

WOMEN'S CLUBS

EDITED BY MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

WOMEN'S WORK

WHAT our duty is, is often one of the very hardest questions women have to answer. Not that it is so obscure, but that sympathy, personal friendships, or a timidly born of centuries of suppression, warp our sight or pervert our judgment.

Every man that says the "amen" to the declaration of independence and says it fervently, believing in its principles, must be a supporter of universal suffrage, else why does he believe that "taxation without representation is tyranny"?

This is the whole question of woman suffrage. It is not whether politics would be purer or the country better or worse or whether woman would lose her femininity, or any of the other reasons that are brought forward to deter us from its opponents. The duty is plain and it is the "wish that is father to the thought" to those who see it otherwise.

Political Responsibility.

In failing to do our duty it is one of the prevailing characteristics of human nature to want to find some excuse for failure. Women often excuse their slowness in public affairs "because they can't vote."

Personal Application.

Just stop, my dear women of Oregon, and think, if today one of the dear ones in your own home—your little child or your husband or your beautiful young daughter—were taken with the greatest

calmly and affliction that can befall any human being—manhood, when your heart is assailed in finding that you must pass from your keeping with but one ray of light in all the gloom, the hope that by tender care and treatment they may be returned to you whole again.

Because you cannot walk to the polls and drop in the ballot that shall express your choice of lawmakers is no excuse for any woman in Oregon not interesting herself in politics. Not the politics that shall say who shall carry off the spoils of office, or to try to get a job for some friend, because he has at some time given you an opportunity to gather in the shekels, but to see that men are not named at the primaries who would sell their souls for a mess of pottage, and not only that (for the souls of some politicians we could name some in that line), but would trade off and jeopardize your happiness and your home and debase every instinct of manly independence for political preferment.

Greely asserted Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, a founder of the W. C. A. R., the entrance of this distinguished couple of patriots was a signal for applause. As the grand march ended amidst applause, the participants lined up into three sets of that beautiful colonial coronal, now known as the "Virginia reel," and a number of dainty dames and colonial escorts swung back and forth in the mazes of its steps.

Among the many distinguished guests and visitors present we note the name of Mrs. J. B. Montgomery, state regent for the state of Oregon, a vice-president of the Sacajawea association and a member of the board of lady managers of the St. Louis exposition.

On a recent trip to Eastern Oregon and Idaho, where we went to glean historical matter pertaining to the life works and pioneer experiences of the women of the west and, also, to penetrate the unbroken wilderness in those parts, we were brought in touch with club women in a way that demonstrated the force of true club spirit and presented the thought and depth of this great club movement most vividly, and we recognize in it one of the strongest factors in the world's work for the betterment of human conditions.

The kindly interest and generous response manifested toward our work by clubwomen wherever found were most inspiring and called forth the exclamation: "What can not be done with the sympathy and co-operation of such broad minded, generous women?" And under this inspiring "rest upon" we have in hand of compiling a history of woman's achievements in the northwest, varied with pioneer reminiscences, school and family history, local writings, and short stories, poems and songs by the women themselves. This work is a labor of increased love and redoubled interest, with every shadow of possible failure vanishing.

Much, too, may we say in gratitude to the newspapers in whose columns such generous and graphic mention of our work has been given space. "When our book, 'The Pioneer' is completed, we shall most cheerfully share the crown of success with the editors and the club women of the Pacific Northwest.

"American Art" was the subject of the last meeting of the Neighborhood club. Mrs. Margaret Anderson, leader for the afternoon and talked interestingly on the topic for the day. She showed several fine reproductions, among them being one of popular interest, "The Young Mother," and one of J. G. Brown's well known new books.

The regular monthly meeting was held March 1 at the home of Mrs. M. A. Ogden. An unusually large number were in attendance, called out from the fact that several matters of importance were to be acted upon.

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MRS. SAMUEL WHITE OF BAKER CITY.

In federation, for as proof a motion had just carried to pay the yearly dues to both General and State Federations, but this additional expense was considered unnecessary, and on that ground it was fought to a finish, the "pros" going down in defeat before superior parliamentary tactics.

Over delicious coffee and other refreshments served by the hostess and several assistants the matter was informally discussed, the best possible feeling being expressed for the City Federation, which is doing excellent work, and all agreed that when the finances of the club were in a more prosperous condition the club would be much benefited by allying itself with the City Federation.

The members of the Woman's club being aware of the uncleanly condition of the public school rooms, invited a member of the school board to be present at the last meeting of the club, that she might hear what the women had to say regarding the matter. Much to the astonishment of the members, after the meeting was called to order the whole school board filed in. Nothing daunted, the women made and substantiated the charges that the school was not kept in a condition conducive either to health or morals. They handled the matter in such a practical manner that the result was the directors turned over the care of the school building to the Woman's club. They now have authority to hire the janitor and supervise all janitor work around the building.

The "dependent widowed mother" is becoming a boomerang to the obstructionists of child labor legislation, for in every case where it has been urged, and the friends of child labor laws have investigated the subject, it has been found that mothers who are utterly dependent upon their young children for support form such a small percentage that it is hardly worth reckoning with.

Further investigation usually develops the fact that the "dependent widow" has been discovered by the employers of cheap labor.

The New York City federation last October determined to support one child who otherwise would have to leave school to work. Some difficulty was actually experienced in that maelstrom of poverty and misery in finding some case that was really deserving, or in other words could not have gone to school if the desire had been present.

In our own state there has been but one or two cases that upon thorough investigation has developed a necessity for the child to work.

The civil service reform committee of the Massachusetts state federation, at a recent meeting presented some interesting facts of interest to all club women. The increase in the number of clubs and individuals interested in the work is very encouraging. The Massachusetts auxiliary of civil service reform reported a membership of 980, with branch auxiliaries in several important towns. They have distributed 36,000 pamphlets for use in high and normal schools during the winter. The Massachusetts committee have been established in 11 states federations, and in Massachusetts over a third of the clubs have a working relation with the federation committee. At the St. Louis biennial one session will

The high esteem in which the nation holds the memory of Miss Frances Willard is evidenced by the fact that her statue is soon to be placed in Statuary hall, in the capitol at Washington, and that it is to be accompanied with very little opposition. In view of the fact that a decided prejudice exists against thus honoring any one who has not played a conspicuous part in national affairs—as, for example, the bitter controversy over the statue of Pere Marquette—and that no woman has thus been honored before, the friends of the great temperance leader must also feel it is a triumph for the cause as well as the woman.

The busts of four women, it is said, will soon be placed in the capitol at Albany, N. Y., namely: Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton and Molly Pitcher.

Mrs. Lillian Cole Bethel, who is so well known as a lecturer on parliamentary law, and one of the most popular club women who ever visited Oregon, will be giving a course of lectures in Covington, Ky. Mrs. Bethel has the sympathy of her many friends throughout the state in the loss of a devoted mother, who passed away last December.

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JAPAN W. C. T. U. WORK

Many of our women are now, and have been laboring in that country upon which all eyes are now turned—Japan. Eleven years ago Miss Mary Allen West, the gifted founder and for years editor of our "Union Signal," was here. She was then on her way to Japan, where she was received with the utmost cordiality and hospitality. The Japanese were much impressed with her work, and she was so interested and eager in the great work to be done, she literally killed herself. She died far away in the interior, but tenderly cared for by her friends, who did all in their power to save her and then carried her remains to the coast for burial. She was followed by Miss Clara Parrish—now Mrs. Wright, who was partly supported by the young woman's board, often called the "Y."

Last summer the third young woman left San Francisco for Japan, Miss Kora G. Swart. On New Year's day her first report was received at Chicago headquarters. In 10 weeks she received 457 new members, women and girls, 246 children for Loyal Temperance Legion and 478 men for the Men's Temperance League. She addressed over 10,000 students in the schools. The official organ of the Japanese National Temperance League, in speaking of her labors, says: "Ever since she left the capital (Tokio) for the north she has been teaching people by her public addresses and private talks that when people see and know the works in the individual house in which we live, i. e., the body—they naturally see the reason why they must not defile that body with alcoholic drink and tobacco."

The hearts of her Japanese friends are much touched with the self-sacrifice that would prompt a young woman to leave home and native land to administer to and teach a stranger people better ways of living. Miss Swart, when last reports arrived, was still confined to her bed, the result of an accident from which she miraculously escaped without more serious results than a bruised knee, but which brought to her side a host of known and unknown friends who fairly deluged her with flowers, fruits, magazines and many sympathetic attentions.

The San Francisco Chronicle, in an editorial of some length on the Sacajawea statue projected, concluded by saying: "The project is undoubtedly commendable one. It is about the only way the present generation can pay a fitting tribute to a heroine who figured so conspicuously in early western history and performed services to the country of incalculable value. The association ought to have no trouble raising the funds."

Coquille will take up active work for the Sacajawea statue the 1st of March. Mrs. Snook, the actively interested vice-president of the association for her town has been doing excellent missionary work through the newspapers of the town who have most generously contributed much space to the history and

desirability of erecting a statue to Sacajawea. An Indian entertainment is soon to be given, when it is expected much interest with corresponding financial returns, will result.

At the meeting called recently by the Woman's Central club and the Y. W. C. A. of Seattle, for the purpose of bringing about better relations between mistresses and maid, through an employment bureau, conducted upon new lines, Mrs. Ellen R. Miller of the Portland Woman's club, but at present conducting the school of domestic science for the Seattle Y. W. C. A., said in part: "This is a question of domestic service, not servants. We have this little corner of a big problem—to improve our relation with our servants. We want to treat them better and we want them to treat us better."

"We can't reorganize our natures, we women, and we are jealous of our class rights. But we forget that there is nothing degrading to character in house service. In fact, if you'll think, it is vastly more important to ourselves and those we love that honest hearts and good heads should help us in the house than we should have intelligent shop girls or stenographers."

"The habit we moderns possess of regarding our servants as our inferiors is the last relic of slavery. Our other servants—the grocer, butcher, hotel-keeper—are not debarred because they serve us."

"I believe the elevation of domestic service and the consequent influx of better women into it will work the only remedy we can hope to find. The only way we can effect this is to think it out. Domestic science has thought out the problem for us, and the fact that people have realized the need and worked for it for years is convinced when I say that every woman's college, industrial institution and most Y. W. C. A. branches in the country have domestic science departments."

Mrs. E. O. Carr, president of the Woman's Central club, and president of the New Housekeepers' association, and one of the most forceful and progressive women on the coast, also said: "We have no right to complain if our husbands and sons manage the householding of the city badly when we are 100 years behind the times in our own. We women housekeepers are to blame for dissension in the household. We look down upon our servant girls and forget that anything that's necessary is right and beautiful. Think our house girl is the only person who 'sees' us out of all the class that are really so. There is a contempt in that term which will put all self-respecting girls out of the business as soon as they are able to find other employment, often inferior in effort and pay."

"If you want a good servant, how much more you want a good servant. If it is honorable to get people well, is it not also honorable to keep them so? Remember what depends on your servant girl—that cleanliness and safety of your family's food, the condition of their abode, and most of all an influence and example to your children, to whom a thousand precepts are but as one example. And then look over the servant girls in comparison to the nurses and think what we pay them. Think your girls are educated and what they exact from you for their services."

"But I am sure the history of domestic service will be like the history of nursing. Thirty years ago nursing was looked down upon, and now you know it is a profession for the best educated of young women. What we must do to raise the standard of domestic service, make it a science and an art. The first step in that direction is to give the girls the advantages of a course in domestic science."

"I am in favor of resolving to ask each girl when she comes to us, 'have you any certificate that you are competent to do my work? Can you show school already?' We may have a place where we can send the girls we already have—help pay their tuition, if need be, and encourage the generation just growing up to look to it as a standard of excellence and a training school through which they must pass if they wish to earn a good place and good pay in their profession."

The views of these two women are eminently worthy of consideration and the results from an organization founded on such humane principles will certainly be interesting to watch.

SECURABLE IGNORANCE. Women having no part in the making of the laws, could not be expected to be well versed in its many intricacies, therefore have often to confess themselves woefully ignorant as to the "why and wherefore" of the many things they meekly submit to, taking it for granted it is right "because the law is so." Even the most unlearned in "Cotton & Bellinger's Code," if they read our daily papers, are aware that "ignorance is no excuse in law," and the man that did not know its mandates, gets just as long a sentence as the man who willfully breaks it.

As long as these laws confine themselves to the old Mosaic code there may be a reasonable doubt when men or women are seized in their violation and plead ignorance, but when it comes to the violation of the many laws ground out by the legislature at Salem, it would seem to the superintendent of Multnomah county for a copy of the school laws. Not having any he referred her to the city superintendent. Not possessing any for distribution she was referred by him to the state superintendent and was told "by accompanying her letter with 25 cents she would receive a copy." Complying with these instructions, and after waiting two weeks, she received one copy. Finding there really was a way to procure a copy of the school laws, the other eight or 16 women paid their 25 cents each to the state of Oregon (?) for the privilege of becoming familiar with the laws, that they may, by a better knowledge of them, help sustain the strong right arm of our government.

This condition is made possible by "Senate joint resolution No. 6." Perhaps this is a necessary measure, but seems short-sighted wisdom to enclose within a fence anything so important, or anything that needs such broad dissemination as our school laws.

The fee is not large and to the student would not be considered, but familiarity with the school laws is what is most desired for the masses and any fee stands like a stone barrier to this accomplishment. Ignorance of the law under such circumstances would be justification of its violation. Here is work ready cut out for our state federation.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN. A largely attended meeting was held on Wednesday, March 2. The charming

great length of the skirt is not a necessity, the skirts do not quite reach the ground. Undoubtedly the most favorite materials for street wear this winter were velvets and corduroys, while zibelines did not seem to be such in demand, at least not as much as the trade had expected. Some exceedingly smart and pretty street suits were of brown corduroy, the skirt short, and flaring at the bottom seams, with an under plait and a long coat. With those skirts were worn white bodices of crepe, lace, flannel and soft mulls and various kinds of furs, preferably mink, ermine or sable. With that costume brown hats of long-haired beaver and ornamented with a white feather or flower were worn and made a decidedly pretty effect.

The popularity of jet for dress ornaments is unusually great at the present time and it is predicted that that pretty material will be even more extensively used this spring than it was in the winter. Spangles, round, oval or in fancy shapes, are also used on smart gowns that precede the more popular than jet, and are often tucked and ornamented with lace insertions.

Never before have the shops displayed as rich and beautiful specimens of embroidered muslins as are shown now for spring wear. One, particularly handsome was of the finest French made embroidery. The skirt fitted round the waist, was of solid embroidery to within 15 inches of the bottom, and had ruffles of the finest Valenciennes lace. The bodice was entirely of the embroidery, and the sleeves had the fashionable long shoulder effect. Underneath the plaited pieces of embroidery which fell over the shoulders were ruffles of Valenciennes, which composed the elbow sleeves. A tie of soft, pale blue ribbon was wound round the neck, through a box plait under the chin, and coming out again, formed a large, soft bow at the waist line, and was draped around the bust to the back, where it formed a sash.

Another gown, of very fine organdie, had large roses embroidered all over it. The skirt had alternate bands of fine Irish and Valenciennes laces around the bottom and the yoke was formed of a combination of the two kinds of laces. The bodice was of an old-fashioned style, with the French knots heavily fringed.

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