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## FROM WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

OLYMPIA DEPICTED—THE LEGISLATURE SITS FOR ITS PICTURE IN INK—THE SENIOR AS AN ARTIST—A VISIT AT TENINO.

TENINO, November 10, 1881.

TO THE READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

At the head of the Mediterranean of the Pacific sits Olympia, the capital of Washington Territory, keeping guard like a queen over the grand inland sea upon which the ships of the wide world are yet to ride at anchor, while receiving the mighty cargoes of agricultural, mechanical and mineral wealth which are already known by samples distributed from time to time in every native and foreign port upon the earth. Olympia's ample skirts are unevenly spread over the wide area of her undulating person, and terminate gracefully in a pretty bias flap, with scalloped edges that border her feet as they dip water in the edges of the bay. Business has received a new impetus within the past year, many evidences of prosperity being observable that were wholly wanting a twelvemonth since. Some of the stores are quite metropolitan in style and make-up; the sidewalks on the principal thoroughfares are in good repair; a number of dwelling houses are pretentious in style and architecture, and pretty cottages abound at every turn, surrounded by neat gardens bordered with white fences.

But we know our readers are more deeply interested with the Legislature at this present writing than with any other feature of Olympian life or looks; so we ask you all to visit the Capitol and linger while the Honorables sit for their pictures in ink.

Imagine an unpretentious two-story wooden building, nestled away in the suburbs at the edge of a clearing, to which a broad sidewalk leads. A neat picket fence surrounds a pretty block, inclosing an area of perhaps an acre. A broad porch stands guard over the front entrance, from which a door leads into a wide hall, carpeted with heavy drugget, with a stairway at the right leading to the Council Chamber, and a doorway at the left leading to a clerk's or committee's room. Another door swings wide at your approach, and you enter the Hall of Representatives, a well-carpeted, comfortably seated and superlatively warmed apartment, elaborately furnished with necessary spittoons. You take a seat in the lobby near the red-hot stove and wonder at the physical endurance of men in withstanding the poisonous breath and consuming heat of the close, unhealthy atmosphere.

"What do you think of our Legislature?" asks a lady friend, in a stage whisper.

"Can't judge them accurately by their side whiskers and back hair," we answered, cautiously. "Wish they'd turn and look us squarely in the face."

"Who is that little man with the loud voice and nervous manner, that opposes the bland gentleman in gray whiskers so vehemently?"

"That's a man's rights man."

"How do you think he'll vote on the suffrage bill?"

"Against it, of course."

"Why do you think so?"

"Oh, 'cause! Little men of his organization always think they need the aid of human legislation to keep men in their divinely appointed sphere as 'heads of the family.'"

"And how will that good-looking man vote, who wears side whiskers and sits near the corner and looks like he enjoys good victuals?"

"Oh, he'll vote all right. You can depend on him."

"Who is he?"

"Major Rees, of Walla Walla."

"And those other happy-looking men—Allen, Steen, Burk, Holcomb, Clarke, two Smiths and a Taylor—I don't know the others—but how will they vote?"

"I guess they're all right. They're men of good physique and happy faces; look as if they were not afraid women would get ahead of 'em on an even race. Such men are on our side every time."

"Then I do believe our bill will pass the House, for the major part of these members are not under size; and they show by their genial faces that they're not hen-pecked and unhappy."

"How about that thin, tall man, with grizzly whiskers and towering back head?"

"Oh, you can't count on him! His bump of self-esteem is only equalled by his firmness. The combined egotism of a peacock and obstinacy of a donkey always fears equal rights for women."

"What's his name?"

"Sh-h-h! Don't know."

"How can you tell our opponents from our friends?"

"By their general appearance. Sometimes I make mistakes, but not often. A very little man is opposed to us because he thinks 'if women vote they must fight,' you know. A very bigoted man

objects because he thinks God made a mistake in creating woman, which he must rectify by statutes. A vicious, dissipated or sensual man forms low and corrupt ideas concerning woman—partly from association with women as immoral as himself, and partly from the coloring he imparts to all womanhood through his own soiled mental spectacles."

"Well, judging the Assembly by your standard, we have a majority. Now, let's see what you think of the Council."

The loud-voiced member who comes out strong on dignity has just finished a speech, in which he has delivered his mind of the brilliant idea that "farmers ought not to be legislators, and only lawyers should occupy law-makers' seats," and we leave the Hall of Representatives while his amazed co-workers are recovering their composure after this strange bombardment of common sense, and ascend the stairs to find ourselves gazing in mute reverence upon the dignity assembled in a smaller chamber, where sits the Council in session.

"What's the prospect here?" asks our friend.

"Good; very good. The bill may fail, but if it does it will be on account of the obstinacy of that tall man with a thin face, the stupidity of that blonde man with a red nose, the bigoted parsimony of that long, crooked man with beak-like hands, and the fly vote of that Senator in Burnsides. You can't depend on him, though he's a good-hearted fellow and would make a grand ally if his outside associates would let him."

"But these are not our only opponents."

"No; but they hold the balance of power, and the other objectors, if any, will be ruled by them."

"Then you've no hope?"

"Yes; I have hope. The majority of men in both Houses are well-meaning, and some of them exceedingly intelligent. There are a few statesmen among them, too."

"Are all the talented men on our side?"

"They'd all like to be. All smart men know that Woman Suffrage is inevitable, but all smart men are not heroes, and comparatively few men are brave enough to take a step in advance of the mass of ignorant voters whom they credit with placing them in office. That's the reason we have so few men who become really great. The advanced thinker and actor of the present day is always the hero of to-morrow. But it takes both comprehension and courage to grasp this fact and appropriate it to personal advantage."

With these observations we left the Council Chamber and returned to Mrs. Sylvester's hospitable home to await the tardy tedium of legislation, of which the result is already known to our readers.

On Tuesday, after the bill was lost in the Council, it was still hoped that the friends of Woman Suffrage would be able to resurrect and reconsider it. In accordance with this hope, your correspondent pleasantly asked Mr. Graden, of Spokane county, to move a reconsideration. We did not ask him to vote "aye" or "no," for this is a pledge which we never attempt to exact from friend or foe. But the allies of the cause were sure that a rehearing would bring them at least a gain of one vote, and it was thought best to request that it be had. The reader may judge of the terrible disappointment we'd have suffered if we'd been a widow; for the Honorable member not only refused to move to reconsider, but told us "frankly"—we quote him carefully—that he wouldn't wish to marry a woman who wanted to vote! We could only restrain our tears because we were not in the market.

How we did inwardly admire the sublime egotism of that voting sovereign! It never occurred to him to think it possible that such a woman might have higher aspirations than the idea of marrying him. He misrepresented the intelligent women of Spokane county, too; though we think he was honestly ignorant of the facts, and wouldn't be unjust even to an opponent. He said the women of his county, "thought themselves insulted" by our Fourth of July address, given in their presence on the Fourth of July upon the Declaration of Independence! This will be news to the large number of sensible ladies and gentlemen at whose instigation that address was made, and who are already planning for a Woman Suffrage celebration in that county next year. A man oughtn't to be blamed over-much for what he don't know, but we're awfully afraid Mr. Graden will never be chosen again to govern the women of Spokane county. For alas! we remember the fate of Bradshaw of Oregon and Pike of Wyoming, and all the other enemies of equal rights who have buried themselves out of sight from time to time through their opposition to liberty.

Mr. Long made a similar mistake, for he declared that "the ladies of his [Thurston] county did not want to vote," thereby arraying that slender class against him in active hostility. The wives of the Governor and the Secretary, and all other ladies of intelligence and standing in his county, wish to vote, some of them on temperance

only, but all would gladly vote on the questions that most vitally concern them. We hope Mr. Long will change his mind before the next election, for he's a grand good fellow and deserves a better fate than to be his own grave-digger. But, for that matter, we like them all, Mr. Graden included, and the joke of it is they can't help it; though it must be admitted that all wise women like those men who are willing to grant them liberty much better than they can like those who are afraid to trust them with the use of their inalienable rights.

It is adjourning time now, and this portrait in ink cannot be finished until the solons have had another sitting. So we leave the Capitol, and with raised umbrella hurry down the streets and into the city, where we stop at the Bon Ton restaurant and engage in a pleasant chat with Mr. and Mrs. Rawson, proprietors, an enterprising couple who preach and practice equal rights. Then we call at the elegant home of Barnes the banker, and look in upon Mr. and Mrs. Pfather in their handsome cottage, and cross the long bridge and visit Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins in Swantown, and have a grand good time and get all tired out, and spend an evening at Mrs. Sylvester's with Mrs. Baldwin, and another with Mrs. Crosby and Mrs. Smith of Seattle, and address the Temperance League.

Finally we depart for Tenino, fifteen miles on the homeward way, where we stop over till evening in the wayside inn kept by Mr. and Mrs. Hueston, relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Coulter, of the Esmond in Portland. Tenino is a little place, but it has whole-souled and progressive inhabitants, of whom the parties above named, Mr. Brown, the merchant, Mr. Reed, the telegraph operator, and Mr. Davenport, capitalist, are leaders. Mr. Hueston cleared the dining-room for the lecture, and a goodly company from the region round about came out to hear the gospel of liberty, which they listened to with interest and accepted with enthusiasm. Every man and woman present was a suffragist, and a happier, jollier set of pioneers we never saw anywhere. It was a great pity that the Honorable Mr. Long, Council member from this county, before alluded to, could not have been there. The pins of his "ladies don't want to vote" argument would have been knocked from under him in a twinkling. We found ourselves compelled to take the part of our opponent in the presence of his friends, before the evening was over, and we venture the assertion that when the suffrage bill comes up again for consideration he will be proud to vote for it.

Women are often to blame for their apparent lack of interest in their own enfranchisement. That it is only an apparent lack is readily proven whenever opportunity is given them to investigate the question, or when they are called upon to express an opinion upon it in the presence of a man or woman accustomed to defending it. Women who fail to instruct Legislators-elect in the right way to vote in their interest should not complain when men who are so chosen fail to comprehend their wishes.

A. S. D.

## THE QUESTION NOT DEAD.

[Olympia Correspondence of Oregonian, November 12.]

From what I can learn, the great question of Woman Suffrage will soon be brought up again in such a shape that the legislative assembly will hardly fail to vote for it; and by this means they will not only enact a just law, but will make for themselves a most enviable record in the future history of this Territory.

In my communication on this subject in reference to the action of the Council, I casually remarked that owing to the "over-zealous efforts" of the friends of the bill it was defeated. Owing to the haste with which my letter had to be prepared, I find I was not sufficiently explicit on the subject, and the result is that some of your readers have taken it into their heads that I referred to Mrs. A. S. Duniway, the able champion of woman's rights; but in this I need only say that they are completely at fault. Mrs. Duniway by her long experience has shown legislative assemblies and other important bodies that she not only works in the right direction, but that she knows how to work also; but I regret to say that others do not work in this way. The plan of threatening instead of coaxing those who have the power to do or undo is not the best at any time, neither has it done any good in the present case, which is to be regretted. It is, I believe, generally conceded that Mrs. Duniway showed a most amiable disposition throughout the entire action on this bill, neither being too highly elated over its passage in the lower House, nor depressed by its defeat in the Council. Therefore, in her generous efforts to obtain the liberty and equality of her sex, she has shown herself a true woman and an able advocate of the cause.

A growing feeling in favor of annexation to the United States is reported in Canada.

## THE TERRITORIAL PRESS.

The newspapers of Washington Territory—at least, those which have reached the NEW NORTHWEST—have treated the Woman Suffrage question in a fair manner, and several express disappointment at the Council's failure to endorse the House bill. We give condensed opinions of some of them on the woman question in general and the Legislature's action in particular.

The *Standard*, of Olympia, says of the passage of the bill by the House: "While a majority of the members and the lobby gave way to the wildest demonstrations of delight, those who opposed the bill seemed satisfied with the result, a condition which would not have followed the enactment of a law at any former stage of our political history. This indicates the gradual but irresistible change of public opinion—an acknowledgment of the truth of the arguments which have been reduced to axioms by the irrefragable logic of events. \* \* \* Those who voted aye on this proposition will be remembered, and no amount of sophistry of those who opposed the measure, or profession of devotion to the interests of humanity, will erase the record made deliberately and with a full knowledge of the facts and the justice of the cause."

The *Goldendale Sentinel* expressed its regret at the failure of the measure in the Council, and advanced these ideas: "As Woman Suffrage is comparatively an experiment, and as it is claimed by many that a majority of women do not desire the right of suffrage and would not exercise it if permitted to do so, it would have been fair and wise to give the experiment a test while Washington is a Territory. If the experiment proved satisfactory and in the interests of good government, our constitution could then have been amended so as to admit women to permanent and full citizenship."

The *Tacoma Ledger* briefly stated the work done by friends of the measure (but its informants were wrong in charging Mrs. Duniway with "invective" in her speech before the Legislature), and concluded with this paragraph: "The final struggle took place on Saturday. Hon. Elwood Evans made a stirring appeal for the bill. Councilman Calhoun of Whatcom, a sturdy granger, and a man of good, hard, solid sense, came to the rescue, and other members did the same; but a vote of seven against the measure to five for it left the question for future Legislatures to wrangle over. Mrs. Duniway and other friends of the cause addressed a large audience at the City Hall in the evening and gave notice that they were defeated but not vanquished, and that the question would be carried before the people, that high court of errors and appeals, for a new hearing, and they hoped and confidently believed, a reversal of judgment as rendered by the Territorial Legislature of 1881."

The *Olympia Courier* followed a very complimentary notice of Mrs. Duniway's lecture in that city with these remarks: "We hear a general expression in reference to the equality of women before the law, that there is no argument against it—only prejudice. We are aware of the strength of old habits and customs, and are endeavoring to let patience have her perfect work in the case; but we do hope to live long enough to see so simple an act of justice as this done, and government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed, expressed by the ballot of women upon the same terms as man."

The *Columbia Chronicle*, of Dayton, gave the votes by which the bill was passed in the House and defeated in the Council, and added: "The reason given for its defeat probably is 'because.' This is the only reason that exists."

The *Spokane Chronicle* was the only paper we saw which seemed to oppose the passage of the bill, and even it appeared more concerned in giving a slap to a correspondent of "a paper outside the Territory" than in hindering the progress of the woman movement.

Many of the papers announced the votes in the Legislature as matters of news, without stating any opinion as to the merits of the bill.

From last Friday's *Telegram*: "One hundred and twenty-eight persons in Clarke county, W. T., pay taxes on \$2000 and upward. Of these the heaviest tax-payers are the Sisters of Charity, their assessment being \$28,705. Mrs. A. Wintler comes next with an assessment of \$23,430. The list contains the names of fourteen women whose aggregate assessment amounts to \$100,865. These and kindred facts are interesting in view of the Woman Suffrage agitation now going on in the Territorial Legislature. Its advocates persistently claim that taxation without representation is tyranny and prove the same by the Declaration of Independence."

There is trouble between the Connecticut and the American Bible Societies, the former charging large discrepancies in the accounts of the latter.