

Mrs. Duniway's Response.

Responding to Mr. Myers' address, Mrs. Duniway spoke in part:

To say in cold words that I feel deeply moved in making this response to the first invitation to accept the honors of a special day ever yet accorded by the official management of any international exposition to any living woman, not a potentate, but feebly expresses my emotion and gratitude. And, in accepting this testimonial to the humble and earnest efforts I have made during the past three and a half decades on behalf of the women of old Oregon, whose organization along the lines of progress are now numbered by scores, I realize anew the fitness of our decision that this testimonial, ostensibly in my behalf, belongs of right to all women—yes, and all men (for we will never forget our fathers, husbands, brothers and sons)—without whose assistance and co-operation nothing of which I have had the honor to be a forerunner could possibly have been accomplished.

Forty years ago there was not, to my knowledge (outside of a few women's auxiliaries to various benevolent and secret societies, for most of which the women would prepare annual banquets and then retire to an anteroom while the products of their culinary skill were being eaten and the remains of the feast presided over post-prandially while the said auxiliaries washed the dishes), any organization, consisting primarily of women in any part of this Oregon domain. While I do not wish to be understood as entirely favoring any organization composed of men alone, or of women alone, whether it be a prayer meeting or a National Government, a rummage sale or an international exposition, I do wish to emphasize the fact that women's organizations today are equal in numbers, if not per capita (they certainly are not in financial power), to the organizations of men. And, although most of these associations of women—all, indeed, except the Equal Suffrage Association, the original Alma Mater of them all, have combined to further different lines of effort in which the enfranchisement of their sex was expected to have no part, you can all judge that it is exceedingly gratifying to me to emphasize the fact that today they are all combined, as with the voice of one, in a womanly and honorable demand that the men by a large majority shall be moved to hearken to their plea that the locked doors of state constitutions shall be opened wide, permitting them to enter or not, as they themselves shall from time to time elect, to share equally with the aforesaid fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, the duties, responsibilities and

privileges of a free, untrammelled citizenship. I need not remind you that Idaho, youngest daughter of old Oregon, is represented here today by her radiant daughters, who are already crowned with the insignia of Liberty, which we are looking expectantly to you, men and brethren of the mother state, to bestow upon us at the state election in the coming June.

Not only are the women of Oregon appealing to you to grant us this boon, but the women of the entire Nation, by many tens of thousands strong, are joining us in the appeal, all of whom are looking expectantly to the broad-brained, big-hearted men of this mighty state, in the midst of whose splendid achievements we are so proudly standing in these enchanted grounds today by your generous invitation, to arise in the majesty of your patriotism and chivalry and swing wide the doors to our joint inheritance, leaving us to choose, of our own free will, whether or not we will accept the opportunities which have already been extended by men to our sisters, not only in Idaho, but in Wyoming, Utah and Colo-

Never again can any man truthfully say to us that he withholds the right of citizenship from us because we do not ask for it. The women of the state in their different organizations and auxiliaries have already appealed to you by many thousands, representing a greater majority than any set of men who have yet voted us down, to swing open the doors, to span the chasm that now separates us in the bridge of liberty; and, as I again repeat, leave the choice to us at every coming election as to whether or not we are willing to embrace our opportunities. The women, not only of the four states of our Union just mentioned, but of many foreign countries are already in possession of the elective franchise.

Australia is watching you, the men of Oregon, from her ocean-girded shores, where the women enjoy, equally with their brothers, the full endowments of citizenship. It is a far cry from Australia and New Zealand to America, and a still farther cry to India. But even in India the women of the zenanas are watching the outcome of the pending battle of ballots in this historic state of Oregon. The more enlightened women of the Hawaiian Isles and the Philippines and Japan are also watching and waiting for the glad tidings of citizenship that await the women of Oregon, when the present electors shall have arisen in their might and declared through the still small voice of the ballot that their wives and mothers are, and of right ought to be, free and equal with themselves before the law.

I believe, as I address the honorable gentlemen, the official managers of this great international Exposition, by whose courtesy we are here assembled, that through your heroic, manly and chivalrous action at the ballot-box next June, you will, in extending to Oregon's pioneer women the right of suffrage, lay the foundation for an exposition on these grounds one hundred years from now in which your deeds of moral chivalry and patriotic valor shall eclipse in spiritual power and enlightened importance the more exploits of Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Sacajawea, John McLoughlin and the founders of the Provisional Government, in whom have had their days in this great international Exposition, all of which have foreshadowed this historic day in honor of the pioneer women of old Oregon, of whom your humble, but pleased and happy respondent, is but one.