The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....AUGUST 8, 1878.

HABIT.

Habit at first is but a silken thread,
Fine as the light-winged gossamers that sway
In the warm sunbeams of a summer's day;
A shallow streamlet, rippling o'er its bed;
A tiny sapling, ere its roots are spread;
A yet unhardened thorn upon the spray;
A lion's whelp that hath not scented prey;
A little smiling child obedient led.
Beware! that thread may bind thee as a chain;
That streamlet gather to a fatal sea;
That sapling spread into a gnarled tree;
That thorn, grown hard, may wound and give thee pain;
That playful whelp his murderous fangs reveal;
That child, a giant, crush thee 'neath his heel.

THE TIME TO DIE.

I would not die at noon; the din of men,
The sounds of sordid strife for earthly gain
Would grate too harshly on my spirit when
I strove to fix it in a heavenly strain.

I would not die at eve; the setting sun
Is sweet to those who pine for earthly sleep;
But I would wait to see a rising one,
And hope till soon to wake no more to weep.

And yet again: I would not die at night;
Its darkling gloom would here my spirit bind;
I would mid sunbeams take my heavenward flight,
Nor leave night's shades on those I left behind.

But, Savior, grant my weary soul
From earth may pass away
Just as the wings of night unfold
And brighten into day.

Arguments

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

SARA ANDREWS SPENCER,

In the capital of the United States, for seven long years a little band of women has been a constant, sleepless, ever-vigilant committee to defeat the licensing of the sale of American women and children to the men of the United States and the Old World, who annually gather here, determined to have their wine and women in peace and security under the shadow of our American flag. Again and again we have defeated that deadly St. Louis bill, that the capital of this fair nation should not have that stain upon its banner. Sixty days and nights, at last all night long, we sat and watched the District legislature, which had a clear majority in favor of the bill, but could not bring up a question so indelicate "while those women were there;" and then, at the last hour of the last night that any bill which passed could become a law, feeling that they must do something on the social question, they took up our substitute for the license bill, the girls' reform school bill, and passed it by one majority. The member who advocated it most strongly said to his wife, "I could not stand it, that woman in the black dress sitting there so still every day and night watching us and waiting to see if the girls' reform school bill would be brought up. I felt that I must get it off my conscience."

The girls' reform school bill committed to our custody the vagrant, outcast girls in the District of Columbia, who are brought from every part of the United States to serve the vices of men. But except the work-house, the station-house and the District jail, there was not a place of shelter for one of them or for one of their infants in all our seventy square miles. Since 1874, we have knocked annually at the door of Congress asking for buildings for a Model Girls' Reform School in Washington. The members of both your houses hear us with the utmost kindness. They say that in contrast to the general selfishness of men, it refreshes and does them good to hear women pleading for the wronged and hunted-down outcast. And then—they order the appropriation to put up the buildings at once? Oh, no! they have reared a Boys' Reform School at an expense of $100,000, and make annual appropriations of from $10,000 to $18,000 for its support. But for these girls it would not do. "Their constituents would not support the measure. Who would supply the places of the girls of the streets? Innocent girls would be ruined in vast numbers, for these places must be supplied. It is a Utopian scheme to undertake to do away with the social evil." And there the matter rests, and Congress declines to even help us to alleviate its horrors, and give the wretched victims a chance for escape. A boy, you see, steals a pocket-book from themselves or their constituents. He must be reformed. Now, the girl gets the pocket-book also, but in a more agreeable way. Let her stay where she is. Ladies, which way, think you, the dear ladies, wives and mothers of the constituents, would rather have their family pocket-book go? But it does not matter how they feel about it. They cannot help themselves. I know men whose children haven't any shoes, and who curse their wives when they ask for a dollar, who spend their money freely and the strength of their manhood recklessly on these vagrant girls.

But I ought to say, in justice to Congress, that the committee of the House of Representatives did take favorable action on our bill, and three times reported favorably to the House an appropriation, twice of $100,000, and the third time, last winter, $150,000. The first time, the friends of the bill, a majority of the House, were all in their seats, and prepared to defend it and take it through, but the chairman of the committee in charge had a measure involving, it is said, his own financial interests to carry first, upon which the House grew indignant, and adjourned at once. The second time there was a dead lock in both houses until it was too late to take the bill from the Speaker's table. The third time—for we dare not give it up when so many souls are at stake—last winter, just as our bill was to be brought up from the calendar, the chairman of the committee having it in charge disappeared from his seat in the House for three days, and we women, watching and waiting with aching hearts for the long-delayed measure of justice and humanity to be coined into law, were again doomed to cruel defeat. We had no representative on that floor. Gentlemen of both houses have told me that one woman's voice for twenty minutes on the floor of the House would have carried that bill.

But now the cruel desertions, the infant-murders, the arrests, trials and punishments of the victims of men go on, go on, and we, who would save these wretched girls from despair and crime, are helpless and hopeless only as we come to you for redress.

Nowhere in this land have women any security for the highest and holiest work of their hands, while they are absolutely subject to the caprice of irresponsible masters.

Men have reared in the United States seventy-two reform schools, mainly for boys, four for girls only, and fourteen with departments for girls, several of these in the same State.

Mrs. Hooker.—Two in Connecticut.

Mr. McMillan.—One in Minnesota.

Mrs. Spencer.—Yes, and two in Ohio.

Here and there you see they have provided for girls separately or admitted them, but a superintendent informed me it was in these latter cases that they might cook, wash, iron, and mend for the boys, and thus enable the boys to learn their trades quicker. The reformation of girls is a minor consideration, and they are seldom taught a lucrative trade.

There are only eleven States in the Union in which any State provision is made for the reformation of outcast girls. In twenty-seven States, not one dollar is expended from the public treasury to redeem girls who are peopling the country with criminals, and are themselves going down to terrible deaths, while millions of money are expended annually in hunting them down as criminals for child-murder, abortion and kindred crimes, rendered inevitable by the vices and cruel neglect of men.

On the other hand, twenty-six governors of States are interested in the reformation of boys, and in increasing the number of reformatories for these future citizens of the republic, who will soon claim their manly birthright, the ballot, and must be reformed for the safety of the State. The old plan of the station-house, the work-house, the jail, the prison, is good enough for girls. If they offend men, and will not submit to all the indignities heaped upon them, or have friendly (?) relatives interested in putting them out of sight, they are arrested, sometimes by their patrons of the night before, for soliciting vice, and, as men make laws to suit themselves, the sword of the law has but one edge, and that falls upon the neck of the girl. The man, her employer in vice, may only be arrested as a witness against her, so she is sure to be convicted, and he is equally sure to escape.

A poor woman came to me for help to secure possession of her child, a blooming girl of sixteen, who had been lured from her home by a young man whom the mother suspected of dishonorable intentions, and who had therefore been forbidden the house. An officer, one of your employes, gentlemen, for you have exclusive jurisdiction over this District, with a fine show of interest in the case, helped me to find her at a den of infamy frequented by the young men of the town. The friendly (?) representative of the law took the girl aside and said to her, "You need not go to your mother. Only swear that you are eighteen, and you can do as you please." "Oh, I know that; he told me so," she said, "but I can't swear to a lie. I am only sixteen. I went to the church record to see, for mother can't read, and it's there in the book. What will they do with me?"

"Why, I shall take you to the station-house now. You'll sleep there to-night, and to-morrow you'll be tried before the police court, and probably will be sent to the work-house. Harry over there will testify that you have been with him in this den for over a week. We have him arrested for a witness. So you see you had better swear you are eighteen, so your mother can't control you, nor anybody else, and the case will drop."

"Oh, Harry will never do that," she said. "He wouldn't testify against me. I left my home for him, and now I am ruined and haven't a friend in the world."

"Oh, yes: lots of girls have left home for him. He's a gay fellow, but they don't mostly take on as you do. When a girl begins to go down, she goes with a rush."

He took her to the station-house. Her case was called at ten the next morning, and the young rake appeared smiling in the witness-box. He gave his testimony against her glibly, and laughed as the wretched girl dropped, with a sob and a groan, at the sound of his voice. As there was no place of shelter for her in Washington, at our request she was sentenced, not to the work-house, but to an institution in Baltimore, which begs its subsistence from private charity. Need we wonder that desperate girls in this District and everywhere so madly plunge from betrayed innocence to the seething maelstrom of corruption? Men are their lovers, men their counselors, men their law-makers, judges and executioners.

[Continued next week.]

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association met in London June 10th. The executive committee reported the income for the year to be £3,700, nearly double that of 1876. This Association keeps up an active correspondence with the Unitarian associations on the continent of Europe. One of the resolutions adopted declares that the "Association cannot consider the great work of liberal reformation complete so long as any vestige remains of civil privilege on account of religious beliefs, whether in regard to endowments or fellowships in the chief national universities, or the allowed teaching of denominational creeds in schools supported in whole or in part by public money, or the national maintenance of public worship in connection with any favored church or religious sect."

AN APPALLING CURSE.—Carefully prepared statistics show that there are over six hundred thousand drunkards in the United States, and that seventy thousand die annually who go to the grave of a drunkard. Every year one hundred thousand men and women are sent to prison under the influence of liquor, while three hundred murders and four hundred suicides occur from the same cause. Two hundred thousand orphans are annually thrown upon the charity of the world by this curse of intemperance. Nine-tenths of our crime, and not less than seven-eights of our pauperism, is the immediate result of whisky, and that at a cost to the government—besides individual want—of not less than $60,000,000 per year.

Assistant Secretary Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected to the position left vacant by Professor Henry.

The individual who called tight boots comfortable, defended his position by saying they made a man forget all his other miseries.

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Other parties desiring to act as Agents will please forward their names. We want Agents at every post-office throughout Oregon and Washington Territory.

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The Law of Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

2. If any subscribers order the discontinuance of their newspapers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their newspapers from the offices to which they are directed, the law holds them responsible until they have settled the bills, and ordered them discontinued.

4. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publisher, and the newspapers are sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

5. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers from the office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

6. The postmaster who neglects to give the legal notice of the neglect of a person to take from the office the newspapers addressed to him, is liable to the publisher for the subscription price.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE undersigned administrator of the estate of Alvis Ruff, that all creditors and all persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same with necessary and proper vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice, to the undersigned administrator of the said estate, at the office of O. P. Mason, attorney-at-law, Odd Fellows' Temple, Portland, Oregon. And all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the said estate will please come forward and settle the same.

CHARLES DIETL,
July 12, 1878. Administrator.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT GEO. C. Sears, Administrator of the estate of George Potts, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the county of Multnomah, and that the judge thereof has fixed the 2d day of September, 1878, as the time for hearing objections and the allowance and settlement of the same.

GEORGE C. SEARS,
August 1. Administrator.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CHAS. B. Bartel, Administrator of the estate of Richard Nicol, deceased, has filed his final account, and that the County Court of the State of Oregon has fixed the 2d day of September, 1878, at the hour of 10 A. M. thereof, as the time for hearing objections and the allowance and settlement of the same.

CHARLES B. BARTEL,
August 1. Administrator.

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WILL PRACTICE IN THE DISTRICT AND United States Courts. 6-35

MISCELLANEOUS.

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