

Warren, Ohio May 19th 1898

Dear Member of the Business Committee!-

I enclose a copy of a letter received from the attorney for the Executor of the will of Viola Neblett. The bonds came two days ago. I refused to sign the receipt which the express company offered because I wanted money, not bonds. I consulted an attorney and he said he thought it was perfectly safe to take the bonds since the will stated that we were to receive bonds or stock. If there had not been a law suit on I think I should have refused to sign at all, but the fact that both plaintiff and defendant were willing we should have our legacy made me think we would better take it before the law suit began. You note what he says in his letter about Miss Anthony and Miss Alice.

Shall I offer these bonds for sale, and shall I sell them for less than par?

Yours truly,

Harriet Taylor Upton
Treas.

Dictated.

National American Woman Suffrage Association.
Member National Council of Women.

Honorary President, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 17 Madison Street, Rochester, N. Y.

President, CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT,
205 West 57th Street, New York City.
Vice-President-at-Large, REV. ANNA H. SHAW,
7443 Devon St., Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.
Corresponding Secretary, KATE M. GORDON,
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.

Recording Secretary, ALICE STONE BLACKWELL,
3 Park Street, Boston, Mass.
Treasurer, HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON,
Warren, Ohio.
Auditors, { LAURA CLAY, Lexington, Ky.
 { MARY J. COGGESHALL,
 554 Seventh Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

NATIONAL PRESS COMMITTEE, ELNORA M. BABCOCK, DUNKIRK, N. Y.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO. Dec. 18, 1903.

Dear Miss Clay,

Your letter about your not serving on the official Board has just been received in my office. I am very sorry to get this news. You know you have talked with me privately about it for sometime and I have always assured you that you ought not to go out. Now, what I am writing to you is between ourselves. I would rather you would not repeat it. The truth of the matter is that no one in the Association cares a rap about moving the Auditors except Miss Hay, Mrs. Hackstaff, Miss Kimber and a few like people who hope to have a place made for themselves. I am bitterly opposed to having the change of auditors, because I think that our greatest weakness now is that our officers know too little about the work. I do not think it is a question at all of rewarding anybody or pacifying anybody by giving them an office. I think we ought to elect to our Board the person whose counsel will be best on the Board. Everybody knows that when we elect an Auditor, we do not choose her because of her ability to audit, but because her judgement is good either in a business way or in some other way. I think that Mrs. Catt's idea that a Board of officers of the National Association ought to be entirely in sympathy or, in other words, agree with everything she wants is not right at all. Of course it is often referred to that the President of the United States dismisses a Cabinet Officer as soon as that Officer's policy does not coincide with his, but the members of

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the Business Committee do not stand at all in the same position that Cabinet Officers do. The members of the Business Committee are elected by the Convention and the Convention chooses persons for the places who, in its judgement, will serve the Association best. Now, you have so much integrity, you have so much justice and see things in a different way from a great many people on the Committee. Miss Shaw is very impulsive; she votes one way one time and another way another. Miss Blackwell is so engrossed with her newspaper work and all that that she is not a very able member of the Committee as far as the general work is concerned. Of course when it comes to anything that is press work, she stands by her principle, but she does not take the great care. Mrs. Coggeshall, because of her newness, has been of no value whatever on the Committee. Therefore, it has resolved itself into the fact that Mrs. Catt, Miss Gordon, you and I have really been the substantial, thinking members of the Committee. Now then, if we put on a person in your place who is wishy-washy or who is inexperienced, we will be weaker than ever. I asked Miss Gordon at Philadelphia whether she would be able to come to Headquarters another year and she said that unless she could come to Headquarters she would not take the Corresponding Secretaryship another year. She said that she felt that she was not doing her duty by the Association when she tried to do the work in New Orleans. She said that she had to do it piecemeal fashion and she could not very well have a clerk and she did not feel that it was fair. We talked a little bit about it, but we did not settle on it. I remember t

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that you said if Miss Gordon was not going to be on the Committee another year, you should stand, for your place, because you thought that one southern woman at least ought to be there. I wish therefore, that before you had written this letter, you had asked Miss Gordon what her intentions were. As I said in the beginning, I shall feel very badly personally to have you go from the Committee and I think the Committee will be weakened a great deal more than you have any idea because of the ability you have for standing for a thing which is right, regardless of any personal feeling at all. I wish you would consider this letter personal because I do not want to be misunderstood and so often when we talk of policy people think it is something personal.

Yours very truly,

HTU-A

Harriet Taylor Upton

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO.

Dec. 31, 1903.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Miss Clay,

The additional dues arrived today in time to be counted on the old year. I will send the receipt to Mrs. Shepard as you asked me to. Under the circumstances, it would not be necessary for me to let you know that I had received it but as you are so anxious that everything should be counted on the increase this year, I am doing it to inform you.

I have a long letter this morning from Miss Gordon in which she regrets your resigning from the auditorship. She says that she does not believe at all in the change of auditors. She says that if we wanted a change permanently, that is if we needed to get two new auditors, we ought to keep them because by no one person going on the Business Committee can much be done for the first year or two. I am very sure that this is true and by changing each year we really weaken the Board of two votes.

With the very best wishes for the new year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Harriet Taylor Upton

HPU-K

(COPY)

Warren, Ohio, March 23, 1904.

Rev. Olympia Brown,
Racine, Wis.

Dear Mrs. Brown,

Your letter of March 21st. is just here. The Association has never voted to endorse the labor movement. The letter which you wrote Miss Anthony in regard to this she has forwarded to me. I am therefore going to write you a letter which I have wanted to write for a long time. When I came into the Suffrage Association, it was at the time of the consideration of the Union. I saw, sitting in the corner by herself, a small woman with brown eyes, looking very unhappy. After a time, I made bold to go to Miss Anthony and ask who it was. She told me it was Mrs. Brown, a Unitarian minister. I asked her what the matter was and she said that Mrs. Brown was highly conscientious and was disturbed over the Union. Feeling badly that anyone should be unhappy anywhere, anyhow, I walked over to you and, although an utter stranger, thought to talk matters over and comfort you a little if possible. Knowing you were a minister of the Gospel, I expected to be received in the spirit in which I approached you. You can imagine my surprise when I explained to you my errand to have you say snappishly, "How long have you been with the Association?" I said that that was my first appearance. You replied, "Well, when you have been here longer, you will know better what you are talking about." I never remember but one time since then, fifteen years ago I think, when I have had a pleasant word from you. That one time was when I complimented you on a speech you had made on the question of Foreign Immigration and the Colored Vote. You thanked me very politely for that. At first your universal cross words disturbed me, but after awhile I expected nothing else, and I did not care. When we were planning for our State Convention in Cleveland two years ago, Mrs. Perkins said she had invited you to be one of the speakers. I told her I was very sorry because I had just come into the work in Ohio Association and I knew you would be cross about something and I did not feel that I ought to invite onto the platform of an Association of which I was President someone who was sure to make it uncomfortable for me. However, Mrs. Perkins pressed matters and, as I consider her a regular old Roman in many ways, and as we were to be her guests, I agreed. She attended to the printing of the programs. When they were out, I saw that she had your name as Mrs. Willis. I immediately wrote to her that I knew you would not like that and that you would undoubtedly scold me about it. She replied that you would not, that you were Mrs. Willis and, if anything was said, she would attend to it. I never shall forget as long as I live, even if I should fall into imbecility in my old age, the awful raking you gave me at Cleveland because your name was that way on the program. I was inside the communion rail and you were walking out-

side. You began because of this mistake in the printing and, after I had explained to you that I had nothing whatever to do with it and that I had begged Mrs. Perkins not to do it, I thought you would cease, but you went on abusing Miss Anthony as I never heard anybody in my life abuse her. It seemed to me that I could not stand it. You said she had said you were not happy with your husband. I cannot remember any of the rest of it. There was something so awful to me about a minister of the Gospel, who professed to be a follower of the meek and lowly Jesus, treating another person in the Church of God as you treated me that I was fairly dumb. Several times during the afternoon the thought that even when He was reviled He reviled not again came into my mind. I intended to ask Miss Anthony what cause you could have had for that onslaught, but at that Convention she was exceedingly weak. Her heart was behaving badly and I did not like to press the matter. I let it go. But now that you have written her again in that same kind of a strain, the whole matter comes up before me. I am writing this very strongly because I feel it very strongly. It does seem to me that since you never in the wide world give credit to a National officer no matter how much Miss Anthony or Mrs. Catt or Miss Shaw may have sacrificed, for the cause, it is a very small thing for you now and then to send a scolding, disagreeable, hateful letter to any of us about some trifling thing. If you wish to continue to do this in my case, you certainly are at liberty to do it, but in the name of the Association I beg of you to let Miss Anthony alone for the rest of her life. It is needless for me to say that this is not an official letter.

Very truly yours,

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National American Woman Suffrage Association.

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National Press Committee, ELNORA M. BABCOCK, Dunkirk, N. Y.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO.

March 31, 1904.



Dear Member Business Committee,

Mrs. Catt has received a reply to her letter to Mrs. Robinson. She has answered this. She writes that part of this letter, the essential part, should be submitted to the Business Committee. It seems that Mrs. Catt was right in her surmise that what Mrs. Robinson wanted was to get into the field to get subscriptions to the News Letter. I quote from Mrs. Robinson's letter.

"Arizona has been organized a number of times. I do not know how cheaply, but I do know that the organization has never lasted from one Legislature to another, in working order. The reason is very simple. There has been no means or method of doing it. It has certainly cost money every time to organize. We had no means of keeping the organization alive, until we conceived the plan of the News Letter. The organization had gone to pieces as usual, when we began to print that. We resurrected it to the extent of three fourths of its former membership. The experience with that convinces me that we shall have power just in proportion to our ability to punish. But it is impossible to continue that. The last two numbers of it left me at the nitro-glycerine stage of heart failure. I cannot do manual labor for any cause. I feel that a printed paper would be much more effective for political purposes than a N.L. could possibly be. I don't feel that the value of such a paper could properly be measured by its money earning capacity. The thing we are after is not to earn money, but to pass our bill. If it had not been for the N.L. we would now have to organize again from the ground up. I should not feel that it would be worth my while to spend time and labor doing organizing work and then have no means of securing the results. By next fall, it would all have to be done over again. Nor do I think it would be possible to pass our bill by the help of such organization as could hurriedly be trumped up in the last month or so before election. I believe that for the purposes of a vigorous campaign, the services both of an organizer and a publication are necessary. Also that their value should be measured by the votes they secure."

"It was my intention to ask for members and for contributions at the public meetings and for members at the private ones. And to utilize odd hours of waiting,

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or times not employed in conference in asking sympathizers to subscribe, also to distribute copies of the paper, where it might do good. There is no other paper that could answer campaign purposes, in Arizona, however good it might be from a general standpoint. I have not personal interest in the paper, outside of its value to the work, and believe I should not lose the sense of proportion in pushing it.

I will have to hear from Mrs. Munds before I can determine what to do. I am greatly troubled about it, for I feel there is no time to lose in getting to work. At the same time, I would feel the need of counsel and help in meeting the political situation as it exists and would manifest itself in various places. I hope she will go, and will write to her at once about it."

In replying, Mrs. Catt says that she does not think there is any special difference of opinion between the Arizona women and the National and she says it is true we did organize there several times, but the reason the organization went to pieces was because of lack of leadership and the reason it has come up this last year is not because of the News Letter, but because Mrs. Robinson has in a way become the leader of the Association. In other words, she has mothered the sentiment which the National created there. I quote one paragraph.

"I think the first work done by the National in Arizona was done twelve years ago. We are not so ignorant of the conditions there as you think. Our organizers have always given very specific reports of people, places and conditions and this sort of education going over a series of many years, cannot have failed to inform us with greater or less accuracy of the conditions existing there. Political conditions which change every year we do not pretend to know, but the longer I live the more I realize that the conditions of organization are pretty much the same, whether in the east or west, north or south. We want you to get the bill through the Legislature and we are willing to give you God-speed, with that aim and purpose. So send in your signed contract and go ahead. We will applaud your victories and not be critical of the failures."

This letter requires no action but is simply one of information.

Very truly yours,

HTU-A

Harriet Taylor Upton

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National Press Committee, ELNORA M. BABCOCK, Dunkirk, N. Y.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO. June 28 1904.



Dear Miss Clay

Your letter of June 27th. is just here and I answer immediately, first, because I want to tell you how sorry I am to know of the passing away of Miss Laura Bruce and, second, to say how glad I am that she was thoughtful enough to remember the National Association and I believe she did this because of her friendship to you and that if you had not been on the Board the money would have gone to Kentucky or some other way. I will observe your request and not say anything to anybody about this where it will be public. I am writing to Miss Shaw at length about the Chicago convention and I will tell her about this and tell her of course not to tell. She is so far away that it will not do any harm I think.

I am very sorry I did not give you the date of the Moundsville Chautauqua. It is not until Aug. 11th. I am therefore still in hopes that you will be able to fill that engagement. It will not be a very hot thing to do because I think it is cool in Wheeling and I do feel as if we ought to try to help West Virginia in some way. One of the women there has said that we encourage states to go on and do things and then when we get into a tight place, we do not seem to have any way to help them out. If I were only to be at home, I would try to do it, but

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June 28, 1904

as I am going to be down at the New Jersey meet ing and am not sure I will be at home by that time, or if I am I will have been away from Headquarters so long that I will not feel as if I could leave again.

Very truly yours,

HTU-A

Harriet Taylor Upton