The New Northwest.

FRIDAY.....JUNE 21, 1878.

GOING HOME.

Where are you going so fast, old man?
Where are you going so fast?
There's a valley to cross and a river to ford,
There's a clasp of the hand and a parting word,
And a tremulous sigh for the past, old man—
The beautiful, vanished past.

The road has been rugged and rough, old man,
To your feet it's rugged and rough;
But you see a dear being with gentle eyes
Has shared your labor and sacrifice,
Ah! that has been sunshine enough, old man!
For you and me, sunshine enough.

How long since you passed o'er the hill, old man,
Of life? o'er the top of the hill?
Were there beautiful valleys on the other side?
Were there flowers and trees, with their branches wide,
To shut off the heat of the sun, old man,
The heat of the fervid sun?

And how did you cross the waves, old man,
Of sorrow, the fearful waves?
Did you lay your dear treasures by, one by one,
With an aching heart, and "God's will be done,"
Under the wayside dust, old man,
In the grave 'neath the wayside dust?

There is sorrow and labor for all, old man;
Alas! there is sorrow for all;
And you, peradventure, have had your share,
For eighty long winters have whitened your hair,
And they've whitened your heart as well, old man!
Thank God, your heart as well.

You're now at the foot of the hill, old man;
At last at the foot of the hill.
The sun has gone down in the golden glow,
And the Heavenly City lies just below,
Go in through the pearly gate, old man—
The beautiful pearly gate.

Arguments

OF THE DELEGATES OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION, BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, JANUARY 11 AND 12, 1878.

MARY A. STEWART.

Mrs. Mary A. Stewart, of Delaware, said:

Honorable Gentlemen:—I have only a few words to say, my State being small, I being one of the "Blue Hen's" chickens. But as this thing seems to be unpopular, as the Senate seems to be afraid to touch the question, thinking it may break up a party, probably, I will say something in regard to the subject.

And what has Delaware done in the last ten or fifteen years? Prior to that time our laws were such that a Delaware woman was nothing more nor less than a slave. As one of our 'number not long since said of a colored domestic, "She was born a slave and so was I." When President Lincoln issued his proclamation, the slaves were all made free. I do not know that I am any more free for it, but I know I am just as well off without them as with them.

Senator Hill.—Better, I suppose?

Mrs. Stewart.—I suppose so. Prior to fifteen years ago, the male heir, the oldest male heir, had the right of succession to property. When the father died, the oldest male heir took the right of succession, and bought the home affairs for whatever they were worth; the rest of the family had to take what they could get, especially the females. That was the first law toward woman's rights, but it made a howl in our State. The man who introduced that bill didn't get any blessings from them.

Then the women concluded that they ought to have a right to hold the bonds, mortgages, stocks, etc., that their fathers had left them. So they went to the legislature and asked if a woman couldn't have the right. Of course we had to send a man to represent us, but I didn't like such representation. There was a woman, anyway, at the bottom of it, and she sent a man to the legislature to know if she could not hold the bonds and mortgages that she heired from her father. The legislature was ready to answer woman, and they passed a law that a woman should hold her bonds and mortgages and moneys and real estate as a married woman, but that she should not transfer them without the written consent of her husband, and she should not sell them.

Women were not satisfied with that. The next legislature they went with their sleeves rolled up, and said, "Now, here, we want this thing scrubbed right down to a fine point, and we don't want 'without his consent' put in." The legislature heard the appeal and gave them the law.

Then woman had no right to make her will. She could not even will her watch that her father gave her, and where it was to go after her death, she could not tell. Well, women concluded that they wanted to make a will—some of them did—and they went to the legislature to see if they could have the right to make a will, and the gentlemen listened. They gave her the right to make a will—"any married woman, after the passage of this act, shall have the right to make a will, provided she has the written consent of her husband with two responsible witnesses thereunto attached." My, oh, my! That was getting a thing done nice.

The law came out, and it was well they were all married before the passage of this law, and I said to them all, "You get married over again." I said, "Why do you want these 'two responsible witnesses?'" They don't want to bother around that way. The next legislature met, and the women went for them again. They went and asked if they could not be allowed to make a will. It was a small thing, and the legislature said, "Any married woman can make a will"—giving any *married* woman the right to make a will.

The next thing, we had one college in Delaware. It was shut up for a good while, and the ladies began to murmur. They didn't like to pay taxes and the money used upon the college, and then have the girls excluded. So they began to talk about it. It was not long before the ponderous jaws of the college were opened to women. Each member of the general assembly has the right to send one girl or boy free of expense. This is an excellent law to educate our poor voting population.

We have a great many divorces in our State. (Interrupted by a member of the committee). Never mind my friend from Delaware, he has never been troubled with a divorce. One poor woman went before the legislature and asked for a divorce. She had left her husband two years before. She had accumulated about $100 in the hands of her employer, and that vagabond of a husband laid an injunction upon that money and would not allow her to collect it; and the laws of the State of Delaware would not let her employer pay it to her, because she was her husband's slave, and nothing more, although she had been taking care of herself and children for two or three years. She came to me and asked me what to do do, and I said, "Get a divorce." She went before the legislature, and the legislature granted her a divorce at once, after considering her trials and what she had done. And I said, "Now, let the man pay the money and the other get it if he can; I will trust it to the bench." And she got it out of his hands, and the vagabond never troubled her. Then the legislature thought they must pass a law protecting that woman and all the women in the State. It was perfectly right. They passed a law, and the substance of it is this: "Any married woman leaving her husband and accumulating property during the separation shall hold said property, shall sue and be sued, shall give transfer-deeds, and hold bonds and mortgages, as they shall see fit."

But a little more legislation: "But if she returns to the said husband, the property accumulated shall go into his hands as though they never were separated—" very like as though they were hiring the woman to stay away. I told the general assembly she ought to stay away.

In ten or fifteen years we have made progress step by step, and what we want to-day is for you to give us the innocent ballot, that equalizes and levels without spilling blood.

Some say we do not know how to use the ballot. I say we are as competent to handle the ballot as the colored man when he got it; and I say this from personal experience and observation. Joe, a colored man in my employ, said to me, "Can I go to the polls?" I said, "Certainly, Joe, go to the polls;" and I said, "Joe, if they let you vote twice, do it, and if they won't let you vote once, come home." Joe went there, and he came home and he said he voted. He said "The Democrats poked a piece of paper at me, and I said, 'No, sir, I know what, I am doing.'" I said to Joe, "What did you do?" and he said he knew what he did; and I said, "Joe, what did you do?" He said he voted for the little piece of paper that he paid for; and I said, "Why, Joe, you voted your tax-receipt." I felt sorry for him—the first vote. Joe said, "I know what I paid for, and I voted it." He said he paid $2 50 or $2 75 for it.

And now, give us the ballot and we will have sense enough to vote what we pay for, and if we don't vote anything else, don't you blame us for it.

Some say that "we should be terribly put down," that we should be equalized with the negro; and some say that they cannot bear the idea of their wives going to the polls with the black man.

Passing through my native country, I happened to stop at one farmer's house, a well-to-do farmer. The subject of Woman Suffrage came up. Said I, "How are you on the subject?" He said he was opposed to it. I said I was sorry, and asked him why? "I never want my wife to go to the polls with a negro," was his reply. I said to his wife, "Sarah, who washes Dan's (the negro) clothes?" "I do," she said. "Who cooks Dan's victuals?" "I do," she said. "Who washes his dishes?" "I do," she said. I said, "It is peculiar you cannot go fifteen or twenty steps to the polls with a negro, then." And I turned to the husband and said, "What do you think of that for mixing?"

I think it is a base injustice upon your wives, sisters, and daughters to withhold the ballot. I do not claim the ballot as a right, but as justice. I want even-handed justice dealt out. We deserve it and we must have it. In 1871 I paid to the United States and State of Delaware, and all other taxes on mortgages, the sum of $345 45, and I never had a vote. I do not pretend to say that Congress is wrong; but upon the shores of a foreign land is a man that I do not know ever cast a ballot in the ballot-box in his life. He was born upon English soil, was proud of the English land, came into our State, and where do we see him next? He was not naturalized two years before he received a foreign appointment as consul to one of the islands, and your honorable Senate confirmed the appointment, and to-day he is resting in the downy nest you made for him.

Is that justice to me or any woman of the United States who calls herself a born woman of the soil? All we ask is that little piece of paper given in our hands that we may be equal with our fathers and brothers and sons. I am mother of four sons, every one of them voters, and, to the best of my knowledge, every one of them Democrats, and my son-in-law is a Democrat, and I am a Democrat, too. The first woman appointed to office in the United States was a Democrat, and he was a Democrat who appointed her. Now, why cannot the Democrats give us suffrage? The Southern men—who took care of their sons while they were lying in our prisons, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Rock Island, Fort Delaware, Elmira, Sandusky—your sons are as well acquainted with my handwriting in those forts as with their mothers'. There was never a fort or hospital closed against me. The President gave me permission. I helped the rebel because he came from the South; he was a boy away from home; he was disarmed; he was lying in our forts dying inch by inch. I was a mother; I had sons too young for the army, and out of the milk of human kindness I gave you my aid and comfort. Dare you say to me you cannot give me the ballot? Give it to me; it is all I ask.

[Continued next week.]

WOMEN.—Perhaps one reason why women bear affliction—as I believe they generally do—better than the men, is because they make no attempt to fly from the cause of it, but betake themselves patiently to the duties, however painful, which they are to perform. It is the old emblem of the reed and the oak. They bend, and therefore they are not broken; and then comes peace of mind, which is the fruit of resignation.—*Smithey's Life.*

George Eliot's face is long and pale, with a sensitive mouth. Her eyes are a vivid, warm, blue-gray, full of depth, now keenly perceptive, now dreamily introspective, always full of sadness. Her hair, worn low, gives a womanly effect to a finely intelligent forehead. Her general expression is that of a wearied sensitiveness.

Captain Bobstay, shrewd old fellow, calls a sneeze a head wind.

The pleasure of doing good is the only one that never wears out.

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HENRY WEBER, Executor.

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