

MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE WOMAN'S JOURNAL.



"The truth shall make us free"

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BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 23, 1912

THANKSGIVING DAY

Our country has then, and a cause for thanksgiving among those who are working for women's freedom as well as our new stars added to the suffrage banner—four new stars whose light shines out all around the world to give new hope and courage to those who are oppressed and heavy burdened.

Before our victories let us bow our heads in solemn thanksgiving, and while we thank God for the victories that are ours, let us give thanks again that there is a victory to be won here in Maryland, in whose accomplishment we all can share.

CONSOLATION FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD

We consider it a pleasure to be able to revert to the difficulties of the Baltimore School Board, and the more so because it is possible for us to lend the honorable members of that body a sympathetic hand. Some weeks ago we were able to extend sympathy concerning the feminizing influence of our schools in connection with the remarks of the radical *Sun* paper on "what the men wore" at the Cochran-Rayner debate.

It appears now, however, that the Baltimore boys are not alone in suffering the baneful influence of a preponderance of women among their teachers. The odious work has been accomplished, and the results have spread far and wide over the world. To be sure, the present School Board may yet do great things for Baltimore. By keeping down the women whom it cannot keep out of teaching positions Baltimore lads, of the present generation at least, may rise up to citizenship in true masculine vigor and be a joy not only to the members of the present Board, but to all who share their views and aspirations for the school system of our city.

The cause for congratulation, or at least for making our feminized load of school boys seem less heavy to bear, is the fact that a society has been formed in Germany to reform men's clothing. Its purpose is to attain a more comfortable and esthetic garb. This movement is the more remarkable for taking its origin in Germany, where women have been and still are subordinated to perfection. If the horrible tendency of men toward feminization springs up in Germany, no one can possibly blame our present School Board if it fails even in part to stamp out the influence of women on its tender and susceptible male charges.

THE DANCE HALL ORDINANCE

Some time ago we took occasion here to commend the efforts of Miss Hanaw toward the establishment of municipal dance halls, free from the evil influences which surround the dance halls as they now exist. At the same time we expressed regret that women were without franchise rights and therefore could not effectually further the movement so ably supported by Miss Hanaw.

In reply, and partly in criticism, of this editorial Miss Hanaw wrote us a letter in which, after stating her profound belief in suffrage for women on the grounds of justice, she proceeded to assert her conviction

that voteless women could attain many righteous causes, including there-with the establishment of municipal dance halls in Baltimore.

We do not deny that the indirect influence of women is frequently efficacious for good. But we suspected at the time that Miss Hanaw was misled, as other equally capable women have been misled, by sympathy from those in high political positions; and subsequent events have substantiated the correctness of our suspicion.

We revert to this subject not with the idea of antagonizing Miss Hanaw—we know she is too sensible a woman to be affected—but to emphasize the part played in the passage or failure of city ordinances by political influence. If the mothers of Baltimore voted we could assure Miss Hanaw of the prompt establishment of municipal dance halls. As conditions stand the opposition to their establishment is strong and united, and the electoral support is weak and disunited.

If women voted the City Councilmen might count on their support for re-election. As it is, they must count on the support of many men whose business is connected, directly or indirectly, with the present sort of dance halls. The kind words of the Mayor and others avails little under the circumstances.

CHINA AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE

An impression has gone forth that the women of China have obtained full suffrage. This impression was created by the action of the provisional assembly that passed a resolution to that effect after a violent demonstration had been made by the Chinese women, who made it clear that they must be considered in the making of a constitution. Since this assembly had only an advisory function the question of woman's vote had to be finally decided by the National Assembly, which met last June, and to which the question of woman suffrage was forwarded from the provisional assembly with a favorable report, which was further supported by a petition to the same effect.

The National Assembly, which met in Peking, passed a suffrage act in July, which seems to have left the women of China out of consideration, as no provision has been made in it for voting by women. Thus, for the present, the cause of suffrage has received a setback in this, the newest republic; but if we do not mistake the temper of the reform element in the Flowery Kingdom, the reform is but postponed for the time being. Without doubt, since the Chinese look to this country as their model, the recent adoption of woman suffrage by one-fourth of the States of the nation will have a tremendous influence on those who are at the head of affairs in China.

Meanwhile, it would be a sad reflection on our ideas of progress to allow a country like China to confer the right of suffrage upon its women before we do.

O. E. J.

WOMEN AND SHORT MEASURE

Now comes the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of Baltimore telling how voteless women can help him in his work. The chief inspector, *pro tempore* with five assistants at the expense of the taxpayers of the city. This indicates that short weight and dishonest business dealings are a very present problem in city life.

It is of course the women who are directly cheated, because they are the purchasers. They ought indeed to be alive to the use of short weights and measures, and Chief Inspector Donoghue is to be commended for the suggestion contained in his letter to Comptroller Thrift.

Women can do a great deal without the vote in the protection of themselves and their families; they could do a great deal more *with the vote*. If the regulations covering transactions between home consumption and tradespeople are in the hands of government, it follows naturally that the women who direct our homes should have a voice in the government.

Men are increasingly ready to admit that their chivalry cannot cover all sins against women. They are finding that the complexities of modern life keep them busy in their own line of work, and that however good their intentions they can no longer really protect women. Women must look out for themselves.

The chief inspector has advanced one of our strongest arguments for suffrage. We are not seeking to acquire masculine attributes; we are seeking the protection of the home. Government as at present constituted is incompetent on this point. Voteless women can help, but enfranchised women can assure a correct relationship between political government and the home.

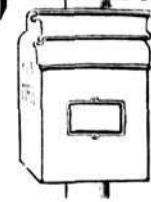
FAINT SIGNS OF LIFE.

We feared that the association opposed to the further extension of suffrage to women was fatally asphyxiated by the accident which occurred on November 5. This would have been a sad blow to the suffrage propaganda, because these good ladies do much for the cause. It is a relief, therefore, to be informed by current press notices that faint signs of life have shown themselves in the twitching of jeweled fingers and the corrugation of exceeding high brows. We presume that everything was done which money could accomplish, and we are hopeful of an uneventful recovery.

At a meeting held in New York it was proposed to have every woman take a pledge that not once in the coming year would she say: "Oh, it's bound to come!" Whether the time limit thus set was due to the conventions in such matters or to the conviction that suffrage would then be upon them, is not stated. In any case, the proposer of the pledge unwittingly revealed a terrible lack of loyalty in the ranks. The leaders must tremble with rage to think any follower would be so disloyal as to say: "Oh, it's bound to come!"

The conditions suggest that the intellectual commissary of that brave band of opponents to justice and progress is running low. It was bad enough to have the ration cut by Washington and California, but now Arizona, Kansas, Michigan and Oregon have not only cut off the supply of food, but seized the sources of water as well. It is a sad state, and we fear many will desert. The only hope for the army is that it may fight its way to a closer union with the liquor reserves, which did such valiant service in Ohio and Wisconsin.

THE LETTER BOX



Address all communications for the Letter-Box to Mrs. Charles J. Keller, 222 West Monument street.

Correspondents to the MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS are requested to use one side of paper only, to leave space for heading, write legibly, and have letter in such condition that it can be forwarded immediately to the printer.—ED.

"What's Sauce for the Goose is Sauce for the Gander."

Dear Editors:

Recently I was asked why women wanted suffrage, why they should wish to get out into the world of men as long as they could not solve their servant problem. I replied: "Men wish to vote, and men have not solved their servant question. Their servants resort to strikes, often causing loss of life, and certainly causing great suffering. Let men first agree to forego the right of the franchise until they solve their servant question before asking women to do so."

Very truly yours,

BETA KENNEDY,

Towson, Md.

Suffragists Would Do Well to Read This Work and Talk It Up to Others. Thereby Giving Mr. Mervin a Practical Vote of Thanks for Putting Such Matters so Vividly Before the Public.

CHESTNUT HILL,

Fredricks Road, Catonsville, Md.

To the Editors:

It seems to me that all who are interested in the cause ought to read "The Citadel," a vital, up-to-the-moment book, and one that deserves a place in suffrage literature. My attention was first called to it by Mrs. Helen R. Martin, author of "Tillie and Other Stories of the Pennsylvania Dutch." She was so enthusiastic I asked her to write a paragraph that might be submitted to you for the SUFFRAGE NEWS, and her reply in part is as follows:

"I am too busy with the new novel, but you may quote me if you like, and also quote Mr. Mervin's letter to me. I keep it by me to prove to adverse critics that he *knave* of the conditions he described. I am sure he will not mind, as he wants his book to sell, of course."

I am giving you the entire letter because it is all so interesting and may do something for the book.

Scituate, Mass., Sept. 8, 1912.

Dear Mrs. Martin:

Your letter in which you say such wonderfully nice things about "The Citadel" has just been read. I can't answer it—not that sort of comment—it's so enthusiastic and whole-hearted that it leaves one just about speechless.

It's a queer book. After nearly ten years of observation, as a journalist and editor in Washington and elsewhere, I got mad and decided to let it all out on as many of the public as might care to read about it—to blow off steam with all my might. So I let the book take its own form—just wrote as fast as I could. It seemed so much more important to give the thing briskness and force and directness than the "artistic" finish we are supposed to work for—and the reward is so astonishing! It hasn't sold any yet—