

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
APRIL 25, 1925



Entrance to the open-air theatre at Cranbrook, the estate of George G. Booth, Esq., near Detroit, where the Equal Rights Pageant, in conjunction with a Mid-Western Conference, will be given early in June. Those in the picture are, from left to right, Fern Stevenson, Mrs. William A. McGraw, Chairman Pageant Committee; Mrs. George T. Hendrie, Chairman Michigan Branch, National Woman's Party; Anita Pollitzer, Nina B. Lamkin, Pageant Director, and Mrs. Marjorie Miller Whittemore,

Feminist Notes

Women's Rights in the Channel Islands

ALTHOUGH Jersey is the first of the Channel Islands to allow women the right to own property by a very recent enactment, it lags behind the other islands of its group in granting political rights. Guernsey, Alderney and Sark have for several years allowed women of 30 to vote for local parliaments on the same terms as men, and a woman, Miss Marie Randall, was elected last year to the Guernsey Parliament from the capital city, St. Peter. Nevertheless, women remain legally propertyless in these places, while where they are still stubbornly denied the ballot, in Jersey, they may become property owners.

A Mohammedan Woman Chancellor

THE first Mohammedan university to have a woman as its chancellor is that of Aligarh in India. The occupant of the place holds also the position of Begum or Queen of Bhopal. She is strictly orthodox in her religious practices, and at the same time takes a deep interest in fostering education in all stages.

Spreading the Light in Egypt

EGYPTIAN women held a mock election simultaneously with the recent official election of a Parliament. The object was to demonstrate the interest of women in public affairs and their fitness to participate. As further evidence there has been started by Mme. Hoda Charaoui a new woman's paper in French, *L'Egyptienne*. The editor is Mlle. Ceza Naba-raoui.

A Swiss Woman LL.D.

THE first woman to take the degree of LL.D. in Basle, Miss Ruth Speiser, has just passed the very difficult examination for such an honor.

Equal Jury Rights Before a Court

BECAUSE no woman was on the grand jury which returned indictments against alleged violators of the Volstead Act, United States Judge Hickenlooper in Cincinnati was asked by the defense to quash proceedings. The reasoning was that the Nineteenth Amendment made women eligible for jury service, but the jury commissioner had intentionally neglected to place names of any women in the box from which the jury was drawn. Therefore the defense attorney claimed the grand jury was not legally constituted and its acts were invalid. Nevertheless the judge upheld the indictment.

Women Must Be Represented By Women

The Vote, London, April 3.

THE Seventh International Labor Conference will be held in Geneva on May 19 next, and we have asked the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labor to see that a woman is sent from this country as a fully accredited delegate to that conference, and also that a woman, or women, are among the technical advisers. Of the subjects on the Agenda, the following, which are the two first items, at least concern women no less than men: (1) Compensation for accidents during work; (2) Equal treatment for the victims of such accidents, whether natives or foreigners. Women are equally liable with men to accidents in factories and workshops, and, in view of the large and ever-increasing number of women engaged in industry, women as well as men should be sent by the Government to take part in the discussions on industry at Geneva. We think this is all the more necessary in face of a report, quoted in Equal Rights (the official organ of the American National Woman's Party) of March 21, by Miss Swartz, director of New York State's Bureau of Women in Industry, which shows that, in spite of compensation laws, even some minor injuries prove a handicap to a large percentage of women. Of 500 cases investigated, only half had been able to return to work at the same wages as before the accident, while more than one-fifth were forced out of industry altogether. The rest were employed at reduced wages. We submit that, if women's interests are to be safeguarded at this International Labor Conference, women must be sent to it as fully accredited delegates.

Newfoundland Joins the Procession

THE Legislature of Newfoundland has unanimously passed the bill granting suffrage to women over 25 years of age. The measure also makes women eligible for office.

Woman Musician Honored

MADAME ELIZABETH KUYPER of Holland, founder and conductor of the first women's symphony orchestra in Europe, was entertained at the White House on April 6 by Mrs. Coolidge. Several months ago she founded the Women's Symphony Orchestra of America, which is now being incorporated under the laws of New York. She is one of the few Dutch musicians who have achieved international fame and prominence and is widely recognized as a composer of rare ability.

An American Woman to Help Russia

MISS DOROTHY MULLER of Baltimore has been chosen to manage the primary school at the agricultural station in Southern Russia, to be established to educate Russian peasants in American methods of farming. The enterprise has the backing of Quaker organizations interested in Russian reconstruction. A group of American men and women with their families will settle at this station midway between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Miss Muller, at present a teacher at Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, was chosen as possessing the best qualifications for this important educational work. The group will leave for Russia about the end of April.

Husband Gets Alimony

ON March 26 Judge John T. Moffit in the District Court of Cedar Rapids entered an order requiring Mrs. Olive Sloat to pay her husband \$100 temporary alimony, \$75 attorney's fees and \$25 support pending final disposition of his divorce action.

Sloat asked \$5000 alimony when he sued in January, alleging cruel and inhuman treatment.

Married Teachers Not Wanted in Holland

WITH the aid and consent of conservative women members the lower house of the Dutch Parliament passed a bill permitting municipalities to discharge women teachers in elementary schools on marriage. The radical members, including the women, vigorously opposed the bill, but without success.

A Family of Politicians

WHILE Premier Lyons of Tasmania is seeking re-election to Parliament from the Wilmot district, his wife is a candidate in Denison and his mother-in-law is seeking the suffrages of the people of Darwin.

An Equal Rights Journey

BESSE MOTON GARNER, attorney-at-law at Highland Park, Mich., a suburb of Detroit, writes to National Woman's Party Headquarters, enthusiastically describing the interest in Equal Rights shown during her series of addresses and debates in Wisconsin and in Chicago.

"I arrived in Milwaukee at noon, Thursday, and was taken to Mrs. Rotter's home and enjoyed for two days her delightful hospitality," she says. "In the afternoon of that day she entertained between 50 and 70 members and friends at a beautiful tea. We discussed the work, the plans of organization, the coming conference in June in Detroit, and the Lucretia Mott amendment. We secured

the membership interest of several distinctly worth-while women. * * *

"We talked over the radio at 7.30 at Station WSQC.

"At noon on Friday I spoke at the luncheon of the 'Sholem Aleichem Club,' a group of 114 young Jewish business and professional women. At 2 P. M. the debate before the Wisconsin Women's Club took place at the large auditorium of the Public Library, which was crowded.

"At 8 P. M. we repeated the discussion before the Milwaukee Business and Professional Women's Club at their clubhouse. This group seemed to be solidly with us and thoroughly awake to the necessity and bigness of the thing.

"The next day (Saturday) came the de-

bate in Madison before the American Association of University Women at the College Club. The room was crowded. * * * They listened attentively, and, contrary to my expectations, several women assured me that I had answered their every doubt, and that they would vote for equal rights and would endorse the amendment heartily.

"In Chicago we had a lovely afternoon, those present not being numerous, but most enthusiastic."

Mrs. Garner ends her letter in the true spirit of the Woman's Party with an expression of gratitude for the opportunity given her of presenting to these audiences the problem of removing all the present injustices against women.

A Preliminary Victory

THE right of a married woman to the use of her own name on a passport was granted on Friday, April 17 for the first time in the United States by Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, in answer to a request from the National Woman's Party that a passport be given Ruby A. Black, a married woman, in her own name.

Burnita Shelton Matthews, Attorney for the National Woman's Party, and Helena Normanton, English Barrister who is traveling in America on a passport granted her in her own name, presented arguments showing that legally a married woman has every right to her own name.

Secretary of State Kellogg after hearing the arguments gave a ruling that Miss Black could immediately be granted a passport in her own surname, provided indication is made of the name of her husband. The Passport Control Division had previously rendered an oral decision that Miss Black must sign the surname of her husband to the passport or the passport would be denied.

The present regulation requires that a married woman should sign her own Christian name or names with the family name of her husband. Secretary Kellogg stated that if additional information were sent him by the Legal Department of the Woman's Party, he would place before President Coolidge the case for the abolition of this rule.

Mrs. Normanton recited to the Secretary of State numerous instances where English women from the Twelfth Century on have continually used their own names. The fact that Secretary of State Kellogg granted to Miss Black the right to a passport in her own name and not the name of her husband was hailed with delight by feminists who feel that this ruling sets a new precedent for married

women who keep their own names and desire to travel without assuming the name of their husbands for the purposes of their journey.

In the deputation were Margaret Whittemore, Olive Lacy, Ruby A. Black, Isabell Kendig, Millie Roehrer, Burnita Shelton Matthews and Helena Normanton.

The case as presented by Burnita Shelton Matthews was in part as follows: We are here today in the interest of an application for a passport made by Ruby Aurora Black, a journalist. Soon after her birth she was named Ruby Aurora Black by her parents and even since has been known by that name and by none other. It is, therefore, her legal name.

The Passport Control Division has rendered an oral decision that Miss Black must sign the surname of her husband to her application for a passport or else the passport will be denied.

On behalf of Miss Black personally, and on behalf of the National Woman's Party, an appeal is now made from the ruling of the Passport Control Division.

We believe that the State Department has the power to issue a passport to Ruby Aurora Black in her own name because—

First: Under the common law, a married woman may retain her maiden name and is not required to take the surname of her husband.

Second: There is no statute applicable to the case before us that abridges or denies the right of a married woman to retain her maiden name. Since there is no statute to the contrary, a married woman's common law right to her own name must be recognized.

Third: Nowhere under our system of jurisprudence has there been a court decision holding that the law imposes the

surname of the husband upon a wife against her will. On the other hand, there are numerous court decisions upholding the validity of contracts, deeds, pleadings, judgments and decrees in the wife's maiden name. It is true that Mr. McCarl, comptroller-general of the United States, has ruled that the husband's surname is the legal surname of the wife. But the authorities cited by him in support of his decision do not in fact support such decision. The November, 1924, number of the Pennsylvania Law Review attacks Mr. McCarl's decision as unsound.

We anticipate that you will tell us that the President under an Act of Congress has made a rule that the State Department shall issue passports to married women in their husbands' names, and that the State Department is not at liberty to ignore this rule. On this point we wish to remind you that we have found much authority affirming the legal right of a wife to retain her maiden name. We have found none denying the right. There is no law giving the President the power to change a married woman's name or to say what it shall be. There is no law giving the State Department power even for a limited time to deprive a married woman of the only name she has ever had. Moreover, the name of the applicant is her property, her trade mark in her work as a journalist. To enforce a rule that deprives her of her name deprives her of her property without due process of law, and is in violation of the supreme law of the land.

We ask the State Department to abolish the rule in question. If the State Department is of the opinion that it can not do so, then we ask that the case be referred to the President with a recommendation from the State Department that the rule be abolished.

Equal Rights



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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, 1923,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 13, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

A Practical Argument

AT the fifth annual convention of Jewish Women's Organizations of Greater New York, held recently at the Hotel Astor in New York City, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise urged women to strive for complete liberation.

"The time has come for women to insist upon their right to take their places in the great professions alongside of men," he said.

"There is no real chance in law or medicine for women today. The ministry has been virtually shut to them. With their gifts and genius for spiritual life American women should take their places in the ranks of American religious leadership. We must have women in the law, in medicine and in the pulpit because women have genius for service rather than a passion for gain."

With his characteristic insight Rabbi Wise senses one of the fundamental needs for the emancipation of women. Even casual observation of the social order today discloses the fact that greed as a motive for action has obtained such proportions that it threatens the very groundwork of civilization.

To offset this trend women's "genius for service" is vitally needed, especially in the great humanitarian professions. As doctors, as lawyers, as ministers of the Gospel, it is already evident that women are primarily actuated by the service and not the gain motive.

In the further development of society it is of paramount importance that the impulse to give should at least have equal rank with the impulse to gain.

As Rabbi Wise foresees the emancipation of women means not only the liberation of one-half the race from a state of subjection, but predicates as well the release of the service motive in the practical affairs of everyday living.

The Spirit of the Times

MRS. T. KAMIMURA TAKARADA, president of the Japan Women's Association, writes us that in March, for the first time in the history of her country, the business women of Japan gathered together in a convention to discuss their common welfare. They met in Tokio under the auspices of the Tokio Associated Woman's League with several hundred women actively engaged in business present. To the occidental mind, accustomed to conceive oriental women as perhaps the most subject of their sex, this report comes as a revelation. The organization of business and professional women's clubs is so wholly modern in America that it seems scarcely credible that the same phenomenon is already being witnessed in the Far East. Yet such is the case. The report goes on to state that the women discussed their joint concerns with interest and acumen, and that many beneficial results were realized from the gathering.

If additional evidence were needed of the international nature of the feminist movement, it could be found in this occasion. Despite the heavy hand of tradition the spirit of the times is visible in the women of all nations. They are becoming imbued with new ideals and aspirations which are incompatible with the old regime. Self-support inevitably entails a certain measure of independence, and among women at least is an index of emancipation. It may be assumed that the demand for Equal Rights in Japan is not far distant when business women foregather in conventions of their own calling.

Appoint Your Delegates

ON the 4th, 5th and 6th of June the members of the National Woman's Party will assemble in Detroit, Mich., to participate in the Mid-Western Equal Rights Conference. The Michigan State Branch, of which Mrs. George T. Hendrie is chairman, is acting as the sponsor of this gathering and has drawn up a program that is full of vivid interest. The central feature of the conference will be the Equal Rights Pageant, to be held in the open-air theatre at Mr. George G. Booth's beautiful estate, "Cranford," Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Miss Nina B. Lamkin has consented to serve as director of the pageant, and Mrs. William A. McGraw is chairman of the pageant committee. In order to facilitate arrangements for the conference, it is important that the various State branches should appoint their delegates at the earliest opportunity. Although the conference is designed primarily to stimulate interest in Equal Rights among the Mid-Western States, it is hoped that delegates will be present from every State of the Union.

A Fair Field and No Favour

By Florence A. Underwood

AT OUR Annual Conference held in London, April 5th, 1919, the following resolution framed by the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League of Great Britain was passed unanimously.

"That The Women's Freedom League offers 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 this resolution has been reaffirmed by our committee. Our delegates to conferences convened by other societies in this Country and to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress at Rome in 1923 have invariably, since 1919, 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

Editor's Note: Miss Underwood is the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League of Great Britain and is Editor of their official organ "The Vote". She has been prominent in the feminist movement in England for a number of years. The Women's Freedom League, for which she speaks is one of the principal feminist organizations in Great Britain.

professions and in the Civil Service. We believe that any special protective restrictions can only undermine women's claim to equality. A Fair Field and No Favour is the watchword of the Women's Freedom League.

Throughout the year 1919 we fought the Government on its proposed Restoration of Pre-War Practices Bill. This passed into law however and successfully prevented many thousands of women from being allowed to continue to earn their living at well-paid jobs at which they had worked with efficiency all through the

War. This particular Bill was a bargain arrived at during the war between members of the Government, employers, and Trade Unionists, over the heads of women and without their consent. The harmful provision in it was that women and girls who had not before the War been employed in various branches of industry should not be allowed to continue in them, at least for a year.

In 1920 The Women's Freedom League opposed with all its force that part of the Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill which sought to prevent women from taking part in night work. This Bill, however, passed into law and women are prohibited from doing night work in factories.

All this kind of legislation is engineered by men who do not want to have women's full competition in their particular trades and we consider that in the interests of women it should be uncompromisingly opposed.

A Woman of Fifty

By Rheta Childe Dorr
Funk & Wagnalls, New York
Reviewed by John E. Mitchell

MRS. DORR is one of the first women who broke through into that corner of man's world called journalism. This book is more than the record of her personal adventures; it is the story of the wasteful struggles and warming victories of any woman of talent and courage who began life fifty years ago.

Partly the book is about the moving frontiers of modern life which Mrs. Dorr visited as a reporter. She tells successively of the industrialization of women, revolution in Russia, suffrage in England and America, and war and politics in Europe.

Partly the book is a picture of a human being. It shows a gay and impetuous little girl, an incredibly earnest wife and mother, and a defiant and hard-working reporter who became at last the established journalist. The last third of the book unconsciously and ironically tells how man's world, which she had fought so bitterly to enter and which, personified in her son she so passionately defends brought her to a hysterical breakdown. It was in her convalescence that "A Woman of Fifty" was written.

Mostly the book is about man and woman. Mrs. Dorr has entered the world of successful men. She mercilessly walloped every opponent set against her. But she was not then admitted gladly. She was admitted only on condition that she be a vociferous hater of Bolsheviks, a defender of war, and a stump speaker for Warren G. Harding.

As a reporter, Mrs. Dorr went in late 1906 to a Hyde Park meeting of Mrs.

Editor's Note: Mr. Mitchell is one of the most distinguished members of the staff of the New York World. He is an ardent believer in the Equal Rights Amendment and in the general program of the National Woman's Party.

Emmeline Pankhurst. "I shall always believe her one of the greatest women that ever lived. She was limited in her usefulness, as Savonarola, Luther and Garibaldi were limited. Essentially a religious woman she had all the qualities of a Crusader. But she had military and political genius also. What she did you may think all wrong, but she did it superlatively well. I never knew her to make a mistake in judgment, that is, during her militancy. Her only weakness was her adoration of Christabel."

In spite of this rather calm praise from a woman of fifty, in 1906 Mrs. Dorr was taken completely captive. Seven years later she accompanied Mrs. Pankhurst to America, was with her when Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested off the English coast on her return, and was the secret agent by whom American funds were conveyed to Christabel. All this Mrs. Dorr tells well and in detail.

A few months after Mrs. Dorr left England, "as I was sitting half ready for bed in my hotel room in Washington Square, two strange young women called on me with the modest proposal that I go to Washington and join them in a rapid fire campaign to add an amendment

to the Constitution of the United States." The two were Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. Mrs. Dorr went, and for some time was editor of Suffragist. She recounts an entirely characteristic delegation which she led to President Wilson.

"To my mind this six years' campaign, conceived by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, and carried on with skill and amazing courage by thousands of women in every part of the country," she concludes "stands out as one of the immense achievements of my time."

"Doris Stevens in her book, 'Jailed for Freedom', has told the story most vividly."

"The National Women's Party not only gave votes to the women, its members started a movement that will never slow down until all American women have legal and social equality with men. It seems to me that no woman of fifty, in another age, beheld a greater change in society than this one."

From her first days as a newspaper reporter, Mrs. Dorr had been preoccupied with the problems of women who, like herself had left their homes to compete with men in business and industry. She was commissioned in 1907 by *Everybody's Magazine* to write a series of articles called, "Woman's Invasion." To gather her material, Mrs. Dorr worked in numberless factories. Many apologists for the working girl have arisen since then but few have made finer pictures of woman's place in industry than Mrs. Dorr's descriptions of a coat and pants loft, and a Fall River cotton mill.

As she studied her material, Mrs. Dorr

became convinced that what she had been witnessing was not woman triumphantly invading industry, but "Woman Dispossessed". Men had taken over dress-making, baking and laundrying, and had left woman, functionless, to catch on where she might in the industrial world. And this place was the most onerous and lowest paid.

To confirm in part her bitter theory, Mrs. Dorr one day saw the articles, "Woman's Invasion", advertised to begin at once in *Everybody's*. The author, the advertisement said in large letters, was to be William Hard. Mrs. Dorr accuses Mr. Hard and Mr. J. O'H. Cosgrave, the editor, of feeling there was nothing amiss in a man's signing his name to material which had been competently gathered by a woman. Mrs. Dorr secured a woman lawyer, Mrs. Quackenbos, and forced *Everybody's* to include her name as joint author.

Of her other experiences as a reporter, Mrs. Dorr tells little. The few she does tell of are dull enough, with the exception of one romantic interview with a young revolutionist in Petrograd. Mrs. Dorr, dodging Russian sentries as she snaps Lisa's face through the bars of the Litovsky prison, makes a charming picture of the girl reporter at work.

Mrs. Dorr, herself, is far more interesting than any of the events of which she was a part. At the age of eight, butter-nutting in a cemetery, she swore she would not, like the gentle ladies planted about her, end her life as "Also Rheta, wife of the above." In her second year in Nebraska State University, she read "A Doll's House". The next day she got a job as clerk in a post-office. Nora had decided it was intolerable to be supported by a man, even her father. In the post-office she remembers "a brief but thrilling affair" with a "former gunman." In 1890 she went to New York to study at the Art Student's League, met John Pixley Dorr and married him.

When her boy was born, she had a dream. She was struggling across a ploughed field, trying to speak. At last she uttered the words, "Millions and millions of women." She felt her hands grasped by the "soft, shadowy hands of women long dead and women yet to be born." As she truly says, she was then "one with them all."

Mrs. Dorr undertook marriage with tragic earnestness. She would explore and embrace every boundry of her husband's soul, and he must do the same. Dorr, she says, hung back. They sat up all one night quarreling about labor unions, and as soon afterwards as she could, Mrs. Dorr took her baby and went out to hunt a job.

But one other man appears in the story. "I find I have little to say about my numerous love affairs or my long and insistent sex life." "As soon as they passed they were forgot." The man she has not forgot is Benjamin B. Hampton, editor of *Hampton's Magazine*. It was he, Mrs. Dorr says, made a writer of her.

Even at the Art Student's League, Mrs. Dorr had been writing. During her short married life she wrote stories for the Sunday editions of New York newspapers. When she left her husband, she came straight to New York to ask for a job as a reporter. Editors stupidly and cruelly let a woman with twice the talent of most of their men, sit in their anterooms. She might do the scrapings and leavings of the trade—the feature story about fashions or household hints—but her sex forever barred her from the city room. And it may be said that in twenty years newspaper editors have changed very little.

After her trials in 1907 with *Everybody's* and Mr. Hard, Mrs. Dorr went to Hampton's Magazine.

"You say you can't write," Hampton told her. "Well, I'll make a writer of you or I'll beat the life out of you."

From her work with Hampton came Mrs. Dorr's book, "What Eight Million

Women Want", by which she is perhaps best known.

After fifteen years Mrs. Dorr battered her way into journalism. Editors were flattered to have Mrs. Dorr ask them for an assignment.

Mrs. Dorr draws no moral from her victory. But it seems as if a man's world had said to her: "Look here, we're sick of pushing you out all the time. It interrupts and confuses us. Now we haven't the slightest intention of changing our world, but if you'll promise to be a good girl and not monkey with the system, we'll make an exception in your case and let you in."

At any rate, Mrs. Dorr left the National Woman's Party for the New York *Evening Mail*, and left that to go to war. "Most of all I liked the shell-filling factories (in England) where women made TNT and other high explosives, and loaded them into shells," she confesses. "Many of these girls in England, in France as well, were killed and frightfully wounded," she announces later in the same passage.

This is her description of Madame Kollantai, one of first women ever to win great political power by her own efforts; "(She) looked a curious blend of school-teacher and murderess, with an intelligent brow but * * *"

Her son Julian was wounded and lamed for life at the battle of Cantigny. He was her ambassador to man's world, which would always view her with suspicion. "I am proud to remember," she writes, "that I had a man in that battle."

Having paid up handsomely to the world as it is, Mrs. Dorr in 1920 paid up to herself, with a year's nervous breakdown.

Some day there will be a little tombstone erected, and on it will not be written, "Rheta, wife of the above." Yet her victory, complete as it is, is as sad a victory as ever courage and talent won.

directly from Nettesheym's tract: "Woman has over man a superiority which is shown or expressed in her biblical name. Adam means earth, Eve means life, and in fact she rises above man as much as "the Life spirit" does above earth—the materia. What is a name one asks? Very much—the creator gave the nomenclature and he chose his names after the nature and attributes of the being. He who knew the inmost characteristics of these beings, how could he make a mistake? But not only in this is her superiority shown: God in his work of creation progressed steadily from the lowest to the highest from the imperfect to the perfect, from the simple to the complex and finally last of all he created—woman. Naturally he did not finish the great task of creation by making a mistake." Thus woman was the most perfect of all He created. The prophet says "Before God created the Heavens, His thought had already pointed to woman. Thus she forms the last link which holds the chain of the universe together; planned first tho created last! Or as the philosophers would express it the masterpiece of work is that which is first conceived, though executed last. The woman alone is born in Paradise. Man with all the animals is of earthly extraction, made of earthy mould and then placed in paradise so that women could be created. For this God did not employ the common clay from which His other creations had emanated. This clay must be cleansed and purified and impregnated with God's breath. Man is the work of nature—Woman is God's own. Therefore she possesses in such a great degree the gift of beauty for what is beauty but the light of His presence, the reflection of His glory?" And then follows in Nettesheym's work praise of womanly beauty as warm and impassioned as the flame of poetry itself. "All the beauty the world possesses is collected in her: all creation sinks at her feet in ecstasy, love and prayer. Even the demons cannot withstand her but flame with love for her the which is no fable but a clearly demonstrated fact. In addition to her beauty woman has another precious attribute that man hardly knows—modesty. Why have women their long hair if not when necessary to veil their limbs with it. How many women have not chosen death rather than to undergo the examinations of a physician. Even in death she retains her modesty for Plinius assures us that a drowned woman always floats upon her abdomen as if nature attempted to cast a veil over her, while man when drowned floats on his back?"

"Woman is cleanliness personified. If one wishes proof of this when a woman has once washed herself and then uses even the smallest quantity of water it re-

mains clean, while man though he wash himself a hundred times the water will always remain slightly soiled.

"Mankind has the precious privilege of carrying the face high directed toward the Heavens, but women has an even greater gift for nature has so ordained that if she falls she falls backwards and never injures either her face or head.

Woman is the chief factor in childbirth therefore the children more often resemble their mother than their father both mentally and physically and children love their mother with an affection for which there is no earthly comparison. As woman is not only 'life' herself, but 'life giver'; therefore woman's milk not only gives nourishment to the child, but can cure sickness and prolong life in grown people which has been proven by history. Women's blood can cure many diseases such as dropsy, leprosy and melancholic and maniacal outbreaks; it can put out fires, prevents shipwrecks, breaks the spells of witchcraft, and drives devils to flight. That there are women so 'life-potent' that they can reproduce only under the influence of a puff of wind or a bath is doubtful, but at least in regard to the Holy Virgin one knows that she became a mother under the divine influence alone, what greater proof of woman's supremacy could be afforded? Who but woman could have been exalted so high? It is plain that God to accomplish His highest will set man's function aside. One might then ask why was Christ born as man instead of as woman, the answer is, that sin came into the world through a man—Adam, because it was a man that God forbid to eat of the fruit of the tree, and he sinned well aware of what he did, while woman was not forbidden to eat of the fruit and only followed the behest of Satan himself. Therefore Christ must be a man so that sin having been introduced by man could be undone by man. And it was said to woman your seed but not your sex shall crush the serpent's head." The author now pours his vials of wrath over man's unhappy and defenceless head. "The first sinner was Adam the first murderer was Cain. The first bigamist was Lamet, the first drunkard Noah—the first child to dishonor his father was Cham-Nimrod and he was also the first tyrant and the first worshipper of false Gods. Who committed the first assault, signed the first pact with the devil—man. Jacob's sons sold their brother. An Egyptian king was the first to slaughter little children. It was the men in Sodom and Gomorra who had given themselves over to unnatural crimes. Who sold, accused, tortured, and crucified Christ—men. Denied by Peter, forsaken by his disciples, Christ was followed to the cross by women—to the burial place by women. Pilate's wife did all in her power to save Christ and

was the only one who believed in him. Jesus first showed himself to women when he rose from the dead." Agrippa fills pages in his book with examples and names from all times and all lands of the heroic, loyal, virtuous, and self sacrificing women, and of women who have died for their faith, and he admits at last that the subject has no end. "Of course," he continues "I know the stories of Samson, Jason, Diophobious and Agamemnon and their unhappy marriages, but what does that prove? A good husband is never the victim of a virago. And the first cause of a woman's evil is always due to man's treatment of her. Oh, if only the pages of history had been written by women what tragedies would have been avoided, and would they not have scored our blindness, our pride; thieves, murderers and traitors that we are. Turn your eyes from these horrors and look at woman—what a contrast. All the arts and virtues bear womanly names. While men were cutting each others throats women developed industrial pursuits and taught men virtue and generosity. One quality men have that is superior to women—strength. But what says Paul "God has chosen the stupid to shame the knowing, weakness to shame strength." Who had greater gifts than Adam yet a woman was his superior. Who was stronger than Samson yet a woman defeated him. Who was more virtuous than Lot yet a woman persuaded him to commit blood-shed. Who was more pious than David yet a woman was the cause of his downfall. Who was wiser than Solomon yet a woman blinded his wisdom. And even Christ in his talk with the woman from Canaan gave her right. And a woman caused Peter to deny Christ.

The old Persian tyrants, the Roman kings and many others have recognized that honor should be given woman. The Sabine women when they saved Rome by putting themselves at their husbands sides against their fathers and brothers obtained for women of all times equality with men. Lycurgus in his laws, and Plato in his philosophy have taught that woman is in no point the inferior of man. But in our country man's law has conquered and his tyranny has gone against God's will and nature's law, and man's laws and customs have combined to rob woman of her rights. The little girl is from birth a prisoner, she lives in idleness or being shut out from all serious occupation is only permitted the use of needle and thread. When she is grown she is either turned over to the tyranny of some man or else is incarcerated in some Vestal ergastulum. She cannot think of any public occupation—the law forbids it. She cannot plead in the courts the law forbids it; no matter how great her ability and wisdom may be she can

A Feminist in 1527

Translated by Eileen Cunningham from a recent number of the Danish paper, Dagens Nyheder.

nated by so many divine, precious gifts that the praise I give all women is merited a thousand times by her." And he implores her to be his "sure guarantee and witness for the honor of her sex."

The high regard in which the author held women is also shown by a private letter to a relation written a couple of years later just after the death of his 26 year old wife. He says: "For 8 years we have lived together in the bonds of the deepest understanding and love, which

was never disturbed by the least disagreements in any moment of our life together. Poverty, exile, flight, troubles and dangers she has courageously and patiently born with me and then just when a happier future seemed to open for us she died." One must therefore be convinced that he really speaks from his heart when he says in his book that it is impossible for him to sit in silence longer, when he sees the wrong that is done to women and tho his arguments and the logical structure of his thesis are founded on other concepts than those which would be used nowadays still his sincerity and zeal for his subject cannot be doubted. To quote

THAT feminism is not solely to be regarded as ultra modern is shown by the fact that as early as 1527 Henri Cornelle Agrippa de Nettesheym, physician in the city of Lyon, published a Latin tract which must be regarded as a veritable feminine panegyric the "De nobilitate et praecellentia feminae sexus." This tract has been translated into many languages but always in a greatly abbreviated form, but it has now been translated in its entirety by Professor Alexis Bertrand of the University of Lyon. De Nettesheym, dedicated his work to the beautiful young Princess Margarethe of Austria of whom he says "she is illumi-

be neither lawyer or judge. She cannot be guardian or curator nor witness a will. She is forbidden to preach God's word, though this is directly against the word of holy scripture where in Joel it is said 'your daughters shall prophecy.' So great is the injustice of the modern lawmaker that against God's word, in spite of all

sound reasoning and tradition he has decreed that the best and noblest of the sexes shall be set aside. That women submit to such laws is because they bow to the tyranny of might, for there is nothing in nature or common sense to persuade them. It is only the result of unfortunate conventions, foolish laws and

mistaken, tyrannical ideas." Agrippa von Nettesheym wrote these words over 400 years ago but in their essentials they could have been written a very few years ago in any or all of the civilized countries. Now a new time has come; has it ushered in a Golden Age? Let us be content if it be merely more just.

News From The Field

KATHRYN MANAHAN, an attorney of St. Paul, Minn., is now chairman of the St. Paul Branch of the National Woman's Party. The St. Paul Branch holds meetings every two weeks at the Woman's City Club.

The Minnesota Branch of the party met at the same place on March 11, to hear the reports of Mrs. Philip Sundby, Minneapolis chairman, and Miss Manahan, on their work with the Minnesota legislature on Equal Rights measures, and to discuss the hearings before the judiciary committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

No place on the program of the First Annual State Convention of the Minnesota Branches of the American Association of University Women was given to the National Woman's Party to discuss the Equal Rights Amendment.

THE General Assembly of Delaware, in its one hundredth session, passed two laws which were the direct results of work initiated by the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party.

The most important of these is the Act that the inheritance of personal property left by anyone who has not made a will shall pass to the next of kin, without regard to the sex of the deceased person or the sex of the heirs. It also makes the parents of an unmarried and childless person the next heirs, instead of the brothers and sisters, as was formerly the case. The Act providing for the inheritance of real estate, on these terms, was passed in 1923.

The other law makes a married woman responsible for her own actions, when such result in injury to another. The old British Common Law on this subject (which prevails in the United States wherever it has not been changed by statute) assumes that a man controls the actions of his wife, and is therefore responsible for her conduct, at least when he is present. As we all remember, Mr. Bumble protested against this supposition, and said the law must be both a bachelor and an ass to think any such thing. Nevertheless, the law remains unchanged to-day in Great Britain, 86 years after the publication of "Oliver Twist", and still holds good in many parts of our country.

The law with regard to the "headship

of the family" is still in an unsatisfactory condition, but it cannot be remedied simply by making a mother's rights equal to a father's. Nowadays, children have rights too, and the old assumption of property in human beings must be done away with, for minors as well as adults. As far as nurture and companionship go, the mother should certainly be assumed to be as fit as the father, in the absence of proof to the contrary. But wage earning or property owing minors should be safeguarded in any new laws which we may advocate.

Contrary to the general impression on the subject, women in Delaware are not exempt from jury service. They may be drawn to serve on Grand or Petit Juries, but if any woman asks to be excused, she must be excused, without having to give any reason for her unwillingness to serve. This is, of course, not an equal condition, and members of the National Woman's Party have tried at two sessions of the Legislature to get this special privilege done away with. So far we have not succeeded.

THE National Woman's Party has received copies of resolutions adopted by the St. Paul, Minn., Federation of Women Teachers and sent to the commissioner of education, protesting against excessive hours devoted to routine work and demonstration work.

The resolutions are:

"Whereas the tendency of present educational methods is toward a maximum use of standardized tests and measurements which make unreasonable demands on the time and energy of teachers; and

"Whereas the series of meetings arranged this year obliges teachers to prepare and give demonstration lessons before groups of principals, supervisors and other administrative officers; and

"Whereas these meetings are of questionable educational value; and

"Whereas there is additional encroachment on the teacher's time in schools operating under the platoon plan through early opening hours and strain in junior high schools through long class hours; and

"Whereas there is a tendency to increase the number of children per teacher; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, the members of the St. Paul Federation of Women Teachers, do protest the added burdens, and the encroachment on the time, strength and energy of the Teachers which properly belongs to the children; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Department of Education, the Mothers' Clubs Council, the Fourth District Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Woman's Party, the Trades and Labor Assembly and the daily press."

These demands were made by the women, not for a reduction in their hours alone, but for a reduction in the hours of all teachers for the benefit of the children, as well as for the benefit of the teachers.

THE program of the annual meeting of the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party is as follows: Thursday, April 30th, 1925, 3 P. M.—Conference of members, Sun Room, Allerton House, 57th Street and Lexington Avenue, Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, New York State Chairman, presiding. Reports of Committees and Departments; Discussion of Plans for future activities; Election of Officers; 7 P. M.—Dinner for members and friends, Town Hall Club, Mrs. Cornelia Bruere Rose, New York City Chairman, presiding. Speakers—Gail Laughlin—Member of National Council—Leading Feminists of other countries, now in the United States.

Dinner, \$2.50—Table of six—\$15.00.

Reservations may be made at National Woman's Party Headquarters, 6998 Lexington Avenue, Telephone, Plaza 7762 and 8841, on or before April 25th, and tickets will be mailed on receipt of your check. Please make checks payable to Mrs. Lloyd Williams, Treasurer.

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