Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. ~~3 Park Street, Room 16~~
6 Beacon St., Room 1018.

Boston, Mass., ~~Nov~~ Dec 8 1908

Dear Miss Clay:

Thanks for the good report of the Kentucky Convention.

Could you not do the correspondence necessary to get that extract about the model saloon? I am so busy it seems to ~~it~~ me as if I were all the

time swimming for my life against a swift current. Things come faster than I can possibly attend to them, & even the getting out of the Journal every week takes more time than anyone ~~can~~ would imagine. If you can't, I will try to; but if you can & will, I shall be ever so much obliged.

Cordially,

Alice Stone Blackwell.

I tried to dry this over the lamp.

Lexington, Ky.May 23rd, 1908.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

I enclose a letter and badges from Mrs.Avery. The letter will explain itself. Send the badges after looking at them to Mrs.Kelley.

I thank you so much for sending me Mrs.Duniway's letters to read; I enjoyed them. Today I received the one forwarded from Mrs:Potter. I got off the hundred dollars I told you I would send on the 18th. That was late, but not too late, I trust, for use. I sent it to Mrs.Coe, as I did the first, as I thought it best not to change. I have put the clipping Mrs.Dunoway sent into my scrap-book; but the letters I will return, if you wish it. Did I tell you that Mrs.Duniway wrote me a very nice letter of acknowledgment for my donation? I hope my evidence of sympathy softened the old lady.

I have great hopes of success this time. I take the Oregonian, and there are so many local option fights on hand in Oregon that the liquor interests have too much to do, I hope, to try to defeat us. However, I took a hint from what you wrote, and told Mrs.Coe that I thought the money and effort well spent to keep the question before the people, even if we met with defeat this time; and that I would be willing to help again in 1910, if we lost this time.

Please remember me to your father, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

3 Park St. Boston May 12, 1904.

Dear Miss Clay: I am ashamed to say I have let these letters accumulate, instead of sending them on as I should. The Mass. W.S.A. has sent $100. to the treasurer of the Oregon E.S.A., and I have sent her $200. more, learning that I was soon to receive a legacy

of about $250. from the estate of Miss Anna Parsons, to use for the suffrage movement in any way I chose. I have written Mrs. Dunniway that I don't in the least expect the amendment to carry, & shan't blame anyone if it doesn't, but that I think the Oregon S. S. A. ought to have some money to work with. Always most cordially yours, Alice Stone Blackwell.

Richmond, Ky.
Aug.17th, 1908.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

I enclose my reply to Mrs.Upton's circular letter of Aug.11th.

I thank you so much for the letter and leaflet from Mrs.Duniway you s sent me. Miss Gordon wrote me the ill news that the Oregon suffragists intended next time to ask for suffrage for tax-paying women omly. She wrote to Mrs.Coe at once asking particulars. I trust it is not true, as I think it would be a blow to our cause. In my last letter to Mrs.Coe I said I would be glad to contribute to the next campaign, iy they did not succeed this time. If they are asking for tax-paying women o nly, I shall consider myself released from my pledge, for I believe women need the ballot more for the protection of their civil rights and industrial rights than for the protection of property. I trust they have not gone into such a campaign. I want them to continue to ask each general election; and I would be glad to have the National assist them in a $2000, campaign each time. You and I disagree a little upon the expediency of running the risk of being beaten continually. I believe time is always in our favor, and the accidents of politics. I am also encouraged by the loss of power the saloom is having just now.

I trust you are enjoying your vacation. I am enjoying being with my siste5s; but it is terribly warm for the last few days. I am wet with perspiration the whole time.

Hoping to hear from you as you may have leisure, I am

Affectionately yours,

Richmond, Ky.
Aug.24th, 1908.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

I thank you for letting me read the letters, which I re-enclose. The reference to Miss Shaw, which was called "confidential", is quite an open secret, since Miss Gregg all the time invited the co-operation or alliance of the W.C.T.U. I supposed it was the acknowledged policy of the campaign to ask the alliance of all bodies of women who were willing to work with us. We did not ask the alliance of the Prohibs. simply because we did not care for the endorsement of a weak party when we did not think we could get that of the strong parties. If this ~~xxx~~ is all the complaint Mrs.D. has against Miss Shaw her indignation seems misdirected.

I wish you had made some comments on the Oregon situation yourself. Your letter from Miss Pease seems to be exactly the same as the one Miss Gordon quotes from in her letter of the 15th. Did you send it to Miss Gordon, or are they different letters? I feel all at sea about this "tax-paying suffrage". If it is a bona-fide taxpaying petition, I do not see how the National can consistently help the campaign; nor even how individuals can do so, who do not believe in such a qualification. You know I am very anxious to have the National help Oregon; and Iwould like to do so individually. But this form of the petition nonpluses me. I note that Miss Pease says that under the present laws every woman is a tax-payer; and that none can therefore be debarred. But as the tax laws are statutory, it would be an easy matter for politicians to disfranchise the women who pay taxes on clothes, etc., by allowing the exemptions which are usual in other states. My principal perplexity comes from reading the petition itself. The last clause seems meaningless to me. If the word "male" is stricken out of the preceding paragraphs, does not that make all women, as well as all men, voters? In that case, how could any opposition be made by any party to any woman's voting, who possesses the above-mentioned qualifications, whether she is a tax-payer or not? I am divided in my mind as to whether all those signers of the petition believed that the final clause would invalidate the amendment, if carried; and therefore signed freely; or whether our suffragists put the c clause in, knowing it meant nothing, and that it would do, as they say they intended it to do,- catch the unwary. Now I know that it is useless and out of place for outsiders to try to direct the people of any state. Oregon suffragists have given us good proof of that; and I concur in the principle of every state's being the best judge of its own proceedings. And if outside aid was not asked, I would wish them well, and leave it to them. But as they ask outside aid, and as this must certainly come up at our convention, I would like to inform myself as far as possible of the real force of this last clause. If the petition is filed, and if the amendment carries, what will be the decision of the Courts on the force of this clause? Does the Referendum law allow meaningless sentences in an amendment; or are there other clauses in the Constitution which would throw light on this amendment? I have the Oregon Constitution at home, I think, but I do not remember it distinctly enough to have any opinion on this point. What do you think of our asking some of our friends in Oregon, Mr Myers, for instance, or do you think it is wisest for us to keep our hands off, and not do any thing which might call attention to a point

which Miss Pease says they do not want publicly discussed at this time? Miss Gordon fears that an endorsement on our part of a tax-paying qualification would antagonize our Labor friends. We have this snag ahead of us if we advise the Buffalo convention to aid Oregon. I truly wish the Oregon suffragists had not entered on this doubtful expedient. It is true that the politicians in Oregon are more than usually unscrupulous; but I do not see that that justifies us in upholding an untruth. On the other hand, I am not so scrupulous as to feel it my duty to instruct our the enemies in misleading form of an amendment which it is their duty and privilege to study themselves. Perhaps the Oregon suffragists themselves intend to expound the meaning in full when the proper time comes. Therefore, all that I mean to concern myself about is to try to steer our own course so that the cause will not be injured bythe wisdom or unwisdom of this particular form of petition.

If you have come to any conclusions about this, and are willing to impart them, I shall be very glad to have your opinion. If there is nothing objectionable in the petition, when rightly understood, and it is to be explained so that our Labor and other friends, shall not believe that we have endorsed a tax-paying qualification, I am in favor of the National employing Miss Pease, as the Oregon people have asked. But I want to be clear on this point. Fortunately, we can do nothing till our Convention, as Miss Gordon has explained to Mrs.Coe, and so we have some time to get this matter straightened out.

Hoping you are having a restful and helpful vacation, and that I may hear from you soon, I am

Cordially your friend,

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

Chilmark ~~Boston~~ Dukes Co., Mass., Aug. 20 1908

Dear Miss Clay:

I had mailed you a new batch of things from Oregon just before your last letter came.

I am glad you feel so decidedly in favor of keeping on with the Oklahoma work.

Willis Duniway wrote me confidentially that he had urged limiting the new amendment in Oregon to taxpayers, because a good many men felt

irritated at being asked to vote so often on the same question, & this would make a new question of it.

Always yours cordially,

Alice Stone Blackwell.

P.S. A Rev. Franklin Browne, formerly of ~~Bre~~ Berea, Ky., now of Cummington, Mass., has secured a lot of signatures to our enrolment cards, & sends also $2. for the suffrage work here, which he asks us to consider as a contribution "from friends in Ky." He says he once spoke at a convention managed by you in Ky., & asks me to give you his "very respectful regards". He wishes he could send more money, but says his circumstances are those of the ordinary country clergyman in advanced life, & he can't. I have remade my will & left my stock in the Woman's Journal (after my father's death) to the N. A. W. S. A., in accordance with your advice. No need to mention this.

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

Whilmark ~~Boston~~, Mass., Sept. 3 1908

Dear Miss Clay:

My difficulties in regard to the Oregon matter are not the same as yours. While I do not approve of a tax qualification, I should be glad to see the suffrage extended even to tax-paying women, on the principle both of an entering wedge and of a half loaf. So that I should have no scruples of principle against aiding their campaign. But I think

you will find that it will be quite impossible to get the National to aid Oregon, in view of Miss Shaw's strong opposition, and of the added strength that the increased adverse vote in the last election will give to ~~those~~ the view of those who think that for the present Oregon is a hopeless State. So, in my judgment, you need not fear the National doing anything that will compromise us with the labor men.

But of course we who are especially interested

[Sept 3, 1908]

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

in Oregon have to decide

Boston, Mass., ... 190

upon our individual position. I have mislaid the copy of the amendment that was sent me; but I remember that on reading it over it seemed to me awkwardly expressed — if I had not known better, I should have thought that it meant to limit suffrage for men to tax-payers; and it seemed to me likely to lose votes from its liability to give that impression. Then I feared

that, even if it should carry, it would be pronounced invalid on account of its having an insufficient or misleading title. Nothing is said in the title about woman suffrage. I should think the Supreme Court could find an excuse there for declaring it void if it wanted to, and it would very likely want to. I think it would be well to inquire whether they had taken the highest legal advice as to the validity of the form.

Miss Pease seems to

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Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. 3 Park Street, Room 16

[Sept 3, 1908]

Boston, Mass., ... 190

have written a similar letter to Miss Gordan & to me.

I don't believe the signers to the petition studied the form of the amendment closely, or took the final clause as having any meaning beyond giving a vote to tax-paying women. Probably the canvasser said to them, "Will you sign a petition

to give suffrage to women who pay taxes?" and they said yes, & glanced it over carelessly & signed. I should ~~imply~~ infer from Miss Pease's letter that, if the amendment carries, they mean to claim that all women can vote under it, since all women in Oregon (she says) are tax-payers.

Why ~~the~~ should not you write to Mrs. Coe, stating your difficulties, and ask Dr. Coe to get you the opinion (confidentially) of some competent Oregon lawyer, who is a suffragist?

Cordially,
Alice Stone Blackwell.

Richmond, Ky.
Sept.8th, 1908.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

I thank you for writing me your opinion of the Oregon petition. I hope it may turn out all right,- that is, will be successful. But Ifear the petition is too confused, whether intentionally so or not, to come through all the difficulties before the voters and its enemies. You say you have mislaid the copy sent you; you will notice that the letter of Mrs.Duniway's which I returned to you is written on one of the petitions. You suggest that I should write to some one confidentially in Oregon, and get a legal opinion on the petition. I had thought of this; but on inferring that Miss Pease had written you and Miss Gordon a duplicate letter, and that in response to a letter to Mrs.Coe, which is an unusual circumstance, it occurred to me that they had prepared a stereotyped letter, carefully evasive, and had Miss Pease write all of them, so there would be no leakage of information. This, together with Miss Pease's remark that they did not care at this time to point out that all the women are,or may be, taxpayers, has made me conclude that it is best for outsiders to let matters alone, until the Oregonians choose to reveal their whole meaning. They say they will file the petition early in October; that may be the time they will reveal more of their plan, and it will be in time for us to discuss it at the Convention, where we may have more information. I have decided therefore to await developments.

I am very much pleased to know you have made the disposal of the shares in the Woman's Journal that you mention. At times, though, I hope that you will see the full fruits of your parents' lifelong labors; and that the mission of the Journal will be accomplished while you still have control of it. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast" despite many disappointments in Oregon and elsewhere.

I have received a very courteous letter from Mrs.Duniway, repeating very much what she has already told you respecting their campaign.

Cordially yours,

Richmond, Ky.

Nov.6th, 1908.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

Since I returned to Richmond I have looked in my scrap-book for the declaration from the Unuted States' Brewers Asso., thinking their resolutions were published in a more official way than what is described in the clipping of June 9th which I sent you. I find, however, that what is in my scrap-book is essentially the same as that I sent you, though clipped from a different paper. Therefore I suggest that you try to get information from some other source exactly what that Association did declaere officially. I think you can do so, now you know the date of their convention which took the action. If you cannot, then you must use your own discretion as to how much you will quote from the clipping I sent. Unless they actually published officially the resolutions printed as what they were going to say, I think we ought not to publish them in our tract as an admission, tacitly, of the connection of the saloon with the social evil.

I have received information from the Ky. State Sup't of Instruction that women did lose the historic scrap of school suffrage in the new school law. I am very sorry.

I know you will feel sympathy with us in the loss by death of my brother-in-law, James Bennett, who died on October 30th, after a long illness. He was a member of our E.R.Association, and in full sympathy with my sister in her interest in the suffrage cause.

Cordially yours,

National American Woman Suffrage Association

(Member National Council of Women and International Woman Suffrage Alliance)

President, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, Moylan, Pa.
First Vice President, Rachel Foster Avery, Swarthmore, Pa.
Second Vice President, Florence Kelley, 105 East 22nd Street, New York City.
Corresponding Secretary, Kate M. Gordon, 1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Warren, Ohio

Recording Secretary, Alice Stone Blackwell, 6 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
Treasurer, Harriet Taylor Upton, Warren, Ohio.
Auditors: Laura Clay, 189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.; Ella S. Stewart, 5464 Jefferson Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Swarthmore, Pa.,

December 29, 1908.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell,

Dorchester, Mass.,

Dear Miss Alice:-

When are we going to have the specialized literature? I am particularly interested in the leaflet about the attitude of the liquor traffic towards suffrage which we are to use to make a strong appeal to the churches.

You see, I am President of Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association now and am trying to get the state work into more active running order. I have secured a splendid chairman for the Committee on Distribution of Literature, which is to be combined with the Church Work, and I am very anxious to give her something to do, so I am particularly interested in this leaflet which, as I remember it, you were to prepare. I wrote to Mrs. Upton some time ago about it and she said that at that time she had heard nothing from you, and as she was not present at the committee meeting when the matter was discussed she did not know any of the details.

Please let me hear from you at once that I may inform my own committee when we may expect to have these leaflets in hand.

Cordially yours,

Rachel Foster Avery.

Rachel Foster Avery
Swarthmore
Pa
Rec Dec 30/1908

[Dec. 1908]

189 N. Mill Street, Lexington, Ky.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell,

Boston Mass.

Dear Miss Blackwell,

In accordance with your request to get the information about the account of the Brewers' Convention, I wrote to Chicago and have received the following reply, of which I enclose you a copy. I am now trying to get some copies of the Brewers' Journal of date July 1st. Maybe you can get one in Boston.

Please find enclosed a postal order for $2.75, in payment of my subscription and the subscription of the Lexington Library to the Woman's Journal.

Please say to your father that I have received his letter about Presidential Suffrage, and will try to furnish him later with a list of men to whom he can send the literature. Our Legislature does not met until 1910, so I can delay somewhat in sending the list.

Mrs. Maud W. Park spoke to the students of Transylvania University on the 23d. of December, and is to return next Monday to address the students of State University at a little reception to be given. She has not yet organized, and perhaps will not be able to do so, because she has been here altogether during the holidays, which is a very unfortunate time, as the whole body of students is very much disorganized. Mrs. Park made a delightful impression upon her hearers, and I was much pleased to become more thoroughly acquainted with her. She admires and loves you greatly, which raises her in my opinion for good judgment and taste. I got your Bunker Hill Monument card and the

verses for which I thank you . I cannot attempt to write you in poetry, so I am merely going to wish you in prose a happy New Year. Please remember me to your father, and believe me always

Cordially your friend,

Dict.

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. ~~3 Park Street, Room 16~~
6 Beacon St., Room 1018.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 3 1909

Dear Miss Clay:

Will you be able to get ~~that~~ the exact wording of that liquor extract, or ought I not to have bothered you about it? I would not have done so, if I were not so desperately hard worked.

With best wishes

for a Happy New
Year, always yours
affectionately,
Alice Stone Blackwell.

Lexington, Ky. Jan.22, 1909.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Miss Blackwell,

Yours enclosing letter from Mrs. Breeden, and clippings is just received. I thank you very much for letting me see them and I return them in case you may have further need of them.

I really do not know what to think of the situation. If it is true that Mrs. Picker helped in it I suppose we are relieved of all responsibility as she is the President of the State Association, in that case our Board would have nothing to do but await results. If you hear anything more on this subject I shall be very glad to be informed promptly.

I suppose that you got the circular copy Of Mrs. Boyer's letter which Mrs. Upton sent to me. The substance of it was about the same as that of a letter I received from Mrs. Boyer herself; otherwise I would send Mrs. Boyer's letter to you.

Please remember me to your father, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Dict.

Lexington, Ky. Jan.18, 1909.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Miss Blackwell,

After I had sent you a copy of my letter from Prohibition Headquarters in Chicago, quoting from the Brewer's Journal of July 1908, I asked a friend whom I thought had a better chance than I of getting the Brewers' Journal to send on for two copies. After I had written to you I received your letter of Jan. 3rd enclosing the letter from Mrs. Avery. I do not know what I said in my previous letter was all that is necessary or not. If I receive the copies of the Brewer's Journal I will send one to you promptly.

I have now done all that I know how to do about the leaflets, and am writing this so that you can go on with it according to your own judgement.

I am very much pleased with your father's editorial on Women and Juvenile Courts. I really think it ought to appear as one of the political leaflets.

Cordially yours,

Dict.

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. ~~3 Park Street, Room 16~~
6 Beacon St., Room 1018.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 19 1909

Dear Miss Clay:

Here is a pretty kettle of fish!

Yours affectionately
Alice Stone Blackwell.

Telephone 1791 Haymarket

Office of

The Woman's Journal

No. ~~3 Park Street, Room 16~~
6 Beacon St., Room 1018.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 7 1909

Dear Miss Clay:

I do not think it will be necessary to hunt for any more "original documents" for that liquor leaflet. The report of the president's address, given in the Brewers' Journal, is surely authority enough. ~~The~~ The

letter from the Prohibition Press which you enclosed did not give the year of Leidman's speech & the report in the Brewers' Journal. I put it in as 1908, but perhaps it ought to be 1907. If so, please correct it.

If I remember rightly, you thought these two ~~ex~~-

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No. ~~3 Park Street, Room 16~~
6 Beacon St., Room 1018.

[Feb 7, 1909]

Boston, Mass., ... 190

quotations would be most forcible if given without comment; so I have added nothing.

If this suits you as it now stands, please send it on to Miss

Hauser. If not, add or amend at your own discretion.

Always yours affectionately and with high esteem,
Alice Stone Blackwell.

Perhaps you can suggest a better title - "Loved for its Enemies" - "An Unholy Alliance," or something different.

[May 6, 1909]

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS

LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

GERTRUDE EDMUND, PRINCIPAL

The Lowell Training School for Teachers is a city institution, a post graduate school for college and normal school graduates.

During the past five years the following college have been represented: Wellesley, Smith, Vassar, Mt. Holyoke, Radcliffe. Boston and Cornell Universities.

Although it is not a large school, it is a school having great responsibility, as it appoints the city teachers in the grammar and primary schools and during the past ten years has supplied 95% of the teachers for the high school.

The practice apartment includes a grammar and a primary building.

In addition to work in the practice schools, the students have courses in Psychology, History and Principles of Education and Methods of teaching.

The Faculty consists of the Principal and (11) teachers. The Principal of the school is a college and normal school graduate, who has done special University work in pedagogy and philosophy.

Lowell is a city of 100,000 inhabitants.

Dear Miss Clay: I forwarded your letter to Miss Edmunds, & she sends me this. It is a white school.

Cordially

Alice Stone Blackwell

May 6. 1909.

(COPY)

[May 3, 1909]

Executive Department
State of South Dakota
Pierre

Apr. 26, 1909.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell,
Boston.

My dear Miss Blackwell:--

Your favor of the 18th received and contents carefully noted.

I hesitate to some degree as to what line of advice to give you as to the best way of carrying on the work of the equal suffrage movement in this state. I realize that there are differences of opinion among the South Dakota women as to how the campaign should be conducted. It seems to me that it should be carried on in separate divisions. The W. C. T. U., through the Woman's Suffrage department, has been working continuously in this state for twenty years, making a good many sacrifices and spending a good deal of money. There is no question but what it was largely through their work and especially through their petition which they circulated in this state, that the victory at the last legislature was achieved.

I also realize that the national organization assisted and spent some money in having representatives on the ground during the last legislature. If possible, there should be no division of the firends of the suffrage movement in this state, and each faction should be liberal and charitable enough to give proper places for all the fields af to the movement. If I am advised rightly, the different elements are getting together to a greater degree than earlier in the campaign.

I note that you say that the South Dakota suffragists have full right to decide what they will do, but as the campaign will have to be financed to a considerable extent by the National Association, that the National Association have to decide which of the various plans furnished they will carry out.

If I understand the pan for raising funds for this campaign, a large part of the funds will be raised inside of the state. The state suffrage society, under the national, are already soliciting through the card system monthly subscriptions for the coming year. I presume the suffrage department of the W. C. T. U. will do likewise, so that to quite an extent the money will be received from the South Dakota people. Am I right on this proposition?

I do not think that, because the hational association will furnish some money direct from its national society, it should demand the entire control of the campaign, and I understand that there has been a meeting whereby it will be carried on through different departments. The National organization will have its certain lines of work and the other

[May 3, 1909]

suffrage organizations will have theirs. One would reach what we would call the temperance element of the state, while the other, through the Women's Clubs, will reach the social element.

I think that you should have in this state an Executive Committee composed of some of your most liberal and best equipped advisors so as to make the most effective campaign that has ever been carried on in any state in the Union. You certainly have a great chance for a victory and it should not be lost through some disaffection among the friends of this movement.

The women in the state that have takeh an active interest in this question for years, who have been before the legislature time and again for the past fifteen or twenty years, are Mrs. Anna Simmons and Mrs. Alice Pickler, of Faulkton, Mrs . Johnson, of Highmore, Mts. S. A. Ramsey, of Woonsocket, and Mrs. Ruby J. Smart, of Wessington Springs. The newer ones that I have never met until the past session are Mrs. Fitch, of Hurley, Miss Rose Bower, of Rapid City, Mrs. Pettigrew, of Belle Fourche, Mrs. Breeden, of Pierre, and Mrs. Jeffries, of Ft. Pierre; all of whom are doing good work.

Miss Laura Gregg, who is representing the National Association, is doing excellent work in the state.

I might add further that there will be a great temperance fight in this state on the question of the County Option Law that is to be submitted to the voters. Of course you understand that the license and liquor people generally are against equal suffrage and, in my judgment, the success of the suffrage movement in this state will depend largely upon the thorough endorsement of it by all the temperance forces that will be in the field this year.

I might also give you the inside information that Mr. Hanton, of Watertown, S.D., one of the most prominent Democrats in the state, told me in a conversation the other day that he should favor woman suffrage. This I think is very encouraging, and to what extent he would be willing to take a prominent part in the campaign, I could not say. It might be well for some prominent representative of yours to call on him.

Any information I can furnish you at any time will be gladly furnished, or anything I can do to help in this matter will be cheerfully done.

With kind personal regards, I remain,

Very rspectfully yours,

(Signed) E. S. Vessey

Lexington, Ky. May 1, 1909.

Miss Alice Blackwell,

6 Beacon St.,

Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Blackwell,

Dr. R. N. Roark, the President of the Eastern State Normal School situated at Richmond Kentucky, has recently died. The friends of his widow, Mrs. Mary Cregan Roark, are very desirous to have her appointed permanently in his place. Her qualifications are so high that she has been appointed to fill the present year. One objection to her permanent election is that our people are not familiar with precedents of women being the heads of institutions for the highest normal training for men and women.

In looking over a list of Public Normal Schools in the report of the United States Commission of Education I observe that in Massachusetts that the Lowell Training School for Teachers has a woman, Gertrude Edmund, for President. I am writing to ask if you will kindly give me some information regarding this institution. Is it a State Training School for white teachers, men and women? Is it one of the principle Normal Institutions of Massachusetts? Any other information you can give me regarding its standing, and whether it can be used as a precedent for a woman's holding the presidency in an institution of equal rank of that of the Eastern Normal School

of the state of Kentucky, will be very greatly appreciated.

Very cordially yours,

Dict.

Dorchester, Mass.,
May 9, 1909.

Dear Mrs. Avery:-

Enclosed is the sketch of my mother's life, in the condensed form required. I am glad you like the younger picture. I prefer it, now that the people who know her personally as an old lady are so largely gone.

In regard to changing the Headquarters from Warren, I hardly know what to think. There would be more prestige about Washington or N. Y., of course; but on the other hand, we have no one in either place who would be nearly as good a person to have charge of headquarters as Mrs. Upton, and as I hear that Judge Taylor's health has lately grown much frailer, she is likely soon to be free to give her time and strength more fully to the work than while she was in anxiety about him. On the other hand, I suppose after Judge Taylor's death Mr. Upton <u>might</u> whisk her away to South America or elsewhere; and then there would be no adequate reason for keeping up headquarters at Warren.

I am glad you favor retaining Mrs. Upton as treasurer as long as we can. We might look for a month of Sundays before finding another woman as exceptionally fitted for that post as she; and then, even supposing the next treasurer to have equal natural gifts for it (which is a big supposition), it would be years before she would know the ropes and the constituency as well as Mrs. Upton does. Then, in addition, the almost unanimous affection felt for Mrs. Upton by the members of the Association is an asset of solid value. If changing our headquarters meant changing our treasurer, that would be a great objection to it; but I infer from what you say that you don't think it would necessarily mean that.

If we do move our headquarters from Warren, I think it would be much better to have it at Washington than in N. Y. City. I suppose we could not give up the headquarters in Washington without distressing Miss Thomas, Miss Garrett and Mrs. Spencer; and if we carried on headquarters both in Washingtonand in N. Y., it would be an awful expense, much worse than keeping the present place at Warren. The expense of running two headquarters was one argument for shutting up the one at Warren; but to get any decent quarters in N. Y. we should have to pay much more than we are paying at Warren. The fact that we could get such beautiful rooms so cheap was one of the advantages there.

Moreover, there are already three or four local suffrage headquarters in N. Y. City. If we opened National Headquarters there we should want it to be decidedly the best of the lot; but unless we were able to spend a quantity of money, and, in addition,

[May 9, 1909]

had some one with a very remarkable personality to be in charge of it, it would be overshadowed by some of the others - especially by Mrs. Mackay's. Not that I have seen here, but I suppose it is very handsome. In Washington, on the other hand, we have the field to ourselves.

As New York City is already supplied with a superabundance of Suffrage Headquarters where people can meet, get literature, etc., it has occurred to me that perhaps one object of putting National Headquarters there is to counteract some objectionable local plans or people. If so, could not that be accomplished equally well by persuading (and perhaps helping) the N. Y. State W. S. A. to open headquarters there? I don't understand the situation in New York City very well, but I know they are all split up into factions, and I think it is better for the National not to get mixed up in local rows if we can help it. So, if we make any change from Warren, my present idea is that we had better concentrate on Washington.

Elizabeth is admirable and invaluable, but I doubt if she would leave Ohio and Mrs. Upton.

I have written the considerations pro and con as they occur to me. There may be other reasons that I do not know or have not thought of.

By the way, can you tell me why Mrs. Mackay won't make her society auxiliary to the New York State W. S. A.? It seems to me that would be the natural and proper thing to do. The president of the Newton Suffrage League - one of the largest locals in Mass., with over 200 members - wants to sever her League's auxiliaryship to the State, and quotes Mrs. Mackay's action as a precedent! Her real reason is that she is disgruntled with Mrs. Page, and that some of her plans were voted down and Mrs. Page's substituted - or, strictly speaking, because she thought they were going to be. Of course this is confidential. Also, have you noticed that this "National Progressive Union ", which is mainly a New York affair, is reaching out to organize branches elsewhere (as I see by the press clippings), and seems to aim at making itself a second National Association? It seems to me it would be much wiser for them all to be auxiliary to the old society. Perhaps the National P. U. would be willing to be auxiliary to us, as a national body, like the Friends' W. S. A. But, unless we look sharp, I'm afraid there is going to be more schism than there has been for years. So far as it is an outgrowth of increased interest in woman suffrage it may be a good sign; but it is generally foolish to multiply associations that strive to occupy the same field. Jealousies and friction are almost sure to arise. If we can in any way gather these stray sheep in, it might be well to be devising

[May 9, 1909]

means to do it. What do you think?

I see by the press clippings that Pa. has now a very active president, and I congratulate the State.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Alice Stone Blackwell.