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## UP THE WILLAMETTE.

THE SENIOR EDITOR MAKES A FLYING TRIP TO OREGON CITY AND SALEM.

PORTLAND, July 25, 1881.

TO THE READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

On Thursday morning of last week, the undersigned took passage on the east-side train, bound for a flying trip to Oregon City and Salem. When last we journeyed through this part of the Willamette Valley, the Winter-rain-held carnival along the line.

Midsummer is upon us now. Upon either hand, at little intervals, we behold fields and orchards, holding aloft in the hot atmosphere the promise of a bountiful harvest. Familiar objects greet us at every turn. East Portland, the Machine Shops, Willsburg, Milwaukie, are left behind, and here is Oregon City, grown quite metropolitan in its airs since our last visit two years ago. The place is neither dead nor dying, as is sometimes reported.

Found our equal rights friend Mrs. Chase in the midst of her blooming family, and as deeply interested as ever in the good cause. Met J. M. Bacon, Esq., in the post office behind the counters of a well-stocked book and variety store, and was pleased to see him as hopeful and energetic after his hard struggle with thieves as though no great misfortune had befallen him. Except that he has aged somewhat, there is no visible impress of his loss upon him. May his luck turn from this time henceforth, and may he live to a green old age in the enjoyment of a well-spent manhood, is the sincere wish of his legion of friends. Found Messrs. Johnson & McCown full of law and law business, and as enthusiastic as ever over the equal rights question. Enjoyed a bountiful dinner at the well-kept restaurant of Mrs. Sue R. Keenan, a lady of nerve, sense and business tact, to whose example we recommend any weak-minded woman who "doesn't want to vote," but who does not scruple to tax our time and patience and philanthropy with her financial burdens, which, in her struggles for a livelihood among the supporting and protecting sex, press heavily upon her, albeit she "has all the rights she wants." Mr. Keenan is away from home, at work upon the railroad, and Mrs. K., nothing daunted by adverse circumstances, is not only battling bravely with a restaurant, herself at once the head of kitchen, dining-room and office, but she finds time to read the NEW NORTHWEST, and earns money to pay for it, wants to vote, and says so upon every suitable occasion, and puts to shame by her practical good sense the theory that women would vote as their husbands do if enfranchised, or failing so to do, would awaken antagonism in the household. Mr. K. is a strong Republican, and Mrs. K. is an equally strong Democrat. Last Fall, when the city was illuminated in honor of the Republican candidate, one-half of their house was conspicuous in total darkness. Men remonstrated with Mr. Keenan, but to no purpose. He proudly informed his political friends that his wife "had a right to her own opinions," and that settled the matter. We commend this incident to the consideration of the Democratic editor who opposed Woman Suffrage a few weeks ago in our hearing on the ground of possible "trouble in families" in all such cases. An honorable man will freely accord to his wife the right to her own opinions and the liberty of expressing them, laws or no laws; and when women are enfranchised, a dishonorable man will be compelled to do likewise.

Among the women who are engaged in business here, Mrs. T. W. Fouts deserves special mention as proprietor of a first-class millinery store. Her husband, Mr. Theodore Fouts, whom we've known since his childhood, is now County Assessor, and has an office in his wife's store, where the two work together in harmony. Another promise of the good time coming, when equality of rights will unite other families in the bonds of business fellowship through the inspirations of liberty. The county officials of Clackamas are all Woman Suffragists, as, indeed, are all sensible men anywhere who have given the subject any thought.

Our stay was too short to visit other ladies, and the five o'clock train bore us on, through fields and forests and villages, and at seven P. M. we landed at the Salem station, where the accommodation bus of the Chemeketa Hotel met the train, and we were soon ensconced in a comfortable room and soaring away in the realms of dream-land, too weary for further exertion. The next morning was hot, the noon was hotter, and the afternoon was hottest. We went about the city afoot till after dinner, and then took refuge in a carriage, which was used to good advantage in this city of magnificent distances.

Enjoyed a brief visit at the Woman's College with Mrs. Van Scoy and her bonnie wee lassie; had a pleasant interview with Mrs. Belle Cooke and her venerable mother; spent a half hour in the genial company of Mrs. J. D. Hurst; visited

Reed's Hotel, the old Commercial, which has been refitted and furnished throughout since our last visit, and is being successfully and popularly conducted by Col. and Mrs. C. A. Reed; spent a pleasant hour with Mrs. Graves at the Chemeketa Hotel, which house, we are pleased to say, is in prime order, and was never better kept than now; enjoyed a feast of reason with Mrs. Mallory at her pleasant parlors, and had several interviews with women who are hunting employment, all of whom had seen enough to know they had need of the ballot; visited the State House, and found Miss Joanna-Lyle installed as Librarian during her brother's absence; called on Mr. Odeneal, and caught him hard at work on Supreme Court documents; called on other State officers, or tried to, but found them out; called upon Mrs. Durkee, and afterwards upon Judge Lawson, and was glad enough when night came to enjoy the needed rest it brought.

The early morning found us refreshed and astir, the first friends called upon being Mr. and Mrs. E. Strong and daughter. Went also to Mrs. Minto's and Mrs. Jory's and Mrs. Odeneal's, and to Mr. Jory's wagon-shop; had a pleasant chat with ex-Governor Chadwick; saw Mrs. T. B. Jackson at her home; met Hon. J. J. Murphy at his desk, and Al Crossman, Esq., in his splendid store; met Etta Chase Price, of Silverton, on the street, and was almost persuaded to go home with her; visited the spiral spring manufactory of Messrs. Durkee & Eades, and saw the best imaginable beds and lounges; met Dr. C. H. Hall and Mr. Rook and Captain Scott for a brief moment. Found everybody cheerful, hospitable and prospering, and all were as enthusiastic over the enfranchisement of women as the most ardent advocate could wish or hope for. Met Judge Lord, who said, in laughing reference to the act of the Portland Council in trying to shift a responsibility upon his shoulders that properly belonged to its own body, that he had half a notion to refer the whole business for final settlement to the senior editor of the NEW NORTHWEST. We wish he would. We'd set the two opposing mayors-elect to drawing straws, and if they failed to obey, would declare the office vacant until filled by voters who know enough to vote intelligibly.

A number of gentlemen expressed their unqualified disapprobation of the item in the Statesman in reference to equal rights in general and ourself in particular. But, bless the friends, they needn't worry. Every newly fledged writer in the land imagines himself the son of Jove, and all he wants is the chariot of the press, which he imagines he can control a single day and "set the world on fire." It isn't to be wondered at that such boys make mistakes. After the conceit has been taken out of them by a few maternal spankings from the NEW NORTHWEST, they always get better sense. Billy Boise means to be a good little boy, and when he "gets a wife," and finds that she isn't "a young thing and cannot leave her mother," he'll soon learn that what he doesn't know about women would fill many a bigger and better paper than the Statesman ever was with live reading matter.

We have not time to visit half the friends we'd like to see, for yonder comes the train, and we are homeward bound.

A. S. D.

[Written for the New Northwest.]

## THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN OREGON.

The Woman Suffrage movement is assuming very interesting phases in Oregon just now. The people are beginning to awaken from their Rip Van Winkle slumber upon this important question, and are asking themselves if women have not certain inalienable rights as well as men. They are beginning to change their opinions upon this subject, because they are beginning to think.

But the battle is scarcely commenced. The fight so far is confined only to the advance guard. The heavy battalions are yet to be marshaled into line. There are stubborn foes to be overcome, doubtful allies to be won, and fierce battles to be waged. Sex prejudice rises up before us like a citadel, bristling with the barbaric ideas and traditions of more than fifty centuries. Grandly and heroically the gallant champions of equal rights are battling this mighty "Egdon of superstition"—the subordination of woman to man. This old idea, born of the ignorance and barbarism of the past, must be done away with. Woman is not man's subordinate, but his equal, peer and helpmate in the organization and construction of society.

A new gospel is being preached to mankind—a gospel of freedom and equality; a gospel that will outlive all the ephemeral dreams of the mystic Seer or sainted Prophet. But the political enfranchisement of woman cannot be accomplished in a day; the old prejudice is too deeply interwoven with the warp and woof of society for that. History attests the fact that all innovations are at first unpopular, because they clash with precon-

ceived ideas and opinions, and are never established until after a long and bitter controversy. There is a great conservative element of society which, in all ages and climes, has ever stood in mortal fear of the mighty rush of progress—"the storm and tempest of thought and action." It is a habit of mankind to worship at the shrine of the past, to bow down to idols covered with the dust of ages. Only a few, comparatively speaking, face the morning and catch a glimpse of the golden daybreak which is destined to fill the world with light. As John Stuart Mill has said, a truth or a reform passes through three stages; the first is one of indignant opposition, the second indifference, the third acceptance; and thus

"The hooting-mob of yesterday in silent awe return,  
To gather up the ashes into History's golden urn."

Thus it is in the history of all great reforms—the Protestant reformation, of the magnificent discoveries in science, of the abolition of African slavery in our own country—and thus is destined soon to be the history of the political enfranchisement of woman.

It is not my purpose in this communication to refer to woman's political and social status during the historic period, however inviting the subject may be, but to briefly consider some of the pros and cons of the Woman Suffrage movement in its present aspect before the people in this State.

The majority of women do not desire to vote, we are told, and this is supposed to settle the question. I think that this assumption is not well founded. How do we know the wishes of the majority of women upon this subject, when we have no means of ascertaining the popular sentiment? And even if the majority of women are opposed to receiving all the functions of citizenship, is that any reason why we should withhold the elective franchise from those who do want it? I cannot see any reason or justice in such an argument. In a government "of the people, by the people and for the people," in a government where the right of suffrage is held as inalienable, we cannot consistently with any sense of justice withhold the highest title of citizenship from woman because of her sex or non-desire to participate in political affairs.

This question is not a mere matter of taste or expediency, but of simple justice to woman. All secondary considerations are absorbed in this one great principle of justice. This is the rock upon which the entire fabric and superstructure of Woman Suffrage is erected. So long as the laws of the land are made by the voice of the people, any restriction upon the right of suffrage in regard to sex is a travesty upon the first principles of popular government. How can there be political freedom among a people when one-half of the educated and intelligent classes are politically disfranchised?

It is not proposed to enact a law arbitrarily compelling women to vote—only to give them the privilege of voting. The law does not compel any man to vote; it merely gives him that right. But if he should decline to exercise his prerogative of citizenship, is that any reason for disfranchising him?

This objection to woman's voting—that she don't want to vote—is very puerile indeed.

Again, it is objected that there are duties incumbent upon citizenship which are incompatible with woman's peculiar constitution and organization, such, for instance, as bearing arms, sitting on juries, and filling the office of sheriff or a position on the police force. Of course, where woman is incapacitated by nature of her physical organization to fill certain official positions, such as require masculine strength and vigor, she would not be called upon to act in that capacity. Just as we do not under the present regime select a crippled man to act as sheriff or police officer, and do not choose jurors from among men physically or mentally unfitted to act in that capacity, so we would not choose women to fill positions unsuited to their physical condition or mental constitution. We are not under the necessity of taking every person that votes away from his personal duties and elevating him to political position irrespective of his moral and intellectual qualifications.

It does not follow, therefore, because we have tried to be just to woman—enlarged her liberties and widened her sphere of action—that we should elevate her to political positions for which she is unfitted. But let all positions for which she is fitted—and they occur in almost every walk of life—be thrown wide open to her. There is no danger of too much liberty. The future will verify our bravest predictions.

I remember the splendid saying of Macaulay, that the best way to prepare a people for liberty is to give them liberty. And the best way to prepare women for all the duties of life is to give them the liberty and opportunity to engage in those duties.

There is another objection which takes form—"The social and domestic circle is woman's natural sphere, and it is here that her brightest virtues

shine forth. If she is permitted to enter the political arena, all these bright and shining qualities will disappear, and woman will no longer hold the exalted position in society which she now occupies."

What absurdity! As if women have any definite sphere—any more than men have—beyond which their ambition should not lead them. All the social and domestic qualities which adorn and beautify womanhood always have been and always will be woman's natural endowment. The elective franchise cannot in one iota lessen the delicacy of her nature or diminish those virtues which are at once the pride and glory of her sex.

When rightly considered, as Mill has said, "There is no argument against the right of woman to the ballot." Most of the objections are usually those of custom and prejudice—not often of sentiment—and when fairly met, like the spirit of Tremmor, "vanish like the mist that melts on a sunny hill."

I believe that woman's participation in politics would broaden and liberalize the political element, and would do much to lessen personal animosities in partisan politics; for when we come to consider that our mothers, wives, daughters and sisters are active factors in political organizations, we cannot have the hardihood to assert that our opponents are all tricksters and liars. It is reasonable to suppose that the introduction of the feminine element into politics would bring about a normal and natural condition of society—that the ennobling and refining presence of women would have a potential influence in doing away with the bitter asperities which so largely characterize the two great political parties of today. I believe the instincts and tastes of women would be on the side of goodness and purity, and that they would be more interesting and charming, because more rational and intellectual.

Wherever Woman Suffrage has had a fair trial, it has always proved a splendid success. Especially is this true in Wyoming Territory, where the elective franchise is untrammelled by sex distinctions. Whether exercising the functions of citizenship as voters, jurors or officers of the law, the women of Wyoming have invariably acquitted themselves with credit, and often with distinction. The inquiry naturally arises, if the suffrage movement is a success in Wyoming, why should it not also be a success in Oregon?

Man suffrage is only a partial success, for it is an abnormal and unnatural condition of the body politic. Woman constitutes one-half of the human race, and Nature intended—if it intended anything—that the sexes should mutually assist in the formation and construction of society.

Pending the action of the next Legislature upon the Woman Suffrage resolution, it would be well for the friends of the movement to earnestly and persistently discuss this question among the people. The great majority of voters are honest and want to see justice done. Remove early prejudice and Bourbon ideas, and the farmer, the mechanic, and the laborer will see that the political shackles are struck from the fair form of woman forever. The eyes of fifty million people are fixed upon this contest in Oregon; perhaps the success of the suffrage movement in the United States hinges upon the action of our next Legislature and the subsequent vote of the people.

In this contest, I feel a very great interest, for I believe that the principle of equal suffrage is right and just, and I wish that every young man who has a vote to cast would look at this subject, not from the standpoint of the old politicians, not from the standpoint of men who are fossilized in their opinions, wedded to the dogmas and traditions of the past, but from the standpoint of common sense and justice, and answer for himself whether his mother and sisters are not as much entitled to cast a ballot or participate in the government as he is; and whether, when we admit thousands of illiterate men to vote whose bodies are yet smarting from the galling chain and cruel lash of slavery, it is not worse than insult to our mothers, our sisters and our wives to say that they are not fit to vote or entitled to exercise one of the highest privileges men or women can enjoy—the privilege of helping to form and construct human society.

Young men of Oregon, you have it in your power to be the *avant couriers* of freedom, the heralds of light, grander heroes than the valiant knights that wrested Magna Charta from the reluctant hands of a tyrant king. Will you prove recreant to your trust? A SUFFRAGIST.

Independence, July 18, 1880.

Eldridge G. Lapham has been elected to succeed Mr. Conkling in the U. S. Senate by the unanimous vote of the Republicans in the New York Legislature. The stalwarts forced a caucus and allowed Lapham's candidacy to be made unanimous. Mr. H. M. Miller, Platt's successor, is a Congressman. A special election will be ordered to fill their vacated offices.