

The New Northwest.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME XI.—NO. 13.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1881.

PER YEAR—\$3 00.

THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE.

THE SENIOR EDITOR RETURNS TO OLYMPIA AND RESUMES HER WORK AS OUR ARTIST.

FROM GRAVE TO GAY; FROM LIVELY TO SEVERE—FACTS FURNISHED AS FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

OLYMPIA, W. T., December 5, 1881.

TO THE READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

After nearly three weeks' absence from Olympia, during which we have been so busily engaged in a multitude of varied occupations that the time has flown by as on the wings of a hurricane, behold us again in the Legislative Hall at the Capital of Washington Territory, and with pencil in hand engaged in sketching the *personnel* of the Honorables, whose pictures we are to finish at this sitting for publication in ink.

The regular session is drawing to a close now, and it is almost impossible to get an uninterrupted view of either House in committee of the whole, so we will do the best we can with individual details, and give glimpses of the assembled dignity in each Chamber as we may be enabled to catch the inspiration on the wing.

Yonder urbane member from Jefferson, with graceful gait and luxuriant hair, is the Roscoe Conkling of the lower House. He understands parliamentary tactics to a dot, and leads yonder grizzly-bearded gentlemen in high back heads through the bewildering mazes of amendments and remendments, and rejoinders and sur-rejoinders, till he outwits them each and severally.

Yonder loud-voiced member is from Pierce. He is as active as the business end of a hornet; is, in fact, the Mahone of the combination, and he worries things terribly sometimes. There is a noticeable smooth spot on the top of his cranium, worn there no doubt by the constant friction of his ideas against the acknowledged opinions of other people. He is good at argument, strong in invective, and versatile in ingenuity. But Roscoe gets ahead when issues are brought to a vote, because of his superiority as a tactician and temper-holder.

Yonder gentleman in goggles excels chiefly as an artist. As a legislator he is not a success. The same may be said of that other member in spectacles, except that his forte is the persistent attempt at reconsideration of all measures passed through the brilliant maneuvering of the gentleman from Pierce.

That good-looking member is from Whitman. He leads the Eastern delegation, and is the James G. Blaine of the concern.

There! We were just ready to make a faithful and striking group of that short gentleman with a broad forehead, that handsome member with a false front lock, that pleasant member with a modest mien, that sincere member with a prominent nose, that tall member with gray chin whiskers, that member with a retreating forehead who is chiefly conspicuous because of his mistakes, that jolly member in a luxuriant beard, that dignified and genial member from the Boreas Zone, and that gentleman from the oyster beds of Pacific, when the wheels of legislation stopped short because of the lack of the lubricating oil that runs all governments, technically styled an appropriation bill.

Legislators can keep calm when discussing a hog bill; they do not lose their equilibrium when considering the merits of a game law; they can hold their tempers when discussing the woman question, and can smile urbanely when being bored by the hour by dissertations upon education, annexation, or river and harbor bills; but just let them get started on a money matter—something that addresses itself directly to individual financial interests—and lo! and behold! they're human after all, and as keenly alive to first principles as the lowliest of us.

It is simply impossible to sketch them now. A half dozen are on their feet at once, shouting "Mr. Speaker!" in stentorian voices. Some are buzzing about the hall, sucking so vigorously at the moist end of a meerschaum or cigar that you innocently wonder why they were sent to the Legislature to make laws for women before they were weaned.

The way they pelt each other with covert personalities is a caution to common courtesy. Eastern Washington is jealous of Western Washington. Clams bombard bunch-grass, and lumber interests menace gold mines. The members get so thoroughly excited that they remind the spectator of a swarm of bees whose queen is lost. They resemble two opposing nines at a base-ball tournament when there is a dispute about a point and the umpire is in doubt.

Mr. Speaker gets his brain so tangled up with motions and counter-motions, questions of privilege, rules of order, and other parliamentary double-shuffling, that he looks the image of bewilderment and despair.

"It isn't half as bad as it was a while ago, before you came in," says the sincere member who voted against Woman Suffrage, but is open to conviction. "I am sure that the presence of ladies as

co-members here would soften the asperities of these debates," he added, as a "call of the house" reminded him to his seat.

"Yes, and banish tobacco smoke and spittoons," we could not help remarking, as one of these last-named articles of utility was upset on the carpet and hastily removed by the ubiquitous and disgusted janitor.

With these observations we left the lower House and ascended to the Council Chamber, where we were graciously greeted by all of the Honorables, not even excepting those whose pictures had been somewhat too accurately sketched at a former sitting to suit their own vanity. But, to their credit be it spoken, they had the good sense to take the criticism in the spirit in which it was given. Every man had selected his own picture and preserved a copy for his friends.

That blonde member with a red nose is—*mad!* We tried to conciliate him by asking pardon, but it was "no go." He said it was "all right," but it was said in a tone and manner that plainly meant *it wasn't*. We repent without ceasing.

That crooked member has a clear head on "figgers." Sorry we can't say as much for him on humanitarian principles. He has been employed as book-keeper in a big lumbering monopoly till his brain has acquired a metallic texture that cannot be expanded with a new idea. His echo sits at his elbow like a Miller attracted by a blazing image. The echo votes like the metallic luminary, and both boast that they *never change*.

While there are but few really brilliant men in either House, there are quite a number of more than average ability, as has been proved by their record on the Woman Suffrage bill. There are several lawyers of distinction in the Council, among them Messrs. Stratton of Spokane (President of the Council), Evans of Pierce, and Sharpstein of Walla Walla. Mr. Hoover of Whitman, also a lawyer in good practice, obtained leave of absence early in the session. Mr. Calhoun of Whatcom is a sturdy, sensible and honorable farmer. Colonel Hunter of Columbia, also a farmer, has distinguished himself on several memorable occasions as an Indian fighter, and when he comes out right on the woman question, as he surely will in time, his noble sisters, who are Woman Suffragists, will be prouder of him than ever. Sorry he isn't all right now.

We have great hope that Mr. Graden, who came to the Legislature with such erroneous ideas upon the Woman Suffrage question as to cause him to work and vote against it, will have opportunity during the next few months to continue the better associations already begun among women. He is a man for whom nature has done much and education considerable; but his occupation as a packer on the frontier has not brought him in contact with the virtuous, enlightened womanhood of the country hitherto, albeit the memories of his mother are strong and salutary, and it is little wonder that he came to the Legislature with adverse opinions of Woman Suffragists, since his ideas of the movement are expressed in the following insult to true womanhood, entitled "Council Bill 136," introduced by himself:

An Act to Protect Married Women in Washington Territory.

SECTION 1. That hereafter every married woman in this Territory shall have the right to select the father of her offspring.

Sec. 2. That all children born of any married woman, from a father so selected by such married woman, shall be legitimate heirs at law of such woman and her husband; and the husband of such woman shall maintain and provide for such children in the same manner as if they were his own children.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

No woman was present when this delectable piece of legislation was thrown in the teeth of the Council, but we were informed that it met with the universal contempt it deserved; the President refusing to permit it to pass to a second reading, declaring he would resign rather than do so.

The loyal wifehood and faithful motherhood of the land are puzzled much to comprehend the depths of vicious misrepresentation that they have been subjected to in dark places, which has led to expressions like the above, given as a burlesque in legislative halls upon their honest and honorable demands for that equality before the law without which they cannot surround their sons with such feminine influences as will cause them to abhor the inception of a thought so revolting to every sense of propriety and decency.

Mr. Graden may search the brothels over, and he will find no Woman Suffragists. He will look in vain among trail women for advocates of equal rights. Whoever led him to offer such an insult (even in jest, as Colonel Hunter says he did it), is lamentably ignorant of the demands of women.

Women of Spokane county, how do you like taxation without representation? It will be your own fault if your sons and husbands send another man to misrepresent you who shall so widely miss the mark. Mr. Graden will not be guilty of repeating the offense. He only echoed the lan-

guage of his associates—voters, remember—when he thus burlesqued you. The experiment has taught him better, and it is vastly preferable that you return him to the Legislature next time rather than a new recruit from the old ranks to repeat the old insults, which may be done if you do not exercise more public spirit in educating your law-makers than you have in the past. Vice and immorality are always on the alert. Ignorance and prejudice never sleep. We are all a reflex of our associations, and it is more the fault of woman's timidity and inertia that men form erroneous opinions of them than it is of the men themselves.

While we are moralizing here, the Council has created an internal commotion. The widely diverging opinions from widely diverging sections cannot fuse until, like oil and water, they reach boiling heat.

The solons take a recess and try to effect a compromise on general principles. House members hob-or-nob in an excited way with Council members. The Territorial Secretary comes in with attractive sheets of blue paper representing certain *quid pro quo*, which are distributed among the members according to law, with the emollient effect of an oiled shin plaster. The newspaper man and woman stir abroad for subscribers, and the Honorables come out handsomely with ducats.

The gavel comes down and a semblance of order that is much nearer allied to chaos partially takes the place of the former confusion. House bills crowd upon the Council, and Council bills crowd upon the House.

Bancroft's agent is conspicuous in the lobby—a sleek-coated Oily Gammon with a bid on Territorial printing and a put-up job on school-books. He lobbies like an Oregon swamp angel, and spends money like the paid agent of the Webfoot insane asylum.

The Governor's proclamation for an extra session is acquiesced in by both Houses, and the regular session resolves into a dissolving view, which our pencil vainly attempts to sketch.

A recess of an hour or two is followed by a reorganization on the old plan, except that a bright boy in the House is excused from further duty as a door-keeper, and a sleepy incumbent who has snoozed away the first sixty days in a chair at the door of the Council Chamber is relieved from office so he can go to bed and finish his nap.

The Governor has appointed his daughter, an amiable and interesting young lady, as Librarian, whereat there is much objecting; the disappointed advocates of equal rights claiming that woman either has, or has not, a right to the liberties, emoluments and privileges of governments. They claim that if Miss Newell is legally entitled to this right, none should be exempt from other rights; and if she is not legally entitled to it, she can collect no pay.

For one, we should be glad to see all ladies who act as clerks deprived of pay for public services until all women are free. The persistent, thankless work of Woman Suffragists has opened the way for these clerks to get positions, and yet they often oppose the enfranchisement of women, being content to catch the persimmon while others beat the bush, and also determined to keep on catching it, if they can, at the bush-beater's expense forever.

We noticed, while the House was undergoing reorganization, that Mr. Van Eaton, who is opposed to Woman Suffrage, strongly urged the re-appointment of one of these lady clerks, proclaiming that she had been faithful and efficient in the discharge of her duties. It was strange that he could not recognize his own inconsistency in recommending a public position for a young girl, while fighting equal rights and opportunities for older women, for fear that public contact might demoralize them. But, then, tyranny never was consistent with itself, and it is vain to look for consistency in an opponent of equal rights.

In compliance with a general request, we gave an address on the evening of the 2d inst., in Columbia Hall, the theme, "Man's Rights, or How Would You Like It?" attracting a goodly audience to a room so cold that you could hardly crack a joke in it. But we froze it out, and had a good time reviewing the Territorial laws now in force on the woman question, of which we will give our readers a synopsis next week. A. S. D.

In reply to a note from Mrs. Fannie Holden Fowler, asking if he favored giving women the ballot, and if his aid could be relied on in securing a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution for that purpose, Senator Ferry of Michigan wrote: "Having acted in favor of both heretofore, I can very consistently and cheerfully answer 'yes' to both questions." The women of Michigan and of America are not ignorant of commendation of the services which Senator Ferry has given to the cause of Woman Suffrage, but, as Mrs. Fowler said, "it is pleasant to know that he is not weary in well doing."

FROM EASTERN WASHINGTON.

YAKIMA CITY, W. T., Nov. 30, 1881.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

In your issue of November 17th, you think it "strange" that "seven men in the Council" at Olympia could have had the "effrontery" to vote against House Bill No. 103.

For my own part, I am heartily glad they did so. I consider such a bill as that an insult to the intelligent women of Washington Territory. Do we not all know that the majority of respectable women, the wives, mothers and home-keepers, have no property, and never can have, while their condition remains what it is under the laws? Toilers without recompense are they for few or many years, as the case may be, with no hope of ever becoming the owners of anything till their husbands are dead—when they may, possibly, secure one-half or one-third of their mutual earnings and accumulations.

It does not answer to say that "this wife owns one-half or one-third of everything," when she cannot use it, or keep her husband from squandering it, or pocketing and running off with it. And whoever heard of any man, who had perpetrated the last infamous act, being arrested and forced, under the laws of any State, to be simply just to his wife? If, in the assessment of taxes, even one-half or one-third of taxable property could be set down to the account of the incessant toiler within the house, such a bill as "House Bill No. 103" would not seem so manifestly unjust as it is.

But why should men or women desire to exalt the pittance of five hundred dollars above womanly influence, which latter is what the republic needs to make all the inhabitants thereof safer than they now are, and to render our government in reality what it has untruthfully proclaimed itself for so many years? If the ideal "freedom" of our government is to be merged at last into a government of the people by those who pay taxes on five hundred dollars or upwards, would it not be wisest first to deprive men who do not pay taxes of the privilege of voting, before this stigma of reproach is cast upon the many intelligent women who, from their very helplessness, under existing social and civil laws, cannot become property-owners?

Many of these women have spent, and others will spend, the best part of their lives in rearing soldiers for the republic, who can be mustered in solid phalanx whenever there is need. And if she does not usually carry a gun in time of war, there is not a single sphere of work within the ranks of armies which has not its counterpart in the ordinary life of women, from recruiting officer up to commander. She is the pioneer always in the overthrow of great evils; and builds up, by her heroic moral sentiment, fortifications against enemies, seen and unseen, which threaten the safety of the government. In moral heroism woman is certainly not inferior to man, and after all "spiritual is stronger than brute force." That is why, I suppose, she is left the "forlorn hope," whose business it is, under discouragement and defeat, to gather up the remnants of life's destructive warfare and silently bury them forever out of sight.

I believe with all my heart that it is right and just and safe to extend the elective franchise to women; but I would rather wait ten years yet to see our law-makers simply just, than to have any such farce enacted as the passage of House Bill No. 103, or anything like it. This I say with real gratitude to those members of the Legislature who by their votes expressed their sympathy with woman's cause. It is possible—nay, quite probable—that some members of the Council, as you suggest, had an appreciation of the manifest injustice of such a measure, which was the reason of their voting against it.

Money alone can never give to its possessor, man or woman, the intelligence or ability to vote wisely; otherwise the legal voter who, on account of his monied influence, was called out in a woman's rights convention to express his views, would have had something better to say than "I'm willin' the wimmin should vote if they want, but as for suffrin', I think they suffer enough now." Nevertheless, we can but admire the manifest directness and kindness of his remarks, and are quite in sympathy with his opinion.

Therefore, if there is to be any pretense made of aiding woman to get out of the rut of helpless, unpaid toil, which has always been the hardest feature of her lot, and which is wholly responsible for many evils she suffers, patiently and oftentimes ignominiously, let us have it in real substantial aid and not pretense only. But will not the acknowledged and able leader in this work throughout this region let us have her views in regard to limiting the elective franchise to tax-payers only?

G. E. E.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mallet established and edited the first daily paper in the world—in London, England, March, 1702.