop, which promises to be very large. The women will probably be pressed into service to garner the grain, as the Buckeyes are too patriotic to desert their wearing Federal posts, even though their crops rot in the fields.

While the American people are blushing for the recent disgraceful personalities in Congress, it may be comforting to state that in the Reichstag of Germany, on the 29th ultimo, occurred a violent scene between two members. Not that the German squabble makes our rows any the less shameful; but disgrace, like misery, loves company.

THE SILVERTON SCHOOL MEETING.

SILVERTON, March 29, 1881.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

At the annual Silverton school meeting, several lady tax-payers were present, evidently as much interested as the men in the cause of education in general and the school meeting in particular.

The chairman of the meeting commenced the proceedings by saying that he hoped no one would vote unless entitled to, and that all knew whether they were voters or not. But, for fear that some presumptuous woman might get out of her sphere, he added that it had "not been customary for women to vote in this district," and that he "didn't know about others."

In reply to a lady tax-payer, who asked whether we were to be governed by law or custom, the chairman informed us "partly by law and partly by custom." He said that the laws with which the "district" was furnished were silent on the subject; but that, although the sessional record of the Legislature gave women the direct privilege, they were not bound to obey that.

Being informed that the copy of the law which he held was an old one, and that the new ones gave the right of suffrage to all tax-payers who had resided in the district the required time, the chairman immediately discovered under the section the old one in regard to widows, and, though he refrained from saying it, he strongly intimated that it would not be there if all women were allowed to vote.

Then followed some discussion as to whether the section was legal or not, one "protector" in particular making himself very conspicuous, not to say ridiculous, by inquiring "why, if all women were allowed to vote, the section in regard to widows was there," declaring that "if it had never been repealed (and he didn't think it had) that the other was not legal." When told by a gentleman that if a section were introduced reading that all one-eyed men could vote, that he supposed he would hardly claim that two-eyed men were thereby prohibited, he became quite excited, and declared that "ridicule was not argument—no, sir!"

Finally the opposition, finding that they were gaining nothing, became quiet, and the ladies were left to vote in peace, with the feeling that they had gained a small victory. E. C.

SOWING TO THE WIND.

SELAH, W. T., March 29, 1881.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

As proof of your new prize scribble, now appearing in the *NEW NORTHWEST*, we have had almost a tragical episode in our humdrum life in Selah Valley, which might truthfully be called "sowing to the wind." It came in the shape of a young woman, who allowed each of two lovers to suppose himself the favored one up to the last moment of the hour set for her marriage. Several guests, invited by Suitor No. 1, were already arrived at the residence of the expectant bride, where also was the officiating gentleman, just arrived from Yakima City. The beautiful and expensive wedding dress had been sent from far-away Maine, a gift from the young man's parents to the affianced of their son in Washington Territory. The splendid collation and the music for the dancers were provided by this young man. But promptly at 4 o'clock Suitor No. 2 rode up to the gate, leading a palfrey for his bride. The girl mounted in hot haste, riding away before the eyes of the waiting Judge, invited guests, brothers, sisters and friends, many of whom turned pale, as well they might, at the revelation of deceit, treachery and falsehood enacted by a woman.

The Judge rode slowly away, minus his fee as we may suppose, and upon the hill-top a few miles off met the officiating clergyman, on his way to pronounce the marriage ceremony also. Both gentlemen turned homeward, we hope to raise a question of expediency for our law-makers to consider, *i. e.*: How many licenses can be legally issued to one person, man or woman, at the same time?

As the treacherous plot came to light more than a week before the wedding day arrived, there has been, of course, much excitement and some betting on the final denouement of the unprincipled affair. Of course no pure, true woman can do otherwise than shudder at thought of the life built upon such a foundation, and while she blames will also pity the ignorance and weakness of a deluded girl.

But did we ever know a man to plot to deceive, betray and ruin a trusting woman? Did we?

G. E. F.

The *New York Evening Post* (Democratic) thinks the Republican Senators by their course in upholding Mahone are impairing the standing of their party. It says of Gorham, nominated for Secretary of the Senate: "We know him to be an unprincipled scoundrel."