

Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 10
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
APRIL 18, 1925



Burnita Shelton Matthews

Attorney, who is head of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, which is making a survey of all laws relating to the status of women in all the States of the Union. Mrs. Matthews is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the District of Columbia Bar and the Supreme Court Bar.

Feminist Notes

Women County Councilors In England

AT local elections last month in England and Wales, outside of the City of London 33 women were chosen as county councilors in 18 counties. Later reports may increase this number.

Portuguese Progress

A PRESS dispatch from Lisbon tells that Portuguese women are overcoming ancient prejudices which have denied them the right to work in shops and offices. These places are now said to be besieged with girls seeking jobs. In the same way they have thrust aside the ban against education. Girls are crowding into the schools and proving themselves as capable scholars as their brothers.

Married Women's Right to Work

REMOVAL of the bar against municipal employment of married women was one of the issues in the campaign for election of the London County Council early in March. The women's organizations questioned every candidate. A large number of the new members are pledged to abolish this restriction, but not enough to decide the matter. The least satisfactory answers to the women's questions came from the candidates of the Municipal Reform or Tory party, which has a majority of the newly-elected body. During the campaign the party and its candidates largely dodged the issue. Still enough members are believed to be favorable to give the measure at least a fighting chance. There will be 20 women members in the new council, as against but 12 in the last. That offers some encouragement.

Another Women's Exposition

A NATIONAL exposition of woman-made commodities is in prospect in Switzerland. The Swiss Woman's Trade Association (Schweizerischen Frauengewerbeverband) called a conference to meet with members of the League of Swiss Women's Organizations to discuss the project. The conference has now taken place at Bern. It was well attended and the delegates decided that the exposition should be held in 1927. The place still remains to be selected, although Bern was favored, and its definite choice only awaits the formal acceptance of the local women's organizations.

Jamaica Women Vote

WOMEN voters made their debut at the polls in Jamaica at the recent insular general election, the first to be held since removal of the bar against female suffrage.

Nigerian Women Striving for Reform

BACKED by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the women of Nigeria are demanding a number of administrative reforms of the local Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford. Among other complaints they would have remedied is the lack of provision for the employment of women.

French Deputies Give Limited Vote

THE French Chamber of Deputies on April 7 passed a bill giving women the right to vote in municipal elections and also making them eligible for municipal office if elected. The vote was carried by a show of hands. A similar bill passed by the chamber in 1919 was defeated in the senate.

The age at which women would gain the right to vote was fixed at 21 instead of 25 years, as at first proposed. The chamber voted this alteration on motion of Deputy Baroux, communist.

Women Candidates in Turkish Election

THE League of Turkish Women has nominated two candidates for seats in Parliament to represent Constantinople. The nominees are Halid Elib Hamnu, a well-known novelist, and Mme. Nazive Mukleddin.

Equality in Russia

THE most recent laws in Russia bearing on family relations attempt to give the clearest recognition to the principle of sex equality. Each party to a marriage retains his or her own name unless they announce the desire to take a common name. All property acquired after marriage belongs to the two jointly, while what they had before remains the sole property of the one in possession. Either party to a marriage may claim support from the other if disabled in any way or in need. Both parents have equal authority over the children and are equally obligated to support them.

Conference Admits Woman Divine

FOR the first time in its history the annual conference of the Maryland District of the Methodist Church has admitted a woman as a member. She is Miss Grace Jones of Fayette, Mich., graduate of Goucher College, Baltimore, and of the Rochester Biblical School, Rochester, N. Y., who preached her first sermon when she was thirteen at Windy Hill, Md.

In recent years she has been an evangelist. The conference admitted her without a dissenting vote.

How Protective Legislation Disemploys

PRIOR to the passage of the New York law regulating the hours of women street railway employes in May, 1919, there were 2924 women on the payrolls of the street railways in Greater New York, according to the State Bureau of Women in Industry. Of these but 400 were working within all the provisions of the law. In order to absolve the law of responsibility for discharge of the others the United States Women's Bureau in Bulletin 11 says that women were being laid off for many months before the passage of the law, and this has been quoted by *Life and Labor Bulletin* "in view of repeated statements on the part of supporters of the so-called Equal Rights Amendment." In other words the law was enacted to protect women in occupations from which the sponsors knew they were to be dismissed. If this was the case, one wonders why they went to the trouble of getting the measure passed. Aside from this, however, the explanation makes clear that the street railways could not have retained the women, even had they wished, without violation of law. Since that is the essential point of objection to such legislation, it is hard to understand why many well-intentioned women persist in advocating such measures.

Equal Obligation to Pay Alimony

A BILL requiring payment of alimony by women on the same terms as is required of men is pending in the Illinois Legislature. It has the strong support of the women members, Mrs. Rena Elron and Mrs. Lottie Holman O'Neill.

Nullifiers at Work

ALTHOUGH in the little independent Duchy of Luxemburg women have recently gained political equality, these rights are not as secure as they might be. At the election in March a number of parliamentary candidates were found suspect of plotting to work for measures designed to nullify the newly gained suffrage. A note of alarm was promptly raised by the feminist organ, *Luxemburger Frau*, which published the list of candidates upon whom dependence of opposition against such a backward step could be placed. The election is now a thing of the past, but the result has not yet become known on this side of the Atlantic. Political affairs in so tiny a state as Luxemburg are not considered important enough by the average newspaper correspondent to be cabled, so that reports by mail must be awaited.

The End of the Road

By Elizabeth Gifford

Editor's Note: Miss Gifford acted as Legislative Representative for the New York State Branch of the Woman's Party at Albany this winter

THE National Woman's Party had introduced into the New York State Legislature this session ten equal rights bills:

1. A guardianship bill, providing that the husband and wife are the joint natural guardians of their minor children, with equal powers, rights and duties in regard to them.

2. An administrators' bill striking out the preference given to one sex and the preference given to the unmarried woman over the married woman in the appointment of an administrator of the estate of a deceased person.

3. A torts bill providing that the right of action to recover damages on account of personal injury or wrong shall be the separate property of the wife, and there shall be no right of recovery by the husband for loss of her society, services and earnings.

4. A domicile bill giving to a married woman, for the purposes of voting, office-holding, taxation, suing and being sued, intestacy and relations with the government, the same right as any other adult person to select her domicile.

5. A teachers' bill removing existing discriminations against women school teachers.

6. A prostitution bill removing discrimination between male and female violators of the law.

7. A jury service bill making women eligible for jury service on the same terms as men.

8. A bill equalizing dower and curtesy.
9. An illegitimacy bill modeled after the Arizona law, declaring every child to be the legitimate child of its natural parents and as such entitled to support and education to the same extent as if it had been born in lawful wedlock, and making such child an heir of its natural parents.

10. A bill providing that women may be employed to work at night in any occupation or employment that is lawful for males to engage in at night.

Sponsors for these bills were found without undue difficulty, but once their launching took place they were carefully guarded in the harbors of vigilance committees, and only the smallest and least controversial of our craft managed to escape. In fact, the administrators' bill was the only bill favorably reported in the Senate and Assembly and the one bill eventually passed. It is now before Governor Smith for signature and will undoubtedly be signed. Even this was considered an upsetting advance by the cautious members of the Assembly, and after their indiscretion in this matter they re-

WHEN Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer came into the New York Headquarters and heard of the defeat of the Equal Rights bills at Albany, the valiant campaigner looked serious and then said slowly: "The men have woven into their constitutions, like Mark Twain's three-ply carpet, a formidable opposition to the emancipation of women. When will the women of America see that whether they are Republicans or Democrats, or adherents of any other party, they will not get very far as matters stand today?"

"The Federal Amendment is before Congress with strong friends to plead its cause and a President, who with a stroke of his pen can free American women from their present thralldom. He has himself said a nation cannot exist half slave half free. We hope his admiration of his great hero is sincere. He must, however, face the fact that Abraham Lincoln signed three amendments to free the negro. Will our President, with Lincoln's example before him, free us with an amendment or must we fight again, as we did before, to complete our emancipation? Our President need not be afraid to do once what Abraham Lincoln did three times over for the general good."

As Mrs. Havemeyer turned to go she called back, "I shall tell that to all I meet."

fused to let another "woman's bill" come out on the floor.

The Senate, fortunately, had views a trifle braver and broader, for thanks to the valiant efforts of several Senators it passed two more bills, the guardianship and domicile bills, even in the face of opposition from the bewildered majority leader, Senator John Knight, who still feels that the Woman's Party is working to "destroy the home." A separate voting domicile in his eyes was almost equivalent to a divorce.

The guardianship and domicile bills

were passed by the Senate during the closing week of the session and arrived in the Assembly during the strenuous time when all bills go to the Rules Committee and few emerge from its clutching fingers. A lone but splendid fight was waged by Assemblyman T. Channing Moore of Westchester, a member of the committee, in their behalf. However, it failed to bring the bills out. At the eleventh hour persistent probing revealed the fact that the domicile bill would have been reported had it not been that the bill provided that a married woman should have the same right as any other adult person to select her domicile for jury service. This the wary committee feared was practically a tacit recognition of the much disliked jury service for women which we were trying to bring about and which both Senate and Assembly committees had rejected. Accordingly, we decided to strike out the offending "jury service" and an urgent appeal was made to the Governor to have this bill amended at the last minute. Governor Smith, with his customary good will, rushed through a special message to the Legislature, asking it, in the interest of public welfare, to pass the bill in its amended form. (The message was a form message, alleviating the necessity of a bill lying on the desks of the members of the Legislature for three calendar days, a constitutional requirement.) Even this failed to move the committee and the bill died a gallant death in the closing hour of the session.

Although one bill out of ten seems a poor showing for Equal Rights in New York State in 1925, we feel that considerable progress has been made along educational lines in an unusually obdurate Legislature, which was chiefly engaged in waging perpetual warfare against the Governor and a series of skirmishes with its own leaders. Slowly but surely public opinion is changing and the legislators are beginning to mellow a little to the Equal Rights bills, formerly called "nefarious measures." Even jury service for women came into better repute during the session, and we are confident that the small advances made in the State will pave the way toward the passage and ratification of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment.

CORRECTION

We very much regret that in last week's issue we published an erroneous statement attributed to Florence Bayard Hilles concerning the Delaware College for Women. We apologize to Mrs. Hilles and to the College for the misstatement.

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Edith Houghton Hooker, Editor
Dora G. Ogle, Business Manager

Associate Editors:

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.]
[House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1925,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 13, 1925,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

Is "Equal Rights" Vague?

THOSE who do not believe that men and women in the United States should have equal rights guaranteed by constitutional amendment charge that the Lucretia Mott Amendment, reading "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," is vague, and declare that it does not "define equal rights."

In reply to this Burnita Shelton Matthews, member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, says: "Our Constitution is supposed to establish basic principles. It is not supposed to go into great detail and into specifications, because, if it did, every time you wanted to carry out the purpose of a principle in the Constitution, you would be hedged about by these details as to how it should be carried out. Because we have a Constitution as a permanent thing, we leave those details to be decided by the legislatures, so that we can take advantage of whatever advancement is made."

"Our National Constitution uses the word 'privileges,' and it uses the word 'immunities,' and nobody demands that the Constitution define 'privileges' or 'immunities.' Moreover, we have in the Fourteenth Amendment the phrase, 'Equal protection of the law.' We have also the phrase, 'due process of law.' We have also the word 'liberty.' There is not anything in the Constitution defining these terms, and I am sure that the term 'equal rights' is just as understandable as these other terms."

"It is difficult to give any definition that would cover every case, but it is not so difficult to apply this principle of equal rights when a particular case comes up to apply it to. When a court is construing a statute it always construes it with reference to the particular question that is before the court; it does not attempt to pass upon every point or every subject to which the statute might apply."

"Moreover, such terms as 'equal rights' have been written into the State constitutions for the purpose of establishing equal rights as among women, and equal rights as among men, but not equal rights as between men and women. If that has been a practicable method of securing equality among men as a class, certainly it would be an effective method of securing equal rights as between men and women."

The Proof of the Pudding

LAST February at the Congressional hearings on the Federal Equal Rights Amendment the statement was frequently made by the opposition that the proper method of correcting the manifold legal injustices under which American women suffer was "special bills for special ills." That method has now been amply tried out in a large number of legislatures and it has proven to be a delusion and a snare.

Miss Gifford's resumé of the happenings in the New York State Legislature this winter is typical of what has taken place over the whole country. Her article, appearing in this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS, needs no additional comment to point the fact that piecemeal legislation is an utter failure where a fundamental principle of justice is at stake.

Picture to yourself the unconscionable trouble of drafting all these different bills, of having them introduced, of lobbying for them, and then the outrage of seeing them one by one thrown into the discard. A consideration of the character of the different bills is also illuminating, as indicating the brazenness with which the majority of American legislaturemen defy the ordinary claims of justice. Take the prostitution bill. Is it not obvious in this degraded relationship that the man whose money supports the infamous institution is at least as guilty as his female partner? Justice answers yes, and hygiene affirms the answer, but not so the ultra male members of the New York Legislature. We could go on, so, through the whole list of defeated measures, finding in each one a text from which to preach the absolute necessity for a Federal Equal Rights Amendment.

There is something shocking, astounding, a veritable goad to action, in the facts as Miss Gifford recapitulates them. For the honor of their country, for the honor of the human species, American women should have done with pusillanimous legislatures. What avails it to seek justice from the unjust, to ask liberty from slaves?

Let us take our case to a higher court, and if that fails us, we, as upstanding human beings, can find solace in the patriotic utterance, "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God."

English Feminists and Special Labor Laws for Women

By Crystal Eastman

I HAVE just come from the annual council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. It may interest American women to know that this highly regular and conservative body, direct successor to the "Constitutional" and the non-militant suffrage group, whose retiring president, Mrs. Fawcett, has recently been made a "Dame" of the British Empire, declared itself with only a few dissenting votes against protective legislation applying to women, but not to men. This is not a revolutionary departure on the part of the N. U. S. E. C. A similar resolution was passed in 1919 and reaffirmed in some form or other, I am told, at every annual meeting since.

This year the resolution read: "This council reaffirms its conviction that legislation for the protection of workers should be based not upon sex, but on the nature of the occupation * * * and it regrets that certain of the Washington conventions are not in accordance with these principles." It was introduced by Miss Helen Ward, who is on the executive board both of the National Union and of the National Council of Women, who is a vice-president of the Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations, and a member of the women's advisory committee to the League of Nations Union.

The "Washington Conventions" adopted by the International Labor Office of the League of Nations include, of course, the famous "prohibition of night work for women," which has been incorporated in the industrial legislation of Great Britain and of so many other nations affiliated with the league. Miss Ward pointed out that the International Labor Office has recently extended the night work convention to cover agriculture and that there is nothing logically to prevent its being further extended to include brain-workers. She declares, moreover, that there is a very strong group in the International Labor Office that wishes to establish "differential sex legislation" as a fundamental principle of the league—as the "ultimate international ideal." This tendency, she believes, is most important for feminists to combat.

Miss Ward's own position is well covered by "View B" in the following paragraphs with which she concluded a recent article:

"To sum up, there is, among women, a large variety of opinion in regard to the best methods for the protection of workers, whether men, women, or children, in particular, there are two views which may be called View A, and View B, as follows:

"View A.—That women and children being, not only when the former are bearing children, but at all times, subject to such natural disabilities, that they cannot be adequately protected by means of the raising of standards of welfare and wages for all workers, regardless of sex, it is for their good to build up a permanent international system of protective or restrictive legislation for them, as a class apart.

"View B.—1. That in some backward countries, some temporary legislative restrictions upon women's work may be the lesser of two evils.

2. That an international system of restrictive legislation for non-adults is desirable, and that a very large measure of protection for young women will thus be secured without the evils of the differential system for adults.

"3. But that, to segregate women permanently by an international system of restrictive legislation, based on sex, is, in spite of any apparent temporary advantage, to afford them no stable protection, but rather to add to the difficulties they already have to contend with; that the ideal therefore is, to base protective legislation, not on the sex of the worker, but on the nature of the work."

Miss Ward was ably supported in the debate by Mrs. Elisabeth Abbot, also on the board of the N. U. S. E. C. and a prominent leader of the women's movement in Great Britain.

The resolution did not pass without opposition. There was an effort to weaken it by amendment, and after this failed an effort to get it tabled, which also failed. It is significant that the National Union's position on protective legislation is now so well established that only a short time was reserved for debate on this resolution and only two delegates were found to speak against it.

The N. U. S. E. C. is made up of some 200 local affiliated societies throughout Great Britain. There were 300 delegates at this year's annual meeting and 14 new societies were admitted. It is a live, flourishing and highly representative society.

But the National Union is not the only woman's organization in Great Britain which is opposed to restrictive industrial legislation on sex lines. The Women's Freedom League, of which the distinguished Mrs. Despard was for so many years president, has taken even stronger action. In 1919, on motion of their national executive, the league declared "uncompromising opposition to any efforts,

whether national or international, to limit the opportunities of women in industry under the name of protection."

"Again and again," said the secretary, Miss Florence A. Underwood, "this resolution has been reaffirmed by our committee and by our delegates to conferences convened by other societies. At the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Rome in 1923 our delegates maintained that no restrictions should be imposed on the work of women which are not also imposed on men's work. We ask for equal opportunities and equal pay for women with men in all branches of industry, in commerce, in the professions and in the civil service. We hold that any special protective restrictions can only undermine women's chance for equality. A fair field and no favor is the watchword of the Women's Freedom League."

This organization did not stop at resolutions. In 1920, when a bill was brought in (following the Washington Convention) to prohibit women, young persons and children from night work in factories, the Freedom League fought against the inclusion of women with all its force. Their view is, quite frankly, that all restrictive legislation in regard to women's work is engineered by men who do not wish to have women's full competition in their particular trades, and in the interests of women should be uncompromisingly opposed.

The third active feminist organization in Great Britain, the Six-Point Group, of which Lady Rhondda is the founder and chairman, has never taken formal action on the matter of industrial restrictions, but it is well known that its officers are opposed to such restrictions except when applied to men and women alike. An unsigned editorial in *Time and Tide* (Lady Rhondda's paper) for March 20, in commenting on the recent action of the N. U. S. E. C., says: "For our part we are glad that this important body of women should have taken the line they have * * * against protective legislation for women."

This would seem to make it unanimous so far as the distinctively feminist organizations go. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League and the Six-Point Group, so far as I know the only societies of national scope in this country which are devoted to the object of securing equality for women, take the same stand on the matter of so-called "protective legislation" for women that the National Woman's Party takes in the United States.

Emily's Bequest

By Babette Deutsch

A POET who remained obscure during her lifetime, and for many years afterward, and who has only lately swum into the ken of eager stargazers, Emily Dickinson, can scarcely be spoken of as exercising an influence on American poetry. Yet, partly because of her signal gift, and partly because an accent peculiarly hers vibrates in contemporary work, Emily Dickinson finds her place beside Poe and Whitman as a chief figure in the literature of these States.

The recent publication of her complete poems (The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson, with an introduction by her niece, Martha Dickinson Bianchi; Boston: Little, Brown, 1924) strengthens the sense of her reticent and potent genius. It helps, also, to discover the virtues that are her specific bequest to her successors. A Puritan austerity, a Yankee shrewdness, the ardour of the saint, the laconic mouth of the hermit, the intense eye, the prodigal compassion of the artist. The routine of her days was homely enough—her contacts with the outside world amazingly limited. She moved between the house and the garden, travelled by means of a book instead of a railway coach, and seemed more at home in the cemetery than in the drawing-room. Death: its finality, its inevitability, its possible gate on immortality (Emily Dickinson was more of a skeptic than some of her admirers admit)—death was her great preoccupation. The other was love, hopeless love, whose tragedy she had literally by heart. With this spiritual equipment, in wilful seclusion, and with these themes, she made, in her own brief, sharp, self-disciplined way, some of the finest poems in the language.

She was no formalist. Her abrupt rhythms, while sometimes falling into metre, seldom followed the pattern strictly. She went her own gait, here, as elsewhere. Rhymes gave place, often enough, to assonance and even a rarer chime than this. Even her grammar stumbled. Only on one point she was firm: a poem must be packed with intensity, of thought, emotion, perception—or it would not bear putting on paper. And the intensity is there, though she repeats not merely her ideas, but her adjectives as well, and though she traffics largely in such plain self-sufficient words as "bees," "brooms," "food" and "Calvary."

It is a thankless effort to look for the effect of her work upon more modern poets, for it is not impossible that those who seem to owe her most know her least. But it is interesting, and to a degree rewarding, to examine contemporary verse for traces of the spirit that was Emily

Dickinson, and glimpses, however uncertain, of a talent like hers. Not unnaturally, the fruits of such a search are, with rare exceptions, to be found among the poems of women. Indeed, one might limit the names of her poetic kinsfolk to three—Adelaide Crapsey, Elinor Wylie and, to a lesser degree, Edna St. Vincent Millay. But here and there, tunes from other lute-players creep out with a phrase that echoes hers, a chord that summons up her rich remembrance. Alfred Kreyborg, though he plays quite another instrument from Emily's (it is fatally easy to speak of her thus, as though to be able to know her at all implied the knowing her well), has yet a string or two of hers on his "mandolite." Willard Wattles has Emily's own trick of talking about God as if He were his neighbor—of allowing religion to seep into and take its colour from common life by a kind of mystical osmosis. Winifred Welles not seldom breathes her crisp New England air. And Orrick Johns' "Interpreter" might have been written of Emily Dickinson herself:

THE INTERPRETER.

In the very early morning when the light was low,
She got all together and she went like snow;
Like snow in the springtime on a sunny hill,
And we were only frightened and can't think still.

We can't quite think that the katydids and frogs,
And the little crying chickens and the little grunting hogs,
And the other livings things that she spoke for to us
Have nothing more to tell her since it happened thus.

She never is around for anyone to touch,
But of ecstasy and longing she, too, knew much . . .
And always, when anyone has time to call his own,
She will come and be beside him as quiet as a stone.

One other woman poet, beside those mentioned, suggests the New England solitary, and that is Gladys Cromwell, who differed from Emily Dickinson in fainting under the wounds of a spirit torn by the sights and pangs of war, and in loving death not wisely, but too well. Her "Crowning Gift," in the severity of its vocabulary, no less than in the freight of its final lines, clearly recalls the elder singer:

THE CROWNING GIFT.

I have had courage to accuse;
And a fine wit that could upbraid;
And a nice cunning that could bruise;
And a shrewd wisdom, unafraid
Of what weak mortals fear to lose.

I have had virtue to despise
The sophistry of pious fools;
I have had firmness to chastise;
And intellect to make me rules
To estimate and exorcise.

I have had knowledge to be true;
My faith could obstacles remove;
But now my frailty I endure.
I would have courage now to love,
And lay aside the strength I knew.

It is not surprising that those who lived with pain, like Gladys Cromwell and Adelaide Crapsey, should speak with the voice of one who withdrew abruptly from a world that had too much power to hurt. Miss Cromwell, at thirty-four, chose her death. Miss Crapsey was given leave to inspect hers with a bewitched and anguished eye, until, at thirty-five, death returned her gaze, and took her. Emily Dickinson would have liked this woman, whose agony "put itself severe away for its own perusal." She would have recognized in her a stark simplicity, a wistful tenderness, a fierce rebel heart kindred to her own. It was hardly like Emily Dickinson to spend her best energies on a study of English metrics, which was Miss Crapsey's cherished work; but the author of "The Single Hound" would probably have found Miss Crapsey's "Cinquains" (an invented form of five lines and twenty-two syllables) the essence of that compactness which she herself delighted in achieving. The substance, as well as the form of these Cinquains, recall the compressed eloquence of the nineteenth-century poet. They, too, deal with death, and grief, and the balm of Nature. "The Guarded Wound" speaks of Emily; so does "Triad," "Arbutus," "Laurel in the Berkshires," "The Grand Canyon," "Now Barabbas Was a Robber," "The Source." Here are three of them:

TRIAD.

These be
Three silent things:
The falling snow . . . the hour
Before the dawn . . . the mouth of one
Just dead.

LAUREL IN THE BERKSHIRES.

Sea-foam
And coral! Oh, I'll
Climb the great pasture-rocks
And dream me mermaid in the sun's
Gold flood.

April 18, 1925

NOW BARABBAS WAS A ROBBER.

No guile?
Nay, but so strangely
He moves among us . . . Not this
Man, but Barabbas! Release to us
Barabbas!

"The Crucifixion" is glowing with Emily's faith, just as "Expenses" is pungent with her humour:

EXPENSES.

Little my lacking fortunes show
For this to eat and that to wear;
Yet laughing, Soul, and gaily go!
An obol pays the Stygian fare.

Succinctness in form, aloofness of spirit, a heart quickened by a houseless landscape and shaken by shuttered sorrows—these qualities of Elinor Wylie's are sufficient to align her with her New England sister. Indeed, scarcely a critic welcomed Mrs. Wylie's meteoric appearance on the literary scene without noting her double debt to Emily Dickinson and William Blake, whom the elder American poet also much resembles. It is especially in her epigrammatic apprehension of natural beauties that Mrs. Wylie invites comparison with her senior. I shall quote only one poem, but its concise evocative syllables, no less than its astrigent mood, are sufficient testimony to the likeness between these two honey-hearted ladies:

VALENTINE.

Too high, too high to pluck
My heart shall swing.
A fruit no bee shall suck,
No wasp shall sting.

If on some night of cold
It falls to ground
In apple-leaves of gold,
I'll wrap it round.

And I shall seal it up
With spice and salt,
In a carven silver cup,
In a deep vault.

Before my eyes are blind
And my lips mute,
I must eat core and rind
Of that same fruit.

Before my heart is dust
At the end of all,
Eat it I must, I must
Were it bitter gall.

But I shall keep it sweet
By some strange art;
Wild honey I shall eat
When I eat my heart.

O honey cool and chaste
As clover's breath!
Sweet Heaven I shall taste
Before my death.

Edna Millay stems less obviously from her great predecessor. For one thing, she is too emphatically the pagan, too merrily fickle, too fond of swaggering in Byronic attitudes. Certainly Emily Dickinson peered below the proprieties at the truths they are used to conceal, but even when she addressed God with her tongue in her cheek,

(Papa above!
regard a mouse
O'erpowered by the cat.

I never lost as much but twice
And that was in the sod;
Twice have I stood a beggar
Before the door of God!

Angels, twice descending,
Reimbursed my store.
Burglar, banker, father,
I am poor once more!

even when she laughed, it was with the special note of the insider. Further, Miss Millay has a distinctly lyric gift which Emily Dickinson's hard consonantal lines do not often reveal. Yet in her pastoral verses, as in one of two of her "Figs from Thistles," and in several of her elegaic poems, Miss Millay strikes the familiar tone between whimsy and severity, keys her strings to the same charmed sorrow and pitiful tenderness.

"Thin as thread, with exquisite fingers,—
Have you seen her, any of you?
Grey shawl, and leaning on the wind—
With the garden showing through?"

This, of the rain, shows the gossamer touch of her who suffered a bird a crumb only to see him unroll his feathers and row him softer home:

"Than oars divide an ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, splashless, as they swim."

Nor can one read Miss Millay's frequent expostulations to "savage Beauty" without remembering Emily Dickinson's perfect quatrain:

Beauty crowds me till I die,
Beauty, mercy have on me!
But if I expire today,
Let it be in sight of thee.

Except for music, which Emily resigned whenever it might win her from her thought, all of these poets get their best gifts either from her directly or from the bounty of a genius akin to hers. And yet she keeps, inviolate, "the suburbs" of her "secret," and goes, attended by her "single hound," her own Identity, an unmolested cynosure, down the long avenue of the years.

Cuban Women to Hold Congress

MRS. L. S. HOUSIAN has been appointed delegate of the Woman's Party to the Second National Women's Congress of Cuba, which takes place early in April.

Among the subjects on the program are suffrage, labor, social questions, law, hygiene and education. The suffrage section will discuss woman's suffrage; the need to grant women opportunity for employment in all lines of public office which have to do with the moral and material interests of their sex; the question, "Is the Cuban woman a subject or a citizen?" the triumph of the American woman in the last elections.

The labor section will discuss Cuban women's work, equality in the work of

men and women, equal pay for equal work, protective legislation for women, particularly as concerns maternity legislation, hygienic and industrial conditions, the motivation of women's work and co-operative projects for women.

The section on social subjects will consider feminism in Cuba, its victories and its ideals; the struggle against prostitution; the problem of the delinquent woman and prison conditions; the right of women to participate as judges in the cases concerning women, and the need for women's and children's courts; the protection of youth; reform schools; the formation of women's clinics; the establishment of economical eating places; the venereal diseases; drugs and alcoholism;

juvenile delinquency; rights of children, and the prevention of abortion.

The law section will discuss the various problems of women's status, particularly as concerned with equality in residence and citizenship, equal laws on adultery, equal laws on illegitimacy, equal guardianship laws, laws on family relations, and laws on the services of mothers and children in the home.

The section on hygiene will concern itself with abnormal children. The section on education will discuss the education of women for practical living, public and private schools, the need for women on boards of education, sufficient public schools, the formation of night schools and the education of women in their civic rights and duties.

Teachers' Equal Rights Bill

THE first National Woman's Party Equal Rights Bill in New Jersey has been passed, and passed over the veto of Governor Silzer.

This bill, which on Saturday, March 21, became a law, was entitled "An Act Prohibiting Discriminations on Account of Sex in the Employment of Teachers." As soon as it was introduced in the Senate by Senator Mackay of Bergen County, an intensive letter and telegram campaign was carried on among the women principals, teachers and National Woman's Party members of New Jersey. Senator Simpson, Democrat of Hudson County, and Senator Mackay, Republican of Bergen County, gave splendid support to the bill and it passed the Senate without a single vote in opposition, 15-0.

In the House of Assembly the bill encountered serious setback, even though it was vigorously supported by Majority Leader Ralph Chandless of Bergen County. A caucus held a few weeks prior to the time that our bill reached the house had decided that no special salary increase bills should pass at this session of the Legislature. In order to get our bill out of this jam it was necessary to prove to many that it was not primarily a salary increase bill and that wage differences were not the only discriminations against women teachers.

By Lula Enders,
Chairman of the New Jersey Branch of
the National Woman's Party.

The bill was amended. Paradoxical though it may seem, the following eight words were inserted: "In the formulation of a scale of wages;" and the following three words omitted, "exempt from taxation." The original bill started out with the broad assertion that in the employment of teachers discriminations based on sex are prohibited and this, of course, means all discriminations. The amended bill says that "in the formulation of a scale of wages discriminations are prohibited." Still the object of our bill is accomplished by reason of the fact that the amended bill leaves intact our provision that the bill shall apply to appointment, assignment, compensation, promotion, transfer, resignation and other matters pertaining to the employment of teachers. The insertion makes the bill rather awkward in the opinion of Burnita Shelton Matthews, who was consulted about these changes, but did not feel that it would defeat our purpose. The amended bill passed the House of Assembly with a 40-7 vote. All five women members of the Assembly voting in favor of it, and both Republicans and Democrats supporting it.

The Senate immediately concurred in the amendment to the bill and it was sent to the Governor for his signature.

Governor Silzer was in the act of dictating his veto to the bill, when I called upon him. He seemed to have no deep-rooted objections to the bill and no very logical reason for vetoing it. He said that he would be willing to sign the bill, provided it was redrawn and the clause relating to colleges and universities omitted. Since the Legislature would be in session only three days more it was impracticable to consider this suggestion.

Senator Mackay, Republican, who introduced the bill, immediately set to work to get enough votes to override the Governor's veto. Senator Simpson, Hudson County Democrat, with a breadth of vision and a dash of political daring, championed the bill strenuously and overrode his Democratic Governor's veto. In spite of opposition and much argument the Senate passed the bill over the Governor's veto by a vote of 13-0.

In the Assembly party discipline required Assemblywoman Carty and other Democrats who had previously worked for the bill to uphold the Democratic Governor's veto, but we won by a vote of 41-9, and discrimination against women teachers because of sex is now prohibited in New Jersey.

News From The Field

MRS. CLARENCE M. SMITH, New York State Chairman of the Woman's Party, will discuss the Equal Rights Amendment before the Washington Heights Women's Federated Republican Club Friday evening, April 17.

A HEARING on the Joiner Bill, now before Governor Al Smith of New York for veto or approval, will be held on April 16 in Albany. This bill provides that the State Industrial Commission may limit the hours of working women in any factory or mercantile establishment if it finds, upon investigation, that the conditions and processes may be detrimental to the health of females employed there.

The New York legislature rejected the Mastick-Shonk bill, limiting women's work in factories to eight hours a day. The National Woman's Party appeared against this measure, asking that no bill be passed restricting women's labor, and that all "protective" legislation be made to apply to men as well as women.

Governor Smith has expressed himself as opposed to the Joiner bill.

MRS. BERNICE MARKS STEARNS, a member of the New York City Committee, presented the case for equal rights at a meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Republican Club of the City of New York on Thursday evening, April 2. Miss Elizabeth Collier of the League of Women Voters, presented the opposition. Mrs. Stearns told of the inequalities between men and women which exist in school, church and home, in custom and in law, while Miss Collier declared that her organization was in favor of equal rights in every department of life except in industry, but stated that equality must be obtained step by step by changing specific laws in State legislatures. Mrs. Stearns' answer to this was that judging from the experience in the 1925 session of the New York legislature, it would require at least a century to obtain legal equality for women by state action. Many women in the audience told Mrs. Stearns that they had become greatly interested in the work of the Woman's Party through her able presentation of the equal rights amendment.

DR. ELIZABETH F. BAKER, Instructor in Economics, Barnard College, will speak on "Do Wage Earners Need Legal Protection?" in the Sun Room, Allerton House, 57th Street and Lexington Avenue, Wednesday evening, April 15th, at 8:15 o'clock. Dr. Baker has made an extensive study of Protective Legislation and has just published a book on the subject.

THE New York City Committee will hold its semi-annual rummage sale April 16th to April 18th, at 1294 Third Avenue, corner 74th Street. The Committee asks all New York readers of EQUAL RIGHTS to notify New York Headquarters, Plaza 7762, if they have any clothes or household articles which they would like to give to this sale. Upon notification, the articles will be collected by the committee in charge of the sale.

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