

The Woman's Journal.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1894.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

The South Dakota Woman Suffrage Association is called to meet in convention on Sept. 8, at Aberdeen. A good program is being prepared, first-class speakers are to be present, and an enjoyable and successful meeting is anticipated. Mrs. M. A. GROESBECK. Watertown, S. D., Aug. 16, 1894.

WOMAN'S DAY AT WORCESTER.

The New England Agricultural Society opens its annual fair this year with "Woman's Day," on Tuesday, Sept. 4. It is the third year of this celebration, which has proved, hitherto, so successful that the managers have made it a permanent feature. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Miss Elizabeth U. Yates, Mrs. Mary Sargent Hopkins, and Henry B. Blackwell have promised to speak. Mrs. Mary A. Livermore has been invited, and it is hoped, will be present.

Let Massachusetts suffragists turn out in force. It is a rare chance to meet each other and the general public. All the railroads give reduced fares, and the Fair will provide greater attractions than in any previous year, in exhibits and entertainments. Electric cars run from the railroad station in Worcester to the Fair Grounds every two minutes.

DUTY OF NEW YORK SUFFRAGISTS.

A great outrage has just been perpetrated in the New York Constitutional Convention—the greatest possible outrage upon the principle of representative government—a practical denial of the sacred right of petition, which, even under despotic governments, is regarded as sacred. Six hundred and twenty-five thousand citizens of New York (about one-half as many as usually vote in the State election) have petitioned for woman suffrage; only 15,000 have petitioned against it. No such body of citizens ever before appealed to a constitutional convention. With rare moderation and sagacity, the suffrage leaders of the convention limited themselves to a proposal that the question should be separately submitted to the male voters. But by a vote of 97 to 60 the proposal was rejected, a majority of the Democratic delegates voting to submit the question, two-thirds of the Republicans voting against it. A change of only 19 votes would have submitted woman suffrage to the voters.

This action was so clearly the duty of the convention under the circumstances that even *The Outlook*, which had originated the remonstrance, said, editorially—that it ought to have been granted. Its defeat was directly due to the president of the convention, Hon. Joseph H. Choate, previously an avowed woman suffragist, and elected to preside over the convention on that understanding. In violation of equity and courtesy and parliamentary usage, Mr. Choate made up a suffrage committee almost entirely of known opponents of woman suffrage, for the purpose of securing an adverse report, and then, from first to last, he used his influence as presiding officer remorselessly against it.

George William Curtis said, in 1870:

By its very nature, the progress of this reform will differ from every other political movement. Behind every demand for the enlargement of the suffrage hitherto there was always a threat. It involved possible anarchy and blood. When the question agitated England, in 1832, Sir William Napier said that the country quivered on the verge of civil war. The voice of the disfranchised class was muttering thunder around the horizon, and by the lightning of its eyes the British statesmen read the necessity of speedy action. But this reform hides no menace. It lies wholly in the sphere of reason.

In the case of women, the threat must, in the nature of the case, be a political one. Women, even without the ballot, have immense political power, if they choose to exert it. They cannot be spurned and betrayed with impunity. In the present emergency an example is needed. Let it be promptly and effectually applied in the case of a recreant suffragist. Mr. Choate is seeking the Republican nomination for governor. That fact may explain his change of front on the suffrage question. It was probably a bid for the support of the baser elements of his party.

Now let him be defeated by the efforts of the 625,000 citizens whose petition he has defeated. They can prevent his

nomination if they will. And, if nominated, they can defeat him at the polls.

This is not a question of woman suffrage, but of the right of petition; not a question of party, but of principle. Mr. Choate has proved himself an enemy of representative government. Let the suffragists of New York remand him to life-long obscurity. It will be an object-lesson which will do more for the cause than a million petitioners. H. B. B.

EDUCATED VOTERS NEEDED.

Editors Woman's Journal:

There is a growing feeling among thoughtful people that the thousands of uneducated foreigners landing every day on our shores should not so soon be admitted to the governing power of this country. The law says they must be naturalized first, and be here a certain length of time; but who keeps the record of their arrival and the prescribed time from the steerage to the polls?

In a heated election, politicians care more for party success than for the welfare of the State, and then the "interested vote" buys up the "ignorant vote." I think we should have at least a qualification of reading and writing and ability to understand the English language. This would help to make our people homogeneous, and, as it would take most foreigners at least two years to accomplish this, we should be sure that they had been in the country long enough to know something of the spirit of its institutions. There are many good reasons why we should have an educational qualification.

1. It would limit the foreign vote.
2. It would decrease the ignorant native vote by stimulating the rising generation to learning. Children in the street would say to each other: "You better go to school if you hope to vote when you are twenty-one."
3. It would dignify the right of suffrage in the eyes of our people to know that some preparation was necessary for the exercise of so important a duty.

An attainable qualification in no way conflicts with our popular theory of "universal suffrage," or of "suffrage a natural right." On the same principle that we say a man must be twenty-one for a legal voter, so we may say he must read and write the English language with ease and understanding.

We cannot take the right from those who already exercise it; but we can say that, after 1893, no one shall be permitted to vote unless he can read and write the English language.

One of the most patent objections to woman suffrage is the added ignorant and depraved vote that would still further corrupt and embarrass the administration of our Government. Thus we are deprived of the influence of educated, virtuous, law-abiding women in our public affairs for fear of the ignorance of the masses. Several of the women who enrolled themselves as remonstrants in our late campaign in New York said they would favor educated woman suffrage, but they thought our ignorant vote was already far too large for the safety and stability of our Government.

The intelligent, organized laboring men were hampered in the recent strikes by the violent, unreasoning, ignorant voters, whose folly they could not control. It is the interest of the educated working-men, as it is of the women, that this ignorant, worthless class of voters should be speedily diminished. With free schools and compulsory education, there is no excuse in this country for ignorance of the elements of learning.

On this point the senior editor of the WOMAN'S JOURNAL, in a recent editorial, said:

The recent serious disturbances throughout the West by large bodies of ignorant voters have intensified the very general feeling that suffrage should have certain reasonable limitations of personal character and intelligence. To reform politics we must reform the constituency. To recall a vested right is impossible, but to double the vote by admitting all women seems to many another step in a wrong direction. Why not extend suffrage to responsible, intelligent women only, on reasonable qualifications of personal fitness, and thus elevate the body politic? The admission of a new class offers a golden opportunity.

In a speech at South Framingham, Rev. Charles G. Ames recently said:

Call a halt on unconditional cheap suffrage! Let me suggest a plan: From and after Jan. 1, 1901, let all new applicants for registration as voters pass an examination. Let those who can discriminate between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, men or women, be admitted, and let all others be excluded. We can no longer afford to include all masculine ignorance and exclude all feminine intelligence. Have a moderate qualification, easily ascertained, for all qualified citizens to enter, and no others. Take suffrage from no one who now has it, but enter the new century with a new set of books. "Strike for that which ought to be; God will bless the blows!"

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

ASK FOR QUALIFIED WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

ROCKPORT, MASS., AUG. 15, 1894.

Editors Woman's Journal:

Will you give me room to express my gratitude to Mr. Blackwell for his "Appeal to the New York Constitutional Convention?" It seems to me in some respects the best contribution that has been made to the suffrage discussion, because it makes the most practical and helpful suggestions.

In the early days of the woman suffrage agitation it made very little difference what form of suffrage was urged by its advocates, one being as ridiculous and repugnant to the general public as another. But since then, our opponents have come to argue upon its practical bearings, and, moreover, the best interests of our country have suffered so much from corruption in politics that we need not wonder if, in New York, where there is far less check upon ignorance and fraud than in Massachusetts, the Convention should be unwilling simply to strike out the word "male" from the constitution. I have been wondering all summer why the leaders of the movement did not frame their petitions with the provisions suggested by Mr. Blackwell.

Even here in Massachusetts, where the ballot is so much better guarded than in New York, the law permits a man to go straight from prison to the polls, and there is no system of registration strict enough to prevent paupers from voting if they choose; while the illegal voting in Ward 17, Boston, last fall, shows how easy it is to evade even the insufficient safeguards of the ballot. Why should we repeat, with women, the mistake that has been made with regard to men? The most formidable, because the most reasonable opposition to our cause would cease if we framed our petitions so as to exclude women, who, within a certain period, say two or three years, had been in any prison or house of correction, or had received aid from the city or State other than medical aid. Some persons object to these restrictions on the ground that if women vote at all it must be on the same terms as men. This seems very much like saying that if one child has eaten something that disagrees with him, all the others must eat the same thing or else go hungry.

Another objection sometimes made is that it will humiliate those women who are excluded and keep them down in the social scale. In my opinion it would be a great blessing to the worthy poor, because it would furnish them with an incentive to thrift and honesty. Human nature is so weak, and it is so much easier to be taken care of than to take care of one's self, that it is not strange that a temporary illness or misfortune so often leads to permanent pauperism and deterioration of character. I worked for eight or ten years in the Associated Charities, and there was nothing that I so much longed to give my poor people as some motive strong enough to make them try their best to help themselves—such as the fear of losing their vote might have been to some of the better ones among them. But I cannot recall a single one who was willing to take nearly as much trouble to find work for herself as I did to find it for her, and very often they refused to do it when found, while they rarely showed much regard for economy as long as they could get something without working for it. It is not worth while to give such people the ballot. They do not value it except as a salable article.

MARY WARE ALLEN.

THE PRESS ON THE N. Y. CONVENTION.

The *Chicago Advance* says:

Woman suffrage has been finally disposed of by the New York Constitutional Convention, after months of exciting discussion not only in New York but throughout the country. The report of the committee against the proposed suffrage amendment was adopted by a vote of 97 to 58. This amendment was offered by Gideon J. Tucker, of New York City, and provided for submitting to the people, as a separate question, whether a woman suffrage amendment should be voted on in 1895. Perhaps as noteworthy as anything is the large negative vote cast. That in one of the old and conservative States, in one of its most eminent and representative bodies, more than one-third of the delegates should declare themselves in favor of so radical a change, a change which but a few years ago received little but contempt and ridicule, speaks much for the growth of sentiment in its favor. We would not venture to prophesy whether this growth is of the permanent or only ephemeral kind; but so far as the result in New York goes, the omen is one of hope rather than disappointment for the woman suffragists.

The *Boston Pilot* (Irish Catholic) says: The New York Constitutional Convention, on Aug. 15, rejected, by a vote of 97 to 58, a proposition to submit the question of woman suffrage to popular vote. The conservative, thoughtful women of New York had pronounced emphatically against the measure, which gained nothing

by having been suddenly "indorsed" by some fashionable butterflies eager to amuse themselves with any fad, from slumming to suffrage. When the wise and womanly women of America wish for the privilege of voting they will get it, but the advantage taken of municipal suffrage by women of the other kind has not tended, wherever it has been tried, to make an extension of the "right" popular or possible.

The *New York Outlook* says:

The New York Constitutional Convention, by a vote of 97 to 58, has refused to permit the submission of the question of woman suffrage to the voters of the State. It was suggested in the convention that the size of this majority was due to party policy on the part of the Republicans. The suggestion is plausible, as nearly all the Republicans voted against submission, although the Republican counties are, in the main, the strongholds of woman suffrage. Yet even this suggestion that party policy influenced the vote is an indirect admission that the convention felt that woman suffrage was opposed by a great majority of the women and men of the State. We say women and men, because, upon the question, comparatively few men would oppose the extension of women's duties if they felt that a majority of the best women desired it. We believed that the petitions in favor of woman suffrage were so widely signed as to demand the separate submission of the question to the Constitution-making body—that is, the voters themselves. Yet the majority against even this proposition confirms us in the opinion that the right sphere for the suffrage agitation is not the besieging of Legislatures, but the awakening, in the majority of women, of such political interest as shall lead them to desire to go to the polls, whereas now they shrink from it.

APPEAL TO TEXAS DEMOCRATS.

DALLAS, TEXAS, AUG. 24, 1894.

Editors Woman's Journal:

Following are a memorial and resolutions presented to the Texas Democratic Convention, held in Dallas on Aug. 14, 1894.

To the Democratic Party of Texas, in Convention Assembled:

You have always been the party of the people. You have, time and again, in no uncertain tones, declared the following principles to be the basis and groundwork of your party organizations:

1. Equal Rights to all and special privileges to none.
2. A government by the people, for the people, and of the people.
3. All just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed.

We come to you believing you to be consistent and loyal to principle, and ask you to insert in your platform a plank demanding the repeal of all laws and acts that disfranchise any one on account of sex.

We appeal to your sense of honor and justice for our rights.

(Signed) Mrs. E. L. FRY,

Chairman Central Com.

Mrs. D. E. SMITH,

Central Com.

Mrs. L. A. CRAIG,

Pres. Dallas B. R. Club.

Mrs. ANNIE E. SMYTHE,

Press Correspondent for Dallas and State.

Mrs. L. A. Craig, president of the Dallas Club, was allowed to address the convention, which numbered at least 10,000. She, with myself, attended the convention every day, and did considerable talking and interviewing among the delegates. ANNIE E. SMYTHE.

NEW SUFFRAGE SONGS.

SALINA, KAN., AUG. 26, 1894.

Editors Woman's Journal:

Mrs. N. L. Castle, Burlington, Kansas, has written two excellent suffrage songs and set them to pretty music, and published them with the notes. One is entitled "An Appeal to Uncle Sam," and sells at ten cents; the other is "The Yellow Ribbon," price, twelve cents. Mrs. Castle will promptly fill orders sent her for these songs, and will donate the money received for them to the Campaign Fund, so that here is a double gain to the cause. Send on your orders for these songs. LAURA M. JOHNS,

Chairman Amendment Campaign Com.

MARCHING FORWARD IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

ABERDEEN, S. D., AUG. 29, 1894.

Editors Woman's Journal:

South Dakota sends few reports, yet she is steadily marching forward. One of the most signal victories of the year is the indorsement of equal suffrage by the People's party of this State.

Mrs. Anna Simmons was granted an opportunity to present the cause in open convention, and at the close of her splendid address the suffrage resolution carried almost unanimously. Men swung their hats and cheered, and there was scarcely a dry eye in the convention of five hundred delegates.

The Prohibition party, ever true to woman and the home, indorsed equal suffrage as usual, and we hope other par-

ties may be as brave. Among the enjoyable features of the Lake Madison Chautauqua were a fine address on "Woman's Work at the World's Fair," by Mrs. Helen M. Barker, and Dr. Haucher's lecture on "Our Daughters."

A vote will be taken at the coming election in November, whether or not women shall be granted full school suffrage, she having partial school suffrage at present. The outlook for the passage of this proposed amendment to the constitution is most flattering. Slowly, but surely, the door is swinging open, and woman will, ere long, take her rightful place, man's equal in all things, yet unlike, as God designed that they should be.

The State Convention of the Equal Suffrage Association will meet in Aberdeen early in September.

EMMA A. CRANMER,
President S. D. W. C. T. U.

KING'S HOUSEHOLD BIBLE READERS.

SALEM, N. J., AUG. 29, 1894.

Editors Woman's Journal:

This organization was formed in 1885 by Rev. Edwin H. Bronson for the purpose of bringing many, not so engaged, into thoughtful, daily contact with the best of books. His work was greatly blessed, and many thousands of people received the benefit of his plan. He lived to conduct the first class through the four years' course, and then was called home.

Since that time the work has been conducted by his wife, the plan being the same, with few changes in detail. A new class forms on Oct. 1 of each year. All are invited to join. Although new members are received at any time, every one will see the advantage of beginning early. For further particulars, address Mrs. E. H. BRONSON, Salem, N. J.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S DRESS.

The proper dress for business women's wear has caused much discussion. That women who are engaged in business should object to a regulation costume is natural enough, as few of them would care to be labelled typewriter, shop girl, etc.

A man's every-day suit, whether he is a millionaire or a clerk, is built on the same pattern, the sole difference being the superiority of make and material in the former. For wear, style and comfort, the man's dress is scarcely susceptible of improvement, while, alas! that of the woman leaves much to be desired. The toilets of the butterflies of fashion are lovely, and well suited to women who are born to or achieve the purple.

The trouble is that working-women slavishly copy, as nearly as possible, the toilets of their more fortunate sisters, and, in consequence, are badly dressed for callings that take them out in all weather, and necessitate stooping over desks or reaching up to high shelves, as is the case with shop women.

There is no necessity for business women to make themselves conspicuous by a peculiar style of dress, but in many cases they are simply ridiculous in cheap gowns of conspicuous color and cut, which have no affinity for the desk or the counter.

In London and Paris all of the female employees in shops wear black cashmere or silk gowns, the latter in the high-class establishments; these gowns are furnished by the firm. In America it is fast becoming the custom for the women in the better class of shops to wear black dresses, with neatly starched linen collars or cuffs. However, the cut of their garments is often poorly adapted to their callings. If fashionable women adopt skirts which touch or drag on the pavement, the woman who works for her daily bread does the same, not taking into account the fact that, rain or shine, she must be on the street, climbing up dirty elevated stairways and not over-clean ones of office buildings. The consequence is torn facings, worn bindings, and a general untidiness which is anything but attractive.

The working woman should choose the fashion of her clothes with discretion. Firstly, the material should be of wool, not of too heavy a texture, but soft, warm, and of black or some dark color. The tailor-made costume, simply stitched or finished with braid, is by far the best, as it is compact, neat and lasting. Serge-diagonal or cashmere wears best. The skirt should be of medium width, neither too tight nor wide enough to flap around the feet in walking. The waist should be made with a medium or short coat, either closed at the throat or opening over a white chemisette. Either style seldom goes out of fashion.

For those who desire comfort and freedom the blouse waist is best; the corset loosely adjusted. A pretty blouse may be made of the same material as the dress, or, if left over, of another color, the blouse being an economical invention.