

189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.
Febr. 20th, 1920/

My dear Miss Gordon,

I was very glad indeed to get your letter of Febr. 8th. I have not written myself because I had nothing cheering to say. I know how you have been feeling about the Anthony amendment. I believe nothing but my religion has enabled me to stand it. As time passes, however, that has enabled me to realize that the government of the world is in God's hands, and that oftentimes his purposes are worked out after long intervals of time. Therefore, as my faith in the States Rights doctrine is unmoved, I and others with me, have continued our labors for saving the remnant of it which still seems possible, with the confidence that our work will not be lost, even if it does not show results for fifty years or more. Mrs. Bennett says when she used to read Thaddeus of Warsaw she felt that the hero's devotion to country was all thrown away, as Poland's case was hopeless. But now, after many years of apparent hopelessness, Poland has arisen like a phoenix out of its ashes, and become again an independent state. But it never could have done this if it had not been for many true patriots who kept the national spirit alive when all earthly hope seemed to have perished. Therefore, I work for States Rights without being cast down.

I want to see your speech at Jackson. If you have sent it, I have not yet got it. Did I ever send you one copy of the Debate between Mrs. Breckinridge and me? I enclose a copy.

Do I understand that Mississippi has submitted a State Constitutional amendment? The Woman's Citizen has ceased to give general suffrage news, and frequently the dailies do not report all those legislative matters. I do not altogether understand your local references, so you must amplify in your next.

Our Citizens Com. has faithfully worked to get a State amendment submitted by our legislature, but our chances are low. However, we shall not give up till it is impossible. I will let you know if we have any chance.

I find great ignorance about the extent of the action of the Anthony amendment. Many intelligent persons seem under the impression that it grants only Federal suffrage. How they can think this in the light of the effect of the 15th amendment I cannot understand. But if by some miracle of right judgment the Supreme Court should decide that both the 15th and the Anthony amendments are unconstitutional in that they interfere with the reserved rights of states, and that only Federal suffrage can be conferred, then all our troubles would disappear. In the meanwhile, the last few states do not seem in a hurry to ratify, and we may pass over the next presidential election without its passage. In that case, I also hope that it may yet be defeated. I am never going to lose hope that in some way we may be delivered from it until it every chance goes against us.

No; I did not think of going to Chicago. I have no taste for any more of those conventions. The deliberate efforts of women to induce office holders to repudiate the platforms upon which they won their elections has repelled me. I think it shows a very low order of political morals.

Give my warm regards to your sisters, and with much love to yourself, I am

Your friend,

JEAN M. GORDON, President
MRS. W. A. GORDON

Phone Main 5001

FANNIE R. GORDON
KATE M. GORDON

JEAN M. GORDON & CO.

MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS

508 MAGAZINE STREET

NEW ORLEANS, LA.,

Feb. 8, 1920

My dear Miss Clay:

You will be surprised to receive this letter after my long silence. I realized in September that the Federal Amendment situation was taking such possession of me that if I did not get out of this office and think of something else I would have a nervous breakdown. When I read of the Ky situation, every time I attempted to write and express my sympathies, I found it an impossibility to write.

Our Anti-Tuberculosis situation being critical and a campaign pending I went out and brought the state in line and hard work on an entirely different line proved a mental and physical tonic. I wrote Legislators and Governors and never even got a reply in many instances and then I came into a full realization when Texas defied the will of the voters and lawlessly ratified a federal Suffrage Amendment, after an adverse majority had declared 23,000 strong against state suffrage, *What becomes of representative government if such action is indorsed.* When I think of the way we suffragists have railed against representatives defying the will of constituencies and then the way the Nationals have indorsed the Texas action I get sick at heart. I am not only disappointed at the defeat of the State Suffrage principle (which I fear is lost) but that the *leaders* have deserted principle for opportunism.

I was specially invited to go to Jackson by the Clarion-Ledger. I felt confident the Amendment would be defeated in spite of the lies circulated that enough votes had been secured to ratify. What I went for was to urge state submission and which was done. I was in a nest of Anti's and I gave the strongest suffrage speech I ever made. A group of suffragists were present, among them Mrs. Cunningham of Texas. I think they were disappointed that I did not declare against suffrage but as I do not believe they are able to differentiate between our points of view I suppose I will be grouped with the Anti's just as Mrs. Catt classed me with whiskey Hefflin.

I have prepared a resolution and will ask Mr. Henry to get some of the Legislators to try and get it thro. The burden is an appeal to those states that have not yet taken action to delay ratification until the southern states have the opportunity to submit amendment in regular form and make unnecessary the Fed. Amendment. I do not of course know how such a resolution would be regarded. I am hoping against hope all the time that the liquor amendment may be our saving grace as it is evident the democrats are going to make an effort in the Convention to have it made a party issue. Yesterday in talking to Mr. Pearl Wight a very prominent Republican I said the Republicans lost a golden opportunity to retrieve the error of the 15th Amendment, by not taking a stand against any further mutilation in this regard of the Constitution. He replied

political agitation - Populists - political party

5/1

You really do not believe the amendment is to be ratified. Ever since I have been wondering if this is a play of both parties. It really seems incredible for the Democrats to put over on the South another suffrage amendment. If it could be staved off until after the election I think the calamity might be averted. However as I write this I feel that the ~~whole thing~~ ^{hope} is based on the idea of the "wish being father to the thought."

I am wondering if you are going to Chicago. The papers report a large delegation going from New Orleans and not one of them worked when suffrage was in need of support, with the exception of Miss Huberwald. By the way I am highly amused at Miss H. going as a delegate from the Portia Club the original La. Suffrage Club. The Portia went out of existence in 1897 and when Mrs. Catt called a State Convention in 1900 the Era Club was all there was in the State and she broke the rule and permitted one organization to represent a state organization in order that the State might be affiliated with the National.

I am at work on the La Chapter of the History. Really as I go over the work that Jean and I did for the Suffrage Cause it is astonishing what we accomplished. As a matter of fact we virtually carried the burden financially and educationally for not only La. but in rousing most of the southern states.

I will send you a copy of my speech as reported in Jackson. It may be well to be aware of what I said, for I am confident I am going to be classed with the Antis. Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Bennett and with the hope of getting a nice long letter I am with affection,

faithfully yours,

Kate M. Gordon.

JEAN M. GORDON, President
MRS. W. A. GORDON

Phone Main 5001

FANNIE R. GORDON
KATE M. GORDON

JEAN M. GORDON & CO.
MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS

508 MAGAZINE STREET

NEW ORLEANS, LA.,

March 19, 1920

My dear Miss Clay:

I am sending the copy of my address in Jackson as you requested. The other copy must have gone astray as it made such a little package, this time I will send it in the envelope. It is fairly accurate from a reporters grasp but I said a good deal more and I think I made a better impression than the report gives. I am so heartily sick of the whole situation and the way the ^{suffragists} have deserted all the things we contended for as the fruit of woman suffrage, that I am afraid I will be sympathizing with those arrant fools the anti's.

I suppose there will be no chance of the Amendment failing. The politicians seem to have gone mad. The last straw was that vote in the senate favoring Irish Freedom. It shows how Tumulty is running things in the interest of the 24th Catholic vote.

Wish if you have a few more of your debate with Mrs. Breckenridge, you would send them to me. I want them for some of our Legislators. We will try and prevent ratification of the Federal Amendment. I want the State Amendment submitted whether the Federal Amendment is in effect or not. If the liquor amendment should be pronounced unconstitutional, the same logic should apply in a greater degree to the suffrage.

Read Upton Sinclair's "Brass Check". It fairly makes you shudder at our helplessness under a subsidized press. The other day we received the inclosed charging the Associated Press, ^{as} under the control of the Hierarchy. Having had a little experience with what newspaper tyranny means in that attack made ~~me~~ by that man Meehan who with his wife were I am sure representatives of organized liquor, I have a sympathy with and a belief in his descriptions of what he has endured. Any rate read it as a phase of what Americanism and Free Press has degenerated into.

The National Social Workers Conference, the new name ^{for} the old "Organized Charities" is to meet in N.O. April 14. Can't you come and hear the leading social workers of the countr with the world problems that confront us. Florence Kelley is to b our guest and we would be delighted to have you too.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Bennett,

Affectionately,

Kate M. Gordon

State Motto: Standing, Having Done All Stand

National Motto: For God and Home and Native Land

President:
MRS. FRANCES E. BEAUCHAMP,
Lexington.

Vice President:
MRS. MALTA B. BAILEY,
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Corresponding Secretary:
MRS. MARY E. BALCH,
1514 Vernon Avenue, Louisville.

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MRS. NORAH B. TAYLOR,
200 East Maxwell St., Lexington.

...Kentucky...

Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Time of Prayer—Noontide
Methods—Preventive, Educational, Evangelistic, Social and Legal

Badge—A Knot of White Ribbon
Watchwords—Agitate, Educate, Organize

W. C. T. U. SETTLEMENT SCHOOL, HINDMAN

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE: { Miss KATHERINE PETTIT, Lexington
Miss MAY STONE, 1400 Third Avenue, Louisville

189 N. Mill, Lexington, Ky.

Apr. 20th, Lexington, Ky.

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My dear Miss Gordon,

I have read with intense interest the argument of Mr. Morton which you sent me. It is so strong that the only objection I have to your doing what he asks is what I said in my former letter—it may make the legislators willing to vote for ratification in the hope that the whole amendment will be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. My observation leaves me in the same state of fear he expresses— that politicians will not care what revolutionary effect is produced if only a partisan advantage can be secured by ratification. Therefore, I must leave to you, without advice from me what use you shall make of this valuable document.

I did not telegraph, as you asked, whether I would come to Louisiana; for I had written in my previous letter, which I thought you had not received when your second letter was sent, that I did not think I could do any good in Louisiana, but that our presidential suffrage had put it into my power, I thought, to do some good against ratification here in Ky; but that I held myself at your command, if you observed any way I could help in Louisiana.

I am firmly of the opinion that ~~no~~ no consideration except partisan advantage is going to have any effect upon the efforts of political leaders about ratification; and argument will not convince them. It is only demonstration that they are building false hopes upon the gratitude of women to any particular party which will affect them at all. Since I wrote my first letter I have had a small opportunity to present some of this evidence. We have formed a large Democratic club of women here, of which the politicians are taking note. I enclose a newspaper report. Notice the first plank of the short platform, which I wrote, under the conviction of what I have just expressed. You see that we ~~thank~~ thank all parties impartially, giving credit to their national platforms of 1916, and not to action upon the Anthony amendment. These thanks have been observed, and I think will contribute in a small degree to carry the conviction that parties will gain nothing by this mad bid by ratification for the vote of women. If this conviction could be carried to them legislatures and politicians could see quickly serious disadvantages in ratifying.

I want you to observe that some of the leading figures in the club are women known to be opposed to the Anthony amendment. I have underscored them.

It is probable that we can add to this effect in the Louisville convention on May 4th, which is the State convention of the Democratic party. They are making promises of a prominent share of the political honors to women, on the strength of the Presidential suffrage. This convention will come before your legislature meets on May 10th, and I really think I can do you more good by staying right in Ky., and working along this line than I can by coming to La., for as Ky. is a contested state what is done here will surely be reported in La. It is

(Over)

probable that I can go to the Louisville convention as a delegate from Madison Co., of which I am a legal resident. If I do go, I shall certainly try to convince the Democrats that they have nothing to gain by ratification. I have already excited some comment by declaring, in answers to reporters, that I am going to give my support to Senator Beckham, because he stood for the rights of the people by voting against the Anthony amendment. We States Rightsers think we have made some capital among the friends of Sen. Beckham by our pronounced support of his vote in Congress. The other side have sedulously tried to make the impression that any person or faction which opposed the Ant. amendment need not to expect the favor of any woman voter. Let us Restrey that impression, and no mere states will ratify, is my theory.

I see the fight has turned ~~agai~~ towards Connecticut and North Carolina, rather than to Louisiana. I am sorry to see that the action of Delaware is not yet finally against. My chief hope, however, is in the suit of the state of Maryland agianst the amendment before the Supreme Court of the U.S. I am praying night and day that the recititude of the Court may be equal to defending the rights of the states, which seem to me to be clearly ~~set~~ forth in the argument you sent. Our great effort, I think, should bring what support we can from public opinion.

be to - -

Well, write again as soon as you can. I shall never lose hope of defeating this hideous amendment until the last ground for hope has proved unavailing.

Love to your sistes, and with much to yourself, I am
Very cordially yours,

Laura Clay.

189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.
Apr. 20th, 1920.

Major Noel Gaines,
Frankfort, Ky.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of Apr. 16th is at hand, with enclosed leaflets, for which I thank you.

I think my position on the Anthony amendment and towards Sen. Beckham, because he voted against it, is very simple.

Our State constitutions are the creations of the people,- neither of the Federal government or State legislatures. As such, they are the expression of the sovereignty of the people, and the guarantee of their rights of self-government. Therefore, only the power which created them should alter their essential provisions. Yet, by the Anthony amendment, it is proposed that two thirds of the Federal Congress and three fourths of the State legislatures, without any reference to the people, and in a number of instances, against their will as expressed at the polls, the constitutions of all the States shall be altered in their most vital point,- the determination of who shall vote-, And furthermore, that election laws controlling a large percentage of the voters, shall be enacted by Congress. It seems apparent to me that if the rights of self-government of the people can be set aside by such means there is no right of the people supposed to inhere in the State constitutions which may not be set aside by the same process, and state governments will be reduced to a name, and the people will be governed by officials, without any security of the people that their will shall be respected in matters most nearly concerning them.

For this reason, I consider that Sen. Beckham deserves the gratitude of the people for resisting this aggression upon their rights by Congress and State legislatures.

If the Anthony amendment dealt only with Federal suffrage,- the right of all the people to have a voice in the election of Representatives, Senators and President and vice-president, I should be in favor of it. But because it invades the right of the people of each state to govern its own state elections, I am opposed to it from strong conviction.

Very respectfully yours,

[Apr 20, 1920]

Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference

MRS. O. F. ELLINGTON, Rec. Sec'y,
Dallas, Texas.

KATE M. GORDON, President,
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.

AUDITOR

MRS. W. M. STONER, Auditor,
1538 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.

MARIE LOUISE COLLENS, Co. Sec'y,
1309 General Pershing St., New Orleans, La.

LAURA CLAY, Vice-President at-Large,
Lexington, Ky.

MRS. H. B. BARTLETT, Treasurer,
155 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, La.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. OLIVER H. P. BELMONT,
New York City

HEADQUARTERS
NEW ORLEANS, LA.



My dear Miss Clay:

Am sending you the argument sent by the New York Lawyer and which he asks me to get into the hands of the Attorney General. Here is what he says:

" Could the enclosed paper be gotten into the hands of the Attorney General, who will be in office when the new Legislature meets. Could he be induced to study it. A ruling by him that the Fed. Amendment would be beyond the power of the Amending Clause would have a marked effect.

You will recall that when the Attorney General of Rhode Island so ruled in reference to Constitutional Prohibition, the R. I Legislature not only refused on that ground to consider it at all, but passed a resolution authorizing the Attorney General to bring a suit to test its constitutionality which case is now before the Supreme Court.

Is there any way a Citizen could proceed to delay action until a test is made. I would be willing to do it or together or the La. State Suffrage Ass'n might act.

Do come and be with us and give us the benefit of your good judgment. Wire me whether you can come.

Affectionately,
Kate M. Gordon.

189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.

April 7h, 1920.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I so much enjoyed hearing from you, and reading your speech before the Miss. legislature. It is excellent. I never received the first copy you sent me.

I am re-enclosing the article on the subsidized press. I feel indeed we are in a terrible revolutionary period, and if our people do not wake up to the dangers threatening our liberties they will have to be recovered at great cost again.

Well, Delaware has not yet ratified; but by the time this reaches you, we will know its final action. In any case, it seems that Louisiana is to be the object of a furious onslaught by the ratifiers. I feel great sympathy with you; and I trust that you will be more successful than the States Rights party were in Kentucky. I observe from the press that you and Miss Jean are making a campaign against ratification. If I can do anything to help I want you to call on me. You remember that my offer of financial help still stands good, and I hope you and Miss Jean will not let yourselves work hard without calling on suffrage friends in other states who are just as much interested as your selves in the defeat of the amendment. Some time ago I sent you copies of the Debate you asked for. I sent what I had in my desk, thinking they would be as many as you could use. But if you do need more, let me know, as we had a large edition printed, and we will have no further use for them. I hope you got the paper telling of our winning Presidential suffrage. The Ky. Equal R/Asso. asked for it, as our Committee stuck closely to the one demand for a state amendment, on which we lost.

I think the most hopeful outlook for the opponents of the Anthony amendment is the action of the Maryland legislature in insti-

tuting an injunction suit against its declaration of the ratification even if it receives the vote of 36 states. It confirms me in the hope that we are not yet defeated.

Now this brings me again to the question of Presidential suffrage. If you do defeat the ratification in Louisiana, what have you think of following Kentucky in getting Presidential suffrage? I feel that with the women voting for president it will take off the edge of the politicians' desire for the Anthony amendment. We feel that it is a great thing in Kentucky; but here the negro women vote is not of much importance. You may feel that it is different in your state.

Again: If it appears in the next few weeks that the Anthony amendment is delayed for this election what do you think of the Southern Conference reviving our effort to obtain the United States Elections Bill? Now that so many legislatures have shown themselves ready even to violate states rights in their determination to give women the vote quickly, Congress may be willing to take the step which they did consider quite revolutionary, though strictly according to States Rights, as I view it. Perhaps the Democrats, or the Republicans, would be glad to demonstrate that they will go to great lengths for women suffrage, if the Anthony amendment is defeated or deferred for a length of time. Please give some thought to this, and let me know your opinion; because it seems to me there may be an opening for us in the present situation.

Mrs. Harrison Gardner Foster asked to be remembered to you, when I told her just now over the 'phone that I was writing to you.

Love to your sisters. Write to me when you can spare the time; and with my assurances of sympathy and desire to help, I am

Very cordially your friend,

MARY SMITH BARTLETT (Mrs. H. B.)
1st Vice-President

NAN POKORNY (Mrs. Dave)
2d Vice-President

LILLIAN GARIC GASSAWAY (Mrs. F. Gerrish)
3d Vice-President

KATE M. GORDON,
Corresponding Secretary,
1800 Prytania Street

Era Club

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

BELLE VAN HORN,
President
1640 Arabella Street

EVELYN W. ORDWAY,
Honorary President

KINNIE CABLE OESCHNER (Mrs. John F.)
Recording Secretary

SARAH BELLEVILLE WHITEHEAD (Mrs. Edgar)
Treasurer,

EDNA BOHNE O'BRIEN (Mrs. Robert)
Acting Treasurer,
5315 Camp Street

HELEN PITKIN SCHERTZ (Mrs. Christian)
1st Auditor

FLORENCE COHN,
2d Auditor

New Orleans, La.

April 14th., 1920

SOME FRUITS OF THE ERA CLUB'S
POLICY OF INITIATION
AND AGITATION

SEWERAGE DRAINAGE
PURE WATER

AN ENFORCEABLE CHILD
LABOR LAW

WOMAN FACTORY INSPECTOR

A JUVENILE COURT

TRAVELER'S AID

PUBLIC BATHS

OUTDOOR ART, FORERUNNER
OF THE PLAYGROUNDS
ASSOCIATIONS

ANTI-SPITTING ORDINANCE

HAT PIN ORDINANCE

LEGALIZING THE SIGNATURE
OF A WOMAN

PUBLICATION OF THE ASSES-
MENT ROLLS OF THE CITY
OF NEW ORLEANS

ADMISSION OF WOMAN TO THE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TULANE
UNIVERSITY ON EQUAL
TERMS WITH MEN

FIRST LEGISLATION IN STATE
AGAINST WHITE SLAVERY

INITIATED THE SOUTHERN
STATES WOMAN SUFFRAGE
CONFERENCE

EQUALIZED DIVISION OF TULANE
SCHOLARSHIPS BETWEEN
BOY AND GIRL
STUDENTS

ORIGINATED IN 1912 THE IDEA
OF PRIMARY WOMAN
SUFFRAGE

FIRST APPLIED "VICTORY" TO
20% FLOUR SUBSTITUTES
AND ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED STATE
GOVERNMENT

My dear Mrs. Bennett:

Inclosed find list of legislators
as per request. I hope you will be able to touch the
consciences as to their oath to support the state
constitution. They tell me the Nat'l Democratic Party
is bringing tremendous pressure to bear on the legisla-
ture. The argument said to be brought forward for rati-
fication is that the race situation is very serious and
if a southern state and a democratic state give the
ratifying vote we will be in a better position to get
consideration. I am heart sick but I will fight to the
bitter end. Thankks for offer of financial strength if
needed I will ask for it.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon

Ask Miss Clay to send on that argument sent me from
New York.

Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference

MRS. O. F. ELLINGTON, Rec. Sec'y,
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155 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, La.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. OLIVER H. P. BELMONT,
New York City

HEADQUARTERS
NEW ORLEANS, LA.



April 12, 1920

My dear Miss Clay:

Your letter of sympathy on the situation of the Federal Amendment in La. received with its kind offer of help. It seems incredible that La. of all southern states should ratify. But with the state of affairs politically I have given up having an opinion one way or another.

Broussard, a tower of strength in the third district (the sugar district) and a strong catholic section has come out against ratification. Ransdell however who was and is maintained by the Knights of Columbus in power will of course be a factor to reckon with in controlling that vote. On the other hand the prohibition amendment which the methodists and baptists are God-mothering is subject to attack in a modified way, by every argument made against the Anthony amendment. Hence north La. is uncertain, where ordinarily we might look for support.

The ignorance of what is involved by the men as well as the women is appalling. That the great mass of women are absolutely indifferent argues strongly against this great inert mass being injected into a great political crisis and exploited for immediate gain by both the parties. Our state constitutions swept aside and every safe guard destroyed in order that women may vote in the Sept. primaries. Legal opinion here is that women with no further preparation than registration may vote, and the poll tax pre-requisite not necessary. If this proves true then before another State Constitution can be adopted the negroes can have their own way. I hope our people will realize that the Democratic Party is wholly responsible for conditions and betrayed the people.

Well what I am especially writing for is to ask whether you can come to Louisiana and make a speech in each Congressional District. They tell me the National pressure being brought on our legislators because it will strengthen the Ntl Dem. Party. is tremendous.

I am having made a copy of an argument that one Davis Holmes Morton of N. Y. has asked me to get into the hands of the Attorney General. He believes that if a ruling by him could be secured "that the Federal Amendment would be beyond the power of the Amending Clause "it would have a marked effect. What would you think of the La. State suffragists getting such a ruling and bringing the pressure on the Legislature if he regards it as did the Attorney General in Rhode Island?

Am having a copy of the list of legislators made for Mrs. Bennett.

I would be very glad to co-Operate with the influence of Southern Conference, to bring about the U. S. Elections Bill but I am very dubious about the opportunity. Let me know whether it will be possible for you to come to La. I think the effect is good in directing attention ^{to} ~~thax~~ the point of how the action of La. coerces other states just as Ky. coerces La in a right supremely a state right. I used your 55% point in an article I gave the press. It was such practical politics.

Let me know whether you can come to us.

Affectionately,

Wm. H. Gordon

189 N. Mill, Lexington, Ky.

Apr. 15th, 1920.

My dear Miss Gordon,

Yours of the 12th reached me yesterday. I want to assure you at once that if I thought I could do any good by coming to La. I would come most cheerfully. But I know that I could do nothing to hold by the tide for ratifying in Ky., and to go to another state for that purpose seems to me would be a mockery. I can only say that if developments should make it appear to you that I might do good you can command me.

My observation in our own legislature is that no argument was used or would have had the least effect, was what influence ratifying would have on the political situation. I was much in Frankfort trying to get the submission of the State amendment, and therefore I had an opportunity to observe that the strongest opponents to suffrage were among the most ardent supporters of the amendment; just because the party leaders told them it would be a party advantage. I have no argument to controvert that position, though I believe it is false. It gives me great concern, as it does you, to see that our so-called statesmen are willing to sell every political principle for the hap-hazard chance of winning women's votes in the next presidential election. But it is the case. Therefore, I greatly estimate the importance of presidential suffrage, which is now in the gift of the legislatures. I still believe that if we can tide over this election, we may yet defeat the Anthony amendment. While I do not see that I can do any good in Louisiana, yet this presidential suffrage, will I believe, give the women the chance in Ky. to show the politicians that women are not going to take into account which party had the most to do in ratifying. We cannot do much, but what little we do will have that tendency. I be-

(Over)

[Apr. 7, 1960]

lieve. Therefore, if there is no real reason why I should go out of my own state just now, I think I had better stay here.

Now about the argument that Davis Holmes Morton is asking you to present to your attorney-general: You know that Maryland as a state has undertaken a suit to resist the proclamation of the Anthony amendment even if 36 state legislatures ratify, on what I suppose is the same ground as that taken by Mr. Morton. The question therefore seems to be, Would it do any good for the Louisiana suffragists to try to forestall in effect the suit of Maryland? I confess I feel unable to give any opinion. It might induce the legislature to refuse to ratify. On the other hand, ^{it might make} ~~if it made~~ some of the members feel that they could vote that way and get the political benefit ~~for~~ ^{if} their party, and at the same time the amendment would be set aside by the Supreme Court of the United States, they might do so without danger of actually bringing about the amendment. I do think, however, it would be well for you to have the argument printed ~~now~~ so that it could be used at a moment's notice, if desirable. I cannot think, however, that such a strong ^{who} bit of the possibilities has been overlooked by the politicians ~~which~~ are urging ratification for the sake of party advantage.

I thank you for your promise to aid with the Southern Conference if it should appear that the United States Election Bill could be revived. I know there is no opening just at present; but I am going to watch the trend of things.

Love to your sisters. ^{LEXINGTON} Write to me, your fellow sufferer, when you can, so that ~~we can have at least~~ ^{you can have at least} the support of sympathy in what is one of the greatest trials of my life, ^{as I doubt not it is of yours.}

Always affectionately yours,

MRS. DESHA BRECKINRIDGE, PRESIDENT
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
HEADQUARTERS: 726 McCLELLAND BUILDING

Kentucky Equal Rights Association

(Mirrored bleed-through text from the reverse side of the page, including names like MRS. CHARLES L. NIELD, LOUISVILLE and MRS. EDWARD L. HUTCHINSON, LEXINGTON)

Copy of letter to Miss Gordon, having sent original carbon to
Mrs. Edmund Pest, Paducah.

189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.

July 31st, 1920.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I reached home from California Wednesday afternoon, having spent some time after the convention in sight-seeing and visiting.

While I was in San Francisco, I had some very little communication with Mrs. Kilbreth, who was there working as an anti-suffragist. She asked if I would be willing to go to Nashville, to help against the passage of the Anthony amendment. I told her I would be willing to do anything I could to help to defeat it; and she left me under the impression that she would write or telegraph if she found I could help. I have heard nothing further from her.

This morning I received a long distance telephone message from Sallie Bennett, saying she had received a letter from you this morning, asking her to write by return mail if I was going to be in Nashville. So this letter is in answer to that. As I say, I told Mrs. Kilbreth that I would do all I can to defeat the Anthony amendment; but I did not go into detail with her, as I have with you, the reasons which have discouraged me from feeling that as I was not able to do anything at all in my own state to prevent ratification, I felt very dubious about being able to do anything in another state. I am convinced that the whole move for ratification is political, without the slightest reference to the wishes of the people or even the wishes of the politicians. It may be that the politicians are beginning to see that neither party will gain one vote from the other from the women on account of the party's action on ratification. But as I see it, the Democrats run a great risk, which amounts almost to a certainty, that if they break down the time-honored principle of States Rights in the solid South it will make an opening for the

forming of a white Republican party in the solid south which may well have the effect of losing electoral votes in states which have been counted upon as surely Democratic. It would be through men's votes, however, and in no way connected with gratitude from women for the ratification of the Anthony amendment. I find this idea has occurred to others besides myself; and is answered by the suffragists just as Mrs. Cotnam, of Arkansas answered me, when I suggested it to her "Oh, I am sure the Democrats would be faithful". Which means nothing, of course, except that she wishes it, without any foundation for the thought except that she wishes it.

Mrs. Bennett mentioned nothing else in your letter except the inquiry if I was to be in Nashville. So I am writing to say that if you wish me to come, telegraph me at once on receipt of this letter, or write if there is time, and I will do as you wish. I told Mrs. Kilbreth that I would do what I could against it; but I am frank to say that I feel a great distaste to working with these who are avowedly opposed to suffrage; and that I would greatly prefer to work under your leadership, as the president of the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference. That would place me under my true colors; and I knew you are more acquainted with this new movement against the Anthony Amendment than I am, and I would feel safe under your leadership. Therefore, it is a call from you that I will obey, and not one from Mrs. Kilbreth; for I only promised her that I would do what I could, and I reserved to myself judgment as to what I could do. I have grave doubts whether my appearing in Nashville under the auspices of anti-suffragists would do anything but mischief, and I do not think I would go there under such circumstances. But if you are going to be there, and want my assistance, I shall most willingly give it.

If you get this letter and can get an answer here by Wednesday night, address me here. Otherwise, address me at Richmond, Ky.

Very cordially your friend,

May 7th, 1920/

My dear Miss Gordon,

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping about our Democratic Convention. The women were received with as great cordiality as if we had full votes. It confirms me in my opinion of the value of the presidential vote, for I think that in Ky. the impression is growing that the Anthony amendment will not be ratified in time for the November elections, if at all.

I am writing this to cause you to reflect again whether you ought not to try for presidential suffrage in Louisiana.

In order to give women representation the four delegates at large were made eight, with one-half vote each. You will observe that I was one of the eight. I expect to go, ~~taxlsekxafterxthxinterxstxuxfx~~ and it is thoroughly understood in Ky. that I am irrevocably opposed to the Anthony amendment. It would be grand if you could get presidential ^{cause} suffrage and you and Miss Jean go to California. We might do our ^{use} coause some good yet.

Write to me what is going on in La.

With love to you and your sisters, I am

Cordially your friend,

1111

ORLEANS ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS LEAGUE

1931 GENTILLY AVE.

PHONE HEMLOCK 4079

PRESIDENT
MR. LUCIEN E. LYONS
TREASURER
J. E. HODSOLL

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
MISS KATE M. GORDON

SECRETARY
DR. GEORGE S. BROWN
GENERAL COUNSEL
MR. ISAAC HELLER
MR. BENJAMIN ORY

NEW ORLEANS, March 22, 1923

My dear dear Miss Clay:

Your letter just received fills me with disappointment that I have not made good the countless number of times I have attempted to write you since the awful disappointment in Tenn. As a matter of fact its was months before I could allow myself to even think of the whole horrible experience. You know I left assured that the battle was won and it was not till I reached Jackson Miss. and saw the headlines of an evening paper that I had a doubt of the victory. I felt then as I do now that if a southern state had not been the medium of ratification no northern or western state would have put it over. I also feel that ratification by Tenn. was as fraudulent as the spirit that put over the 15th. Amendment, and Connecticut brought in line by the republicans to make a partisan victory.

On my return to New Orleans that summer we plunged into a municipal election to defeat Mayor Behrman who had been sixteen years mayor and an open advocate for every vicious influence possible. In the 1918 submission he was the direct cause fraudulently for N.O. defeating submission. But when the Federal Amendment was before the Legislature he pretended to the women advocates of it that he would support them altho it was a foregone conclusion that Louisiana would not ratify. But those women for that bait supported him in his mayoralty campaign with his vice record the issue. I have ever since, added to what we learned of the "index cards" doubted seriously whether women could or would improve politics. Nevertheless my belief in the right of suffrage for women is as deep a conviction as ever but if campaigning as of yore, I think I would be very very chary of some the promises held out as to what "woman suffrage" would achieve.

The reason the letter was not addressed to the old familiar 1800 is because we rented the house furnished this winter and staid over the Lake at Mandeville in a little summer home we have there. The house is so big and Fannie was so tired of housekeeping and the TELEPHONE CALLS we thought it a quid way to get a rest. But Fannie says Jean and I are giving Mandeville absent treatment. The reason for this is that both of us are up to our eyes in Tb and Feebleminded work. I suppose you know that ever since we have had any organized tuberculosis work I have been the money raiser for it. We have a splendid organized work which carries on a camp over the Lake near Slidell has magnificent free clinics etc etc. The weak phase of our work was the Hospital. Every effort made to establish one was defeated for lack of a necessary permit by politicians and generally led by a catholic priest. When the new regime went in I started out on my hospital quest. Mrs. Dibert of N.O had given to the city \$300,000 for this purpose in 1916 but the war costs made building impossible. She however limited her hospital to early cases. I started out on an advanced stage hospital. Finally held a drive and raised over \$100,000 and influenced Mrs.

Dibert to pool her interests with us. We then bought a wonderful site and again failed to get the permit. The next step made by the Mayor was to have a Committee formed to look into sites and the recommendation of that Committee was accepted on the score that if the property was bought a permit was to be granted. This promise was made by the entire five City Commissioners and only one of them kept the faith. The matter is now in the hands of the Association of Commerce and it is said we will get the permit shortly. Think of people dying for the need of care with over five-hundred thousand dollars available to-morrow if the site is given. The place is wonderfully beautiful and represents an acreage of fifty-five with some of the most beautiful trees imaginable.

Right next door Jean has established her hearts desire a Feeblminded Home. She was you know the President of a Board known as the Milne Home for Destitute Orphan Girls. Milne died nearly a century ago leaving over 2 million of dollars and large tracts of land for the establishment of two ~~hospitals~~ asylums and the support of two already existing. The Civil war and graft politicians left little or nothing of the fund and when it was discovered and the Governor appointed new boards Jean was presented with sixty-three cents and titles o a tract of land then under water but now very valuable. Jean increased that (63 cents) to \$18,000 and then started out to do something. The menace of the feeble-minded girl appealed to her as the most important social work ~~was~~ confronting our civilization ^{that} she interpreted the Destitute Orphan Girl that Milne ^{wanted} to help as a Feeble minded one. She has bought a beautiful home with twelve acres just adjoining our Tuberculosis site and has begged a dormitory valued at \$30,000 not one nail in which has been paid for the sole cost labor and much of that donated. It was dedicated on the 24th of February and is known as the "Gift House." I named it. It houses over thirty of these child women and by the end of the month forty will be with us and that is about the limit of our ability to feed until the tract is sold. In the community I am now known as Tuberculosis Gordon and Jean as Feeble-minded Gordon. Take your choice. I think this brief description of our activities will let you know we have not been idle.

To return to your letter. No ~~in~~ have never passed a State Constitutional Amendment. In 1920 the Federal Suffragists when they could not ratify the Fed? Amendment would not give the necessary three-fourths for a State Submission. Do you think it essential at this time ---I of course see some advantages if it had been passed before ratification. Write me your view point and if advantageous we may go through the form of submission. I agree with the nation is being destroyed by federalism and I sometimes think that self protection may make it absolutely necessary for the Federal Amendment to be revoked. In which event the State Constitution qualification would be a great protection.

I have had a great contempt for many years for Mrs Catt and her integrity of purpose. She has no reason to resent our opposition to the Federal Amendment. By conviction and tradition I believe in the State's Right Pprinciple of our Government as a safety valve as well as a guarantee of liberty. We fought in the open and under the National Constitution ^{within} our rights. When La/ entered the National Association she ^{explained} that clause to our satisfaction and that is why many of us joined. Thats a joke about the History. I was not even going to send for one but I will buy one now. I would love to come on for a visit but it is out of the question now. Could you not come down and pay us a visit at Mandevill

[Mar. 22, 1923]

ORLEANS ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS LEAGUE

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NEW ORLEANS.

I could talk and talk by the hour over things of the past for you are the only member of the old Board whose knowledge of the Constitution I had the least respect for. If you can seriously consider a visit I can make you very comfortable with me in one of the homes down here on the tuberculosis site amid flowers, birds and beautiful trees, when not over the lake at Mandeville.

Poor Mrs. Harper. She must have had a de'il of a time writing that history. I know what a slacker I was and I know I was not the only one. I think I will send her this letter carbon as it outlines some of the reasons I have written no one and am in every body's bad books.

Mrs. Boyer wrote one of her happy letters about Xmas times. Sent the headlines of the Boston papers on the Ku klux in La. Havent had the time to write her "why I am a Klux". John Parker has I believe gone crazy, but I cannot launch into this. Come and hear some of the otherside of the Morehouse trial

March 29, 1923

You will note that a week has run around since the first date that this letter bears. It is almost impossible to get an hour without interruptions and the constant demands on time and patience almost beyond belief. All to-day I have been in conference with representatives of Uncle Sam the first interview being with the Dr. in charge of the Marine Hospital who wants part of our tract and promises that Uncle Sam will do his share in getting the permit for our hospital. My dream has been to sell enough of our land to make our portion cost the League virtually nothing. The afternoon was spent in the clinic with fifteen Veteran's Bureau Doctors who wished to meet our clinician and get his methods and technique. As this is all my work you know I feel gratified.

Seriously think of coming and paying us a visit. Nothing would please me better than see and hear you and to reminisce over the good old times. I was very sorry to see the death of Miss Belle Bennett. The splendid Settlement House that she was so interested in in N.O is about completed and a magnificent reproduction of Florentine architecture. I ask my Methodist friends if the holy water fonts have been placed yet. It will certainly fool the foreign element that infest the section in which it is built as a catholic church. Do you recall a very good looking woman at the last National Convention in St/ Louis, who was from New Orleans sky-larking around with Mrs. Holmes. Well she is the creature that is blackmailing Asa Candler for \$500,000 abided and abetted by Mrs Holmes. The papers exploit her as a leading suffragist and I grow wrathful, when I know how few were the real workers.

Hope both of your sisters are well. Give them my love

In rereading Mrs. Harpers letter my attention is called to the fact that Mrs Breckenridge wrote the Ky. Chapter. That seems strange for there must have been much of the work she was wholly unacquainted with. Did you collaborate.

Affectionately,

Wm H. Gordon

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HEADQUARTERS
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

My dear Miss Clay :

I am writing this late Sunday night and rushing it off for fear it may not be what you want and that you may wish to prepare something else. Dont hesitate to change or not use it as you deem best.

I confess I have had some difficulty in shaping this document it is so much easier to write to your own people than to other state bodies. I did not wish to give a loop hole for criticism nor antagonize the Ky women who do not want to play this game fairly.

To-morrow the printer has promised me some new paper and I will recopy this request as I unfortunately left out the word status. I will send on some paper to you to-morrow in the event this is not what is needed. You may sign my name to anything you think best, such is my confidence in your good judgment.

In haste,

Cordially

Kate M Gordon.

If the document should have been addressed to the Chairman personally you will have to a copy made as you did not send his name. I think however this formal request will look better.