Feb 1 — '12

My dear Miss Clay —

I have just seen in one of the biggest & costliest dailies an acct, with picture of her, how Emma Smith-Devoe carried Washington State for women — The acct, after lauding her & her associates, said that the N. A. W. S. again had read her or the W. S. state again out of the vital & also that the W. S. had withdrawn from same in toto before the election & campaign precedent thereto — Now I write to know of you, who I know are a strictly first class woman, if this is so, & the cause. If it was for the false reasons, the Missouri

association was so ignobly treated by the N.Y. then glory in their independence. But for Anna Dohan. Catt & Gay. I tell you Miss Clay that to-day Mo. would be the 6th star instead of Calif-

Again, some one from the Adams Mrs Belmont says for. is sending word into Mo. not to hire or pay the English women. because the English didn't pay Anna Dohan as she declares - Why they are "professional" suffragists for as she has been all her days in the cause & has always got her pay - What a shame-

Now I want to ask you another question. Is there a single state that has been carried by the N.Y. for suffrage? If so what state? Is there a single law on the

[Feb 1, 1912]

books, put here by the partisans of the W.H.T. since the old & honored leaders were overturn-. If so, please tell me, won't you - for I have been out of the running so long! The organization here is not the regular organization which has been in existence since '64 - but the illness of the Pres. is not active - nor do these people even invite a single campaigner to help, for they have been so told by the X. Comm. of W.H.T. so? I have been informed my letter is strictly confidential as it is written solely for my own information - which I hope you will give - Mrs. Breckenridge's interview here as published was sublime

hope you are well - & I hope you will find time to write me -

With my ~~trust~~ esteem & the respect I have ever had for you - I am

Cordially

V. C. Whitney atty.

Room 605 - 415 Locust st,

St Louis

Mo -

These greetings have been frequently asked me, I concluded answer -

delivered in time to be read at the Convention.
With kindest regards.
M. S. McLaughlin.

Covington Ky
Feb. 1st 1892

My dear Miss Clay

The Covington Equal Rights Ass. at a called meeting Monday Jan. 29 drafted the resolutions that I am sending you. I have never known the women of Covington to be aroused as they are over Mr. Myers's statement whether they

are club women or not.
Even those who might
have been amused at the
bridge whist childless
women were indignant
at the statement that
sixteen out of twenty nine
were arrested. We have been
congratulated by a number
of men on knowing about
the number of the registration.
Wasn't it a good thing we
did copy that registration?
The papers clamored
for the resolutions, I had
the copy and with the
consent of the club, refused
to give it to the morning
papers for two reasons,
First I am one of the
Times Star reporters, and
second we feared the
afternoon papers would
not give a full account
if the morning papers
gave it first. The afternoon
papers ~~are~~ have more than
double the local daily

circulation. I called Mrs. Breckinridge, or you at the Capitol Hotel, Mrs. B. responded, and asked how to get a copy on each desk of the Legisla-tors and Senators. She mailed me a list of them, (arrived last night) so today we will mail a paper to them with that particular side folded out and marked. Mrs. B. was delighted. Did you ever receive the report I mailed to you at the Seelbach in Louisville? I was surprised at being told that it had not

Lexington, Kentucky.

Febr. Ist, 1912.

Dr. Florence R. Sabin,

Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore.

Dear Madam,

I take pleasure in notifying you that the Membership Committee of the N.A.W.S.A. has formally voted to admit the Just Government League of Maryland to auxiniaryship with the N.A.W.S.A. on the fulfillment of the requirements specified in the Rules, of which I enclose you a copy.

As chairman of the Membership Committee I would like to suggest that the affidavit of at least three hundred members, with list of names and local branches, be sent to the chairman , and the list of as many more as can be given without being too irksome. The basis of representation will be upon the number of paid-up members, with an affidavit which shall satisfy the Membership Committee of a bona fide membership of not less than three hundred, and as many more as dues are paid for and representation asked.

Very sincerely yours,

189 N.Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Febr.Ist, 1912.

Mrs.E.K.Ellicott, Pres.Equal [redacted] League of Maryland,

Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Madam,

After many delays from different members of the Membership Committee of the N.A.W.S.A. Iam at last happy to be able to report officially that the Committee has voted unanimously to admit the Equal Franchise League of Maryland to auxiliaryship of the N.A.W.S.A. upon its fulfillment of the requirements recited in the Rules of which I enclose a copy.

In answer to the question contained in your letter of Nov.7th I will state that the requirements are more strict for the second or more associations in one state which apply for membership because it was very evidently the sense of the Convention at Louisville that when there is one auxiliary in a state the proof should be clear that there are good reasons for a second or third auxiliary. All those provisions of the Constitution which refer to atate auxiliaries of less than one hundred members are intended to apply only to states where there is but one auxiniary. This small number(one hundred) has to be allowed in some states where the suffrage movement has made but little headway; but the Convention fixed the number of a second auxiliary to be not less than 300

certified members.

As chhairman of the Membership Committee I would like to suggest that the affidavit of at least three hundred members, with list, etc., should be made out with care; and the list of as many more as can be given without being too irksome. The basis of representation will be upon the number of paid-up members, with a particular specification of at least three hundred members, and an affidavit which shall satisfy the Membership Committee of the bona fide membership of as many more as dues are paid for, and representation asked.

The other requirements are satisfied by the statements of requirements of your society for its membership contained in your letter of Nov.7th.

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman of Membership Committee

of N.A.W.S.A.

Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association

OFFICERS

MRS. ALICE AMES HALL, President. Fifth and St. Peter Sts. St. Paul

DR. MARGARET KOCH, Vice-President, 716 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis

MRS. EVA W. MORSE, Recording Secretary, Excelsior

MISS THERESA B. PEYTON, Corresponding Secretary 581 Selby Ave., St. Paul

MISS SARA E. CHANT, Treasurer, 2435 Harriet Ave., Minneapois

MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER, Chairman Press Committee, 615 Cedar St., St. Paul

St. Paul, Minn. Feb 2, 1912.

Dear Miss Clay:-

It has been a long time since you have heard from me, but you have not been forgotten. I have been pretty riled ever since the National election and in addition the trouble here with our former state president. We now have a very capable woman now as our leader, but the former was a constant thorn in our sides. She is still giving trouble by the articles she is permitted to put in the newspapers. We have a large amount of work planned for this year preparatory to the next legislature Jan. 1913. We are sending enrollment cards all over the state in additional to other matter enclosed in the envelope. You will notice the blotter which we are distributing all overr this city in principal places and our free lecture bureau wtih the list of speakes Next Sunday the Pioneer Press will devote to suffrage prepared by our St. Paul women and this will be sent to each member of our legislature 184 I have addressed the envelopes and stamped them and enclosed one of our blotters ready for the paper on Sunday and they will be mailed on Monday. This comes under my department. We are very much encouraged as so many members of the press throughout the state have come out decidedly for suffrage, even some of them writing to me say that it is in the air and soon to come and they do not want to be left out. We will not win next January because the Breweries have a strong hold on the legislature.

The Brewers are to put a man (brewer)up as a candidate for our Mayor, This has aroused much opposition among our best citizens, but if enough money is handed out no telling what the result will be.

We are changing our state suffrage constitution and this has given us trouble on account of our last president Miss Dobbin.

She told so many stories in the national convention that it has kept us busy correctink them. She is a dangerous woman and we are glad to get rid of her. She told Anna Shaw that we intended to leave the National and Julia B. Nelson aided her in this story for it was a story. We had no thought of so doing. I wrote two long letters to Anna Shaw telling the Whole trouble beginning over a year ago. Anna wrote me that she believed me and that she had always found me truthful in all my work. Miss Dobbin hoodwinked Mrs. Nelson and and the latter believed her.

We hope from this time on to be able to do our work without being misrepresented. As to myself,I am as well as usual, but Mr. Farmer is no better,infact will never be,and his inability to walk makes it hard for him to get about. He has a good appetite,sleeps well, but sitting most of the timeprovokes him,and I do not wonder.

His constant prayer is to be taken from this world. He is so glad to aid me in my work which he insists upon my keeping up .

I will send you a copy of our paper for next Sunday.

Give my love to Mrs. Mary B. to Mrs. Bennet. and to your dear self for I do not forget all the all the loving kindness extended to while associated with you in Kentucky. Mr. Farmer says he wishes to be remembered to you all. Lovingly and sincerely, your friend,

Eugenia B. Farmer.

THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE

817 NORTH CHARLES STREET

OFFICERS:

MRS. WM. M. ELLICOTT, President
714 ST. PAUL STREET

MRS. S. JOHNSON POE, Vice-President
1021 ST. PAUL STREET

MRS. CHARLES E. ELLICOTT, Treasurer
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MRS. JOHN G. WILSON, Recording Sec'y
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1123 MADISON AVENUE

MISS A. PAGE REID,
13 WEST EAGER STREET

MISS MAUD SAFFORD,
819 NORTH CHARLES STREET

MISS ANNA WAGNER,
1810 PARK AVENUE

My dear Miss Clay

Your letter is very clear and satisfactory and on general principles I can see good reasons why the National Convention should require adequate reason for the formation of another state league where one already exists. It seems to us that it should be equally necessary for the National to be satisfied that the original State Society is doing active, definite State work.

Miss Waite, the Corresponding Secretary of the Md. State Equal Franchise League will forward the data which is required, as soon as possible.

It is very gratifying that our status is now determined and we appreciate the interest which you have taken and thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth King Ellicott.

pr. C. R.

February 3. 1912.

Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association

OFFICERS

MRS. ALICE AMES HALL, President. Fifth and St. Peter Sts. St. Paul
DR. MARGARET KOCH, Vice-President, 716 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis
MRS. EVA W. MORSE, Recording Secretary, Excelsior
MISS THERESA B. PEYTON, Corresponding Secretary 581 Selby Ave., St. Paul
MISS SARA E. CHANT, Treasurer, 2435 Harriet Ave., Minneapolis
MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER, Chairman Press Committee, 615 Cedar St., St. Paul

St Paul. Minn.
Feb-4-1912.

Dear Miss Clay:

I wrote you on the 2d instant, but I am pretty well stirred over a letter from Miss Blackwell which was read to our State Ex. Board at its meeting yesterday morning. Her letter, no doubt, will be sent to all the State associations. Resolutions were offered upholding the work of the Journal, finding no fault whatever with it, not approving the removal of the paper to New York: this would mean that the National's last effort is to put out Miss Blackwell. Tell me please, candidly, if it comes to this: will Miss Blackwell be obliged to give up her paper to the National Board, or will she control it as she did before? This action on the part of the Board will tend to bring about ill feeling and disruption. There a new National will spring up. What can be the motive? Certainly it seems to me that Miss Thomas & Miss Anna Shaw & the Board combine are against all the dear good women who have built up, giving time

and means to sustain Miss Anthony and carry on "the work" which was so dear to the hearts of all our leaders and workers. I have always depended upon your decisions in all things. What will be your advice as to leaving the National? Cannot each State work independently? The National does not contribute to this State; what would the National do without the small amount received from the State? I feel as if we must sustain Miss Blackwell. I believe all the Western States will do the same & many others. I am pleased to know that in the Convention you proposed that Miss Blackwell be made a member of the National Board. Let me know at once what your vote will be on this question of the paper going to New York. Our Executive Board was very much surprised - and our president Mrs Hall, overheard (in the Louisville Convention) Miss Thomas say, that "there was one more member of the Board to get rid of." I have blamed Anna Shaw for some of the changes which have been made.

Dear Mrs Clay; I have always depended upon your judgement, and will be satisfied to know what you will suggest, so that Alice can continue her paper in her home, not subject to the National. The Journal has friends enough over the country to sustain it.

Sincerely and lovingly - Eugenia B. Farmer

[Feb 5, 1912]

Miss Laura Clay.
P. K. E. R. As.
Lexington Ky.

Dear Madam.

I wrote you and sent W.S.S. "In Bondage" to you about the first of Jan. I here in enclose ck for 50cts and if you are through with it you will please send it to my address. I desire some of the red and black leaflets showing school statistics and the proportion of illiteracy in

the States where there is
no form of womans
suffrage. I am assisting
a lawyer in getting up
an address to be given
to the "Lawyers Club" in Louisville
about the 15 of this month

Yours Truly
Mrs H. G. Prunger.
West Point. Ky.

July 5/1912

Lexington, Ky.
Febr.7th, 1912.

My dear Mrs.Dennett,

In response to your telegram I am sending a list of the local societies in Kentucky;- I do not know what you have already.

Fayette Equal Rights Association.
Madison E.R.A.
Newport E.R.A/
Covington E.R.A.
Kenton Co.E.R.A.
Louisville Woman Suffrage Asso.
~~Harrodsb~~
Ashland E.R.A.
Nicholasville E.R.A.
West Point(Meade Co.) E.R.A.
Harrodsburg E.R.A.
Franklin E.R.A.
Bowling Green E.R.A.
Oldham E.R.A.
Clark E.R.A. These last two have had the members enrolled since the Convention.

Besides these, we have enrolled members in Paris, Versailles and others scattered over the state.

Very truly yours,

Lexington, Ky.

Feb. 7th, 1912.

Hon. C. M. Thomas,

Frankfort, Ky.

Dear Sir, At the request of Mrs. Desha Breckinridge

At the request of Mrs. Desha Breckinridge I am enclosing a newspaper clipping and the resolutions of the Covington Equal Rights Association thereupon, as they relate to the School Suffrage bill you have in charge.

Very respectfully yours,

Lexington, Ky.

Febr.8th, 1912.

My dear Mrs.Farmer,

I have been over to Richmond for a few days, to see my family and to look after my farm; and on my return I found your letters of Febr.2nd and 4th. Yes, I also received Alice Blackwell's letter and felt very much hurt by what she tells us of the talk of some of the members of the Board. I answered her questions, in which I pointed out how much I admired the Journal, and that I had no sympathy with the idea of moving it to New York, as I doubted that bringing it more under the influence of New York headquarters would improve it in the opinion of the people at large. Upon reflection, I have decided not to take any official step as president of the Ky.E.R.A. beyond answering the questions Miss Blackwell asked; but leave her a free hand to deal with the situation as she concludes is best after receiving the opinions of the National Executive Committee. The contract she made with the National reserves to her the power to cancel it, after proper notice, whenever she has good reason to do so; and it expressly states that the paper is to be published in Boston. Therefore, it is a clear resistance of the wishes of the Convention, which renewed the contract for another year, to insist upon its going to New York. If it were merely a question of the contract and the will of the Convention, I think the National Ex.Committee would be justified in taking a decided position about it. But the fact is that the subject is much complicated by the expense of running the Journal. As Miss Blackwell mentions, there is a very heavy deficit each month. There was always a deficit, which Miss Blackwell had

to make up herself, with the assistance of friends. And now this deficit has been enormously increased by the changes the National has insisted upon, as recited in Miss Blackwell's letter. The objecting members of the Board will no doubt claim that whilst the Convention instructed the renewal of the contract for another year it did not provide the money to publish the paper; which is true. It was credibly reported at the convention that Miss Shaw had received a large sum of money which was to be expended at her discretion for the suffrage cause. She might expend it for the support of the Journal; but she is not obliged to do so. Perhaps she is willing to do so on condition of its being moved to New York. At any rate, the movement for a New York campaign is very strong now, and the New Yorkers may feel that they need an organ right there to help them along; and it may be comparatively easy to raise funds for a paper published therewhen it is very difficult to interest those rich New Yorkers to furnish money to publish one in Boston. Now of coursethese considerdtion give a plausibility to the wishes of those members of the Board who wish it brought to New York. I do not agree with them or sympathize with their effort. But I do feel that is so complicates the situation that, as I said, I have determined to leave it entirely to Miss Blackwell's own decision; after she gets the opinions of the Executive Committee. I do hope she will succeed in allaying this dissatisfaction; and continuing the publication of the Journal under the auspices of the National. Her contract gives her full power to decide as she thinks best.

I see that you feel that this move on the part of some members of the Board is likely to cause dissatisfaction with the National. But I do hope that we all will resist firmly any thought of withdrawal from the National, or of forming another National Association. I believe the suffrage cause is too near its final victory for such a movement to be any thing but injutious. I have read with the greatest pleasure the

[Feb 8, 1912]

leaflets you enclosed in your first letter; and I see that the Minnesota Association has come to the same conclusion that I have,- that the time of our final victory is close at hand. I even agree with the prediction of some prominent politicians that woman suffrage will be universal over the United States in ten years. Even if that is not literally fulfilled there will certainly be many other states enfranchised in that time; and with every state enfranchised it becomes more difficult to sustain a National Association for propaganda. I think it very unwise, therefore, to take any step which would weaken the Association which is now organized, or any step which looks to organizing another National Association to compete with it. No matter what its shortcomings, I think it is best to let it do what it will for the general good, and give it such assistance as the auxiliary states can afford to do outside of their own home work. The National is now supporting headquarters, a centre for information; a splendid line of leaflets, sold cheaply; and the Woman's Journal. As long as it does this for the whole nation it is deserving of support, even if it does fail along some lines. I believe Miss Blackwell will be able to adjust the difficulties in some way which will make the Woman's Journal still the valuable paper to the cause it has always been, without any serious break with the National. I believe absolute patience till the next convention, at least, is the wise and safe policy for all the auxiliary states. Nothing the National can do or fail to do could injure our cause so much as internal dissensions. The time is too short before final victory to spend any time or strength in building up any more organizations; and as the National is giving some general help in every auxiliary state by its work in the ways I have mentioned, it is desirable that all the states should continue to help to maintain it by retaining their auxiliaryship and sending delegates to its conventions.

Every body at the convention was greatly pleased with your new president, Mrs.Hall. She made the impression of being a most sensible woman with an agreeable personality. I hope the remark she heard Miss Thomas make about another officer to be removed did not apply to Miss Blackwell; for I noticed particularly, in my seat on the platform, that Miss Thomas applauded enthusiastically when Miss Blackwell was elected the new member of the Board as editor of the Journal. At any rate, I do not believe she can oust Miss Blackwell as editor; and I do not even know that it is she who is crateing this demand to move the Journal to New York. Let us wait patiently for the outcome of all this; and particularly let us wait for the elections in the six states where our amendment is before the voters, before we decide on what is the wisest course for the auxiliary states to pursue.

I am always so glad to hear from you and of your welfare. Please give my kindest regards to Mr.Farmer.

My sisters were well when I was in Richmond. Sallie has gone to Washington City to push her petition for the suffrage of women in the direct election of U.S.Senators. She will visit Mrs.Crenshaw before her return. My brother Brutus has sold his residence near Richmond, though he retained the farm on Jack's Creek. He found so much farming burdensome now that he has grown older. He and his wife have gone to California for a trip and visits to friends before he decides where to buy another home. I hope he will settle in Lexington.

We are hoping for the passage of our School Suffrage bill. It is a great help having it in the Democratic party platform.

Let me hear from you again soon.

Always your affectionate friend,

Telephone Monroe 1030

Chicago Commons
Grand Ave. and Morgan St.

Chicago, Feb. 8, 1912.

Miss Laura Clay,
189 N. Mill Street,
Lexington, Kentucky.

My dear Miss Clay:-

There are no more copies of the report of the Chicago Vice Commission for general distribution, as both editions have been exhausted. The only thing I can do is to offer to loan you a copy of my own, which I will do if you desire, and if you will return it to me within a month with the cost of postage.

Truly yours,

Graham Taylor
H.

Frankfort, Ky.
Feby. 8, 1912.

My dear Miss Clay:

Your endorsement of the enclosed three measures as a member of the Executive Board of the Federation, is requested:

(1): The enclosed School Ballot Bill drawn up by Mrs. Breckinridge:

It does away with party emblems, takes the schools of the whole State out of politics, and gives a virtual educational qualification; it does not mention first class cities because it coindides with present Louisville bill; it repeats provisions in our second class bill now before the legislature, so the provisions will be the same if either bill goes thru.

(2): The following resolution is to be endorsed:

WHEREAS, two of our State Federation committees those of Health and Child Labor, are especially affected by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, be it resolved that the Federation deplores the introduction of the recent bill in the Legislature to repeal said Bureau, and be it resolved that a copy of the resolution to this effect be sent to the Chairman of the Press Committee for publication in the Louisville Times, and copy also to be sent to the President of the State Board of Health.

(3): The following resolution to be endorsed:

Resolved that the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs consisting of about fourteen thousand women, co-operate with this movement to memorialize the United States Government to erect a colossal statue of Peace at the entrance to the Panama Canal.

This movement is at present endorsed by four hundred thousand women, and an urgent appeal comes from Miss Mary E. Carbutt, of California.

Endorsed.

NOTICE.

****

The Conference of Education of the South will meet in Nashville, Tenn. on April 3, 4, and 5, and as there is to be a department of Women's Clubs organized at this time, it is very desirable that you be present if possible.

Most faithfully, yours,

Elise B. Smith

5

[Feb 8, 1912]

AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND OTHER SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TO ELECTIONS UPON SCHOOL MEASURES OR QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE---------- REGULATING NATURE OF BALLOT IN SAID ELECTIONS---------- FIXING METHOD OF NOMINATION --------AND REPEALING ALL LAWS INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT.

BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1: That all elections for School Trustees and other School Officers, except the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and all elections upon school measures, or questions submitted to a vote of the people, shall be by secret ballot; and the ballot shall be on a separate sheet from all other ballots to be used in any election; and said ballot shall contain no party emblem, but shall have printed at the top thereof the words, "SCHOOL TICKET". It shall be the duty of the County Clerk of the County in which the elections for School Trustees and other School Officers are to be held to cause to be printed on said ballot the names of all candidates for School Trustees or other School Officers, in whose behalf he may be petitioned so to do in writing by the hereinafter designated number of duly qualified electors. The petition must be filed in the office of the County Clerk of the County where such election is held not more than sixty days nor less than fifteen days before the day of election, and each petition must be signed by the requisite number of qualified persons, and shall show the place of residence of each person signing it, and no persons shall sign more petitions than the number of offices to be filled:

[Feb 8, 1912]

SECTION 11: That all nominations for School Trustees and other School Officers in School Sub-Districts and in cities of the Fifth and Sixth Classes shall be by petition signed by at least ten (10) persons eligible to vote in such elections:

That all nominations for School Trustees and other School Officers in Cities of the Fourth Class shall be by petition, signed by at least twenty-five (25) persons eligible to vote in such elections:

That all nominations for School Trustees and other School Officers in Cities of the Third Class shall be by petition, signed by at least fifty (50) persons eligible to vote in such elections:

That all nominations for School Trustees and other School Officers in Cities of the Second Class shall be by petition, signed by at least one hundred (100) persons eligible to vote in such elections:

That nominations for the office of County Superintendent shall be by petition, signed by at least one hundred (100) persons eligible to vote for said officer:

SECTION 111: The provisions of the General Election Law of the State of Kentucky, as to the duties of County Clerks and other public officers in the matter of printing and distributing ballots, of issuing them to voters, of receiving and depositing them in the ballot boxes, and in counting and preserving them, and in all other particulars, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be applicable in all respects to all elections affected by this Act:

Provided, that it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of each County in which a city of the First or Second Class is

[Feb 8, 1912]

situated, to provide for each precinct in said city a separate box for the reception of the vallots used in the election of any and all School Officers for said City:

And, Provided, further, that in such elections in Cities of the First and Second Classes it shall be the duty of the Judge of Election of the opposite political faith to the Clerk of Election in each precinct, to issue the school ballots in the same manner as other ballots are issued by the Clerk of Election, by writing the name and residence of the voter on the primary stub, and the voter's registered number on the secondary stub of the School Ballot, and by observing as to these ballots such other regulations for the issue and deposit of ballots as may be prescribed for elections generally. It shall be unlawful for an Election Officer or other person within the election booth to tell or to indicate by word of mouth or otherwise to a voter what may be the political affiliation of any candidate, and a violation of this provision shall be a misdemeanor punishable by fine not exceeding two hundred ($200.00) dollars.

SECTION 1V. That all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY

NIGHT LETTERGRAM

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INDEPENDENT COMPETITIVE PROGRESSIVE

4—257

1.V.O. 40 N.L.

FA-New York.Feb 9-12.

Miss Lauda Clay.,

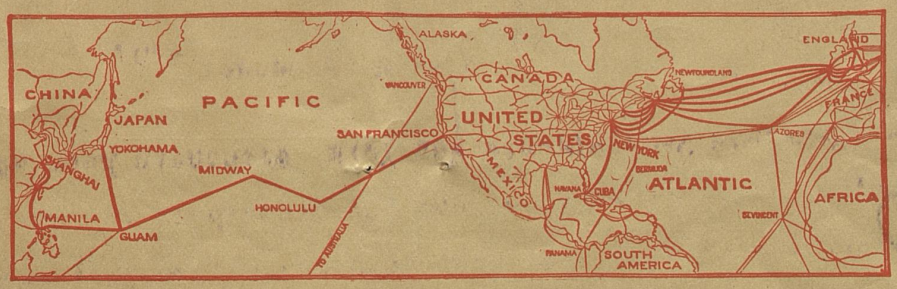
189 N Mill St.

Lexington,Ky.

It is reports of National membership committee needed for minutes No list of associations admitted since convention,has Ever been received here,nor original applications returned.Have new association s)in Indiana Maryland Pennsylvania New York Wisconsin Been admitted answer night letter.

Mary Ware Dennet. 640A

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY



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The Company will receive, not later than midnight, NIGHT LETTERGRAMS, written in plain English, to be transmitted only for delivery not earlier than the morning of the next ensuing business day, at rates as follows: The standard day rate for a ten-word day message shall be charged for the transmission of a NIGHT LETTERGRAM containing fifty words or less, and one-fifth of the standard day rate for a ten-word day message shall be charged for each additional ten words or less in such NIGHT LETTERGRAM.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a NIGHT LETTERGRAM should order it REPEATED, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated NIGHT LETTERGRAM rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on the face of this blank, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED NIGHT LETTERGRAM AND IS PAID FOR, OR AGREED TO BE PAID FOR, AS SUCH, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the NIGHT LETTERGRAM and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED NIGHT LETTERGRAM, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any REPEATED NIGHT LETTERGRAM, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, UNLESS SPECIALLY VALUED AND INSURED; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in obscure Night Lettergrams.

2. Correctness in the transmission of NIGHT LETTERGRAMS to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for REPEATED NIGHT LETTERGRAMS, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles and two per cent. for any greater distance.

3. This Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this NIGHT LETTERGRAM over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. NIGHT LETTERGRAMS will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.

5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning NIGHT LETTERGRAMS until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices, and if such a NIGHT LETTERGRAM is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, the latter acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the NIGHT LETTERGRAM is filed with the Company for transmission.

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "NIGHT LETTERGRAM" service, the following special terms are hereby agreed to:

A. NIGHT LETTERGRAMS may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such NIGHT LETTERGRAM at destination, postage prepaid.

B. NIGHT LETTERGRAMS shall be written in plain English. Cipher or code language is not permitted.

7. The above terms and conditions shall be binding upon the receiver as well as the sender of this NIGHT LETTERGRAM.

8. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

This is an UNREPEATED NIGHT LETTERGRAM and is transmitted and delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating the NIGHT LETTERGRAM back to the sending station for comparison.

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

CHARLES C. ADAMS, SECOND VICE-PREST. EDWARD J. NALLY, VICE-PREST. AND GENERAL MANAGER CHARLES P. BRUCH, THIRD VICE-PREST.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH—FASTEST SERVICE IN THE WORLD

Lexington, Ky.

Febr.9th, 1912.

My dear Mrs.McLaughlin,

I was delighted with the prompt and energetic action of the Covington E.R.A. in answering Mr.Meyers. Mrs.Breckinridge valued the resolutions so much that, fearing bymsome mischance Sen.Thomas would overlook the paper sent to him, that she requested me to mail to him the copy you sent me, which I did at once.

Yes; your report came to me at Louisville; but my letters were not delivered in my room. I had to go to the desk to get them; and my recollection is that I did not get out your letter in time to have it read at the convention, perhaps not till the next day. I have had it in an envelope a long time, intending to send it to Mrs.Roebuck, with some other memoranda.I fear I have been neglectful of some of my duties to the E.R.A. but I hope with more cheerful and agreeable weather I will not feel so inadequate to keeping up my correspondence.

I have been wishing to write a circular letter telling all the Ex.Com. of several things which I have mentioned piecemeal to such as I may have written to. We have not attempted to bring a Constitutional Amendment this winter. Many friends advised against it, while we were so little organized; and the Club Legislative Committee did not wish us to introduce it for fear it might militate against the success of the School Suffrage bill, whose success seems pretty certain. Then, too, the Governor had recommended two amendments to the Constitution, and only two can be offered at a timeto the voters. I hope we will be better prepared next time. Very sincerely yours,

Lexington, Ky.

Febr.9th, 1912.

My dear Mrs.Whitney,

In reply to your letter of the Ist I am answering as far as I can the questions you ask. The newspaper account you mention of Mrs.Devoe's campaign in Washington contains some of the half-truths such articles usually publish. The Washington W.S.A. was not "cut out". When the National Convention met in Seattle, some very large and important branches of the State Asso. complained that they had been illegally refused representation inthe State convention; and appealed to the National to defend their rights. The National Board did the best it could to adjudicate the dissension; but as the constitution is not framed for such emergencies, the best they could do was to submit the question of admitting the rival factions to representation in the National Convention to the convention itself, as I recollect; and the vote was that both factions should have the privileges of the floor, but neither could vote. After the campaign ended in victory, I understand that the Association has disbanded; but another auxiliary has joined the National, composed of some of the old local branches.

I think the newspaper is wholly unjust in saying the National did nothing to help the campaign. Mrs.Devoe was supported in part at least for two years, whilst she was organizing the state for the campaign, by a salary paid by the National, and kept up, as I recollect, till the time of the National convention. After that, many private donations were made to the campaign by individuals solicited through the instrumentality of the National. No funds were donated further from the treasury for the

reason there were no funds there which it seemed wise to donate to a campaign so divided within itself. While the action I have described may seem unwise to those who aannot know all the circumstances, I was told by several influential persons that the National action had restored their confidence and interest in the campaign; and whilst they had been so offended by the State's action that they had intended to cease their efforts, they were now determined to go on and work as well as they could under the discordant circumstances. I have every reaso n to believe their assistance was valuable in obtaining the grand success there.

The California campaign was largely assisted by donations collected through the National, and from funds placed in the hands of Miss Shaw to be used as she thought best for the cause. Some of the National workers also went to the state to lecture; but at the invitation of the home people, the National having nothing to do with the campaign arrangements.

I think the case of Washington and California answers the query if the National has helped in any victory. I should say decidedly it has; but every year it seems to be more desirable that campaigns should be left to the management of the home people, and what help the National gives should be through donations, literature, etc. But this more indirect help is no less help; and could not be given if the National was not in existence.

As for help in making laws, the influence of the National has always been indirect; and no legislature ever welcomes advice from outside, as I have no doubt you have observed for yourself. But the National is a source of information and collection of statistics which are useful to the home women in getting laws passed.

I thought the reported interview with Mrs.Breckinridge and the other Club women was very fine; and I was glad such testimony was given for the Suffrage cause.

Very sincerely yours,

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
JULY-AUGUST
1912

Officers:

JOHN BELL KEEBLE, PRESIDENT
NASHVILLE, TENN.

MAJ. W. L. DANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
NASHVILLE, TENN.

DR. H. C. EVANS, SECRETARY
MILFORD, TEXAS

FRANK E. HALLER, GENERAL MANAGER
MEMPHIS, TENN.

Summer Schools and Platform:

ALLEN G. HALL, SUPERINTENDENT
NASHVILLE, TENN.

FRANZ J. STRAHM, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

DR. GEORGE SUMMEY, DIRECTOR OF THE MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Nashville, Tenn.

February 9, 1912.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Kentucky,
My dear Miss Clay:-

I thank you for your reply to my recent letter. I will be pleased to make the date in August.

I have decided that it will be better, if you are willing, to have your lecture at night in the Auditorium where you will have a larger crowd, and I will arrange for Thursday night, August 15th, at 8 o'clock. That I may know definitely that this slight change in my offer is accepted, be kind enough to let me hear from you by return mail.

I am yours truly

Allen G. Hall
Superintendent

E/. Monteagle S.S.Assembly.

Wrote it would be convenient.

Lexington, Kentucky.

Febr. 10th, 1912.

Dr. Graham Taylor,

Chicago Commons.

Dear Sir,

I shall be grateful for the loan of a copy of the report of the Chicago Vice Commission; and I will return it in a month or less time with the cost of postage. If more convenient to you, it can be sent to me by express to be collected here.

Very truly yours,

Kentucky Equal Rights Association

*"If Ye Abide in My Word *** Ye Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth Shall Make You Free."*

President, Miss Laura Clay, 189 N. Mill St., Lexington.
First Vice President, Mrs. Mary B. Clay, Richmond.
Second Vice President, Mrs. Mary C. Cramer, Lexington.
Third Vice President, Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin, Covington.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary C. Roark, Richmond.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma M. Roebuck, 112 W. Front St., Newport.
Treasurer, Mrs. Isabella H. Shepard, 31 E. Twelfth St., Covington.

Lexington, Ky.
Febr. 10th 1912.

Mr. A. G. Hall,
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Sir,
In response to your letter of Febr. 9th I write to say that the date of August 15th for my address at Monteagle will be perfectly convenient to me.

Very truly yours,
Laura Clay.

Lexington, Ky.

Febr.10th, 1912.

My dear Mrs.Dennett,

I shall answer your night letter by night letter; but I am also writing to give you a fuller understanding of what the Membership Com. has done. Though I did all the preliminary correspondence on the applications from Maryland, Washington and Indiana about the 6th of November, it was the 17th of January before ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ the circular reply from Mrs.Russell ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ was mailed to me. This caused much delay; but I have now notified the Washington Suffrage League that it was admitted by a unanimous vote without further preliminaries, as the old State Asso. had disbanded; The State Equal Franchise League that it was admitted as soon as the affidavit of memberships amounting to three hundred were sent to the Chairman, which has not yet been done; The Just Government League of Maryland, that it was admitted as soon as the affidavit of memberships amounting to three hundred were sent to the Chairman, which has not yet been done.

There is uncertainty about the Indiana Equal Restricted Suffrage Association. No vote was given at all to admit it. I shall have to find out if they are willing to come nearer to the standard for admission, which I have not yet done. If they cannot, they will be denied auxiliary-ship.

You have evidently misunderstood the arrangement I supposed you and I had agreed on about copies of applications which came to Headquarters. If you will refer to my letter of Nov.6th you will see that I say" If the applications are received first at Headquarters, I hope that you will have copies made of them for each member of the Committee, and one for headquarters, and send the original to the Chairman of the Committee. If the applications come first to me, I will do the same". I suppose this would have been clearer if I had added that I wished you to mail the copies of the applications to each member after you had them made. This would have prevented any loss of time for the votes to be sent into me after the applications. After the application came from Wisconsin, as I had no vote from any member, I supposed you had not sent the members a copy; so when I got back the documents from Mrs.Russell, I made copies of the Wisconsin application; and I have received affirmative replies from all members except Mrs.Russell; and as it was Jan.24th when I sent out the vote, I feel that I have waited long enough, and you can count The Political Equality League of Wisconsin as admitted, as soon as they furnish the affidavit required.

Do you consider your letter saying that the New York Woman Suffrage Aprty would become ~~auxiliary~~ affiliated if their constitution permitted it, as an application? I have not so considered it; but have been awaiting a definite application. You did not mention that articles of incorporation they could be affiliated

Your night letter asks if any has been admitted from Pennsylvania. No application has come to me, either directly or from you, from Pensylvania.

Hoping I have made the situation clear; and again calling your attention to the request that you would send copies of applications to each member to save time; or else to notify me that you have not done so, I am

Very truly yours,

Chairman of Membership Com. of N.S.A.

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE AND OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

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PRESIDENT
MOYLAN, PA.

JANE ADDAMS
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
HULL HOUSE, CHICAGO, ILLS.

SOPHONISBA P. BRECKINRIDGE
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
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585 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

JESSIE ASHLEY
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6 EAST 66TH STREET, NEW YORK

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JESSICA GARRETSON FINCH, PRESIDENT
1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

NATIONAL PRESS BUREAU
CAROLINE I. REILLY, CHAIRMAN
505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE, 6855 BRYANT

119

HEADQUARTERS, 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Lexington, Ky.
Febr.12th, 1912.

Dear Member of N.A.W.S.A. Membership Committee;

In response to the votes sent out Jan.24th, I have received the following replies:

(1) Do you vote to admit the Political Equality League of Wisconsin?

Yes. Miss Mills: Mrs.Fitzgerald: Miss Katzenstein: Miss Clay: Mrs.Russell not heard from.

(2)Give your opinion and vote whether or not Associations working for suffrage with qualifications other than those now rewuired for men shall be eligible to membership?

" I should not vote to exclude,- but should wish to consider applications from such Associations with the utmost care" Mrs.Fitzgerald.

" I do not consider Associations which are working to secure a limited suffrage for women, unless the limitations are such as are at present required of men, eligible to membership in the National ~~Amerinxx~~ Society. While it is true that Miss Winsor was prominent in the Louisville convention, she had no vote". H.M.Mills.

" I vote No. To my mind, we are trying to do away with sex disqualifications. We want women put on the same political plane with men. If that position is a good one, the women and men can rejoice on their way; if it happens to be an unfortunate one, they should work out some reform together. Why should men alone have the right to limit the franchise for both men and women? If in our future Democracy persons with hair-lip are to be disfranchised, then let the women so afflicted have the right to register their disapproval and be disfranchised by a fair majority." Miss Katzenstein.

Mrs.Russell not heard from.

"I vote No except where the qualification is a moderate educational one. This qualification exists now in many states, several of which have adopted it in their most recent Constitutional Conventions. It seems just, as every state provides education at public expense; and citizens who pay taxes for public education have a right to protect themselves against voters who remain ignorantfrom laziness, thriftlessness, oreven misfortune, as the latter class must always be a very small percentage, not sufficient to break the general rule" Mrs Clay.

On account of a telegram from Mrs.Dennett asking the list of auxiliaries admitted for the National minutes, I reported the admission of the Wisconsin League without the vote of Mrs.Russell. It had the affirmative vote of four members; and 14 days had elapsed since the vote was sent out.

The affidavits required for the admission of the Maryland societies have not yet been received; but I suppose they will be sent before long.

I send outVanpthenlyatown,another application. See second enclosure.

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505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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HEADQUARTERS, 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Lexington, Ky.
Febr.12th, 1912.

Dear Member of N.A.W.S.A. Membership Committee;
Mrs.Dennett wrote to me Jan.24th:

"I am enclosing a copy of the vote by by which the Woman Suffrage Party decided to affiliate with the National association; and was asked to forward the same to the Membership Committee of our Association. The understanding on the part of the Woman Suffrage Party is that it affiliates on the basis of its dues-paying members,i.e., the members of the district clubs with a minimum annual fee of $30.

The Party intends, so Mrs.Laidlaw says, to increase its fee as much as it can. As you know, the Headquarters of the Party is at I Madison Avenue, New York City, and the officers are as follows:
Honorary Chairman, Mrs.Carrie Chapman Catt.
Chairman, Mrs.W.W.Penfield, 730 East 242 St.
Vice-Ch'm, Mrs.Martha Wentworth Suffren, 68 Buckingham Rd., Brooklyn.
Secretary, Mrs.Thomas Wells, 46 West 9th St.,
Asst.Treasurer, Miss Mary G.Hay, Martha Washington Hotel.

The membership of the Party is something over 45,000 , I believe."

The Resolution is as follows:

"Jan.8th, 1912.

Moved by Mrs.Laidlaw and seconded by Mrs.Wells that the Woman Suffrage Party shall affiliate with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, if on investigation we find that our articles of incorporation permit such affiliation.

Carried unanimouslyand with enthusiasm".

Your chairman supposed it would be necessary to hear first the result of the investigation of the articles of incorporation; and therefore did not submit this question, as no notification of the result of the investigation has reached her.But on Saturday a night letter from Mrs.Dennett was received, wanting to know what associations had been admitted to auxiliaryship; and asking what ones from New York, and other states, saying she wanted them for the National minutes. Therefore I suppose she and Mrs.Laidlaw regard the communications above as sufficient. In order to prevent furthe delay, I am now submitting a vote.

Vote sent out by Chairman Febr.12th, 1912.

Do you vote to admit the Woman Suffrage Party on terms stated above?

Yes. Caroline Katzenstein
2/14/12.

[Feb 12, 1912]

I.

Application for Membership from The Political Equality League of Wisconsin.
President, Miss Ada James, Richland Center.
Campaign Manager, Crystal Eastman Benedict:
IoI6 Wells Building, Milwaukie, Wisconsin.

" To the National American Woman Suffrage Association:-
The Political Equality League of Wisconsin, numbering now over six hundred members, hereby makes application for membership in the National American Woman Suffrage Association".
(Signed) Crystal Eastman Benedict.
(Acting for Executive Board)/
No date, but sent to me by Mrs. Dennett Dec. I8th.

Votes asked for by Chairman of Membership Committee Jan. 24th, I9I2.

(I) Do you vote to admit the Political Equality League of Wisconsin?

Yes —

---

(2) Give your opinion and vote whether or not Associations working for suffrage with qualifications other than those now required for men shall be eligible to membership?

I should not vote to Exclude — but should wish to consider applications from such Associations with the utmost care —

Not signed; but from handwriting + post-mark, Boston, judged to be Mrs. FitzGerald. —

Laura Clay.

Chairman of N.A.W.S.A. Com. on Membership.

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HEADQUARTERS, 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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1016 Wells Building, Milwaukie, Wisconsin.

" To the National American Woman Suffrage Association:-
The Political Equality League of Wisconsin, numbering now over six hundred members, hereby makes application for membership in the National American Woman Suffrage Association".
(Signed) Crystal Eastman Benedict.
(Acting for Executive Board)/
No date, but sent to me by Mrs. Dennett Dec. 18th.

Votes asked for by Chairman of Membership Committee Jan. 24th, 1912.

(1) Do you vote to admit the Political Equality League of Wisconsin?

Yes
Caroline Katzenstein

---

(2) Give your opinion and vote whether or not Associations working for suffrage with qualifications other than those now required for men shall be eligible to membership?

I vote NO. To my mind, we are trying to do away with sex disqualification. We want women put on the same political plane with men. If that position is a good one, the women and men can rejoice on their way; if it happens to be an unfortunate one, they should work out some reform together. Why should men alone have the right to limit the franchise for both men and women ? If in our future Democracy persons with hair-lip are to be disfranchised, then let the women so afflicted have the right to register their disapproval and be disfranchised by a fair majority.

Caroline Katzenstein

Laura Clay.
Chairman of N.A.W.S.A. Com. on Me

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I do not consider Associations which are working to secure a limited suffrage for women, unless the limitations are such as are at present required of men, eligible to membership in the Natl Society. While it is true that Miss Minor was prominent in the Louisville convention, she had no vote.

Harriet May Mills.

Lansa Clay.
Chairman of N.A.W.S.A. Com. on Membership.

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Laura Clay.
Chairman of N.A.W.S.A. Com. on Membership.

Vote sent out by Chairman Febr.12th, 1912.
Do you vote to admit the Woman Suffrage Party on terms stated above?

Yes — Susan W. Fitz Gerald

Era Club

"Who for truth no sword uplifteth
He for error strikes a blow."

Hattie Rowland Parker, President,
[Mrs. John B.] 1510 Louisiana Avenue

Judith Hyams Douglas, 1st Vice-Pres.
[Mrs. Roydan] 7877 Elm Street

Grace German Chamberlain, 2d Vice-Pres.
[Mrs. Orville W.] 2014 State Street

Jean M. Gordon, 3d Vice-Pres.
1800 Prytania Street

Eleanor G. Graham, Cor. Secretary,
[Mrs. E. J.] 3700 Saratoga Street

Inez McMartin Myers, Rec. Secretary,
[Mrs. Henry B.] 829 Poydras Street

Carrie True McWilliams, Treasurer,
[Mrs. Rozell] 3316 Prytania Street

Della B. Rehentisch, 1st Auditor,
[Mrs. W. G.] 5347 Coliseum Street

Jeanne Aimee Richardson, 2d Auditor,
704 Esplanade Ave.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 13th, 1912.

Miss Laura Clay,

Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:--

At a conference held in New Orleans between the President of the Mississippi State Suffrage Association, Mrs. Nellie Somerville, and the President of the Louisiana State Suffrage Association, Miss Kate Gordon, it was decided to send out invitations to all Southern Suffrage Associations and ask their co-operation in the formation of a Federation of the Southern Suffrage Associations.

In inaugurating this movement it is not intended to lessen our allegiance or responsibilities to the national Association, but to emphasize in the minds of Southern Congressmen and State Legislators the position of southern women on this question. The object of this Federation will be to promote suffrage sentiment and development through:

1st - Holding an annual Conference in some Southern City, beginning with the present year.

2nd - Through the establishment of a southern organ.

3rd - To concentrate our forces financial or otherwise on the southern State where conditions seem most favorable to secure any form of suffrage.

4th - To secure uniform legislation for women and children in the southern states.

In your reply state your opinion on the desirability of forming a federation and whether your state will understake to interest men and women to give the financial aid necessary to put into effect this movement which we deem a necessity at the present stage of suffrage development in the South.

Hoping for an immediate reply, I am,

Yours cordially,

Judith Hyams Douglas

Acting Secretary.

189 N.Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.
Febr.13th, 1912.

Mrs.Crystal Eastman Benedict,

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Membership Committee of the N.A.W.S.A. has voted to admit the Political Equality League of Wisconsin to auxiliaryship as a State Association to the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

I enclose a copy of the rules prescribed by the Convention at Louisville for the guidance of the Membership Committee, with some marked paragraphs which indicate the further steps your League must take.

I must make an apology for my Committee for the apparent delay in acting on the application of the P.E.League of Wisconsin. It was caused by a mistake in the way copies of applications were to be sent to the individual members; but when once the application was before the Committee, it has given the members, I am sure, much pleasure to cast their votes for its admission.

Wishing you entire success in your campaign, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman of Membership Committee of

N.A.W.S.A.

189 N.Mill Stt, Lexington, Kentucky.

Febr.13th, 1912.

Dr.Hannah M.Graham,

Indianapolis.Ind.

Dear Madam,

The delay in answering your letter in regard to the application of the Indiana Equal Restricted Suffrage Association has been due to the time taken in getting into working order the new Committee on Membership created by the N.A.W.S.A. Convention held in Louisville last October.

I am enclosing the rules prescribed for the Membership Committee in admitting new auxiliaries. It is the policy of the National to admit every suffrage association which is working in conformity with its established precedents.But there are some serious obstacles to admitting the Ind. E.R Suffrage Association, which, unless they can be removed, prevents the Membership Committee accepting it as an auxiliary of the N.A.W.S.A.

First; You will observe that as yet, your Asso. has not the requisite number of 300 members. This is indispensable.

Second; It is not stated whether the scope of your Asso. is intended to be state-wide, or designed only as a local association, working in one locality or county. Distinct information on this point is necessary to determine its status as a state or local society.

Third; It is not stated what the restrictions are which your Asso. ap-

proves and for which it is working. By a vote of the Committee taken, I find that there is strong opposition, perhaps insuperable, to any qualifications for suffrage for women which do not now exist for suffrage for men. This opposition might be overcome, though I cannot certainly say so, if the restriction your Asso. proposes is a simple educational qualification, which already exists for suffrage for men in many states, though I believe Indiana is not one of them.

As you will see, the fiscal year does not end till about the 1st of October; so I hope there is time for these various objections to be overcome before the next Convention; and that it will be possible for the Membership Committee to reverse the vote which so far is negative in the upon the application of your Association.

Please let me hear from you about the points I have mentioned.

Hoping the objections of the Membership Committee may be removed, and that the I.E.R.Suffrage Association will make an amended application, I am

Very truly yours,

Chairman of Membership Committee of N.A.

W.S.A.

Bowling Green. Ky.
Feb. 14th 1912

Dear Miss Clay:

When can you come down and deliver a suffrage address for us?

Prof. Dickey of the Business College has offered us the use of his Chapel and if you will set a date we will make all arrangements for

the lecture.

I want you to stay with me, and if you will kindly set a date a little ahead of the present time it will oblige me. For I am writing the last chapter of a book and <u>must</u> finish it before I begin to clean house. At present my house is a "sight" owing to soft coal and literary work!

We are getting along well with the work, and I've been wanting to write and tell you about it. I induced my bookseller to keep the Woman's Journal and people are actually buying it.

Let us hear from you whenever you decide on the date.

Sincerely Yours,

Lida Calvert Obenchain.

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE AND OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

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HEADQUARTERS, 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Feby.14,1912.

My dear Miss Clay:

Thank you for the information about the membership committee up to date. I am very sorry that I was careless enough not to fully understand your letter in regard to sending copies of all applications received first at Headquarters to the various members of the membership committee. Hereafter I will carefully see that my part of it is done. I am very sorry indeed that I should have unwittingly added to the delay which has held back your work. I have heard nothing further from the Woman Suffrage Party, the reason being I suppose, that Mrs. Penfield the Chairman has had to be away from the office for weeks on account of the long illness of her mother which culminated in her death last week.

I doubt very much if investigation will find any barrier in the articles of incorporation. I suggest that you send to Mrs. Laidlaw a copy of the rules governing the membership committee and very likely she can hurry up the decision. May I trouble you also to send me a copy of the membership rules?

Faithfully yours,

Mary Ware Dennett,

Corresponding Secy.

Miss Laura Clay,
189 N. Mill St.,
Lexington,Ky.