

**The Wives of the Toilers.**

"Wear your poor clothes or you can not get near the farmers' wives."—Mrs. W. E. Andrews to the Minden republican ladies.

Oh must the wives of those who toil  
To raise the world its bread,  
By whose productive work the world  
Must be forever fed,  
Be ever clad in clothes so cheap,  
So old and out of date,  
They bring on idlers' faces fair  
The sneers of scorn and hate?

And must the wives of those who toil  
To keep the world in clothes  
See ever just outside the door  
Gaunt hunger's wolfish nose,  
While wives of haughty idlers fear  
Their plump forms to compare  
With pinched and hungry weary ones  
Who made the clothes they wear?

Not so, not so; we read the sign;  
Justice is in the air.

The sons of toil now rising up,  
Here, there and everywhere,  
Claim theirs alone "by right divine:"  
The wealth which they create;  
And ask that means for free exchange  
Be furnished by the state:

Demanding equal rights to all  
And favors shown to none,  
That the products of the tolling nine  
Go not to the idle one.  
And when that glorious time shall come  
And labor has his own"  
Wives of the idlers by poor clothes  
And hunger shall be known.

—MRS. J. T. KELLIE.

**A Coming Man.**

Although election is over and campaign speeches are somewhat stale, we feel that many will be interested in the following report. Hon. W. F. Porter is one of the coming men in the reform movement. Although the republicans carried his county for Crouse by 81 and for Meiklejohn by 161, Porter was re-elected by 176 plurality. This debate doubtless had something to do with the results.—[EDITOR.]

CLARKS, Neb., Nov. 7, 1892

The first political debate held in Merrick county this fall took place at the court house in Central City on Saturday evening, November 5th, between Charles Wooster of Silver Creek, who represented the republicans and Hon. W. F. Porter of independent candidate for re-election to the legislature. Mr. Porter early in the campaign challenged his opponents for a series of joint debates. Failing in this he threw out a challenge to any republican in Merrick or Nance counties (the home of Meiklejohn.) At the last hour they accepted his challenge and with short time for advertising thought to run in the republican clubs from all over the county and have things their own way. Mr. Wooster is the gentleman of farmers' alliance and Omaha Bee fame, and it was thought with his venomous slanders and withering sarcasm he would annihilate his beardless boy opponent in short order. Mr. Porter never having before participated in a joint discussion. Mr. Wooster had one hour to open the debate and fifteen minutes to close. The challenge was to discuss issues, but he spent his full time in denouncing the independent members of the last legislature, calling them anarchists, revolutionists, thieves, perjurers, ignoramuses, suckers, and other pet names too numerous to mention. He paid especial attention to the extravagance of the last legislature, and to the prominent part taken by Mr. Porter in all of its actions, and closed by saying that if his opponent had his dues, he would not be in a position for the people to elect him to any office. When he sat down a howl of approval went up from the throats of the rock-ribbed republicans, who considered the victory won. It is in order to say right here that the court room in which the meeting was held, was packed to its utmost capacity, standing room being at a premium. Mr. Porter was then introduced, and when his tall form appeared the audience broke loose into wild cheering which lasted for several minutes. When quiet was again restored he began his address by apologizing to the audience for his emerity in meeting so distinguished a personage as his opponent. Then followed a speech of one hour and fifteen

present, especially his adversaries. It was evident from the start he was master of the situation. He refrained from personalities towards his mud-slinging opponent, and spent the first forty-five minutes of his time in replying to his opponent's attacks on his record and the extravagance of the last legislature. Step by step he met and refuted each charge of his adversary. He proved by the session laws, that the last legislature was not extravagant, but on the contrary they had saved to the people of the state over \$100,000 as compared to the preceding legislature, notwithstanding the fact that the population of the state had increased twenty per cent.

Mr. Porter then stated that he would use the rest of his time in discussing issues, and in going over the past record of the g. o. p. of which they were so fond of boasting. Beginning with the exception clause on the greenback in '62, followed up by the national banking act of '63, Mr. Porter discussed these acts and the effect they had on the toiling millions with a readiness and force of logic that convinced his hearer that he was not a novice at the business. He followed up each subsequent act of legislation on finance down to the infamous resumption act of '75, showing how they one and all were in the interest of the bondholder and against the people. He then took up the free coinage question and in less than ten minutes convinced every unprejudiced mind in the house that free coinage of silver would be beneficial to every class of producers and business men. Mr. Porter closed with a glowing tribute to the patriotism of the independents eulogizing the flag and their loyalty to the constitution. He said it came with poor grace from the republicans to call men anarchists, because they exercised the right conferred on them by the constitution, of free speech, and had the moral courage to denounce existing evil. It might do in despotic Russia, but not in free America. That so long as God gave him strength he would not cease to lift up his voice in protest, until these wrongs were righted, and a system under which the rich were growing richer and the poor poorer, was swept from the face of our otherwise fair country.

When Mr. Porter took his seat a perfect storm of applause went up from every part of the room which fairly shook the rafters of the building. Pandemonium reigned, old men shouted themselves hoarse, ladies waived their handkerchiefs and many democrats and republicans (forgetting for the time that they were such) unable to restrain their admiration for the matchless eloquence of Merrick county's young farmer statesman, joined in the deafening applause. When order again prevailed, Mr. Wooster again turned his little twenty-two caliber mud gun loose, not touching a single issue. He admitted that Mr. Porter handled the finance question, which had confounded our wisest statesmen, with an ease and familiarity that would do credit to a candidate for the United States senate, instead of the legislature, which remarks caused the independents to smile. They had heard Mr. Porter before; not so Mr. Wooster.

When the meeting adjourned scores of men and ladies, representing every political party rushed forward to shake the hands of the man who met aphorically speaking had literally wiped the floor with his slanderous opponent. Three cheers were proposed for Porter and again the roof of the court house trembled. Then a drunken republican who had filled up with republican enthusiasm until he did not realize that they were not in it, proposed three cheers for Keyes, the republican candidate for representative, and the only response was a maudlin wail from his own throat. Again the independents smiled as they thought how many moons would wax and wane before a republican would again be found who would have the fool-hardiness to cross swords with Merrick county's eloquent young representative.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

A Japanese pianist has made her debut in San Francisco and is coming East.

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