

Funtsville Alabama  
Jan. 16th 1898.

My dear Miss Lelay,  
Your favor of the 10th  
inst. duly received.

This branch of the Suffrage League will  
meet tomorrow & I think it is safe to say  
that it will decide according to your advice  
- the matter of leaving the money already sent  
in the treasury of the National, so that Alabama  
may still have one chance of representation  
in the Convention. They tell me the delay  
was purely accidental & due to the fact that  
the Treasurer did not realize the necessity  
of taking action before the 1st of January.

Mrs Clapton had just left home when your  
letter came & is visiting in Memphis at  
present. So I have not had a reply from  
her, but the vice-president thought it best  
to call a meeting & elect delegates at once.  
Mrs Hurms told me of meeting you in  
Nashville & the pleasure it gave her.  
I hope that she too can attend the con -

mention in February but cannot say positively  
as she is now in New York. I hope to be there  
- will be, unless something unusual arises.

In answer to your question: I think that  
there is a bond between the west & the South  
which is yearly increasing in strength, but  
I do not think the West will ever shrink  
from extending suffrage to women  
because of the reluctance of the South  
to do so. Nor of the East. The Western  
states will act independently, the pres-  
sure coming from within & not from  
without. It is however, of great im-  
portance to further the cause of suf-  
frage in the South to modify the views  
of southern people on the subject. I would  
do more toward the emancipation of  
women than anything we could achieve  
because the South is more conservative,  
has been considered more opposed to the  
measure than any other section.  
In that sense it might be considered  
the strategic point. I cannot think  
however, that it will ever become

[ Jan 16, 1898 ]

a national issue, each state having power to legislate for herself. It is in my judgment, even possible for half the States of the Union to adopt it, or grant it, & the other half refuse, because they can.

I wish that Colorado were making a better record in securing the appointment of worthy officials. That would help us. I have recently written to Mrs Hall, president of the Civic Federation to get an explanation about one appointment just made which seems to me a disgrace to any commonwealth. The women may have made some effort to defeat it - If so I should like to know it before I go into the convention.

I cannot find out whether it is customary to make rates for delegates to these conventions. They don't seem to be passed at the <sup>RR</sup> office here.

I anticipate great pleasure in meeting you again & it is pleasant to remember that the cause has advanced perceptibly since our last meeting.

Cordially your friend Alberta C. Taylor.

Versailles Ky March 4<sup>th</sup> 1898  
My Dear Miss Laura -

Feeling that I must  
do something else to try and ac-  
-cure the co-guardianship bill,  
I have tried a new plan. on last  
Wednesday I sent the enclosed  
petition in writing to Senator  
Welch & Rep Stout to have it  
read in both Houses. I also made  
20 copies of the petition and  
sent it to the 20 leading papers  
in the State, up to this morning  
14 papers have been mailed  
to me containing it. you doubt-  
-less saw it in the Louisville  
papers. I deemed this a good  
plan to create sentiment

for the bill, we never know what  
may come from any effort. I have  
also written to 8 members of  
Leg in regard to bill, I have  
spent two days and nearly  
all night writing in the  
interest of the bill, and do hope  
it will help to pass it. Let me  
know if you have any further  
suggestions. Just had a letter from  
Mrs Sawyer, she speaks of coming  
to Lexington to get out the minutes  
and said she would come down and  
see me. I hope she will. Hoping  
you & your Ma are well  
With love for both I am  
Yrs Sincerely & gratefully  
Josephine K Henry-

Fairfax So. Ca.  
March 8<sup>th</sup> 1898

My dear Sister Laura

You recollect I  
told you at a Convention that  
Mrs Youmans of this place  
had quoted you in her  
paper against woman  
suffrage at the discussion  
on the subject in the  
"Fairfax Literary Club".  
I could not tell you her  
precise words, for her  
paper was long and tedious  
as you will see on  
reading it.

It is the combined  
effort of herself and  
husband, a prominent  
politician of Fairfax

whose mouth is now  
contending for the Governorship  
"My husband says he  
recollected all the first  
pass of the paper as having  
been delivered in a speech  
by Col Youmans at Fairport  
last Summer."

You will see what she  
says of your Allended  
speech and I want you  
to reply to that part.

I have already answered  
her other points in an  
article which appeared  
in the News & Courier  
today under the heading  
"Audi Alteram Partem" - Hear  
the Other Side, furnished  
by the editor. I quite

3  
Appreciated his putting such a  
good headline over my piece.

The second headline - <sup>4</sup>Here are the  
best arguments for woman suffrage  
he also furnished. They certainly are  
the best I knew of as answers to  
the points made by Mrs. Youmans.

I quite long to hear about your  
Louisiana trip or rather its results.

I wrote you a card the day I  
left Washington, explaining how



4  
I was called away from the  
theatre and could not get back  
and was so sorry not to have  
had at least another talk with  
you. I had a quick journey home  
and a breakfast with my husband  
Sunday morning, and since then  
have made the walking rings  
with newspaper articles concerning  
Conventions. Marion Buckner joins  
me in much love to our great Aunt Eliza  
I am your Virginia D'Youville

P. S. Lutes.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1898

DEFIANCE

Dear Sister Laura I had the great pleasure of meeting your mother one night while I was in Washington.

I did not get a very good view of her in the dark but I saw enough to be sure how lovable she is.

Please give her a good hug for me.

By the way this man Mills tells me of the most immoral men in

This place is out in another  
affect upon us & like Mrs  
Yonkers direct his biggest  
you at the language of Fannie  
Clay Bennett's address - to  
protect white & black women equally  
with black men against etc. - which  
he calls couplings of white & black  
women by black Republican women  
of the North

Faustine V. D. Young

C O P Y.

294 Clay St., Portland, Ore.

May 3rd, 1898.

My dear Mrs. Avery:

Your favor of April 28th is just at hand.

Unlike our highly esteemed friends, the active leaders in the N.A.W.S.A., "each year" finds us "more thoroughly convinced" of the necessity of deferring "careful and extensive organization in any State" until we have first "secured the submission of an amendment, since no State which pursues the course commended by your committee has ever received the submission of an amendment at all, nor carried it at the polls. Colorado and Idaho are shining examples of the success of our method in gaining the ballot. New York, Pennsylvania and all Eastern States are examples of pursuing the other or opposite course.

Idaho was honeycombed for ever twenty years with suffrage sentiment which permeated all sorts of fraternal organizations, and so was Colorado; but there was no "careful and extensive" suffrage organization to invite the enemy to combine and defeat us or we would have had no chance at all to win.

Oregon's and Washington's suffragists had to rest upon their oars for ten years to recover from the W.C.T.U.'s Waterloo of organization before we could again get amendments submitted. Since all the success we have ever achieved has come through our method, we feel justified in pursuing it further, and we shall continue to do so until, by the methods of the National officers, they shall have succeeded somewhere. This is not said in a captious spirit.

We are all united as to our desire for success; and no matter which road we travel, all will finally lead to liberty.

Most lovingly and cordially yours,

(SIGNED) ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

gen (which we can only hope to do by antagonizing or stepping upon the prohibition  
bunion, which claims so much that voters will not accept its leadership in anything),  
we mean to have a great Pacific Coast Jubilee, when honors to our beloved Eastern co-  
workers will be in order, and we will rejoice to have them with us.

Lovingly and cordially yours for liberty,

(SIGNED) ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

C O P Y.

294 Clay St., Portland, Oregon.

May 5th, 1898.

My dear Mrs. Avery:

As I fear I omitted stating the reasons why organization for the States, as recommended by the officers of the N.A.W.S.A., only bring us defeat, I will now give some of them for your earnest consideration.

1st. Every such organization becomes at once a tax upon the community, not only for local and state support, but as an aid to the National Headquarters. The W.C.T.U., with all its boastings of "good" which it claims to accomplish through organization of this character, has only succeeded in alienating voters from the suffrage ranks, largely through its constant demands for money. Of course, I speak of the Pacific Coast, and testify only to that which I know.

2nd. Minute local organizations speedily degenerate into cliques. The more influential women are not usually their leaders, but women who act as wasps to stir up hostility toward our work among the voters are always on hand. It is not yet generally known in the East, but it is a fact that the women of Idaho gained their cause by observing this truth and keeping wasps comparatively quiet. But for the insistence of Eastern women, there would have been no general attempt at organization after the submission of the amendment; and I know that if any such attempt had been made beforehand the amendment would not have been submitted at all! I am now quite out of copies of the campaign document that did the work in Idaho among the voters, but I shall have a new edition soon, and will send you one. History will not place that victory to the credit of the Eastern claimants. I am planning for the same sort of a campaign in Washington to restore the work that was defeated by the W.C.T.U. organization, which is now, happily, so nearly moribund that it has little influence to arouse counter organization. It is trying to claim our dear Aunt Susan now, and the "Whiskies", "Antis" and "Prohibs" have been shouting lustily

that the "prohibs" have caught her! But she has come to the rescue -- bless her heart! and they cannot use her honorable name again in such a boast without my bringing documents to defend her common sense, backed by her denial over her own signature. You see the "whiskies" boasted that she had gone over to the prohibs because they saw in that declaration a big opportunity to rally the voters against us. The "antis" used it as a two-edged sword to cut against us both ways; and the "prohibs" who can only see as a mole sees, have been proclaiming it everywhere as a great achievement of the W.C.T.U. So we have been in a triangular fight lately with three opposing forces.

3rd. Organization exposes our betteries to the ambushed enemy and enables <sup>in</sup> him to defeat us the Legislature with money and votes, both of which we must work without. We have found that by educating public sentiment until an amendment campaign is upon us, we have no ossified element calling itself an organization, to keep all the rest of the people on the outside, as the W.C.T.U. is always doing. Our idea of a National organization is that it is a representative body, composed of officers and delegates to meet annually at Washington, to compare methods, invite cooperation, etc., etc. Our State organizations are made up of members from the different counties who are chosen by our trained leaders with direct reference to their social, intellectual and moral standing in the communities in which they operate. They hold themselves in readiness to gather into an active, brief, decisive campaign, shortly preceding an amendment election, all the people from every other organization that the community supports, thus making our work embrace all classes of popular philanthropy, art, science, philosophy, amusement, music, education, etc., etc. This is why we hold congresses, and this too is why so many of us work in clubs. It is the only way to counteract the ossifying processes of the W.C.T.U. which I am sorry to see the N.A.W.S.A. is continually trying to imitate.

If our Eastern friends still believe that their way (or that of the W.C.T.U.) to be right, they have ample room to keep it up in States where they have been trying to all along without success. Just as soon as we win in Washington and Ore-

119 N. 19th St., Philadelphia.

June 8, 1898.

Dear Member of Business Committee:

COVER OF MINUTES. You will perhaps remember a vote taken in the Business Committee instructing me to have the report of the Convention bound in green, that being a color which had not lately been used for the cover of the National Minutes. It was impossible to get a pretty green, except by a special order which would have involved some extra cost, and, therefore, I have, without consulting you as it seemed a matter of small moment, taken the responsibility of deciding and have used a gray.

STATE AMENDMENT CAMPAIGNS. In reply to my letter to State Presidents, sent out in accordance with the instructions of the Business Committee, in regard to the precipitation of State Amendment Campaigns without previous sufficient organization in the States, I have received only one answer, and that comes to me from Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, the President of the Oregon Equal Suffrage Association. I think it wise that the Business Committee should see a copy of this letter. In acknowledging it, I have told Mrs. Duniway that I thought it was a letter which ought to be presented to the Business Committee.

Cordially yours,

*Rachel Foster Avery*

Cor. Sec. N.A.W.S.A.

Dictated.



BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY B.

WINCHESTER, KY. June 13th, 1898.

Miss Laura Clay,

Lexington, Ky.

Miss Laura:

Last fall the Court of Appeals in deciding a case arising under the Married Woman's Property Rights Act, passed in 1894, referred to it as the Weisinger<sup>s</sup> Bill, and in another opinion rendered by it recently has done the same thing. In a number of instances the newspapers have used the same term to designate the law. Of course I would have no objection to giving my friend, Hon. Rozelle Weisinger<sup>s</sup>, credit for any good thing that he may have done, but do not care to be deprived of the honor<sup>s</sup> of having reformed the common law rules affecting the rights of married women in this state that were so long a disgrace to our Commonwealth, and had in great degree become a part of our Statutes. Mr. Weisinger<sup>s</sup> neither offered nor suggested, nor did he pass the new Married Woman's Property Rights Law as it exists in Kentucky. He had nothing to do with it save to vote for it and to make two or three speeches in its favor, after an interest had been created in it by myself and others. In fact he had a bill of his own which merely tinkered with the law as it was, making a few not very important amendments, and was not inclined at first to support my bill. One of the chief reasons I had for going to the Legislature was to remedy the laws with ref-

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

WINCHESTER, KY.

DICTATED BY

DICTATED BY

erence to married women's property rights, and you will find on referring to the House Journal of 1894, page 62, that on the first Bill Day I introduced a bill providing a proceeding for relieving married women of the disabilities of coverture, being known as House Bill 20 of that session; and on the same day introduced a bill to define the interest of a husband in the estate of his deceased wife, being known as House Bill 22 of that session.

On the 16 day of January H. B. 20 and H. B. 22 were reported adversely by the committee. I made a fight for them before the House and secured the reading of said bills the second time, the opinion of the committee to the contrary notwithstanding, which kept them alive and put them in position to be printed and voted on by the House.

On January 22, I moved to take both said bills from the Orders of the Day, where they might have slumbered throughout the session and never been reached, and had them made special orders for January 30, 1894, at 11 o'clock A. M.--(See page 179 House Journal.) Before that day arrived Judge Vance of Henderson, who took an interest in the question, and I had a conference, at which we came to the conclusion that a general bill reforming the law as to married women's property rights could be passed, from the temper manifested by the House from the fight that I had made to secure the second reading of the aforesaid bills.

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

We agreed on a substitute, which he undertook to offer when the House took up for consideration House Bill 20. This was done on January 30, and the substitute will be found on page 280 of the House Journal. I offered several amendments to perfect the substitute, which will be found on page 284. The Orders of the Day were postponed and the bill as amended by the substitute was considered and passed by almost a unanimous vote, receiving 76 votes, and only 14 voting against it. You will find the bill on page 286 as passed by the House. I moved to reconsider, and then to lay that motion on the table, which <sup>s</sup>was a motion always allowed the leader of the fight for the measure that has been passed. This motion was adopted, which closed the fight in the House until the Senate had acted. The bill then went to the Senate where it was reported January 31, and taken up for consideration on February 3, when it had its second reading and was referred to the Committee on General Statutes.--(See page 371 Senate Journal.)

On February 9, Mr. Weisinger from the Committee reported the bill with an amendment. It was made a special order for Wednesday, February 14, at 3 o'clock P. M., at which time on motion of Mr. Weisinger<sup>s</sup> it was postponed until the next day at 11 o'clock A. M., when it was taken up and amendments offered by Messrs. Goodloe, Weisinger<sup>s</sup>, Salyer and Landes. It

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

went over until February 16; amendments were <sup>then</sup> offered and the bill discussed, and the bill went over until the next day when it was passed by 21 to 10.

Hon. W. W. Stevenson of Mercer, who was the real leader of the fight in the Senate moved to reconsider the vote by which the Senate had passed the bill and to lay said motion on the table, which was done. The bill then came back to the House for action on the amendments. On February 21 the House refused to concur in the Senate amendments.--(See page 681, House Journal.) The Senate refused to recede, which necessitated a Committee of Conference. Messrs. Weisinger<sup>B</sup>, Tyler and Salyer were appointed this committee in the Senate, and Vance, Dickson and Gocke in the House. I was not on this committee, because our court was in session and I was compelled to be at home for a few days engaged in the trial of a cause of importance in which I was directly interested. On February 26, the report of the Conference Committee was made to the House, and adopted by a vote of 60 to 19, and the bill passed as amended. This action of the House was reported to the Senate on February 26, but it became apparent to me that the bill as amended could not be passed again in the Senate, where fierce and bitter opposition to it had arisen. I regretted very much that the House had not concurred in the Senate amendments promptly, as none of them se-

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

riously affected the bill: several of them were very good and really improved it. A refusal to concur had produced a tangle. The House in having adopted the report of the committee of Conference had lost all control over the measure, <sup>as changed by the Conference Committee</sup> and after consultation it was agreed between its most ardent friends that the Senate should be asked to allow the bill to be withdrawn so that the House might have power to control future action with reference to it. Judge Vance quietly made the motion to appoint a committee to go to the Senate and ask a withdrawal of the bill. You will find this on page 82 of the House Journal. The motion was made March 6. Mr. Stevenson on the same day moved ~~to~~ the Senate for permission to withdraw the bill as requested by the House, but Mr. Miller moved to lay his motion on the table, which was done. On March 7, the Senate took up for consideration the question of adopting the report of the Committee of Conference, and on March 8, voted against the adoption of said report by 15 to 19, which seemed to be so decisive a majority as to end any hope of passing the bill. Had some one <sup>of</sup> the Senate then moved to reject the bill as reported from the House, or to take up a consideration of the bill as reported, and to have a vote on it, an adverse vote would have finally killed it. There was but one other hope for the bill. Mr. Stevenson, who is an excellent parliamentarian, and who was

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

1  
DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

its ardent friend, and myself had a consultation, at which we decided that the only way to secure its passage then was for the House to vote to concur in the Senate amendments and pass the bill as amended in the Senate.

A fierce opposition had also sprung up in the House in the meantime, and the Senators opposed to the bill had done a great deal of active work in prejudicing the minds of members of the House against the bill. The trouble about voting to concur was, that the House had already voted to concur, and under the general rule prevalent in parliamentary bodies, another vote, <sup>ordinarily</sup> could not be had without a reconsideration of the former action of the House. The time had gone by for this under the rule. I had it in my mind that there had been a decision to the effect that the proceedings when there was a disagreement between the two branches of the legislative body, are different from the proceedings in other cases, and that the paramount object of all such proceedings was to bring the two branches to an agreement; that whilst the House might refuse to concur in an amendment, I might afterwards insist <sup>again and again upon its disagreement</sup> upon ~~its~~ with the amendment, yet it might ultimately without reconsidering any of these votes recede from its disagreement and concur in the action of the other House. Mr. Stevenson agreed to look up this matter, <sup>shortly afterwards</sup> and reported that he had found a decision by Speaker Carlisle

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

in the 49th Congress, on page 7826 of Volume 1 of the record, which was on all fours with what we wanted. He brought me a copy of the manual of the United States House of Representatives in which this ruling had been printed.

On March 10, the Senate amendments were concurred in, and then the question came on the passage by the House of the bill as amended in the Senate. The opponents of the bill in caucus had decided to break a quorum and thus defeat the passage of the bill, there being only two days more of the legislative session.

The members of that House will remember who it was that led the fight and managed the bill through all the parliamentary maneuvering and quicksands of March 10, until finally 50 votes were had for the bill and 2 against it, making the quorum required by the Constitution and giving a majority of 48 for the bill. The motion to reconsider was made and laid on the table, which ended the fight for the passage of the bill. It had then to be enrolled and examined in the two Houses, which under the Constitution required a quorum to be present. A conspiracy was formed by its opponents to prevent its being read by breaking the quorum. I looked after the enrollment carefully and got it ready for the committee by Monday morning. The Committee on Enrollment being hostile to the bill did not give it consid-

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

eration that day, and in the afternoon I moved that the House adjourn until half past 7 o'clock for the purpose of having this bill reported by said committee. My motion carried, but the Speaker being away, and the Speaker pro tem being hostile to the bill, adjourned the House before the bill was reported by the Committee on Enrollment.

The history of the fight that night to secure a report of this bill by said committee would be interesting, but is too lengthy to be detailed here. On Tuesday morning I got a report of this bill, which was finally read in the House and sent to the Senate to be there read and examined in open Senate, when one of the most unique and remarkable performances ever witnessed in that Honorable body took place. The same tactics to prevent the reading of the bill by breaking a quorum were resorted to. By dint of persuasion and various and sundry arguments known to those who have been active in parliamentary bodies, an examination of the bill was finally secured by the Senate, but not until it had been whispered that the Governor would veto it. The Legislature adjourned Tuesday night. I stayed in Frankfort until Friday morning, taking occasion to visit the Governor's office every day and discuss with him the provisions of the bill. Governor Brown gave it careful consideration, and although admitting that he was not much inclined to make such radical changes in



BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

the common law, <sup>and Statutes</sup> yet was enlightened and just enough to see that this bill would right many wrongs in this Commonwealth and was a vast improvement on what the law had been with reference to the property rights of married women. He signed the bill with two pens furnished by myself, one of which I sent to Judge Vance in recognition of his services, and the other I keep myself as a memento of so important a change in our laws.

Now what I ask of you is to take some steps to vindicate my right to whatever credit there may be in the introduction and management of the fight for this bill. It was not so much Mr. Weisinger's <sup>s</sup> bill as it was the bill of either Judge Vance or Mr. Stevenson, whose hearts no less than his were enlisted in its passage, and who were more active and efficient at periods when it was at its crisis. Mr. Weisinger <sup>s</sup> introduced a bill concerning the property of married women on January 3,- (See page 28, Senate Journal), and on January 12, introduced another bill to amend certain sections of the Statutes relating to husband and wife,-(See page 105, Senate Journal). Neither of these bills received further attention, because my bill was pushed in the House and was fuller and more comprehensive. I persuaded Mr. Weisinger, after several interviews, to support my bill, which he did loyally and faithfully. The active members of the House

BECKNER & JOUETT,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
OFFICES: MAIN STREET.

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

and men like Senators, Martin, Stevenson, Gross, Holloway and others, will bear witness to the fact that I labored for the bill in season and out of season, and was recognized as its author and chief support.

I think I am entitled to the credit for it, and know of no one so competent to have justice done to me in the matter as yourself, and hence write to you. You were there during the struggle yourself, and whilst not acquainted perhaps with the details of the fight, knew my position. A short statement from you published in the Courier-Journal might be sufficient to correct the matter.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

W. M. Beckner.

Please excuse length of this communication but I could not give you the facts in briefer space.

46114

1898.  
Ky. C. R. A.

Dear  
Gentle and kind Sir  
I have a pleasure  
in writing you  
Yours sincerely  
Wm Beckner

With kindest regards. I am,

Desire to correct the matter.

ment from you published in the Courier-Journal might be and  
the details of the trial, knew my position. A short state-  
the struggle yourself, and whilst not acquainted perhaps with  
as yourself, and hence write to you. You were present during  
no one so competent to have justice done to me in the matter

I think I am entitled to the credit for it, and know of  
another and chief support.

bill in season and out of season, and was recognized as the  
others, will bear witness to the fact that I labored for the  
and men like General Martin, Stevenson, Green, Holloway and

DICTATED BY

WINCHESTER, KY.

BECKNER & JOUETT  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
511 WEST MAIN STREET

Supt Ben S. Lindsay  
Warsaw, Ky.

Fraughtfort, Ky. Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1898

Dear Sir, While section 100 School law is indefinite as to who shall vote in elections therein provided for, when compared with section 122 it becomes very clear, it seems to me, that only those who are entitled to vote in general elections, may vote on the proposition of establishing a Graded Common School, the terms legal voters being used in the latter section. In restricting these elections to the decision of the legal voters as set out in section 145 State Constitution, the Legislature evidently acted upon the idea that an individual, who under the laws could not be made to pay a poll tax, should not be entitled to pay whether or not he should. The Attorney General concurs with me in the idea that only legal voters are entitled to vote in these elections. Form No 85 Page 212 School laws 1898 having been submitted.

to ~~for~~ his approval before it was turned over to the printer.

Very Respectfully

"W. J. Davidson"

Supt. Pub. Inst.

Gallatin Co  
School Election.

copy

Wassaw Ky. Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Mrs Josephine K. Henry  
Versailles Ky.

My Dear Madam:

Knowing you to be an active worker in all things calculated to advance the interests of women, and that to you, as much as to any one, we are indebted for the legislation in Kentucky, giving to women, suffrage in school elections, I make free to write you and ask you kindly offices in an effort to secure to the women of this locality the benefits of that character of legislation for which you have so long and so earnestly labored but which is sought to be denied us by certain designing persons. To this end I inclose the printed order of our County Judge, and the appended notice of our Sheriff, ordering an election in a certain school district in this (Gallatin) County, to take the sense of certain voters as to whether a tax may be levied to establish and maintain a graded school in said district. Since the making of said order the Superintendent of schools for this <sup>County</sup> obtained from the State Superintendent of Schools an opinion (a copy of which I also inclose) which if observed at our approaching election virtually nullifies the act of the legislature

we may <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>ascertain</sup> ~~ascertain~~ which confers upon women the right to vote in the approaching election. I call your attention especially to that part of Section 4,458 Article IX Chapter 113 of the General Statutes which reads as follows "and any widow or spinster residing in any school district who is a taxpayer or who has children within the ages fixed by the Common School laws to be educated shall be deemed a qualified voter under this Chapter". According to the opinion of the State Superintendent and our local Superintendent this language is ambiguous; this ambiguity (if such it be) having the effect to admit of a different construction depriving these women of a right which it was the evident <sup>or the</sup> purpose to confer upon them. If this contention be correct, how easy it would be at all such elections to disfranchise women by simply including in the petition a clause providing for a poll tax as well as an ad valorem tax, when in fact the poll tax is insignificant in comparison with the ad valorem tax and would in no district be sufficient for the purpose indicated. Again, if you can kindly spare time to look up the notices posted for the election of district trustees within the past two months you will find express direction for women to vote a poll tax in case of

district taxation and this too over the signature of W. J. Davidson State Dept of Schools. Thus we find him reversing himself on this most important question.

I beg of you to give this matter your immediate attention and as far as you can prevent the destruction of the fabric into the construction of which you have put so much of labor and love. Can you not see Judge W<sup>m</sup> S. Payer and obtain a written opinion from him and send to me in order that I may relieve the anxiety of our friends here.

If, as I honestly believe, this erroneous construction shall prevail the labor of love into which you have thrown so much of your splendid ability goes for naught. Truly Yours,  
(Dictated) Ruth A. Martien.



1898,  
Gallatin  
School Election.

Nov. 10, 1898



Yours for Liberty & Justice  
Josephine K. Henry

Versailles Ky Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 98

My Dear Wife Laura - I send this  
to White Hall with hope that it will  
be forwarded if you are not there. I  
have not heard from you for so  
long I do not know whether you are  
still at your country home or not  
The enclosed letter which will explain  
itself I send to you, and request that  
you answer Miss Martine as you are  
conversant with the school law and I  
am not. I am glad that inquiry is be-  
-ing made about them. You will remember  
it has always been my opinion that  
school suffrage is a bar to granting  
the full ballot to women. I believe it has  
been a bar to the suffrage cause where-  
-ever it has been granted, and certain

-by the attitude of the women in 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
cities can be & is forcibly used against  
the cause in the State. If dear Mrs Far  
more heroic and unselfish labors had  
been used to secure full suffrage  
we would be further on the road than  
we are today. Piecemeal suffrage is  
in my opinion a gross mistake, which  
only places weapons in the hands of  
our opponents to delay justice. Men  
never got suffrage by piecemeal <sup>not</sup>  
the whole thing was theirs, why should  
women demand the same, if any of it  
is theirs, it is all justly theirs. Even  
a crumb of equal suffrage will  
cause men to give decisions against  
women even using that as in the present  
case. Will you please write to Miss Martien  
and let her know the law on the subject so  
they can defend the slender measure of  
justice all round. I hope your dear mother and  
yourself are well and enjoying life. I am well  
sometimes busy as a bee, at others reading more  
assiduously than ever before. I our dear Mrs Far  
mer a little but do not know her address as  
Mrs Wray wrote me she had moved from Brook-  
-lyn. With more love than I can express

I am sincerely yours

Josephine K. Henry

Please let me have Mrs Farmer's address

State Board of Examiners.

W. J. DAVIDSON, CHAIRMAN.  
CHAS. W. BELL, HARRODSBURG.  
GEORGE CLARK, HINDMAN.



OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

## Department of Public Instruction.

W. J. DAVIDSON, SUPERINTENDENT.

W W

*Frankfort, Ky.* November 15, 1898.

Miss Laura Clay,  
White Hall, Ky.

Dear Madam:-

As you suggest in yours of yesterday, we have nothing to do with making the law, our province being simply to construe it as we find it.

On the question of what is termed district taxation, as provided for in chapter LX, school law, or specifically as found in section 94 of that volume, certain classes of women are designated as voters; while such is not the case in section 100 which provides for elections to establish graded common schools. Besides, the method of re-submitting this question to a vote when once defeated after a lapse of two years limits those who may vote in specific terms to "legal voters." These terms are defined in section 145 of the present State constitution and 1439, Kentucky Statutes.

Attorney General Taylor agrees with me in this conclusion, having given his written opinion to that effect before form No. 85, page 212, school law of 1898, was inserted in that volume.

Personally, I should be pleased to see women given a right to vote on this proposition, as I feel that the school interests of their respective districts would be equally as safe in their hands as in those of the men, but before they <sup>can</sup> exercise this privilege under our constitution and laws it must be given to them in specific terms by the Legislature, as is

Nov. 15, 1898

State Board of Examiners.

W. J. DAVIDSON, CHAIRMAN.  
CHAS. W. BELL, HARRODSBURG.  
GEORGE CLARK, HINDMAN.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Department of Public Instruction.

W. J. DAVIDSON, SUPERINTENDENT.

\*\*\*



Frankfort, Ky. \_\_\_\_\_

the case in section 94, school law. Furthermore, I am of opinion that the General Assembly would readily make this concession to them if the matter was properly brought before that Body.

Very respectfully,

*W. J. Davidson*



Warsaw, Ky. Nov. 22<sup>d</sup> 1898.

My dear Miss Clay.

Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> this month was duly received. For which I thank you. You enquire as to our intentions respecting our coming election. To which I reply most decidedly and emphatically, we intend to vote. There are thirty women (widows and spinners) in this school district who are entitled to a vote on the question now pending, Opposition, with a determination to defeat us will be enacted. A scheme is devised without doubt, either to in-

Intimidate or bluff the women off. but they have a leader who is thoroughly posted and equally determined that these women shall vote however determined. The opposing party may be that they shall not vote. And what the women intend to do is to ignore all opposing objections and see that their names are registered - in case after steps be taken to endeavor to make the women's votes null and void it will be met, a counter step will be put forward to prove that the women did not in any way infringe upon legal rights.



The election takes place  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> proximo. After it  
has "come off", I will in-  
form you of results and also  
of minor points connected  
with it.

With sincerely yours  
Ruth A. Martiens

Nov. 1898.

Miss Ruth Masters

2348, 10 E. St

Salt Lake, Dec 18. 98.

My dear Miss May,

I am sending the enclosed circular to the officers of the N. W. S. A. in the hope of interesting them in the crisis in Utah.

It is a very serious matter to those who live here.

If Mr. Roberts is seated the polygamous Mormons will have the upper hand. If he is rebuked the progressive element will again have influence.

I have asked a member

of the officers of the N. W. S. &  
if it would not be possible  
at the next Convention to  
pass a resolution declaring  
against the seating of  
Mr. Roberts. Not having accepted  
unanimously by complying with  
its conditions. He is not a  
citizen and hence should  
not hold office.

I know that the Convention  
has to be careful about  
introducing outside matters  
but this is not one which  
could cause much discussion.  
All would be practically agreed.

Hoping that you will be interested in the  
matter I am,

Very sincerely,

Ernest W. Allen,

(Miss Clarence E. Allen)

Return this to me.  
Laura Leary.

Versailles Ky Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 99

My Dear Miss Laura

Your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> was read with a great deal of pleasure, as I had not heard from you for so long. I am sorry you thought for a moment that I was at all offended at the action of the Convention. I am not made of that kind of stuff. Although last year I sent my resignation and gave the Con the opportunity to get rid of me gracefully and they did not do it, but rather ejected me because I was an undesirable member I have nothing but the kindest feeling for every member mixed I must say.

with a little double distilled com-  
passion for narrowness and  
bigotry exhibited. But be that as it  
may. Every member of the Assem-  
bly has my best feeling and wishes  
and as for yourself and Miss  
Mary you have both my love and  
deepest gratitude for the specu-  
-lative service you have rendered  
the women of the South, for your  
conviction and courage was the  
fountain that awakened the spirit  
of liberty in our section. Why should  
difference of opinion shatter friend-  
ships? Attrition of minds has evol-  
-ved the race to what it is. All can-  
not see or think alike. You may  
think the Bible God's holy word, pure  
instructive, elevating and con-  
-soling, and the charter of liberty,  
while I think with its cruelty &  
debauchery, its contradictions and  
absurdities, its nonsense and false

[Jan. 19, 1899]

reasoning, slothfulness, polygamy, slavery, intemperance, cannibalism, murder, rapine, robbery, ruin, war and the curse upon woman, it is the worst of all books, but why should that mar friendship? I concede your perfect right to any opinion, and I respect your conviction, but I claim equal right and sincerity. We may neither be right, but we are going by the light we have, I live and labor for better conditions for my sex and for the race. The errors, sufferings and injustice in our Christian civilization rends my heart day by day - so I do as I must, and extend both love and greeting to all who are working for better things.



I today received an invitation from  
Nat. Program Com to give an address  
at the Grand Rapids Con. I shall certainly  
call and see you all when I go  
to Lexington, and will be delighted  
to have you all visit me at any  
time. I am so busy these days  
that I rarely have time. Give my  
best love to your dear mother  
and Miss Mary and accept  
more than I can write for your  
self - Ever your grateful friend  
Josephine K. Henry -



Miss Laura Clay  
#78 N. Broadway  
Lexington,  
Kentucky



LEXINGTON  
JUL 23  
11 PM  
99

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Smith, Jr.

Richmond, Kentucky

Miss Elise Bennett Smith  
July thirtieth, 1899

[Oct 14, 1899]

Laurens Saturday

My dear friend:-

I send by this  
mail your pin. Hope you  
will get it safely. You can-  
not know how lonesome  
I was after you left. Miss  
Gearing called & was utterly  
disappointed in not seeing  
you. Several ladies met &  
asked why you had gone  
that expected to call thinking  
you'd stay til Friday -  
All said your speech of  
Tuesday night was better  
or they liked it better  
than the one in May

My friend, Be careful!  
Be careful!!! The war  
is on. Between Erby &  
Zillman, & is to the  
death. Take sides no  
way - either of them may  
have to take your  
proposition to help  
him whip the other  
Be wary - keep your  
eyes open. Be wise as  
the serpent & harmless  
as the dove. I do miss  
you so, I wish I had your  
strength of mind  
& experience, to guide  
me. For I feel alone  
& stand alone. Crews  
has declared against  
Erby - & the negroes are  
trying to get a

movement on foot  
to submit the Com  
back to the people -

Look out for papers  
Dr Irby. sat til  
bed time Thursday  
night & is somewhat  
troubled. Irby will  
be heard from. Look  
out for him. He may  
not be as weak as  
you think.

Yours Very Sincerely

P.S.

Mrs Gritton

I have been over town  
today & found out Bro.  
Pitts had called twice  
once after you were  
gone to the depot, not  
knowing you were  
going til Friday -

I am afraid you made  
a mistake in leaving  
her so soon. Mrs  
Pitts her married & single  
daughters were coming  
Mrs Pitts was quite ill  
Tuesday night the reason  
she did not come to  
hear you speak. Of  
course her daughter  
could not leave her  
Mrs Pitts stays she  
knows Suffrage is  
bound to come & that  
very soon & is quite  
more pleased with the  
idea than I at first  
thought, or at least it  
does not disquiet her -  
She & her young daughter  
are very sorry they did  
not see you.



[Oct 14, 1899]

Misses Erby & Wilson  
Called & found you  
not here. Mrs Pitts  
says if you come the  
26<sup>th</sup> she'll be sure to hear  
you. But remember  
<sup>Bro</sup> Pitts called twice  
you nor the cause  
have lost anything  
by the last speech &  
visit. You've stamped  
your thought upon  
them in your speech  
& your individuality  
& lady likeness &  
thoroughly womanly  
womanliness in your  
personal contact.

Dr Erby said Thursday  
"Mrs Critton lets you  
& Miss Clay & I  
adopt the Woman's

Suffrage plan & whip  
both John & Silliman  
He spoke jocularly  
But he is groping  
for a plan.

All Laurens  
is betting on Irby  
winning the fight So  
keep quiet & watch  
the fight & be ready  
to lick your sword  
below the belt when  
the time comes.  
You'll smell fire &  
brimstone Tuesday  
& I fear will see  
more of selfishness  
than patriotism -  
I wish I had you  
now for tomorrow's  
quiet day - The rain

of last night has  
settled the dust &  
today is simply  
perfect. We'll drive  
all the afternoon  
& pay calls tomorrow  
I'll have you for my  
very own.

I am grown  
very fond of you &  
hoping to see you  
The 26<sup>th</sup> I remain  
a true friend  
Virginia Gritton  
Don't forget me.

[Oct 17, 1899]

My Dear Miss Clay

Your fav. enclosing check  
for 105 \$ interest to 15<sup>th</sup> inst came  
duly to hand and has been en-  
tered to your credit on the note  
with thanks -

Everything in this city goes on  
as usual - A wave of Matrimonial  
enthusiasm seems to have struck  
the town and country round about  
sometimes three weddings a day.

You should see how lovely  
the front of Mrs. Wickliff's Residence  
looks

Vines and flowers almost hide the  
Veranda -

When you come home we  
want to have a meeting of our  
Library board and I will render  
an account of my Stewardship. I  
have had a great many valuable  
books rebound

Trusting that you have en-  
joyed the Summer and that you  
will return soon I am as ever

Most Respectfully & Truly  
Your Friend  
J M Driff

Lexington Ky }  
Oct 17. 1899 }

P.S. While I am writing the small boy  
is yelling the coming of W J Bryan -  
It is so kind of her to come to tell us how to vote.

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 1880  
Bios.  
J. M. Duff.



BUILT OF PRESSED BRICK AND BROWN STONE.

# The HOTEL ADAMS

J.C. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR.

200 Rooms, New and Modern  
in every respect.

Phoenix, Ariz. Nov 25 1899  
Dear Colo -

My dear Miss Clay,

Mr Catt has so much to do today, (for we found about fifty letters awaiting us here), that I have taken upon my self some of her letters to answer & yours will be one -

Conference at Indpls, We sincerely hope you will be there, We will need all the help possible to make the thing a success in Indiana - Unless you are there at the Business Committee, we are afraid there wont be a quorum - So go if possible - We hope your Mother will be well enough for you to leave, State Con Kentucky, If it is

[No 28, 1899]



The  
**HOTEL ADAMS**

J.C. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR.

200 Rooms, New and Modern  
in every respect.

BUILT OF PRESSED BRICK AND BROWN STONE.

Phoenix, Ariz.

189

You desire, Mrs Catt will  
 speak both evenings at your  
 Convention - Subject first  
 night, "A Prophecy," second night  
 "A True Democracy," We will both  
 be present at all day meetings  
 & will do any thing you wish  
 to help make the Convention  
 interesting - I would suggest  
 you have a Wk Conference  
 each afternoon say 1:30 to  
 2:30, when your regular  
 Convention would begin - At  
 this Conference let us  
 discuss what ever practical  
 things you wish discussed,  
 follow the plan of our  
 conferences last year at  
 Grand Rapids - You know



ENOV25, 1899 HALL Litho. Co. Tampa 23



The  
**HOTEL ADAMS**

J.C. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR.

200 Rooms, New and Modern  
in every respect.

BUILT OF PRESSED BRICK AND BROWN STONE.

Phoenix, Ariz.

189

the needs of your State,  
So have discussed in  
these Conferences the topics  
that will do the most practical  
good in your State, I will  
talk as long & as often as  
you want me to, in these  
Conferences, I hope you  
can reach Ludjels Wednesday  
Evening, for the reception in  
case they have one -

Hoping to see you there

Yours Sincerely

Mary L. Hay

RAILWAY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES ACCIDENT ASSOCIATION  
OF  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

IN WRITING TO HOME OFFICE,  
ADDRESS ALL LETTERS TO  
WM. K. BELLIS, SECRETARY.

Use a Separate Sheet for each Subject.....

Nov. 27 '99

My dear Miss Clay:—  
I was received today—Mrs. Poark  
has written me of the date and good  
luck in securing Mrs. Catt etc.  
I wrote last night to Mrs. Hubbard.  
In writing to all of the locals I  
told all of the Convention in Dec.  
but of course, could give no date—  
urged all to beat up recruits  
that we might have a greater  
representation at the National—  
so far have heard only from Richmond  
Louisville & Mrs. Hubbard who thought  
she might go but desired very much  
to know soon concerning the date.  
Louisville has distanced—Mrs.  
Broadway sent me balance on hand—  
\$2<sup>05</sup>—to use as Ex. Com thought

best. I am much better but have to be very careful - cannot go about much - the Dr. at Sanatorium urged me to take good care of myself this winter. I will come up on morning train Dec. 11 - it will not be necessary for any one to meet me - just tell me where you are holding the Convention and I will come directly there. There has been illness followed by death in the family of an acquaintance who is a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club and whom I expected to meet about the N. E. R. As her daughter took her away before I returned so I must look in another direction - Will do all I can here.

Hope you are well

Sincerely yours

Shepard

31 Welft St. St.  
Covington Ky.



A Merry Christmas  
Greeting to You.

POST CARD



THIS SIDE FOR CORRESPONDENCE

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

We would be  
so glad to hear  
from some time.  
"Best Wishes"  
Dr. Mrs Shields,

no such #  
Miss Laura Clay  
#189 N. Clay St.  
Lexington,  
Ky. MA 19