

THE PIONEER SUFFRAGIST

UNLIKE most pioneers, Belva A. Lockwood, who died in Washington on May 19, lived to witness the triumph of the cause to which she devoted much of her life. Woman suffrage a generation ago was little more than the butt of paragraphs, but Mrs. Lockwood lived to see not only women voting, but a woman Congressman in Washington. She was the first woman lawyer to be admitted to practise before the Supreme Court of the United States. Says the *New York Times*:

Mrs. Lockwood has herself told the anecdote of how she became one of the first women in this country to fight for equal rights. A widow at twenty-four years of age, with a child, she was teaching school in her native town, Royalton, N. Y., at a salary of \$3 a week. Men teachers, doing the same work, were getting twice as much or more.

"I kicked to the school trustees," she said. "I went to the wife of the Methodist minister. The answer I got opened my eyes and raised my dander. She said, 'I can't help you; you can not help yourself, for it is the way of the world.'"

The then apparent helplessness of woman's cause so aroused Mrs. Lockwood that she fought for more than fifty years against the exclusion of women from rights which men enjoyed. She fortified herself with a collegiate education at Genesee College in the days when higher education was rare among women, and for successive periods was preceptress of seminaries at Lockport, Gainesville, and Oswego, N. Y.

The most striking incident of her career then came, in 1884, with nomination by the Equal Rights party of the Pacific slope as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The nomination was renewed by the same party meeting in Iowa four years later.

In 1889 she was a delegate of the Universal Peace Union to the International Peace Congress in Paris, and again in 1890 to the congress at London, where she presented papers on arbitration and disarmament. She lectured throughout the country and until her last days maintained her law office in Washington.