

Woman's Tribune.

"EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW."

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ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

Few people come during their lifetime to such a measure of public honor and appreciation as has Mrs. Duniway during this commemoration season of the Northwest. As a pioneer of old Oregon, Mrs. Duniway has had a large participation in reunions. The holding of the National Woman Suffrage Convention was the realization of a long-cherished hope, and full honor was accorded her on this occasion. The crowning event of the year was the naming of a day at the Exposition for her and the rallying of her friends around her at that time.

Abigail Scott was born in Pleasant Grove, Illinois, October 22, 1834, and came with her parents and their large family to Oregon in 1852. The story of the journey across the plains and the death of her mother on the way are pathetically told in Mrs. Duniway's new book, "From the West to the West." Teachers were at a premium in Oregon in the fifties, and Abigail Scott at once took a place in the educational field. She married early, but her husband was much of the time an invalid, and Mrs. Duniway aided in the support of her children by literary and platform work. She is the mother of five sons, all occupying positions of honor in the professional world. The great grief which brought the lines of time too early to the strong face was the loss of her daughter in the full promise of a gracious womanhood.

Mrs. Duniway for many years edited and published in Portland "The New Northwest" and made it pay, which fact is unique in woman-suffrage journalism. She was aided in the mechanical and business part by her children in school intervals, and the price of the paper was \$3.00 per annum. Papers were fewer in those days and the Northwest was prosperous and generous. Later, Mrs. Duniway edited a paper published by Miss Frances E. Gotshall, "The Pacific Empire," but on account of the long and fatal illness of her husband, could not give it the needed attention, and after two years the paper was merged into one of a literary character.

Mrs. Duniway is a forceful, logical platform orator, with a touch of sarcasm and a dash of humor that make her arguments effective. As an impromptu speaker she has few equals. There are few corners in the Northwest where in olden days her voice has not been heard pleading for the enfranchisement of woman. Of late she has taken a prominent part in the Woman's Club and other organizations of women, but whenever Mrs. Duniway speaks she sends the arrow home to its mark by showing the need of the ballot in woman's hands. Twice before her hopes have been raised high in anticipating that the men of Oregon would justify her faith in them and enfranchise the women of the state. Surely in this campaign she will not be disappointed. If every one who has said a word of appreciation for Mrs. Duniway will show his sincerity by striving to

the utmost to remove from her and her sex the degradation of disfranchisement, the success of the woman suffrage amendment next June will place Oregon fifth in the roll of equal suffrage states. May many years be granted to Abigail Scott Duniway to enjoy the blessings of liberty and the self-respect which belongs to the adult citizen who knows he is counted as a factor in building the government under which he lives.

ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY DAY.

October 6 was not only John McLoughlin day at the Lewis and Clark Fair in honor of the grand old pioneer who held the Northwest for commerce and paved the way for settlers of the soil and family life, but it was a day in which a woman was honored as embodying in high degree the qualities of the pioneer wives and mothers who had an equal share in the settlement of Old Oregon. In choosing Mrs. Duniway as the representative of her sex, it is not presumption to claim that it was the intention of the Exposition management to declare itself in favor of equal rights for the women of Oregon, for this is what Mrs. Duniway's life and work stand for. This was made especially plain in the remarks by President Myers. The whole arrangements for the reception were under the charge of Mrs. C. M. Cartwright, president of the Pioneer Women's Association.

The Oregon Building, the spacious women's room upstairs, the large assembly hall on the first floor and the verandahs were thronged to their utmost capacity, the time of waiting for place in line being beguiled by the sweet music of De Carlo's Band. The guests were introduced to Mrs. Duniway by Mrs. Henry Waldo Coe, president of the State Equal Suffrage Association, and next in line stood Mrs. Chamberlain, wife of the Governor of Oregon. Back of the line were Mrs. Coburn, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Cook, sisters of Mrs. Duniway, and the attractive children of her sons, three of whom were present, as also was Mr. Harvey Scott, editor and proprietor of the Oregonian, Mrs. Duniway's brother. Two of Mrs. Duniway's sons, professors in Stanford University and New York could not be present. Assisting in the arrangements were Mrs. M. A. Dalton, Mrs. Sarah A. Evans and others, while Dr. Luema G. Johnson marshaled the large host of willing assistants in the tea room.

President Myers' Remarks.

"I have been requested to say something in an address of welcome on behalf of one of the greatest living pioneers of this state, and a member of one of the greatest families of noted pioneers Oregon has ever had. Her name is known to every man, woman and child in the Northwest Territory.

"The pioneer mother whom I am going to introduce was only a small girl when

she came to the Pacific Coast. The trip which she made at that early age with the ox team was one of the greatest undertakings in the history of our country. It was a very unfortunate one in her case, for, when perhaps half way across the plains, her mother died, and she thereby lost her greatest strength and support. After she reached this coast she almost immediately began to be prominent, and she was among the early teachers trying to do good in educating the young of the pioneer community. Married at an early age, we hear of her cares and struggles in rearing her family. This family is before the people of this country, and the success of each of its members is a crowning glory in the life of this good woman.

"Farther along in her history she was the head of the first woman's paper published in this territory, advocating and supporting the rights of her sex. Here, it seems to me, is the great struggle in the history of this pioneer, and something that should be respected by every woman in our country. She is determined in this effort to place her sex on an equality with the other, blazing a pathway, and then preparing a road by which they may earn for themselves an independent way, and asking that they be granted every consideration that any other citizen has. The principles advocated by this pioneer are just; they are right. She is asking that brains, independence, honor and industry should share equally under a just and considerate government. I congratulate her on the success of this undertaking, and her example for young women who are supporting themselves by their own means is the right principle of success for every good American citizen, believing as I do that no person has a right to anything in this world unless they exercise some industry, independence and power to procure it.

"In conclusion, I hope that we shall honor and respect this, the day of one of our greatest pioneers, Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, and that here may begin hereafter that the pioneer mother was a great factor in procuring this vast domain to the United States. I hope not many years may elapse until there may be erected to the noble pioneer mothers a suitable monument to tell the world what they have done for the men and women who will live after they have all gone to their eternal rest."

Mrs. Duniway's Response.

"To say in cold words that I feel deeply moved but feebly expresses my emotion. In accepting this testimonial to the earnest efforts I have made during the past three and a half decades on behalf of the women of Old Oregon, whose organizations 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 organizations consisting primarily of women in any part of Oregon. While I do not wish to be understood as 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

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ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY DAY.

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no part, 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 emoluments 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 enlivened grounds today by your gracious 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 Colorado.

"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 appeared 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-girdled shores, where women enjoy, equally with their brothers, the full endowment of citizenship; it is a far cry from Australia and New Zealand to America, and 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 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 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 mighty exploits of Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Sacajawea, Dr. John McLoughlin and the founders of the Provisional Government, all of 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 bright and happy respondents, is but one."