

"If ye abide in my word, . . . ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free."



KENTUCKY

Equal Rights Association

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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION,

HELD AT

MERRICK LODGE, LEXINGTON, KY.



1894.

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ANNUAL MEETINGS
OF THE
Kentucky Equal Rights Association.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| AT CINCINNATI (during the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the American Woman Suffrage Association.) | NOVEMBER, 1888. |
| AT LEXINGTON, KY. | NOVEMBER, 1889. |
| AT RICHMOND, KY. | DECEMBER, 1890. |
| AT LOUISVILLE, KY. | DECEMBER, 1891. |
| AT RICHMOND, KY. | NOVEMBER, 1892. |
| AT NEWPORT, KY. | OCTOBER, 1893. |
| AT LEXINGTON, KY. | OCTOBER, 1894. |

"If ye abide in my word, . . . ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free."

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

—OF THE—

Kentucky Equal Rights Association,

October 24th, 25th and 26th, 1894.

MERRICK LODGE, LEXINGTON, KY.

GENERAL OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT—MISS LAURA CLAY, . 78 North Broadway, Lexington.
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT—MRS. MARY B. CLAY, . Richmond.
SECOND " —MRS. MARY CRAMER, . Lexington.
THIRD " —MRS. MARY K. JONES, . Newport.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER,
911 Scott Street, Covington.
RECORDING SECRETARY—SARAH M. SIEWERS, M. D. Newport.
TREASURER—MRS. ISABELLA H. SHEPARD,
31 E. Twelfth St., Covington.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

Bible Study, to set forth the true position of women :

MISS L. M. STRATTON, Wilmore.

Political Study : MR. E. W. BAGBY, . Paducah.

Literature : MRS. SARAH H. SAWYER, . Wilmore.

Press Work : MRS. SARAH G. HUMPHREYS, . Versailles.

National Enrollment : MRS. S. M. HUBBARD, . Hickman.

Legislative and Petition Work : MRS. JOSEPHINE K. HENRY, Versailles.

Educational Opportunities for Women : MRS. CAROLINE A. LEECH,
1735 First Street, Louisville.

Industrial Training for Women : MRS. MARY C. ROARK, Lexington.

Hygiene and Physical Culture : SARAH M. SIEWERS, M. D. Newport.

Work Among Young People : MRS. ELLA GIBSON, . Richmond.

Advancement of Women's Work in the Schools :

MISS ANNA MORGAN, Newport.

State Organizer : MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER. . Covington.

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LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

FAYETTE EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—MISS LAURA CLAY, Lexington.
Recording Secretary—MRS. MARY CRAMER, “
Treasurer—MRS. SOPHIA CHARLES, “

KENTON COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER, Covington.
Secretary-Treasurer—MRS. ISABELLA H. SHEPHARD, “

LOUISVILLE EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—MRS. CAROLINE A. LEECH.
Secretary—MRS. M. F. HIBBERD.
Treasurer—MRS. M. F. ROGERS.

MADISON COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—MRS. SARAH CLAY BENNETT, Richmond.
Recording Secretary—MRS. WILLIAM FRANCES, “
Treasurer—MRS. LUCY McCANN, “

CAMPBELL COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—SARAH M. SIEWERS, M. D. Newport.
Recording Secretary—MRS. MARY MUGGERIDGE, “
Treasurer—MRS. A. J. STIMPSON, “

JESSAMINE COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—PROF. T. W. SHANNON, Wilmore.
Secretary—MRS. S. H. SAWYER, “
Treasurer—MRS. MARY HANDY, “

COVINGTON EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

President—MRS. JENNIE LIGHTFOOT, Covington.
Secretary—MRS. KATIE MARSHALL “
Treasurer—MRS. ELLEN ELLISON, “

STATE MEMBERS.

MRS. S. M. HUBBARD, Hickman.
 MRS. S. G. HUMPHREYS, Versailles.
 MRS. S. M. GOODKNIGHT, Frankfort.
 MRS. MAY R. PATTERSON, Lancaster.
 DR. LOUISE SOUTHGATE, Walton.

VIA RAIL
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

NEWPORT, KY., September 13th, 1894.

At the residence of Mrs. M. K. Jones, an Executive Committee meeting was held to discuss matters relative to state work.

The date of the convention was left to the choice of the Fayette Equal Rights Association.

Program for State Convention was discussed and arranged.

Mrs. Farmer was appointed Committee on Railroad Rates.

An invitation to send fraternal delegates to the State Convention was extended to the Twentieth Century Club of Cincinnati.

MRS. MARY MUGGERIDGE,

Recording Secretary.

PLAN OF WORK AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

LEXINGTON, KY., October 24th, 1894.

Plan of Work Committee met at Merrick Lodge, I. O. O. F. Hall, at 9 A. M., Miss Laura Clay in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer by Miss Anna Morgan. The following recommendations were carried:

1st. That the Associations continue the School Suffrage work, with a view to asking for full school suffrage from the next Legislature.

2nd. That we vigorously continue the work to raise the "age of protection" for girls.

3rd. That the committee having charge of this work be empowered to appoint assistants at their discretion.

4th. That this association continue their efforts to secure Houses of Reform for boys and girls and to urge the appointment of women on the Board of Managers.

5th. That by an amendment of the By-Laws the words "Hygiene and Dress Reform" in that department be changed to "Hygiene and Physical Culture."

6th. Adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE KENTUCKY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

Wednesday morning, October 24th, 1894.

Meeting opened with the President, Miss Laura Clay, in the chair. Scripture lesson and prayer by Miss Anna Morgan.

A letter from the Treasurer regretting her inability to be present was read by Mrs. Farmer: On motion Mrs. Farmer was elected as Treasurer pro. tem. Motion made and carried that the Treasurer's books be open until Thursday morning to receive belated dues.

The President announced the following committees.

CREDENTIALS.

Mrs. Farmer.

Mrs. Beauchamp.

Mrs. Cramer.

COURTESY.

Mrs. Charles.

Dr. Siewers.

PUBLICATION.

Mrs. Muggeridge.

Mrs. Farmer.

Miss Wood.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mrs. Bennett.

Miss Wood.

Mrs. Leech.

Mrs. Charles.

Mrs. Wolcott.

Mrs. Goodnight.

AUDITORS.

Mrs. Wolcott.

Miss Wood.

The following fraternal delegates from the Twentieth Century Club of Cincinnati were introduced: Mrs. Young, Miss Potter, Mrs. Sachs, Dr. Swift, Mrs. Addison. The President read a letter from Mrs. Shrader, President of the Twentieth Century Club, filled with good wishes and kindly greetings. By a unanimous vote of the convention the privileges of the floor were extended to the fraternal delegates from Cincinnati. Mrs. F. E. Beauchamp, one of the delegates of the Fayette Equal Rights Association, brought fraternal greetings from the Kentucky W. C. T. U., having been appointed a fraternal delegate by that body.

The minutes of the Executive Committee were read by Mrs. Farmer and accepted.

Report of Mrs. Gibson, Superintendent of Work Among Young People, was accepted, and led to an interesting discussion. Mrs. Beauchamp recommended that Sunday-School teachers teach one standard of morals for boys and girls. Doctor Siewers urged the members of the convention to use their influence with school teachers to teach the equality of the sexes in the school room.

Report of the Credential Committee read, with instructions regarding the rights and privileges of delegates. The convention was composed of thirty delegates from Louisville, Covington, Newport, Lexington, Frankfort, Richmond, Wilmore, Versailles, and six fraternal delegates from Cincinnati and Berea.

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Report of Dr. Sarah M. Siewers, Superintendent of Hygiene, read and accepted.

Miss Clay announced a change in the evening program. Owing to the absence of Mrs. Sawyer, the paper entitled "Woman in Politics" by a Kentucky woman, on the program for the afternoon, would be read by Mrs. Mary B. Clay in the evening, following the President's address.

Mrs. Mary B. Clay was appointed to solicit subscribers for the Woman's Journal and Woman's Column.

Adjourned.

Wednesday Afternoon.

Meeting opened with Scripture reading and prayer by Mrs. Beauchamp.

Report of Frankfort Committee read by Mrs. Farmer. Accepted.

An interesting paper and report on the "Age of Protection for Girls," read by Mrs. Mary K. Jones.

Report of Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, Superintendent of Legislative and Petition Work, read by Mrs. Farmer. Accepted.

Report on Houses of Reform and the work in connection with the Legislature read by the Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. S. A. Charles. Accepted. Mrs. Beauchamp, being chairman of a similar committee from the W. C. T. U., was invited to open the discussion on this work. Moved that no name be recommended to the Legislature for these Houses of Reform.

Mrs. Henry recited a comic poem.

Miss Anna Morgan, Superintendent of Woman's Work in the Public Schools, read her report. Accepted.

By request, Mrs. S. M. Goodknight read a comic poem.

Adjourned.

Wednesday Evening.

Prayer—Miss Anna Morgan.

Address—Miss Laura Clay.

Paper—"Woman in Politics" (by a Kentucky Woman), read by Mrs. Mary B. Clay.

Thursday Morning, October 25th, 1894.

Meeting opened with Scripture reading by Miss Clay.

Mrs. Leech, of Louisville, reported the serious illness of Mrs. Woodbridge, the Corresponding Secretary of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Association. Prayer by Miss Clay in which our afflicted sister was remembered.

Mrs. Dodge, fraternal delegate from the W. C. T. U. of Berea, was introduced and unanimously given the privileges of the floor.

The Convention proceeded to discuss the following recommendations of the Plan of Work Committee:

1st. That the Association continue the school suffrage work, with a view to asking for full school suffrage from the next Legislature. It was moved and carried that Mrs. Farmer continue to have this work in charge. Miss Morgan moved that petitions be circulated for a State law giving

school suffrage to women. Carried. It was moved that the Louisville Association push the subject for cities of the first class, apart from the general State law. It was also carried that separate action should be taken for the cities of the third and fourth class. Mrs. Leech moved that the Executive Committee take charge of this work and sub let it, as it were. Carried.

2nd. That we vigorously continue the work to raise the "Age of Protection for Girls." The committee of last year, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Humphreys, were continued, with power to select their own assistants. It was moved that a sum of money be raised to further this work; to disseminate appropriate literature. About twenty dollars was raised by pledges for the use of this committee. Carried.

3rd. That we continue to work for Houses of Reform, and Mrs. Charles be Chairman of this committee, with power to select her assistants. Carried.

4th. A constitutional amendment that the words "Hygiene and Dress Reform" be changed in this department to "Hygiene and Physical Culture." Carried.

5th. That this Association distribute suffrage literature liberally throughout the State, and that the distribution be placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Literature. Carried. That we adopt the political divisions for the State House of Representatives as the basis for the systematic distribution of literature. Carried. That each local association be recommended to distribute literature in its own territory and pay the expenses therefore. Carried.

6th. To have the Louisville Association assist in pushing school suffrage throughout the State. Carried.

7th. That a committee be chosen to go before political conventions to present the cause of full suffrage, and that the Superintendent of Legislative and Petition Work, with the Executive Committee, form a general committee to arrange for the political conventions which meet in this State the coming year. Carried.

8th. That program meetings be recommended to the Locals by this Convention. Carried.

9th. That we accept Mrs. Beauchamp's offer of a page of the Kentucky White Ribbon for the use of this Association. Carried.

Adjourned.

Thursday Afternoon.

Meeting opened with prayer by Mrs. Dodge. Scripture texts proving the equality of the sexes, read by the delegates.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary read and accepted.

Report of the member of the Executive Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association read and accepted.

Report of Treasurer was read and referred to the Auditing Committee.

Auditor's Report accepted.

Report of State Organizer read and accepted.

Report of Superintendent of Political Study accepted.

A very interesting paper on Kindergarten work was read by Miss Mary Hamilton.

By request, a comic speech by Miss Jennie Rugg.

A paper read by Dr. Siewers on "Why Professional Women Want The Ballot."

Report of Mrs. Leech, Superintendent of Education Opportunities for Women. Accepted.

A letter of greeting from Mrs. Jennie O. Morton, of Frankfort, read by Miss Clay.

Adjourned.

Thursday Evening.

Prayer—Rev. W. F. V. Bartlett.

School Suffrage with Illustrations of Registration and Voting—Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer.

Friday Morning, October 26th, 1894.

Meeting opened with Scripture reading by Mrs. Bennett. Prayer by Mrs. Beauchamp.

The minutes of the Plan of Work Committee read and the following recommendations adopted:

1st. An amendment to the State Constitution striking out the clauses providing for county delegates.

2nd. That this Convention learns with pleasure of the interest taken by colored women in the work of the Equal Rights Association, and commends to them the organization of local associations, especially in cities where school suffrage will prevail next year.

3rd. That we urge upon all the local associations to form classes to study Business Law.

4th. That we recommend the Kentucky Equal Rights Association to petition the Governor to appoint a woman on the Board of Education of the A. and M. College.

5th. That we continue the Free Lecture Bureau.

A letter was then read from Mr. C. H. Stoll, President Belt Railroad Company, inviting the delegates to take a ride in the afternoon upon the electric cars, taking in points of interest in the city. Mr. Stoll's kind invitation was accepted.

The death of Mrs. Woodbridge was feelingly reported by Mrs. Leech, and the Corresponding Secretary requested to write a letter of sympathy to the officers of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Chicago.

A letter from Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery was read by Miss Clay, notifying the Convention that the local associations could obtain certain speakers between January 15th and February 15th, 1895, as they pass to or from the National American Woman's Suffrage Convention.

Mrs. Josephine K. Henry informed the Convention that a remonstrance was to be circulated in the South, opposing woman suffrage, and asked that every equal rights woman in the South send her in as few words as possible her reasons for wanting to vote, to be sent to her within two weeks.

Mrs. Humphreys reported an offer from Helen H. Gardner to supply her book "Pray you, sir, is This Your Daughter?" to this Association for distribution among our Legislators at ten cents a copy. This offer was accepted and Miss Anna Morgan was appointed to solicit contributions for the purpose. She collected three dollars and seventy-five cents (\$3.75). Individuals were allowed to subscribe for the book at fifteen cents a copy, five cents extra being for postage. The book deals with the subject "Age of Consent."

Report of the Free Lecture Bureau read and accepted.

Moved by Mrs. Charles that Mrs. H. T. Groom be made her assistant on the Committee for House of Reform. Carried.

Report of Press Work read by the Superintendent, Mrs. Humphreys, and accepted.

The resignation of Mrs. Sawyer, Superintendent of Bible Study, accepted with regret.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| <i>President,</i> | - - - - - | Miss Laura Clay. |
| <i>First Vice-President,</i> | - - - - - | Mrs. Mary B. Clay. |
| <i>Second Vice-President,</i> | - - - - - | Mrs. Mary Cramer. |
| <i>Third Vice-President,</i> | - - - - - | Mrs. Mary K. Jones. |
| <i>Corresponding Secretary,</i> | - - - - - | Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer. |
| <i>Recording Secretary,</i> | - - - - - | Dr. Sarah M. Siewers. |
| <i>Treasurer,</i> | - - - - - | Mrs. Isabella H. Shepard. |

Adjourned.

Friday Afternoon.

Meeting opened with prayer by Mrs. Dodge, followed by reading Scripture passages on "the law of freedom" by the members.

The following motion carried—That in order to facilitate business each delegate vote for five delegates to the National Convention at one time, and the five receiving the highest number be declared elected; the one receiving the smallest number to be a delegate in the contingency that the Association have enough paid up members by the first of January to entitle it to a fifth delegate. The following delegates to the National American Woman's Suffrage Association Convention were elected: Mrs. Mary B. Clay was elected the member of the National Executive Committee; Mrs. Leech, Alternate.

Delegates :

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Farmer. | Mrs. Bennett. | Mrs. Humphreys. |
| | Mrs. Jones. | Mrs. Cramer. |

Alternates :

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Miss Morgan. | Mrs. Muggeridge. | Capt. Wm. Henry. |
| | Miss Wood. | Miss Hamilton. |

It was moved that if any vacancies occur they be filled by the alternates in numerical order. Carried.

Moved, that if any member of the delegation be absent in Atlanta, the delegation are empowered to fill the vacancy from other members of the State Association present.

An interesting paper on the "Age of Consent" was read by Mrs. Humphreys, followed by discussion.

Oration, "Daughter of the Revolution," by Miss Cora Dunn.

Moved that a report of the Resolution Committee be heard; moved that they be acted upon as a whole.

The following Superintendents of Departments were elected :

Bible Study. Miss L. M. Stratton, Wilmore.

Political Study: Mr. E. W. Bagby, Paducah.

Literature : Mrs. S. H. Sawyer, Wilmore.

Press Work : Mrs. S. G. Humphreys, Versailles.

National Enrollment : Mrs. S. M. Hubbard, Hickman.

Legislative and Petition Work : Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, Versailles.

Educational Opportunities for Women :

Mrs. Caroline A. Leech, 1735 First Street, Louisville.

Industrial Training for Women : Mrs. M. C. Roark, Lexington.

Hygiene and Physical Culture : Dr. Sarah M. Siewers, Newport.

Work Among Young People : Mrs. Ella Gibson, Richmond.

Advancement of Women's Work in the Public Schools :

Miss Anna Morgan, Newport.

State Organizer : Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer, Covington.

Minutes of the afternoon session read and approved.

Adjourned.

The members took a delightful ride in the electric cars.

Friday Evening.

Prayer—Rev. J. W. McGarvey.

Address—Mrs. Josephine K. Henry.

Saturday, October 27th, 1894.

Plan of Work and Executive Committee met in joint session at the residence of Miss Laura Clay. After prayer by Miss Morgan the Executive Committee made the following appropriations: sixteen to twenty dollars for Printing; three dollars to Corresponding Secretary; three dollars to Bible Study; twenty dollars to Superintendent of Literature; three dollars to Legislative Work; ten dollars to School Suffrage and State Organizer.

Donations of one dollar each accepted with thanks from Mrs. Sallie Clay Bennett, Mrs. M. B. Clay and Mrs. M. K. Jones.

Resolved: That a petition for House of Reform for boys and for girls and to have women on their Boards of Management be circulated for the signatures of officials of cities and benevolent and religious societies.

It was voted that the Fayette association should appoint an editor, and fill the page in the White Ribbon for the year.

Moved that an assistant for the Recording Secretary be appointed at the opening of the next convention; that files be provided for the tables of each Secretary; that a gavel be provided for the President. Passed.

Moved that each individual member of the Equal Rights Associa-

tion shall, whenever there is an opening, use her influence to have an appointment made for organization. That said member shall report the same to the State Organizer, and shall, with her, make all necessary arrangements for accomplishing the same. Passed.

Moved that the expenses of the Organizer be provided for in such manner as the President, Organizer and Treasurer deem best. Passed.

Adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association was held in Washington, D. C., February, 1894. Our President opened the Convention, and delegates from the following States were present: Colorado 2, Connecticut 3, District of Columbia 6, Georgia 3, Illinois 3, Kansas 7, Kentucky 3, Maine 4, Rhode Island 2, Maryland 3, Massachusetts 6, Michigan 3, Nebraska 3, New Jersey 5, New York 20, Ohio 9, Pennsylvania 5, South Carolina 1, Vermont 1, Virginia 2.

The welcoming address to the Convention was delivered by the Hon. John W. Ross, President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and many United States Senators and Congressmen addressed the Convention during its sessions.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee we resolved that "the special efforts of the National American Woman Suffrage Association be concentrated this year on campaigns in Kansas and New York," but that the Southern Committee should have full opportunity to present the work of the Southern States to the Convention. More than two thousand dollars were raised in the Convention for Kansas, and a liberal supply of money and literature was donated to the Southern Committee.

It was decided to hold our National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in January and February, 1895, and the following women were elected officers of the Association:

Honorary President, ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| SUSAN B. ANTHONY, | - - - - - | President. |
| REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW, | - - - - - | Vice-President at large. |
| ELLEN B. DIETRICH, | - - - - - | Corresponding Secretary. |
| ALICE STONE BLACKWELL | - - - - - | Recording Secretary. |
| HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, | - - - - - | Treasurer. |
| RACHEL FOSTER AVERY, | - - - - - | } Auditor. |
| JOSEPHINE K. HENRY, | - - - - - | |
| CARRIE L. CHAPMAN-CATT | - - - - - | National Organizer. |

Respectfully Submitted,

SARAH CLAY BENNETT,

Member of Executive Committee, N. A. W. S. A.

REPORT OF THE FRANKFORT COMMITTEE.

The following members of the Frankfort Committee were appointed at the close of the Convention of 1893. Miss Laura Clay, Mrs. E. B. Farmer, Mrs. S. L. Avery, Mrs. S. H. Sawyer, Mrs. M. B. Clay and Mrs. S. M. Goodknight. Mrs. Josephine K. Henry being the Superintendent of Legislation and Petition Work, was the *ex officio* chairman of this committee.

Mrs. Henry, Miss Clay and Mrs. Farmer were the only members able to attend to the Legislative work. Five trips were made to Frankfort, the first time remaining five days. By a unanimous vote of its members the House of Representatives was granted to this committee for the evening of January 9th, 1894. Miss Laura Clay, our grand leader, appealed for women physicians in the Insane Asylums of this State. Mrs. Farmer spoke for school suffrage, having been appointed by Mrs. Henry to take charge of this work. Mrs. Josephine K. Henry fairly electrified the audience on the question of property rights and equal rights for all. Many converts to the property rights were made at that time.

Mrs. S. A. Charles and Mrs. Beauchamp were appointed a committee on "House of Reform." Mrs. Charles was indefatigable in her work, appearing before all kinds of committees in the Senate, House and lobbies, to enlist the sympathy of the men to secure a place for reforming girls as well as boys.

A committee was appointed on the "Age of Consent"—Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Humphreys. They appeared before a special committee from the Senate. You are all aware of the decision of that committee—that these women had *misconstrued the law*, when, in fact, the women were right and the men were wrong.

January 30th our committee reported at Frankfort by request of the House Committee on Municipalities to hear the discussion on the charter for second class cities, but this was postponed to a later date.

On February 1st the Property Rights bill was discussed and passed the House by a vote of 76 to 14. It was passed over to the Senate at once, and there we had the pleasure of hearing the first reading of the bill. This was a day of rejoicing for the women who have labored so long for a change in the laws for property rights of married women.

Our time was profitably spent in discussion with certain members of both Houses and bills were introduced in the Senate for the co-guardianship of minor children, and women physicians in the Asylums for the Insane. We were received very kindly by the members of the different committees when we presented to them the changes we desired in the laws particularly affecting women and children.

We are gaining ground slowly but surely, and will finally obtain all that we desire.

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENIA B. FARMER, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The year just closed has been a successful one. Our membership has increased. The auxiliary Associations have been quite active,

with the aid of the W. C. T. U., in circulating petitions for the "Age of Consent," with the appeal so ably prepared by Mrs. Henry. These petitions were collected and sent to Mrs. Mary K. Jones, Chairman of this committee, and arranged for presentation to the Legislature. The members of the Frankfort Committee were present when Senator Goebel, of Covington, presented a bill which he had prepared to raise the "age of consent," and at the same time when the petitions were unrolled there was silence in the Senate for a few moments.

A great work was accomplished in securing a school suffrage clause in the charters for cities of the second class. The local associations of Covington, Newport and Lexington did very active work. This clause makes the women of these cities eligible as members of the Board of Education and qualified to vote for the same. This right was secured to us on March 19th, 1894, when Governor John Young Brown signed the charter and in November, 1895, all women twenty-one years and over in the cities of Covington, Newport and Lexington can register and vote.

The efforts for the passage of the Property Rights was ably conducted by Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, who gave her time and strength to this work as Superintendent of Legislative and Petition Work. She was amply rewarded for all her labors when she saw the Governor's signature affixed to the bill March 15th, 1894.

We feel grateful to the members of both branches of the General Assembly who worked and voted for the passage of these bills. We should feel encouraged for what we have gained in the past, and be fully prepared for the next session of the Legislature.

We are glad to welcome two new associations to our membership. Let the good work continue until the whole State is fully organized. I have distributed about twenty-five hundred pages of literature. I sent to the Fair at Alexandria in September one hundred Woman's Columns and other suffrage papers.

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

FAYETTE EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

The Fayette Equal Rights Association petitioned the Mayor and City Council of Lexington to appoint a woman on the School Board. Mrs. Wilbur R. Smith was appointed and has proven not only a most efficient member, but a most valuable addition to the Board.

The Association paid four dollars for typewriting in preparing draft of a bill on the "House of Reform" to be presented to the Legislature by our committee. Paid two dollars and fifty cents for advertising the lecture by the Hon. C. J. Bronston in behalf of the bill for the "House of Reform."

It was thought advisable to change the constitution in some respects. Annual dues reduced to fifty cents; a program committee appointed to arrange for each meeting—the result was increased attendance, larger membership, more interesting and very improving. Our association is always opened by reading Scripture and a prayer, Scripture selected gen-

erally portions relating to women; business; a paper, followed by discussion, then a conversation on current events, generally led by Superintendent of that department. We have had papers on Houses of Reform, Manual Training, Transcendentalism, Advancement of Women, and Kindergarten. We decided to take advantage of the Free Lecture Bureau and invited Mrs. J. K. Henry and Miss Laura Clay to address us. Good audiences at both lectures and a most courteous and intelligent interest manifested. After each lecture new members were added to our association.

This Association invited the State Convention to meet in Lexington in October. We sent a small donation to Florida for the Bazar for the benefit of the Southern Committee. A great number of Woman's Journals, Woman's Columns, and other suffrage literature are taken. Several thousand pages of suffrage literature have been distributed, this being a regular part of our work.

The Fayette Equal Rights Association has had a great loss and sorrow in the death of our beloved Mrs. Levi Prewitt, gentle, intelligent and zealous in all good works.

KENTON COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

This Association meets semi-monthly in Covington. Have been much interested in the study of Civil Government, and have added to our membership. We sent a small donation to Florida for the Bazar for the benefit of the Southern Committee. A great number of Woman's Journals, Woman's Columns, and suffrage leaflets have been distributed.

LOUISVILLE EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

No report, but the women of this association have not been idle.

CAMPBELL COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Meets twice a month. Has over fifty members. Has distributed twelve hundred pages of literature. One address given by Mr. Leroy. Gave an entertainment on October 5th, which netted a neat sum for the association and was a great success artistically. The program was furnished by Miss Ida Roff, one of our members. It was the finest program ever presented to a Newport audience, and gave our association a standing in the city. The program sheet contained advertisements and enough suffrage sentiments to convert those who read them. These we scattered all over the city before the entertainment and they were read by persons who would never listen to a suffrage speech. During the year we have lost two members by the hand of death—Mrs. Anna L. Ryder and Miss Clara Bourne. Mrs. Ryder was one of the oldest and most enthusiastic suffragists in America. She has worked for the cause from her youth upward, and at the age of eighty-one her ardor had not abated. She was also a member of the Twentieth Century Club of Cincinnati and joined there a class in Civil Government which she attended regularly and with unflagging interest until her last illness prevented. Her vigor, enthusiasm and gentleness, as well as her intelligence, courage and perseverance made her beloved and honored by all who met her in the work to elevate humanity. May her spirit remain with us in our work.

THE MADISON COUNTY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

The Richmond Association has a regular place for meeting every month. Its membership has been very well kept up by the payments of its dues. We have added three new members this year, and have lost three by removal and withdrawal. The association has contributed seven dollars to the committee for raising the age of consent for girls, and fifteen dollars for the advancement of the cause in other ways. It has also distributed some suffrage literature. Its members have resolved to work harder to increase its membership in the future and to engage speakers to advocate the cause of suffrage. We sent a donation to the Florida Bazar for the benefit of the Southern Committee.

EUGENIA B. FARMER, Corresponding Secretary.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PRESS WORK.

So far the support of the Lexington papers has been secured. Miss Laura Clay has kept up the Woman's Column in the Gazette. Mrs. Henry has contributed able articles to the Leader and Observer. Also to the Courier-Journal and Frankfort Capital. Mrs. Mary B. Clay has contributed articles to the Richmond Climax. Mrs. Sarah Clay Bennett to the same paper and to the Courier-Journal. Mrs. S. G. Humphreys has written frequent articles for the Lexington Gazette and several for the Courier-Journal. Several of the contributors' articles have been copied in the largest papers over the State. Respectfully submitted,

SARAH G. HUMPHREYS, Superintendent.

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE AND PETITION WORK.

The past year has been one of the most successful in the history of our association. The most important thing we have asked of the Legislature; namely, the equalization of the laws in regard to the property rights of married women has been granted, and the new law came into effect June 13th, 1894. Curtesy and Dower was equalized. The wife's dower remains as it was under the old law; namely, one-third life interest in real estate, but the wife's interest in personalty is raised from one third to one-half interest in husband's personal estate. The husband's interest in a wife's property at her death is reduced from lifetime interest in all her real estate and absolute gift of all her personalty to one-third interest for life in her real estate, and one half interest in her personalty. So husband and wife have exactly the same interest in each other's estate. Neither husband nor wife can sell their real estate without the signature of the other. The husband can dispose of his realty subject to the dower interest of the wife. These splendid property laws are pronounced by leading lawyers of the State to be the greatest legal revolution that has taken place in our history. There is not a family in the State that these laws will not bring blessings to, sooner or later. This great advance along the line of justice gives evidence of the desire of Kentucky men to do justice to the women of the State, if the wrongs of women are properly presented. But let it not be thought that this victory

for human rights has been easily won. Years of toil, sacrifice, and expenditure of vitality and money were necessary to accomplish it, and the women of the State should remember that the Kentucky Equal Rights Association sowed in tears and anguish of spirit that they might reap justice and security. The passage of our bills over the legislative sea was a most perilous one, filling us alternately with hope and despair, and every day we were more impressed with the fact that the ballotless women has little power with legislators. Votes send men to the Legislature, and the *ins* always want to *stay in*, consequently a man armed with a vote can secure more legislation than a legion of women armed with that intangible, undefinable "influence" we hear so much of. Let us think deeply and act wisely with the fact before us, that as long as women are without votes, that whatever rights we gain from our Legislature may be ruthlessly wrested from us by the next. The cause of school suffrage I placed in the hands of Secretary Eugenia B. Farmer, and nobly she has done her work. To her we are indebted for the first woman suffrage wedge—I mean voting wedge—ever driven in the body politic of Kentucky. Through Mrs. Farmer's courage, determination and hard work, the women are allowed a vote in school affairs in the three cities of the second class in the State: namely, Covington, Newport and Lexington. Surely the women of these cities will eagerly avail themselves of the sacred right of citizenship by going to the polls and sending their influence into the public school system.

On the night of March 8th Josephine K. Henry addressed the Legislature on the subject of "American Citizenship." The Legislative Hall was voted unanimously and the Senate, which was holding night sessions, adjourned to hear the address. Our property rights bill was on this night virtually dead. Mrs. Henry in her speech never alluded to the property rights bill, but plainly asked the Legislature to create a power to which she could apply and receive her papers of citizenship, claiming that she had every qualification for citizenship save that of sex. The speech did not procure for her the right to vote, but the next morning, amid the greatest tumult, the dead property rights bill was resurrected and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPHINE K. HENRY, Superintendent.

REPORT OF HYGIENE AND PHYSICAL CULTURE.

The Superintendent of this department recommends the Jenenss Miller Magazine on dress; Blaike's "How to get strong and how to stay so" for physical culture; and Steele's Physiology on the use of narcotics for hygiene. Two addresses were given in Newport on Hygiene and the other on Dress. The appointment of a committee or Superintendent in each local association to take charge of this work is recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

DR. SARAH M. SIEWERS, Superintendent.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN'S WORK IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We have in our own State over nine thousand teachers in the public schools. Between six and seven thousand are women, which is over half of the number. There are seven hundred and fifty thousand children between six and twenty years of age under the training of these noble teachers. If every mother would become a co-helper with the teacher the results would be far greater in favor of the boys and girls in our public schools.

Lexington and Newport are among the schools in the State which have Lady Principals. There are five in Newport. The first one was Mrs. Lucy M. Dameron, and through her noble mother abilities she was successful. She governs through mother love. It has been my privilege to witness several cases who were sent to the Principal for correction; neither teacher nor pupils were aware of my presence, as I was in a recess waiting for Mrs. Dameron on some business. The most loving mother could not have been more careful or grieved to see those children under the eye of the Principal. I shall never forget her mild but firm reproof: those eyes full of tears, and ashamed of their past conduct, but love in their expression towards her who was to condemn misbehavior. This Lady Principal has self control and she instills the same in others; self respect and dignity with each one under her teaching. God bless her in all things. Respectfully submitted,

ANNA B. MORGAN, Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE UPON
THE PETITION TO RAISE THE "AGE OF CONSENT."

At the Equal Rights Convention held in Newport October, 1893, a resolution was adopted to petition the Legislature to enact a law for the protection of girls by raising the "age of consent" from twelve to eighteen years. Mrs. Sarah G. Humphreys, of Versailles, and I were appointed a committee to prepare the petition and go to Frankfort in its behalf. In a few days nearly a thousand petition headings were ready for circulation. We were fortunate in having the advice and assistance of Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, of Versailles, Superintendent of Legislative and Petition Work in the Equal Rights Association, who wrote for our committee a most able paper on the "age of consent." It was an appeal to the General Assembly in behalf of our petition.

It was a lucid and forcible exposition of the law and its evil results, giving the ages fixed by law in the different States for the protection of girls. Four thousand appeals were printed and nearly three thousand were circulated.

The committee sent them three times to the State Board of Examiners, and in packages of twelve to the County Superintendents. Besides, we sent them to many leading citizens, including distinguished statesmen and some of the clergy. Mrs. Sarah G. Humphreys, who wields a fearless pen upon all subjects involved in the rights of women,

wrote an admirable article upon the "age of protection," which was published in the Courier-Journal and copied in several other papers. More than a hundred letters were written enclosing circulars and petition headings and soliciting signatures. Long lists of names came in.

In this work we had the valuable assistance of many members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Many other noble women of the State wrote us words of encouragement. Louisville and Lexington were represented upon our petition in the names of some of their worthiest citizens. Senator Goebel, of Kenton County, wrote the bill, and on January 12th our petition was presented to the Senate.

Mrs. Henry, who was present, thus describes the scene: "I was in the Senate when Senator Goebel resigned the chair and came down on the floor to present your monster petition. The pages unrolled it, yard after yard, and as the Reading Clerk read the petition to the Senate and crowded lobbies there was a thrilling silence." Senator Goebel's bill was referred to a committee, and on January 26th we received a letter from the chairman inviting us to appear before the committee. After this encouraging letter we lost no time in going to Frankfort.

On January 29th the committee gave us a hearing in a room at the Capitol Hotel. There were present Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, Mrs. Mary B. Clay, Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer and myself. Mrs. Humphreys arrived just at the close of the meeting, but in time to discuss the subject with the senator who was selected to explain the committee's views. We presented our views and stated the consequences of the law.

We implored the Committee in the name of humanity and civilization to enact a law for the protection of young girls in their early teens, which would save them from the wiles and snares of the procuress and the libertine. We reminded them that for every young girl led astray and lost, some heart was breaking; and that we traced most of these sorrows to the law known as "Age of Consent."

The Committee were very courteous to us, but they told us that we did not understand the meaning of the law. They said it meant "Marriage," and that it was an old "English Statute" under which a girl of the age of twelve years might be legally married. The Committee said also that they had already reported Senator Moore's bill, and had agreed to raise the age to fourteen years. We would have preferred eighteen years, but were thankful for an increased protection of even two years. The dispatches from Frankfort announced that the "Age of Consent" bill was made a special order for Friday, February 16th. The Senate met on that day with closed doors, but the bill did not come up. A different bill was substituted, which passed.

The Legislature adjourned without acting upon either Senator Moore's or Senator Goebel's bill. The law remains the same, and girls are protected only up to twelve years. Yet we are not discouraged; our work has not been in vain: not lost, but only delayed. There has been an awakening of thought upon this law which leads to immorality, and a sentiment has been created in favor of reform.

We feel that no object can be nearer to our hearts than the protection of girls, that they may grow up to be useful women with pure mor-

als. We hope to take up the subject again and organize for future work. The same friends will come to our aid. We must look to the women, and especially to the mothers, to help us; and when we go to Frankfort to the next General Assembly we shall have the advantage of experience, and may with more confidence hope for success.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. MARY K. JONES, Chairman Committee.

REPORT OF TREASURER—1893-94.

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| To balance as per report.... | \$48.92 | By Expenses of Convention at Newport..... | \$11.50 |
| Donation from Capt. Wil- liamson..... | 5.00 | Traveling Expenses of one member..... | 5.00 |
| Collections at evening meet- ings..... | 10.60 | Telegram (Lucy Stone)..... | .98 |
| Mrs. Mary Clay..... | 1.00 | Allowance to Corresponding Secretary..... | 6.00 |
| Lexington Association for Frankfort Committee..... | 8.00 | Printing Minutes..... | 16.00 |
| Annual Dues from | | Dues to National Associa- tion..... | 10.00 |
| Richmond Association. | 8.00 | Expenses, Frankfort..... | 22.08 |
| Newport Association... | 16.10 | Bible Work..... | 3.00 |
| Lexington Association.. | 9.80 | Balance October 24, 1894... 57.84 | |
| Wilmore Association... 10.50 | | | |
| Covington Association. | 3.50 | | |
| Check to Mrs. Sawyer, un- cashed..... | 3.00 | | |
| Traveling Expenses donated by Miss Clay, Mrs. Hen- ry and Mrs. Farmer to Frankfort..... | 7.08 | | |
| | | | |
| | | | \$132.40 |
| | | | |
| | \$132.40 | | |

ISABELLA H. SHEPHARD, Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That as the home is the corner stone of the nation, and woman's special realm, that we call on all women in the home and school to teach children that there is no sex in intellect, no sex in work, no sex in ability, no sex in salary, no sex in right or wrong, and no sex in suffrage.

2nd. That we tender our grateful thanks to all ministers and laymen who in the late Congressional race of the Ashland district threw their influence on the side of public morality; and that we recognize with satisfaction in said race the result of woman's work, thereby proving her ability to organize, her independence of thought, and her superiority to environment.

3rd. That the fact that woman has become a great industrial factor

in the business world, emphasizes her right to say how she shall be taxed and under what laws she shall conduct her business.

4th. Since the stability of the Republic rests on the virtue and intelligence of the people, and since the State of Kentucky has one hundred thousand voters who can neither read nor write, and more educated women than illiterate, foreign and negro voters combined, and since male criminals outnumber female criminals fifty to one, the Kentucky Equal Rights Association demands the enfranchisement of Kentucky women, to maintain a true democracy, for the safety of our State.

5th. That we prosecute with renewed energy our work to secure a law for the protection of girls by raising the "Age of Consent."

6th. That the Association extend most grateful thanks to the press of Lexington, the Courier-Journal and other papers for their kind notices of our convention; to Mrs. Honaker and Mrs. Bell for their kindness in furnishing us with many beautiful flowers; to Judge Jewell, whose courtesy allowed us the use of an election booth; to Mr. Stall, President Electric Railroad, for the free ride around the city; to Mr. H. C. Farmer for pencils and tablets for the use of the convention; to the local committee of arrangements for their courtesy and kindness; and to the citizens of Lexington for their hospitality in entertaining the delegates and guests.

REPORT OF STATE ORGANIZER.

Miss Laura Clay assisted in organizing Equal Rights Associations at Wilmore and Paducah. If we had an organizer in the field to stir up the women with house to house visitations and parlor meetings, freely distributing suffrage literature, we could spread the gospel of liberty throughout the State; but without money we are so helpless in our work. If there are only three in a place who believe in equal rights let them organize.

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENIA B. FARMER.

REPORT OF THE FREE LECTURE BUREAU.

At the close of the National American Woman Suffrage Convention February, 1894, Miss Laura Clay was invited to speak on suffrage in the City of Philadelphia. On the same subject she addressed audiences twice at Wilmore, once at Kirksville, once at Lancaster, once at Georgetown, once at Carrollton, once at Lexington for the E. R. A., once at Chautauqua in Lexington, twice at Paducah. She also spoke six times to small audiences of ladies in the church societies on the "Age of Consent."

Mrs. Josephine K. Henry delivered an address on Woman and the State in the Court House at Lexington, Ky., May 18th, 1894, to a large and attentive audience.

On September 27th she addressed the Teachers' Institute of Woodford County on Woman Suffrage. On the 28th of the same month she addressed a conjoint session of the Woodford and Jessamine Teachers'

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Institute in the court house at Nicholasville. She distributed four hundred pages of literature and one hundred Woman's Columns.

Dr. Sarah M. Siewers gave three addresses in Newport and one in Cincinnati.

Mrs. E. B. Farmer has addressed the Newport Equal Rights Association several times on school suffrage.

Mrs. S. H. Sawyer has delivered four addresses on different phases of the suffrage work.

Respectfully submitted,
EUGENIA B. FARMER, Secretary.

FREE LECTURE BUREAU.

The following members of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association have consented to give lectures on the different aspects of the work of the Association, without pay for their services, to parties making application through the Secretary of the Lecture Bureau :

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, | - - - | Box 128, Versailles, Ky. |
| Mrs. Isabella H. Shephard, | - 31 E. Twelfth St., | Covington, Ky. |
| Mrs. James Bennett, | - - - - - | Richmond, Ky. |
| Mrs. Mary B. Clay, | - - - | White Hall, Madison Co., Ky. |
| Miss Laura Clay, | - - - 78 N. Broadway, | Lexington, Ky. |
| Mrs. S. H. Sawyer, | - - - - - | New Castle, Ky. |
| Dr. Sarah M. Siewers, | - - - 209 E. Sixth St., | Newport, Ky. |
| Mrs. Sarah G. Humphreys, | - - - - - | Versailles, Ky. |
| Miss Sadie Stewart, | - - - W. Eleventh St., | Newport, Ky. |
| Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer, | - - - 911 Scott St., | Covington, Ky. |

Terms: The person asking for one of the lecturers shall pay for the hall, advertising, and entertainment of the speaker, and shall take a collection at the lecture for the benefit of the State Association, or shall pay traveling expenses of the lecturer. In case a collection is taken up for the benefit of the State Association, the traveling expenses of the lecturer shall be paid from the State Treasury.

EUGENIA B. FARMER, Secretary,
911 Scott Street, Covington, Ky.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting shall be composed of the Executive Committee, State Superintendents of Departments, the State Organizer, one Delegate-at-Large, and one for every ten paying members from each auxiliary association.

The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be chosen by the Executive Committee, and at this meeting the general officers shall be elected.

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