

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL,
of the City of Portland, Oregon.

Gentlemen:-

We, your Committee appointed at an informal meeting
to draft resolutions appropriate to the memory of Sylvester
Pennoyer, formerly Mayor of this City, respectfully submit the
following:

W. T. Branch
F. A. Nichols.
Earl C. Bonaugh

IN MEMORIAM.

Sylvester Pennoyer was born on the 6th day of July, 1831, in the village of Groton, New York. Both of his parents were natives of New York and it is reasonable to believe that he inherited the strong democratic views of government and the constant anxiety for the welfare of the people and the perpetuity of the Republic which characterized his life. His people were in moderate circumstances and while he was taught the importance of thrift, industry and frugal living, he also received fair educational advantages. He was taught the power of knowledge and his mind was disciplined to study and achievement. In 1853 he entered the Law Department of Harvard College and in 1855 he came to Oregon. The latter event is an index to his character. There is something significant in a young man raised amid the associations and influenced by the civilization and conservatism of New England at that time, coming from the alluring companionship of college life to a frontier state where patience, courage and industry were essential in gaining the simple necessities of living. To these qualities he added others. He possessed genial manners, a mind capable of understanding the affairs of men, keen in the solution of community problems and apt in application. He appreciated the resources of a new country and immediately applied himself with commendable zeal to the duties of a citizen. He taught school and continued his law studies until he was admitted to the bar. He engaged in business and was successful. He employed many men and was always

deeply interested in the questions of wages, hours of employment and all the principles of domestic economics which affect the happiness and progress of the wage earning class.

His political career forms one of the most interesting chapters in Oregon history. He was elected Governor in 1886 and re-elected in 1890 and served for eight consecutive years. He was elected Mayor of Portland in 1896 and served from July 1st of that year to July 1st, 1898. His official acts both as Governor of the State and Mayor of the City were marked by his strong convictions concerning policies of government. He was honest as all believe who knew him. He was persistent and fearless even to the border of eccentricity. He made political enemies among those who differed from his views of public affairs but no man of liberal culture permitted such enmity to deprive him of the genial companionship of Sylvester Pennoyer as a citizen. His public acts and utterances which shall live longest in the hearts and minds of the people are those which give expression to his broad human sympathy for those who toil or suffer. It was the humanity in him that made him the friend of the poor, a sympathizer with those who were afflicted or in trouble, and the advocate of the toiler, and it will now endear his memory in the hearts of the people in this state. His public life is a part of Oregon history. It is the honorable record of an honest, fearless and capable man influenced only by his conceptions of public policy and the ethics which should govern the acts of a public official in the positions he filled.

His life as a citizen was most exemplary. The messenger of Death at times entered his home and his heart was filled with sorrows but he never lost faith in the rulings of an All-wise Providence. He was a student and his information covered a wide range of subjects. He was companionable and his pleasing address and courteous manner invited acquaintance. He was at all times a gentleman, and his dignity commanded respect. He was impulsive and readily became the helper of the distressed. His charities were numerous and liberal but he was distinctively and instinctively a philanthropist. His ideas of reform all necessitated improvement in the condition of the poor and those who labor.

His life is ended. He lived the allotted time. He received and merited honor and praise. A study of his business career, his home life, his official service reveals many wholesome lessons. It is, therefore, with a knowledge of his worth that the people of Portland mourn the death of Sylvester Pennoyer, and in token of our respect for his memory, be it,

RESOLVED: That the foregoing Memorial be entered upon the records of the Common Council and a copy thereof, under the Seal of the City of Portland, be sent to the family of the deceased and also to each of the daily papers.

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Filed

June 11

1902

Thos. DeLuca

Auditor.

JUN 11 1902

File

To. May or J. S. Rowe,
Common Council.

Mrs. Sylvester Penney
expressed her deep appreciation
of your kind attentions
during her recent bereavement
and thanks you for them.