

permitted to express themselves in regard to their property rights for fear of disapprobation from the husband, whom the law so carefully protects by giving the use of the wife's realty during her life, and sees that he is provided for at her death by making a clean sweep of the wife's estate for the husband's benefit, even to the exclusion of her own children; and the woman who owns the property has no more say in the matter than a stone. Women are so anxious for this measure of justice that where they are debarred the privilege of advocating it for fear of opposition from the other sex, they keep silent when in their presence; but when with their own sex they denounce in strong terms the injustice of our laws, and wonder how men can exalt them in rhyme and defraud them in reason. No woman is worthy of either property or children who does not think she ought to have the management of her own property and guardianship of her own children; but such women are as scarce as women who have no love for their offspring, or who would not divide their all with their husbands and children. But the vigorous laws of Kentucky debar them the poor privilege of the use of their own or to act in accordance with their womanly nature.

A spring of gratitude wells up in our hearts to the noble men who are standing by us, and with such defenders as we have we shall never lay down our armor till the victory is won. The question is up for settlement in Kentucky and it will never be settled until it is settled right.

God give us men! Men whom the lust for office does not kill! Men brave for justice, men whom the weak can trust! Men who have honor, men who will be just!

JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.

LETTER FROM KANSAS.

SALINA, KANSAS, April 10, 1891.

TO THE EDITOR:

The Salina Equal Suffrage association has introduced a new feature into its meetings. The idea is borrowed from the Topeka Conversation club, to which a dozen intelligent people belong, and in which they say bright things that would enlighten the world were it not for the unfortunate fact that the rest of the denizens of this planet are excluded. In short, the whole world is mostly excluded, and the club keeps its good things to itself, except, as in the instance of the present writer, when an outsider of an inquiring turn of mind and a tendency to persistence gets a clue to the proceedings.

This exclusive feature is eliminated in the experiment made by the Salina Equal Suffrage association. It advertises a "conversation," to occupy one hour of the programme, and invites everyone who has an idea on the appointed topic to take a seat in the half circle of seats, so arranged because we want to be cosy and within talking distance of each other. We invite any who want to listen to the conversation to occupy seats in the body of our little hall and get the benefit of our wise sayings. At our last meeting our topic was "co-operative housekeeping." The rule is that the lady or gentleman sitting at the right of the chairman sets the ball rolling by giving their thoughts on the subject, and the others follow in the order in which they happen to be seated. After all have spoken the subject is open for general discussion, without regard to any order of speaking. Our first experiment proved successful. The time had stretched far beyond the intended limit before we knew it. We expect to take up various topics of special interest to women, and, indeed, of general interest and importance, and discuss them in this way. Nobody rises to speak, it is emphatically a *conversation*. We mean to try to broaden the work of our suffrage society in this way, and our experiment leads us to believe that by means of this exercise we shall bring many people who care nothing about the suffrage into the range of the woman suffrage guns. The difficulty has been to get the people who are not suffragists to come to hear our lectures or read our papers. We imagine this plan may induce the mountain to come to Mahomet, and we claim for it besides that it is a good means to the rubbing up of our wits and the culture of expression and individuality. It is high time that women held other than reflected opinions.

From many cities comes word of larger registration of women than ever before. The last week of registration was one of unprecedented storm, snow and mud. Except for this, I doubt not, the registration would have been larger still. Kansas people, accustomed to dry streets and sunny sky, are afraid of bad weather.

I see that some of our state papers, in commenting upon the gain in the registration of women, remark upon the contrast between the present activity of woman voters and what they are pleased to term their "inertness last year, indicated by the small registration." It is a curious thing that somebody has always to be recalling to the minds of men the fact that every alternate election is an "off-year" election in Kansas cities, when men poll only half—or less—of their vote. When anybody who thinks makes a comparison of the vote of our various city elections, they compare corresponding elections with each other—that is, full elections with full elections, and off-year, or partial, elections with off-year, or partial, elections.

Our women sustain their reputation for voting for better conditions rather than for the sake of voting. The Kansas City *Star* says that women have not voted largely "in localities where there seemed to be nothing to require consulting, and a woman doesn't care much to exert herself publicly unless an evil is to be throttled or a wrong righted."

It is early for our sisters of the third-class cities to report their activities, but there are rumors of the large part they are taking. Every year our women take a st.onger part in bringing out candidates and sharing the elections, and no ill can be charged as a result; but, on the contrary, much good, direct and indirect, comes to women themselves and to the city government from women's participation.

MRS. J. A. JOHNS.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, April 10, 1891.

TO THE EDITOR:

The Hon. Walter C. Gifford, of Chautauque, has introduced a bill into the assembly giving the right to vote at municipal elections to tax-paying women. Thus we have all classes of women represented in bills before the legislature. It will be remembered that a labor union of this city presented a bill giving self-supporting women the right of suffrage. If both these bills should pass we should all be enfranchised. We can scarcely hope for

such a consummation, but it is pleasant to see the friends of the cause so active everywhere.

Another bill of the utmost importance to the women of the state has been introduced by Hon. Charles P. McClelland, of Westchester. It provides for a constitutional convention to be held in 1892. It will be remembered that in 1885 the question "Shall there be a constitutional convention?" was submitted to the voters of the state, as the constitution provides shall be done once in twenty years. It was answered in the affirmative ten to one. Since then bills have been several times introduced by the republican majority and vetoed by the democratic governor. As Mr. McClelland is a democrat his bill will certainly pass the assembly, and is sure of the governor's signature if it passes the senate also.

The debates in the conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church, on the admission of women to the electoral and general conferences, have occupied much space and evoked much comment in the papers during the past week. In the New York East conference, in session at Patchogue, Long Island, the vote was taken by secret ballot and decided in the negative—for the measure, fifty-two; against, 15. The New York conference held in Yonkers was the scene of a stormy debate. The question was opened on a proposition that the vote should be taken by ballot. After an exciting discussion it was decided that each man must answer to his name as called, notwithstanding the plaintive declaration of Rev. Charles A. Howells, who said he did not think a man should be asked to cast his ballot openly. "If a man should vote against the admission of women to the conferences and should happen to be sent to a charge in favor of it, and which knew he was against it, the women would make his life a burden." When murmurs of dissent arose he thundered out: "One irate woman is more than the Angel Gabriel can stand!" The whole proceedings were watched by crowds of women in the galleries, who manifested their indignation by cries of "Oh! Oh!" All day Friday, Saturday and Monday the conference discussed the question of admitting women. As the time grew shorter speeches were limited to ten minutes each, and a correspondent describing the scene says that "So eager were they to deliver their arguments in that time that their faces were pale and their hands trembled in the nervous haste of their speech and gesture." Rev. William McK. Darwood favored admitting women, because in the early ages they were prominent in the church. Rev. Charles Goss declared, truly, that the women raised most of their salaries. Dr. George R. Crooks was opposed, because, if admitted to the conferences, women might become ministers and bishops. Rev. John Miley and Dr. George E. Stroutidge were also opposed.

On the second day of the debate Rev. W. G. Browning and Rev. C. H. Travis inude speeches in favor of the women, and Rev. DeLoss Lull spoke against them. On the third day the debate was continued by many earnest speakers, Rev. Geo. H. Smith, Rev. William H. Mickle, Rev. J. H. Stone and Dr. G. H. McGrew being among those who argued in favor, and Rev. Charles H. McAnney, Dr. Ensign McClesney, Rev. J. J. Dean, Dr. J. R. Day, Dr. James M. King and Dr. J. P. Hermance among those who argued against. On the roll-call the vote stood sixty ayes to 123 noes. The arguments in the negative might be reviewed and annihilated with ease—for instance the remark of Dr. Dean that women ought not to rule, because, "From the Numidian lion to the New Jersey mosquito, the male sex is the sex that executes a purpose." The entomological information of the reverend gentleman must be limited, or he would know that it is the female mosquito which stings. He should remember the case of the spider, the eagle, and numerous others, in which the female is more industrious, warlike and valuable.

The regular meeting of our Woman Suffrage league was held last Thursday evening, April 2d. Mrs. Imogene C. Fales read an admirable paper on "The Industrial Condition of the United States." It was greatly regretted that on account of a violent storm the attendance was small.

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Judge Tuley, of Chicago, recently rendered an interesting and unusual decision. A man applied for a divorce on the ground that his wife refused to live with him. He had previously entered into a contract of separation, and agreed to pay his wife \$100 a month, which he ceased to do in one year's time. He then went west, and two years later wrote asking her to come and live with him. The court found that the separation was on account of the man's drinking and gambling habits, the transfer of his affection to another woman, and cruel treatment of his wife. The letter he wrote from the west was cold and harsh. There were no regrets for his past conduct, no promise for the future, and he did not write that he had mended his ways. His wife knew that he was bankrupt, and, while he asked for everything, he gave her nothing in return. The judge held that a wife required something more than bread from her husband. She was entitled to love, affection, and attention. The husband should have shown that he could provide for her, and promised to do better and treat her with kindness. She refused to comply with his letter, and the judge held that she had a right to refuse. The husband is said to have reformed, and may now be in a position to ask her again to live with him. But at present he is not entitled to a divorce. His bill was dismissed.

Among the men who give active effort to promote the woman suffrage cause, there is no more zealous or persevering worker than Hamilton Wilcox, of New York. The recent endorsements of woman suffrage by the American federation of labor and other influential representative bodies, have been actively promoted by him. He has aided in securing the admission of women to wider fields of usefulness, as notaries public, etc., in state and nation. When the battle for equal rights is won, women and men will share the laurels and jointly enjoy the good results.