The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....OCTOBER 10, 1878.

LIFE'S WEST WINDOWS.

We stand at life's west windows,
And think of the days that are gone;
Remembering the coming sunset,
We, too, must remember the morn;
But the sun will set, the day will close,
And an end will come to all our woes.

As we watch from the western casements,
Recalling our happy youth,
We mourn for its vanished promise
Of honor, ambition, and truth;
But hopes will fail and pride decay,
When we think how soon we must away.

We stand at life's west windows,
And turn not sadly away
To watch on our children's faces
The noonide of sparkling day;
But our sun must set, our lips grow dumb,
And we look from our windows our children come.

Still looking from life's west windows;
And we know we would not again
Look forth from the eastern lattice,
And live over all life's pain;
Though life's sunlight be brilliant, its sunset is sweet,
Since it brings longed-for rest to our weary feet.
—[Household.

No Mercy for Women.

One of the reasons alleged by Mr. John Bright against giving votes to women was that "with regard to punishments there is much greater moderation and mercy dealt out to women than to men." As a commentary on this extraordinary assertion, we will take two cases which have occurred within the past few weeks. At the Liverpool Assizes on July 29th, a woman named Ellen Harrigan was charged with the murder of her twin daughters, infants only a fortnight old. The counsel for the prosecution said this case seemed to be one of the saddest that had ever come within his experience. The woman had been deserted by the father of the children, and left utterly destitute. She went to the work-house to be confined. At the end of a fortnight she left the work-house, taking the babies with her. Then, weakened by her condition and absolutely destitute, the unhappy mother put them into the water. When charged with murder, she cried: "I wish to tell the truth and plead for mercy. It was poverty and not cruelty that made me drown my children. I remained in the field crying all night. I have cried about my children every day since. I was destitute. I had no home, or bed to lie on."

Now, had this poor woman been Thomas Harlew, blacksmith's striker, who, at Chester Assizes a short time ago, was proved to have struck his wife on the head and killed her on the spot because she refused to give him twopence to buy beer, she might have had a chance for the same "moderation and mercy" which was extended to the man—first by the jury reducing the killing to man-slaughter, on account of the "provocation" received; next by the judge, in the sentence of fifteen months' imprisonment for the offense of killing a wife. But Ellen Harrigan—not being a male, vigorous blacksmith, but only a destitute woman, weakened by illness, and distracted in her mind—was evidently no subject for such merciful consideration. The jury found her guilty of "willful murder," and Lord Chief Justice Cockburn had no alternative but to pass a sentence of death. In doing so, he said he would add his own recommendation to mercy to that of the jury, and we may assume that the unhappy woman will not be hanged. Nevertheless, the law condemned the woman, and the woman only, while the greatest criminal escaped. The counsel for the prisoner pointed out that the "true culprit" was the man M'Loughlin. He had left his children and their mother to perish of want, and it was this condition of destitution which led to the crime. This is no legal offense on the part of the man, and he cannot be made liable to any punishment at all.

A very similar case was revealed at an inquest held in August, in Bury, on the body of Annie Riley, an infant nine months old. The mother, Ellen Riley, a poor widow, had been left in great want by the father of the child, with whom she had been living. She was unable to pay for her lodgings and she had no food. She went to the relieving office at Elton, and he told her to come next day, as that was not the day for new applications. Being thus turned away, she found herself in such a state of destitution that she went into a reservoir to drown herself and the child. After going into the water, she became horrified and scrambled out, but could go no further. A verdict of "willful murder" was returned.

Can it be said that women have all the rights they want when, in a so-called Christian land, men who have wronged and deserted them are never called to account, while they are left to choose between the work-house, the grave, the scaffold or the convict's cell?

We venture to suggest to the commissioners who are preparing the revised criminal code to consider whether, since "provocation" is held to be a sufficient cause to reduce the crime of killing a woman—especially a wife—from murder to manslaughter, a provision might not be introduced to render "destitution" available as a similar plea when a deserted and starving mother seeks shelter in the grave for her offspring or herself from the over-powering misery of their lot.

At present such despairing women, more sinned against that sinning, are classified with criminals of the deepest dye. They are put in the same category with the ruffian who deliberately plots to murder the man whose gold he covets or the woman who has loved and trusted him—a classification revolting alike to humanity, justice and truth.

At Dundee, on August 21, a young man named Maclean was fined £5, or a month's imprisonment, for fixing a chain round his wife's neck, and fastening her by means of the chain and a padlock to the floor of a room. The unhappy woman was discovered in this condition by the police, who entered the house on information given by the neighbors. The woman was unable to rise, and had been chained in a crouching position for more than twenty-four hours.

Had the victim of this outrage been a man, or even a woman other than the assailant's wife, this sentence would hardly have been considered an adequate measure of the reprobation due to the offense. We fear that something of the principle which is said to prevail among the Caffres, where crimes against women have been held to be no crimes, because the women were the property of the men by whom the crimes were committed, must on this occasion have influenced the decision of the judicial authorities of Dundee.—*Women's Suffrage Journal.*

Mr. Troy Dye turns out to have been, at one time, the superintendent of a Sunday school, a man of exemplary piety and religious life. He then became a butcher, then a saloon-keeper, then an office-holder, and finally a murderer. His course has been ever onward and upward. Young man, begin at the bottom of the ladder.—*Argonaut.*

The Detroit *Post* has discovered that bay windows make good harbors for little smacks.

Who Will Support You?

"Do I understand that you wish to procure more rights, privileges, and freedom for women?" asked a jovial, good-hearted, honest old gentleman, when the subject of equal rights for women was mentioned in his hearing. "Well, that is too comical. You are supported in ease and comfort; you go where you wish, say what you please, and do little else than gad and gossip. That may be hard work, but I take it, if you had to go through the hard, cold, rough-and-tumble life of the world, as men have, you would soon wish yourselves back in your present snug quarters."

A new idea seemed to enter his mind at this point, and he exclaimed: "Who will support you when you get your rights?" He evidently thought that would settle the question, for he laughed long and loud.

"We will support ourselves, as women are doing now."

"Support yourselves. My wife would make a pretty one at supporting herself. Do you think she could have kept herself and made such a good home as this? Where is the woman that can do it? I began life as a mechanic, worked for two dollars and a half a day, kept my wife and family on that until we had five children, and laid up money enough to buy a little house, that saved paying rent. After that I made money fast, and now I have more than we need to keep us."

"Suppose your wife had done nothing, as would have been the case if you had supported her, could you, out of your fifteen dollars a week, have kept your family? If you had paid for the cooking, baking, washing, ironing, sweeping, dusting, making and mending of clothes, would your wages have kept you, your wife, and five children as comfortably as you have lived, and enabled you to lay by a little each year?"

"Certainly not, certainly not; thirty dollars a week would not have done it."

"Then your wife made the extra fifteen dollars by her hard work and economy. She came almost as near supporting you as you did supporting her, did she not?"

"Yes, I guess so," he answered, with considerable less glee than he had manifested in the first of his conversation.

This was not an opinion peculiar to this gentleman. The belief is almost universal among men that women are supported by them; that the money is earned by men, and should be owned by them. And with no intention of wrong, they keep all the money and give it out to their wives to buy that which is needed for their mutual comfort only when the wife asks for it.

These erroneous views have done much injury to both men and women, by causing much unhappiness in the family. Husband and wife, having equal interest in the welfare of the family, should be equal in this matter. As it is, the wife is a dependent on the bounty of the husband, and a dependent necessarily occupies an inferior position. Though love may take much of the sting away, yet it is a position no high-minded, noble-souled human being should be compelled to occupy. It takes away self-respect, self-appreciation, independence, and freedom of thought and action.

Many times honorable women have been compelled to resort to dishonorable means to obtain that which was actually their own; cajoling and fawning, and even taking by stealth from the pockets of their husbands that which they could get in no other way. A fruitful source of unhappiness and evil this, and the sooner the public can rid itself of these false ideas, the better for all concerned.

That women can support themselves can very easily be proven. Let women be true to themselves, true to the high, free, independent nature God gave them; let them assert their individual rights, not in an arrogant, overbearing, unpleasant manner, but as true women should, and men will love and respect them much more than if they cringingly submit to wrong. The support will be all right when women decide it shall be.—*Matilda Hindman, in Denver Union.*

No Drawback for Her.—An Austin young lady, in a discussion of the marriage question, thus expressed herself: "Well, no, I don't know as I'd marry for money alone, but if a man had plenty of money, allied to a sweet disposition, and a moustache that curled at both ends, and nice blue eyes, and a respectable profession, and his father was rich, and his mother and sister aristocrats, and he wanted to marry me, and would promise to let me have my own way in everything, and to keep me liberally supplied with coin, and have a nice furnished house with a big piano in it, and would give me two diamond rings, and pay my dry goods, milliner's and dressmaker's bills without grumbling, and I really and truly loved him, I wouldn't consider his money any drawback to the match."

When people see a tall man at a church sociable sitting on a low hassock and trying to hold a plate of cake, a saucer of ice cream and a cup of coffee in his lap, they knit their brows and think there is a mistake somewhere, and that a young man's knees should have been made like a beaver's tail, flat as a shingle, eight inches wide, and turned flat side up.

Being asked at one of his meetings whom he meant by "Uranus," to whom he alluded, Mr. Kearney replied: "You polluted thafe and vampyre! Uranus, or O'Ranus, which was his rale name, was wan of the ould Kings of Ireland!"

A wag, who thought to have a joke at the expense of an Irish provision dealer, said: "Can you supply me with a yard of pork?" "Pat," said the dealer to his assistant, "give this gentleman three feet of a pig."

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE undersigned has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Martha Kaiser, deceased; and all persons having claims and demands against said estate are required to prove and present the same within six months from this date. ANDREW KAISER, Administrator.

September 17, 1878.

JNO. M. DALY,

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