

Lexington, Ky. April 27, 1909.

Miss Kate M. Gordon,

1800 Prytania St.,

New Orleans, La.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I was much pleased to receive your letter yesterday. I am glad to hear your views concerning the situation in Oklahoma. Mrs. Biggers and I have been carrying on some correspondence and through her I learned that the women intend to make a strong effort to get up a petition, even without the aid of the National hoping that if they secure the day the National will help in the subsequent campaign. Mrs. Boyer stayed for some time, but has now gone to her son in St. Louis. I will write more of the situation there, as I hear from Mrs. Biggers.

I am very much concerned about the situation in South Dakota. I am not at all disinclined to let the W. C. T. U. carry on the campaign there as I gather from the correspondence that they intend to do it simply by being in the majority at the E. S. A. Convention in Huron. If that is the case and peace is preserved I see no reason why the National may not work harmoniously by financing several speakers just as we have commenced to do. Do you know I am greatly taken with your idea of asking Mr. Gompers to recommend a man who shall work for us among the Labor Unions. I have come back from Arizona very deeply impressed with our need for calling more upon men to help in our campaigns, and especially in lobbying in legislative bodies. I am glad you and Mrs. Blandenburg

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have devised a fine scheme for suffrage work. I hope you will let me hear about it.

Now I have something in which I wish a little assistance from you. Professor R. N. Roark, President of the Eastern Normal School located at Richmond, Kentucky, has recently died, and her friends are very desirous that his widow, Mrs. Mary C. Roark, shall be appointed President of the institution in his place. The Normal College is one of the two for white persons established by the state of Kentucky and is considered an institution of the highest grade of its kind and its a matter of distinction as well as profit to be its President. Mrs. Roark's friends are desirous of finding out all the precedents of women holding similar positions which will encourage the Regents to give her this place. I find in looking over the Educational Directory that there is a Normal School in New Orleans, the New Orleans Normal School, Miss Margaret C. Hanson, which has a woman for its ~~Principal~~. Will you kindly write to me whether this institution is supported by the state of Louisiana for men and women, and whether it is of the highest grade of Normal School such as that in Richmond Kentucky. Any other information which you can give me showing that there are precedents for a woman holding this high office will be very useful to me.

Cordially yours,

Dict.

Apr. 26, 1909

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.

Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

My dear Miss Clay:-

I thought the enclosed from the suffrage standpoint would be of interest to you. I had written to Mrs. Riker about engagements for Mrs. C.P. Gilman and I hope that she will be able to locate a few for her, as by that means we will get the lady to our National Convention.

Affectionately,

Kate M. Gordon

Do you know anything about Oklahoma - That is Mrs Boyer doing - Apropos of Boyer from things Mrs Luckie & Mrs Blankenburg let slip I learned that they had been regaled with Mrs B's ex

Travagance - Of all the
outrageous slanders I have
ever known this is one
of the greatest.

Mr. Peters letter
has gotten away from
me - have not time
to hunt it.

April 26, 1909.

Dear Member of the Business Committee:-

I have concluded, after giving most serious consideration to the subject for several months, to present my resignation as Corresponding Secretary to the National Association, to take effect whenever most convenient to the Official Board. I mean by this that in the event of my successor, who naturally will be elected at the National Convention, not being able to assume the duties of office at once, as might be the case with a desirable party, that I would be willing for a short time to serve in my present capacity.

One of the chief considerations in submitting my resignation is the fact that as a paid officer I should be subject to command,- that with the establishment of the two headquarters, it certainly seems unreasonable with our limited means to be paying the services of some one to be at the headquarters while an officer is enjoying a salary.

I furthermore feel that there must be some limit placed upon the amount of work that I can do for suffrage. None of the officers can fully realize the demands made on my time locally, as I do not believe any of you stand in quite the same relation to ^{your} ~~their~~ local communities as I do. While specifically Louisiana has ^{not-} done the same kind of work in club organizations, I have always felt that there is not another State that has the suffrage sentiment take ^{had} held of it in the way that we have ~~it~~ taken hold of ~~by~~ the people of Louisiana and Mississippi, for our public work has made itself felt wherever our newspapers circulate. To accomplish these results Jeanie and myself have gone into every kind of local organization not partaking of a sectarian character. On the other hand, we have brought sectarian work into the suffrage area through the formation

[Apr 26, 1909]

of the Travelers' Aid and the Juvenile Court committees among church bodies, but launched by the Era Club supposedly disinterested. You can all realize, therefore, what a tremendous demand is made upon me in addition to the National work, which has been ever since the Chicago Convention unusually heavy.

I also feel that there is a special field of work for me to do in the South; that if I am going to do it I ought to be at work upon it. I realize, further, that I am thoroughly and heartily out of sympathy with the policy of our Association asking for a sixteenth amendment, which I regard not only from the standpoint of a useless waste of time and money, but also as asking for something that has already been relegated to the States for settlement. So deeply do I feel on this subject that I could not lend my presence at any future Congressional gatherings where such a request is made. Now, while I am willing to be guided by the will of the majority in most matters, there is a deeper significance in this sixteenth amendment to me, which outweighs my allegiance to abide by the will of the majority in our National Committee. While, of course, I realize that there is not a shadow of hope of carrying such an amendment, requiring as it does a three-fourths vote of the State Legislatures to ratify it, I do not want to figure prominently in an effort to bring about what would not only be a curse to the people of the South, but an injury to the negroes themselves, who have already suffered from the indiscriminate giving of the ballot to them as a people.

I did not present my resignation before Miss Shaw left the country purposely, as there will be ample time after she returns for the consideration of her preference in the way of a Corresponding Secretary. I will leave it entirely to Mrs. Avery's judgment whether she should be notified of my action. I furthermore believe that with the reorganization that the amendments indicate is about to take place, that this is a very good time to make further changes.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon

April 26, 1909.

Dear Member of the Business Committee:-

In corresponding with Miss Shaw upon the program, it was agreed that I should write to each member of the Business Committee and ask them to have prepared an address to be given at the Convention, if the emergency arises at the eleventh hour for me to place them on the program.

As the program now stands I am reasonably sure of Dorothy Dix, a College Evening program and a legislative program prepared by the local people. I am pulling every string that I can to secure the presence of Mrs. Gilman. Mrs. Craigie is to be there, and I have extended an invitation to her. I have also extended an invitation to Mrs. Keith. I have just received a declination from Owen Lovejoy. Had our Convention been a little later, we could have secured his services. I am waiting for a reply to my invitation to Mrs. Decker. Mrs. Catt obligated herself to the Washington people, trading her presence at the Convention if they did some Petition work for her. Mrs. Catt acknowledged this fact to me, and I have counted upon her, but Mrs. Avery has cast a doubt that has filled me with a little alarm. However, if the National officers are prepared I will feel no anxiety in regard to presenting a good program.

Will you kindly, therefore, send to me the title under which you will speak, in the event of my availing myself of compulsory service.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon.

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April 26, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:-

I am not at all in favor, unless things adjust themselves, of spending one cent of money in South Dakota, unless it is spent as I have suggested to Mrs. Avery through a male organizer under the direction of either Mitchell or Gompers. It seems to me that we are being dominated on every turn by the W.C.T.U. element, and I am scratching my head for wisdom to know the ~~reason~~ ^{reason why} of this situation. Is it because Miss Shaw is so identified with them? and in the further addition of Mrs. Stewart on our Board they feel pretty independent in their relation to us. I must say that the W.C.T.U. is now dominating our Board. I would hesitate to express an opinion after the manner in which Mrs. Stewart took my criticism of the Oklahoma situation. For that reason I have been very guarded in what I have said, particularly as my tenure of office is so short.

I have concluded, as you will see by my resignation, to retire. I have not jumped to this conclusion, but there are many things that have made it seem wiser for me to do what I have done. I have lost every bit of confidence in Mrs. Upton. Mrs. Avery seems to be just an echo of Miss Shaw, and unless you do just what these three want you have to face almost a personal attack.

Now, as I feel that there is plenty for me to do, and with a little more leisure I may be able to develop a situation in the South that would be of greater service than anything I can give to the national, I have concluded, before I am too agitated by some

#2 Miss Clay.

[Apr 26, 1909]

of the things that have happened, to withdraw from an atmosphere which to say the least is no longer ~~congenial~~ ^{congenial}. I must confess that when I can get fun out of things, and that when things go along with a nice spirit, I can work in and out of season, but if I feel that things are not what they ought to be, then I am no good to myself or anybody around me.

I want to say to you personally that I was very much impressed by the way the wind veered to the north after Miss Thomas and Miss Garrett asked me to consider the Washington position. There never was one word said to me upon it by Miss Shaw. When they concluded to establish the headquarters, it seems to me that as a matter of courtesy they might have consulted me a little ~~more~~ about it, and I think yet that I will find, in the parlance of the politician, "a nigger in the wood-pile". However, these are all little asides. The main point is that I conscientiously feel that with our limited means as an Association, and the amount of work that is to be done, that the \$1,000 now given to the Corresponding Secretary ought to command her presence where she can be of most ~~service~~ service to the Association. I, on the other hand, do not feel that I am called upon to sacrifice all my family relations to the suffrage cause, especially when I feel that there is such a splendid field in which to work at home and where the workers are few.

I am glad to see that you have endorsed by your recognition my point of view as to the advisability of employing men organizers.

Affectionately yours,

Nate M. Gordon

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Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

April 24, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:-

I have been wanting to write to you ever since your return to Lexington. The south Dakota business is certainly a pretty kettle of fish and my own conviction in the matter is that we ought not to spend one cent in the State if this scrap between the supposed E.S.A. and the W.C.T.U. continues. I do not see honorably how we can ignore Mrs. Pickler as the recognized representative of our National Association. I have for several years tried to bring about a readjustment of our membership in the National. I did not foresee such a situation as has come up in S.D., but I have seen the danger of allowing simply the payment of dues by a State, being recognized as all that was essential. If we have accepted S.D. without any constitution, just as we have Louisiana, then when trouble does arise we cannot expect to have any legal grounds on which to stand, and Mrs. Pickler will be absolutely in her province in calling a convention in any ^{manner} ~~thing~~ that it suits her sweet will, and we will be in honor bound to recognize her. I personally lean towards letting the W.C.T.U. carry on the campaign. I believe the best way for us to spend our money, if the campaign is carried on at all, would be through getting Gompers to get us a man organizer among the labor people and make ~~it~~ ^{our campaign} a labor issue entirely. I have not suggested this to Mrs. Avery so far, because I would prefer to wait until Miss Shaw comes back. I have ~~some~~ strong feeling against the W.C.T.U. people in their means and methods, but as I gave such awful offence to

#2. Miss Clay.

[Apr. 24, 1909]

Mrs. Stewart in my criticism of their methods in Oklahoma, that I do not feel free to express myself at all upon the W.C.T.U. attitude; in fact, one does not dare to express ~~their~~^a personal opinion these days on our Board without fear of giving personal offence.

In regard to Oklahoma, I wrote Miss Shaw that I would not under any circumstances argue one way or another for their putting money in Oklahoma; that I would occupy a neutral position. I did, however, say that I believed as a tactful move that it would be well for our petition to go in with all the rest of the others. I then made an allusion to Oregon, and I wish you could have seen the way she almost took my head off. I refer to the time when U'Ren wanted us to go in with Bourne in reaching the outlying districts. I was against it out-and-out, and I told U'Ren and he never pressed the point in the slightest. I afterwards realized that it might have worked to our advantage, as he was elected, and that probably was a politician's way of helping us without saying so in so many words. However, my reference to it drew out torrents of abuse on poor U'Ren- one who from my point of view has always been helpful to us.

in connection with the Okl. situation

It seems to me that as things now stand if you take a position against either Miss Shaw, Mrs. Avery or Mrs. Upton that you offend, or, in other words, Mrs. Avery and Mrs. Upton never place their opinion against Miss Shaw. As a sample of this, the other day I wrote a letter to Miss Shaw which did not reach her before leaving. In it I asked for some definite information in regard to paying expenses ~~for~~^a our speaker~~s~~ to the Seattle Convention. Miss Shaw and I had had some correspondence in regard to Prof. Zubelin. Now it occurred to me that if we were going to pay expenses that Mrs. Decker would be far more valuable in interesting club women ;

#3. Miss Clay.

[Apr 24, 1909]

that she coming from Denver and he from Boston ^{from} was an economical consideration; that from all points of view it was better to have Mrs. Decker. Mrs. Avery undertook to answer that letter and announced that they would pay the expenses of one speaker and that she agreed with me that Mrs. Decker would be the better of the two names suggested, but she thought Miss Shaw would prefer Zubelin, and that on that account she would vote for him. I wrote back it was not a question of a vote- that if it was a vote it would be submitted to the Official Board, and that I had used my judgment as Chairman of the program Committee and and invited Mrs. Decker. Now can you tell me why in the name of thunder she had to take that definite stand and occupy a "me too" policy? As far as I can see she is just another vote for Miss Shaw.

I am trying a little bit of detective work. There is something I want to find out about the reorganizing of our Official Board and it may be I will have something to tell you before long.

I will write a Business Committee letter in a day or two so be prepared to be ready with an address in case our program peters out.

Mrs. Blankenburg has just been paying us a visit. I think she is doing some marvelously good suffrage work as an officer of the federation of Women's Clubs. If you will "cross your heart" as I use to say when a child, I will tell you a fine piece of suffrage diplomacy sister Blankenburg and I have conducted.

With affectionate regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon

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Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

May 10, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:-

There is no question but what Washington is the place for the National headquarters, but unless it pleases certain people they are not going to be there. I have read and re-read Mrs. Avery's letter and I wonder why it was ever written. Certainly there can be no necessity for haste in the matter, and it seems to me that a letter of that kind would be in better taste coming from the President.

I am glad she offers some reason for the haste in establishing those headquarters in Washington when they did, but I am sorry that she has no better excuse than she had in taking, as she styles it, "such an active part". I thought we had all discussed the impossibility of acting upon Mrs. Spencer's idea, because of the expense involved. Certainly these dinky headquarters do not represent Mrs. Spencer's idea, with Mrs. Bradley (whoever she may be) as the chatelaine of the mansion. The other reason she offers seems to me perfectly absurd, and not altogether fair to Mrs. Upton in the way she reports it to the Committee. Mrs. Avery knew as well as I did that Mrs. Upton's ^{talk} ~~idea~~ of retiring from the management of Headquarters was not genuine. She has told me that once, but a half-dozen times, and it seems to me the excuse she offers does not ring true.

I do not intend to take any notice of the letter at all. I do not see that we are called upon to comment upon Mrs. Avery's

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[May 10, 1909]

reasons why she voted for the Washington headquarters. My own opinion of the lady is that she is wholly and totally incapable of filling the position she is now filling. She seems never to act upon her own initiative. Everything she does is either in deference to Miss Shaw^{or} because she thought somebody else wanted it. This kind of a disposition seems to me to unfit her absolutely for anything like leadership. I can understand thoroughly why Mrs. Catt would not and could not work with her. To me she is a living example of the Presbyterian prayer: "She does those things she ought not to do, and leaves undone those things she ought to do".

Affectionately yours,

Maie M. Gordon

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Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

May 17, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:

I enclose a copy of my letter to President Taft, which I forwarded to him the other day. I do not know whether it will get serious consideration from him. However, from John Parker, a personal friend of mine, who was a very intimate friend of Roosevelt's, and who is the head of the Southern Commission which is building on the site of St. Matthews in Washington with a view to bringing in all Southern questions more prominently to the attention of Congress, I learned how to get letters to him without their having to go through the death-dealing route of a secretary. You can keep this copy, for I want to keep you in touch with the situation.

I do not know whether I ever told you that I brought the point to the attention of two of the cleverest lawyers in Louisiana, and they told me that it had never struck them and that it was a most original consideration of the situation. I spoke of the precedent of a case that was against us, but one of them said that there comes a time when circumstances will reverse of themselves a precedent, - that the precedent is very useful, but not to be regarded always as prohibitory.

A letter has just been received from Mrs. Avery. I am glad that at last some consideration is to be given to your Arizona suggestions.

I am hard at work on the program. After the Convention is over, I am thinking of taking the Alaskan trip, if I can get any congenial folks to go with me. What do you say if you and I

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[May 17, 1909]

make the trip together? It seems a pity to be up in that part of the world and not avail ourselves of the advantages that this opportunity holds out .

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon.

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Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

May 7, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:-

I want you to read this splendid letter of Mrs. Steinem's and then tell me of some woman in Kentucky that you think might be able to lead the discussions along the lines of the Kentucky campaign on the "county unit" You remember that day that I was with you in Louisville and we came in contact with those club women. Most of the conversation was on the subject of these county campaigns. Of course I know that Mrs. *Desh* Breckinridge has done a tremendous work on this line, and if she could be secured for our Convention I would be delighted, but this is almost too good to hope for. Can you suggest some one to whom I could extend an invitation who probably would be on the coast this summer or who could be induced to go without cost to us?

The Church Work Committee, under Mrs. Craigie, has done good work, and you can see for yourself that Mrs. Steinem has not been asleep. I think the future work of our Association should be done more by its committees. I think we ought to try and develop stronger committees instead of concentrating the work as has been done in the past into the hands of the officers of the Association.

Many thanks for all the kind things you said in regard to my work for the Association. I am glad that you appreciate it, and I feel sure, too, that most of the people in the Convention will feel that I have done good work, but nevertheless I have fully determined to retire from the Official Board. There comes a time

C May 7, 1909

when you realize that you must limit the amount of work attempted, and that time has come to me. I do not feel that my best work is being done in the National Association, and for that reason I submitted my resignation. I confess that it was not without considerable feeling that I did submit my decision. The work has been a labor of love, and a break from all the pleasant associations is not made without considerable effort. At the same time, after carefully weighing every side as I see it, I have come to a conclusion which I have determined upon making final. I think I mentioned to you last year that I spoke to Miss Shaw about my resignation when she was with us, but she was looking so wretchedly, and made such a strong appeal for me to stay, that I was induced to continue. I think she will feel differently this year.

Affectionately yours,

Kate M. Gordon.

I cannot be of any service to you in regard to Normal School experiences in the State — We have nothing corresponding to the Ky. situation that I know of.

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Office of Corresponding Secretary, New Orleans, La.

May 7th. [1909]

My dear Miss Clay:

I did not wish to dictate what I now write hence this separate letter.

I feel that I would not be a real friend did I not write you what I feel is brewing in National wire-pulling. Some weeks ago I ~~recei-~~ received a letter from a State President, asking me about some changes which she felt was necessary on the Ntl. Board, and in which you were not to be re-elected. I wrote her and asked directly whether her suggestion was a personal one or whether she was acting upon a concerted movement. She says it is purely personal.

Since then I have tried to find out whether anything was on foot corresponding to the effort which was made to get Miss Blackwell off last fall, and the latest piece of gossip which I have heard is that she would have been defeated "had not I gone on the floor and actively electioneered for her". It is absolutely whole cloth, for I knew nothing of it till the morning of the election and Alice B. told me of it while the election was on, and never influenced a vote for her, & she was elected because the Convention wanted her.

I have not been able to learn definitely whether Miss Shaw and Mrs. Mrs. Avery are working to have you removed. There is no doubt you offended deeply when you swung the Executive Committee to vote the continuance of work in Oklahoma, but things are reaching a pass when ~~that~~ our honest opinion on a situation must work to our undoing. I hope indeed I am entirely mistaken in what I fear, but in my genuine friendship and admiration of you I felt it a duty to let you know what I had learned.

Cordially

Kate M. Gordon

Lexington, Ky. May 1, 1909.

Miss Kate M. Gordon,
1800 Prytania St.,
New Orleans, La.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I am filled with consternation at your letter just received in which you say you are going to resign your secretaryship. I know that you have been contemplating this for some time and as you have such able advisors in your sisters, who understand the possibilities of your creating a favorable suffrage situation in the South, I hardly know what comments to make divided as I am between my knowledge of your great usefulness in this other field. I really do not know how your place can be filled on the Board. After the appreciative compliments that flowed in from all sides on your ability to provide a program such as that at Buffalo, not to speak of former occasions, you must know that some at least of your usefulness is known by the whole convention. Above this talent however I value more highly your clear fresh view of new possibilities in new lines of work and in new situations. I know that some of our methods are antiquated and have survived much of their usefulness. The hope of new initiative lies much in your ability along these lines.

I must say that I do not attach as much weight as you do to the difference of opinion which you feel exists among the members of the Board. Whatever may be the thought in the minds of some as to the relative positions of the members of the Board I remember that each of them

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is elected by a vote of the convention which represents the association and that the constitution makes them responsible only to the convention not in any sense one to the other. After each one has given her opinion freely on the different points of policy which come up I do not think that she remains any longer painfully responsible for any course which is decided upon by the majority. Certainly, I do not think that her disagreement with some members should make her overlook her great powers for usefulness in helping to frame policies which will be useful to the association. If we are to have nothing but a "Me Too" Board I really do not know what is to become of the work of the Association. I look upon it as a calamity for any positive character to withdraw from the head of affairs.

I feel that I am expressing myself very inadequately; but I hope that I am saying enough to show how joyfully I would welcome a reconsideration of your intended action.

Turning to other matters I am glad that you have made the suggestion that we should ask the advice of Mitchell or Gompers about a man organizer. I know we need such a one in these campaigns, but I had not thought of asking assistance of these leaders.

I do not take quite the view you do about the position the W. C. T. U. seems to be adopting. I fancy from my knowledge of that organization it is because it feels itself so much stronger than the suffrage organization that it has become impatient of what impresses it as the comparative weakness and inefficiency of the suffrage association. I think they are mistaken about this but I don't entirely wonder at it. In fact, I believe the appearance of weakness of our organization whether real or apparent is one of the causes why we cannot grow in numbers more rapidly. It ought to be a strong stimulus to seek out methods more

[May 1, 1909]

adopted to our times instead of wrapping ourselves in the complacency that is sometimes evident in our conventions, perhaps it is partly a feeling of this sort which makes you want to see what can be done in the Southern situation.

In answer to your letter to me as State President I would like to have a Round Table discussion of this question: What is the Best Method to Utilize Politically the Existing Suffrage Sentiment?

I will try to be prepared with an address in case one is needed from me; but at present I am not prepared to give it a title.

I have heard nothing recently from Mrs. Biggers, and all I know of Mrs. Boyer is that she has gone from Oklahoma and has joined her son in St. Louis. Mrs. Biggers wrote that she did not know anything more of her future movements. I am daily expecting an account from Mrs. Biggers relating to the status of the Referendum Petition.

I have just got your letter of April 29th addressed to the State President. I will answer that I expect to be at the convention; Miss Mary E. Giltner, 1554 Madison Avenue, Covington, Ky., is our Executive Committee member and I doubt if she will be in attendance, though I am not informed. The names of our delegates are Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp, Lexington, who I hope will go. Mrs. Sallie C. Bennett, Richmond, who I expect will go. Mrs. M. B. Reynolds, Covington, Mrs. Mary B. Clay, Richmond, Mrs. Lucy A. Neild Louisville, Mrs. I. H. Shepard, Covington. I do not know the intentions of these last named. I understand that among the alternatives Mrs. Hattie Buchanan, Richmond is contemplating going. In a former letter I wrote you that Mrs. Beauchamp is a very fine speaker on all temperance questions and could also give

4.

a most interesting address on mountain settlement work. She also would be very valuable in a Round Table Conference on work before legislatures as she has done a great deal of that successfully. Mrs. Lucy A. Neild twenty years ago was a very distinguished temperance speaker having great power over her audiences. Since that time she has been much occupied with family cares; but as her children have now grown up I am trying to bring her actively into the suffrage work. I think you would be perfectly safe in asking her for an address at the convention. I wish very much that she would attend, but as I say I know nothing of her intentions. Among the alternatives, a list of whom I sent you, I consider Mrs. Caroline A. Leech, 1735 First St., Louisville, Kentucky, and Miss Laura R. White, 502 E. Winchester Ave., Ashland, Kentucky, both as women who would be very valuable at the convention, though neither of them would be available for the platform both would be valuable in Round Table Conferences. Miss White is our chairman of Peace Arbitration work, and she has been appointed by Governor Wilson as delegate to the Peace Congress in Chicago.

Very cordially yours,

Dict.

P. S. I think also Mrs. Mary C. Cramer, Lexington, may attend as a delegate.

Lexington, Ky. May 11, 1909.

Miss Kate M. Gordon,

New Orleans, La.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I am in receipt of your letter of May the 7th, but you did not enclose the letter of Mrs. Steinem as you say you will do. I suppose, however, that the "County Unit" of which you speak is the unit of school government. I called up Mrs. Breckenridge and asked if it would be possible for her to go to Seattle. She says she is so busy with some local work which she has undertaken, which also relates to establishing a model school, that she cannot think of going to Seattle. This morning I am going to write to Mrs. Charles Weaver, 2406 Third Ave., Louisville, Ky., whom I think you met in Louisville. She is the ex-President of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, a leading spirit in Kentuckies School Improvement League, and altogether a very able and progressive woman. You might write to her and offer her an opportunity to speak on this subject. It is a compliment I should be glad to have paid to her whether she accepts or not. She is one of our equal rights members. It was she who first called my attention to the great importance of strong committees in association work. I remember I quoted her remarks at our meeting in Buffalo. I am making an effort to see if it is possible to have Mrs. Mengel go, if she will she also would treat the subject finely.

2.

Yes, I thoroughly agree with you that much further work of our association should be done by committees. I am of the opinion that the Board should represent all sections of the country as far as possible; and then whenever an unusually strong ~~committee~~ committeeeship could be given to her with some financial means to help and freedom to develop her plans according to her own views. This would give us opportunity for receiving initiative which is not possible for us to have from an Official Board which is necessarily limited in numbers and burdened with work concerning only the general affairs of the association.

Since I last wrote to you I have received a letter from Mrs. Biggers dated April the 28th and in which she does not mention Mrs. Boyer. She says that she has been far from well, but was then much better. She says that at C "I found the women ready and willing to get at the Petitions. Mrs. Stevens of Oklahoma City has gone out into the old Oklahoma territory part to be gone several weeks. Where she can get someone to help with the work she will to on to another town. Mrs. Laskey has gone out into the western part of the state. Quite a number of people have offered to help to get signatures. It was decided to offer ten dollars per thousand names where necessary. Mrs. Stevens and some others work that way paying their own expenses. They will not make much more than expenses I think, but it was our best way we thought. Those who work at home will work for nothing. Then we have the Socialists, the W. C. T. U., and something from the labor people.

EMay 11, 1909

3.

In a letter received a few days ago from Dr. Gay of Oklahoma City, who is taking charge of that end of the business while Mrs. Stevens is out, she expresses herself as of the opinion that the work had a good start and she was most hopeful of success."

Remember me to your sisters, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Dict.

Lexington, Ky. June 2, 1909.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I am going to answer your recent letters in order of time.

May 17th. I am exceedingly interested in your letter to the President. It is a fine presentation of the subject. I scarcely dare hope that it will receive the consideration it deserves. You know I feel that if your point of view could be established as constitutional it would be the most tremendous step forward for our cause that would be made short of absolute success. I had thought the adverse precedent had closed the case against us; and I am glad to know that your legal friend says it is not conclusive. I do hope that you will continue to let me hear of how you are progressing along this line.

I believe it has been decided that Miss Penfield is going to Seattle. I trust that some plan for work in Arizona will be decided upon. It seems pretty certain that statehood will be conferred next winter and we ought not to be found wanting in pressing our cause before the Constitutional Convention.

I receive an occasional letter from Mrs. Biggers in which she tells me they are working on the initiative petition with hopes of its success. I suppose they will know now very soon whether they have gotten the required the forty thousand names or not as they must be reported on June 12th. Mrs. Biggers has promised to let me know the result.

2.

My sister, Mrs. Bennett, thinks of going to Seattle and if she does go we contemplate taking in the Yellowstone Park enroute home, so that would put out of the question my accepting your invitation to go on the Alaska route though in such pleasant company it would be a delightful trip.

May 19th. I have looked over your copy of the program and I see no reference to the campaign in Oregon. It seems to me we ought not to slight that even though the relations between the State and National Associations are strained. Can't you give Oregon some place on the program? The omission will certainly be remarked. I can't hope that Mrs. Duniway will not make it disagreeable.

May 26th. I enclose the quarterly report blank with my answers. AS our legislature did not meet this year no legislative work has been done.

I have not yet availed myself of the hospitality invitation from Washington for any of our delegates; for as I understand the invitation is given as an inducement to some delegates that might not otherwise be able to go and so far I have not found persons whom I thought this would be an object.

Please remember me to our sisters, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Lexington, Ky. Dec. 11/09.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I have received your letter of December the 7th and am very pleased to hear from you.

Yes, I got the letter you sent from Mrs. Evans, but as you did not ask for its return, which you usually do when you desire it returned, I have kept it. However, I now re-enclose it.

Miss Shaw has called an official Board Meeting in New York for the 21st of this month, in which we will consider many points of interest. In answer to your remark about what funds are allowed to Chairmen of Committees, I will say that I thoroughly agree with you that they should be made of much greater importance in our organization, than they are, but as for making appropriations for their use, the state of our treasury at present is absolutely prohibitive. Mrs. Upton writes me very serious letters about the treasury. She says the expences are great in New York; that the rich eastern people are not contributing as was hoped; that the States are undertaking more work and ^{spending} their money for themselves; and that numbers of small givers are holding back, because they imagine that rich women are now behind the organization. When I go to the Board Meeting, if I find any chance of being heard, I will ~~say~~ say something about the funds of the Chairman of ~~Chairman~~ of

the funds of the Chairman of Committees and the work in Oregon. Personally, I am most interested now in Oklahoma. I suppose you know their initiative petition is all but completed. They certainly expect to have it done during this month and in time to have it voted upon at a special election in January or February, if the Governor can be persuaded to call a special election for this and some other petitions for Constitutional amendments. If they get their petition done, certainly they are as much entitled to help as any other State; and being a Southern and Democratic State, in my opinion it is of more importance than any other State, where our question is now up.

I feel that I have been somewhat remiss in attending to your financial plan, but my summer and fall were so exceedingly over crowded with work, which accumulated during my absence in the summer that I found that I have left undone many things that I ought to have done. Among these are that I failed to bring your plan before our State Conference, which was held in Louisville on the 11th and 12th of November.

Let me hear from you from time to time. I should very greatly regret to lose you as a correspondent on account of your withdrawal from the Board. I feel your loss more and more all the time. Please give my regards to your sisters and believe me,

Very cordially yours,

Diet.

P. S. By the way I believe you have been misinformed as to Mrs. Colby's financial circumstances. Mrs. Mary C. Cramer met her after she left Seattle and she tells me that Mrs. Colby owns a house, which she rents out and she was impressed that her circumstances were not very bad. I know, when I was in Oregon I was told on what I thought good authority that she refused a newspaper position at \$75 a month, because it would interfere with her keeping up The Tribune. Her ability as a

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[Dec 11, 1909]

give my regards to your sisters and believe me,

Very cordially yours,

P. S. By the by, I believe you have been misformed as to Mrs. Colby's financial circumstances. Mrs. Mary C/ Cramer met her after she left Seattle and she tells me that Mrs. Colby owns a house, which she rents out and she was impressed that her circumstannesswere not very bad. I know, when I was in Oregon I was told on what I thought good authority that she refused a newspaper position att\$75 a month, becuae it would interfere with her keeping up "The Tribune". Her ability as a writer is undundeniably good that I think she could make a living at it. After Miss Gregg employed her in Oregon, partly by way of keeping her in hand, she gave more or less annoyance all the time, and I believe it would be ampossible to keep her from doing so in New York. She is essentially a free lance and must be allowed to do as she pleases.

You did not enclose a copy of your letter to Miss Shaw as you intended.

Lexington, Ky. Dec. 11/09.

My dear Miss ~~East~~.

I have just received a letter from Miss Gordon, in which she again urges me to push her plan for raising the Susan B. Anthony Memorial fund. I am sorry I did not bring this matter up at our State Convention, but so much business had to be transacted that this had to be neglected. However, the State President is entitled to appoint committees to work with the National when the Convention takes no action.

Miss Gordon particularly desires that you and Miss Virginia P. Robinson should take this matter in hand and you to be the State chairman for the work. She was extremely pleased with our two lovely young Kentucky women at the Seattle Convention. The advantage of this system of raising money is that the chairman of the committee does not in any way personally pledge to raise any certain amount, but her duties simply entail a certain amount of clerical work.

I trust that you will feel willing to undertake this work. Her letter to the State President and the instructions, which I enclose give you the details that are necessary. I will add that if you will undertake the State Chairmanship, I will be the Local Chairman for the Lexington E. R. A.

I received your newspaper clippings, for which I thank you. I am greatly pleased that the School Suffrage work has such a good start in Louisville. We expect to have a Mass Meeting in support of

it the first week in January.

Hoping to hear that you will accept this Chairmanship, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Diet.

My dear Miss Clay:

[Dec. 7 1909]

I am enclosing a confidential letter from Mrs. Evans - possibly you remember her. I've written to Miss Shaw the extract in relation to the Gang. You note she rather slurs on the respectable point. When on the Alaska trip I met a very nice Texas woman & she told me Mrs. Colby threatened the suffragists that if they did not help her financially the only other alternative was for her to have her body support her & any damage it reflected on the suffrage cause (of which she made herself a not exponent) would be their responsibility. All that is said of Mrs. Hadden is true. I've suggested to Miss Shaw to try & get Mrs. Colby from the West where she will get into the campaigns - She does write well - & to employ her at Hqs.

in the newspaper work.
If we have her in H^{rs} employ
she can be made to conform
to our regulations. I think
what Mrs Crans says is true
about Mrs D - she was very
feeble in Seattle - I do feel
Oregon properly handled ed.
be won. Don't let on that
it is Mrs Crans who has
written. I am so busy - I
miss a stenographer dread-
fully. Have written to have
the amount voted for Anthony
collection put to my use -
but I believe the funds are
very low - Those Washington
Haps have wasted a penny
of two - Affec -
Kate M. Gordon

Susan B. Anthony Memorial Fund

KATE M. GORDON, CHAIRMAN
1800 PRYTANIA STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

December 7, 1909.

My dear Miss Clay:

Your letter enclosing check received, and many thanks for your generous contribution to my collection of the Fund.

I hope you will appoint a Chairman for the work in Kentucky, and would suggest that Miss Haas and Miss Robinson (those two charming girls that were at the Convention) be put in charge of the work in the State. That will relieve you entirely of any responsibility. I do think the possibilities of collecting through this channel are enormous, and it entails little or no work upon the persons who act as Local Chairmen. Please read directions carefully.

Now, did you not receive from me quite early in the fall a letter enclosing one from Mrs. Evans, of Portland, Oregon. I am not really sure whether I sent it to Richmond or to Lexington, but as it has not been returned, and as Mrs. Evans' letter is rather important, I want to trace it. I wrote to Miss Shaw (without letting her know who the writer was) the information contained in that letter, and it was such good horse sense that I hope they will not be blinded by their feeling against Mrs. Duniway and do nothing in the State. I will enclose the carbon of my letter to Miss Shaw. I hope that in the event of a discussion coming up on this point that you will stand strongly in favor of the point of view expressed by Mrs. Evans.

I cannot fail to tell you what little response and enthusiasm there seems to be within the Association as to the needs of our work. I tell you we need a complete reorganization, and we need a reorganization of the Board. There is not enough representa-

[Dec. 7, 1909]

tion from our working committees in the National conduct of the Association. This is strictly *entre nous*. I saw a letter which was written to little Mrs. Douglas, as a member of the Church Work Committee. If you will recall, Mrs. Craigie, who is a very valuable woman, did astonishingly good work in six months last year on an appropriation of \$50.00. The Board, you remember, cut down the appropriations to committees making it \$25.00, and I ~~have~~ ^{also} received a protest from Mrs. Steinem in regard to it. Now just put yourself in the place of these committee leaders. What must they think of a Treasurer who receives \$1,000, is given a \$65 clerk, and then charges \$10 a month for room rent- a bigger appropriation for room rent than we give to a woman to initiate and carry on two of our important committees. If Mrs. Upton was a woman who raised any money by her own initiation she might be credited with earning her salary, but in my experience she has never raised anything but by writing a letter to the regular contributors to the work, most of whom were Miss Anthony's finds.

I am not saying this in any spirit of criticism, but I am remarking on it from the standpoint of the total unfitness and extravagance of the conduct of the work. Then, there is that awful money sink that the Washington Headquarters has involved us in. I certainly think that there ought to be a concerted effort to get rid of Mrs. Avery on the Board, for her total incompetency and unfitness for office is patent to everybody who comes in contact with it. I tell you right now, if we succeed in raising this Fund of money Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton nor the Board alone will not have the spending of it. If you noticed, I stated everywhere that the Fund was for campaign purposes. I be-hanged if I am going to stand for the fool-launching of things like that Washington business, when States like Oklahoma and Oregon can't get a picayune.

#3

[Dec 7, 1909]

No, I have not had time for any serious work. I have been almost as busy puttering and trying to do the things that come up as when I was the Corresponding Secretary and equipped.

I am going to take up the Richmond situation with Katie Bruns. You know, Richmond is her home, and she is connected with the very best families of the place.

Affectionately yours,

Katie M. Gordon

Lexington, Ky. Dec. 3/09.

My dear Miss Gordon,

It has been so long since I have heard from you that I quite long to have a letter. Some months ago I received your printed ~~method~~ of raising the Susan B. Anthony fund. I have not seen my way clear yet to doing anything on that line with it, but I am enclosing my sisters check for the amount of my pledge. She and I changed about, I paying her pledge to the National and she sending me her check for mine to the S. B. A. fund. I suppose you can cash this check without trouble; if not please return it, and I will send a New York draft instead.

I miss you more and more on the Official Board. I hope you are doing enough work to feel that you are justified in leaving the Board, but you left many regrets behind you. Miss Shaw speaks of calling a meeting of the Board in New York the latter part of this winter.

Do you notice that the women in ~~Richmond~~, Va. are actually waking up to the Suffrage movement. My sister, Mrs. Crenshaw, wrote me about it and sent me some clippings. She has been invited to join the movement, but writes that of course she will do so, but that she feels too old and ~~worn out~~ ~~to take part in the movement~~.
It is really better for the movement

(2)

I see the names of some of the ladies to whom I spoke when I was there eighteen months ago. The authoress, Miss Mary Johnston, says she is a Suffragist, though she has not joined the movement, but Miss Eleanor Glasgow, another writer of distinction, has joined the movement. She is the one who asked me to speak at a parlor meeting.

Our E. R. A. met in Louisville and had two fine speeches from Miss Shaw, and excellent newspaper reports, which encouraged us; because Mrs. Obenchain never was able to get a foot hold in the Louisville papers.

Well, dear Mr. Blackwell has passed away. Who would have thought it, seeing him so full of life and vigor at Seattle? I feel truly sorry for Alice. She is left more alone than many others would be.

I returned a few days ago from Florida, where I was invited to address the Federation of Woman's Clubs on Civil Service Reform and to address the Jacksonville Club on the same subject. I was announced as an officer of the National Suffrage Association, and a number of women said they would like to have heard me on Suffrage. My subject did not permit more than incidental allusions to Suffrage, but whenever women have to speak at all, they are bound to think how much easier things would be if they could vote themselves. I really enjoyed the trip very much, though I was in Florida scarcely a week.

I hope you still have time to write a letter occasionally to your old friends. So do let me hear from you and how you are getting along with the S. B. Anthony fund. Please remember me to your sisters, and believe me,

Affectionately yours,

Diet.