

[Sept 6, 1905?]

MS

My dear Miss Laura:-

Let me tell you how
very, very much I
appreciated the beauti-
ful berry bowl that
you sent me. It was
so very dear and sweet
of you. I want you
to pardon me for

to go East as my husband
and I had planned and am
not yet strong enough to go
to house keeping. Mr. Hall
wants me to board for a
month or two. but I am so
anxious to be in our home
We look forward with pleas
ure to when we can

claim that promised visit
from you. I have talked so
much about you to my hus
band that he feels he knows
you too. and sends his best
wishes - and I - send you lots
and lots of love - and I hope that
I may hear from you when
you are not too busy.

Sincerely yours
September 6th 1864
Martha Tucker's Hall

not writing sooner -
but this Laura - I
have had quite a
time - I worked so
hard getting my
trousseau ready in
time - and caught a
cold, too - so a whole
week before the 11th I
was sick - The Doctor
said it was a ner-
vous collapse, I was
not well enough to

Sept 6, 1905

" Under the date of Aug. 27th Dr. Jeffries writes,- Miss Clay came out to the Exposition and spent the afternoon with me and we of course discussed the Oregon situation pretty freely. She tells me that you are thinking of sending Dr. Woods here as soon as she is through with fall work in Okla. Of course I was surprised, for I thought the plans were to send Miss Gregg here and Dr. Woods to take up her work in the territories. Now, I am going to be frank with you and say that Mr. Myers and I would much prefer Miss Laughlin to Dr. Woods. In fact, I do not think Dr. Woods a suitable person for Oregon. You know she was here once upon a time and was not a successful practitioner, and there are other objections which I will not discuss on paper, and if you will make plans for sending Miss Laughlin you will confer a favor. I have heard no objections to Gail except through Dr. and Mrs. Coe, and the Telegram had a little Editorial but nothing detrimental to the cause. Of course, Mrs. Coe is very fond of dress but when it comes to hard work she is not in it, but when the campaign is on we will need some one who is not thinking of self and fine clothes. We will need some one who can put on a short skirt and jacked, high topped shoes, and able to wade about and hunt up the people. I think Miss Laughlin will fill the bill exactly so I beg of you not to make further plans for Dr. Woods coming to Oregon. Trusting that this will not offend and that matters may be satisfactory,- etc."

c Sept 14, 1905?

" I hope you will soon be able to send Miss Laughlin, for we have failed in our effort to have the objections withdrawn to Dr. Woods' coming. As I wrote you Monday, Mrs. Coe promised to see Dr. Jeffreys and form her opinion of her objections. I thought this better than seeing them both together, as Mrs. Coe knows Dr. Woods well, she having been in Dr. Coe's employ for months as his medical assistant in his Sanitarium. After I had found Dr. Jeffreys objected to her I mentioned her coming to Mrs. Coe, but she manifested no surprise or objections at all. So I believed those ladies would come to a clearer understanding of whether the objections could be removed by a conference between themselves than if they had me and Miss Gregg present. Yesterday morning I telephoned Mrs. Coe, saying the decision ought not to be delayed and asking her to remember in their decision that workers were few and we thought the Dr. was a valuable one. Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Coe called and saw Miss Gregg and me. She corroborates the result of Mrs. Catt's investigation and says the difficulty is one which does not necessarily impair Dr. Woods' usefulness in other states but in her opinion does so in Oregon. It appears that in this difficulty Dr. Woods has said the "meanest things one woman can say of another" about Mrs. McBride, and that Dr. Jeffreys thinks they were so hard as to expose Dr. Woods to serious trouble if the McBrides chose to give it to her, which would involve the suffragists. Without injustice to Dr. Woods I suppose we may doubt, since she had not the discretion to keep out of this quarrel in the first place, whether she has the self-control not to say things which might renew it, if she were here where she would be exposed to irritation and temptations to do so. Dr. Jeffreys thinks she has reason for such doubts; for she says that while Dr. Woods was her guest during the Convention she made remarks about people in a circle of several persons under no obligations of confidence which might have caused a great deal of trouble if carried by a tale-bearer. You understand I did not press for details of any of these unpleasant speeches or whether they were just or not, because I think the only question now before us is whether the leaders among the suffrage women desire her coming. We knew there had been trouble and we were satisfied that it did not injure her usefulness in other states.

Dr. Jeffreys understands that the McBrides are opposed to our amendment, and to provoke his active opposition would be injurious. Mrs. Coe judged from a conversation recently held with the McBrides that the Senator is not opposed but that his wife is. She agrees that they have a grievance against Dr. Woods, and that their enmity will nullify her usefulness. She is not sure whether she might not come in the spring, when there are many others in the field, but doubts it. IN the meantime, she agrees entirely, after hearing Dr. Jeffreys' objections, that Dr. Woods ought not to come here now.

As I say, I did not push the enquiry further than to find out their conclusions; and it is my wish that we shall not do so, as I think such enquiry is unprofitable. If we leave the matter alone and do not send Dr. Woods we shall be following our custom of not sending speakers who are not acceptable to the state officers. If we depart from that custom in this case it must be only after an investigation which convinces the majority of the Board that the difficulty is not of such a nature as to impair her usefulness in Oregon. For myself I admit that if the investigation satisfied my judgment that she might be useful here, it requires more reliance on my own judgment than I possess to bring her into a state against the remonstrances of the two leading women of the suffragists, who understand the circumstances far better than I ever can, and where she has enemies in the McBrides, and where we must depend only upon her own discretion not to have a revival of the quarrel.

On the other hand, if the majority are convinced that Dr. Jeffreys and Mrs. Coe are justified in their opposition, what shall we have gained but a raking up of old scores that we have been content to let die?

There is, however, the very important question of what is just to Dr. Woods and what she may consider is her due from the Business Committee. I think

she might be told that we have changed the plan about sending her in accordance with our custom of not sending a speaker where the state officers object; and it seems to me she ought not to be surprised or greatly pained to find that Dr. Jeffreys and Mrs. Coe take the same view of the effect of this difficulty which she herself expressed a year or so ago. If she desires the Business Committee, notwithstanding, to inform themselves so as to make an independent decision, I will not shrink from any such investigation as the majority of the Board desires to make. While I speak of justice, however, I want to say one distinct word as to what is justice to the Business Committee in this matter. I think Dr. Woods should reflect very carefully before she insists upon placing upon the Board an uncongenial, difficult and painful task on account of this matter. She got into this quarrel years before any of the members of the Board knew her, and when none of them had the opportunity to guide her with advice or know the circumstances from personal observation or immediate information. Now if it turns out that the consequences are disagreeable she ought to bear them herself and not to ask the Business Committee to incur the risk of injecting contention and faction into this important campaign. The Board is loyal to her for the valuable services she has rendered since she has worked for the Association by showing confidence in her by placing her in charge of the most important work, and employing her whenever she desires employment. If this incident had come up since our relations with her were established, I might think our responsibility was greater. As it is, I think she ought to be considerate not to involve us in it more than is absolutely necessary. That is my opinion, but I am willing to do at my end of the line what the majority decide. I do not wish to lose time by not writing what I think ought to be done in case Dr. Woods does not come to Oregon.

It was with extreme reluctance I gave my vote to interrupt the work in the Territories by withdrawing Miss Gregg. I have not confidence in the stability of any political situation to be easy in the expectation that Congress will take no steps to admit those territories to statehood this winter. Therefore I desire that Dr. Woods shall be retained at work where she is until the Baltimore Convention. Let her plan go right on with organization and watching the situation as we designed when first we sent Miss Gregg there. Something might come up that would require quick action and find us off our guard. I feel that Dr. Woods would be as equal to the occasion as any worker we have, or at least as we can spare. If she is not employed here, it is my judgment we should not risk all I fear we are risking by leaving the territories unlooked after during a Congressional season.

I hope this question will come to a vote and you need not wait to get my answer to know that I shall approve any proposition to go on steadily with work in Oklahoma and Indian Territories.

Miss Gregg desires that Mrs. Woodworth should come to Oregon as soon as practicable; and she says if Dr. Woods needs an assistant there Dr. Woods did have an eye upon an Indian Ter. woman whom she thought could be trained into a good worker. Miss Gregg also has one or two new workers to suggest. I am making this letter too long to write about them more fully.

I wrote to Miss Chase yesterday asking her to subordinate her state work to that in Oregon and write you that she would come immediately. If she does so, please speed her coming. Miss Gregg longs for her arrival."

(Signed) Laura Clay.

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Sept-16-1905

375 Yamhill Street, Portland, Oregon.

Dear Member of the Executive Committee,

Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that I am still in Oregon, and further, that I have consented to remain here throughout the suffrage campaign. I feel that I owe the officers of the Ky. E. R. A. an explanation of my absence at this convention season.

I came to Portland, as you know, to the National Convention in June. In this state they have an Initiative and Referendum law; and under that they are having a suffrage amendment campaign. The law requires a petition signed by eight per cent of the voters, amounting in this case to 10,000. The Oregon Suffrage Association is small, though the sentiment all over the state is strong for suffrage. But because the organization is weak and the women inexperienced in petition work the 10,000 names were not ready at the convention, as we hoped. The National officers and delegates felt so assured ^{of} ~~that~~ the favorable sentiment, however, that they openly announced that the campaign was "on". After the convention they became afraid that the petition work might lag, and they thought it best to have some representative of the National to be on the ground so as to help the Oregon women. No one seemed to be free to stay but myself, and so I stayed. The longer I stayed the more convinced I became that we had a splendid chance of victory here if we did enough work; and the more I became interested in the work. It would be a long story to tell how our calculations for workers fell short, so at the last I believed my staying would be useful to the campaign. When Miss Gregg came, the National Organizer who is in charge of the campaign, she at once begged me to remain, and I consented. For

it is the greatest chance that has ever come to me to help in a suffrage victory. One of the chief obstacles to my making up my mind to stay was my duties to my own state work, particularly my duty to help in our annual convention. I am convinced, however, that a victory in Oregon would be of more benefit to the suffrage cause in Ky. than years of my work and an educational campaign costing thousands of dollars. What I do here is, I hope, indirectly of more value to Ky. than anything I might be able to do there this year. For that reason I feel justified in staying away. And I believe all of you will loyally strive to prevent any loss to our state Association.

The convention is the chief work before us. As I felt we would all want Miss Shaw to be with us two days, and as to insure her we have to make arrangements long in advance and therefore fix dates, I have engaged her for the 9th and 10th of November, which fall upon Thursday and Friday of the week.

You know we had not had an invitation for our convention before I left Ky., and I have received none since. I had hoped to be at home where I could have looked over the field carefully and suggested some place which has not already borne its share in this annual labor; but it is part of the effort I am making by staying here that I cannot do that. All the extra care I throw upon my co-officers I feel is a part they are taking in this important campaign in Oregon. Now, as the time is short, I am boldly going to ask the clubs in Covington, Newport, and Ludlow to combine and invite the convention to one of those cities. Therefore, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Roebuck and Mrs. Shepard, you see this part of my circular is particularly to you. I am not writing to Mrs. Giltner at this time, but I suppose you three will consult with her and together. You know that the state pays for the speaker, which in this case is Miss Shaw, and will be forty-five dollars for the two nights.

The state also pays the bill for printing the programs. I do not know whether or not the expenses outside of entertaining the delegates will be too great a burden for you unassisted; if so, I would like to say right now that I would be glad to do my part towards helping to the extent of twenty-five dollars or as much of it as is necessary. I usually spend about that much in one way or another in our conventions. All of you know too well what the trouble and labor of a convention are for me to write about them; but I hope you will undertake it this year. For though Newport and Covington have done their share and more, of entertaining the convention, it seems best all around that they should undertake it again this year. I feel sure you will do so, if you can.

Now because the distance is too great to wait for the exchange of letters, I am going to write at once the only alternative I have been able to think of, in case it cannot be held in one of those cities. You know that Mrs. Agnes L. Bifort, of Ashland, did think of inviting the convention, largely with the object of getting Miss Shaw there; but the difficulties of entertaining the delegates finally prevented her from extending the invitation. I went there from Lexington and the round trip on the railroad was seven dollars. This made me feel that Ashland was too far out of the way and too expensive to reach to make a good place for the convention. There is an association in Ashland and a new and small one in Catlettsburg; then the next nearest is Lexington's. Probably we could get a dozen delegates there. Nevertheless, if Covington or Newport cannot invite the convention I have not been able to devise anything else than to ask Mrs. Bifort to have the convention, but without undertaking to entertain the delegates. The state will pay the expenses of travelling and entertainment of the officers and a few delegates may come and pay their own. Ashland and Cat-

lettsburg would get out good audiences for Miss Shaw, and the delegates and officers could do the necessary annual business.

I would have written all about this sooner if I had been positive that I would stay here. But my decision to do so has been made in the last few days, though I have been considering it for some time. There is no time now for the exchange of letters, so I am going to ask the six officers in Ky. to decide about the convention without feeling it necessary to write to consult me. When I left, Mrs. Roark was expecting to leave the state at any time. I have not heard from her, and do not know where she is. I do not think we can wait, therefore, for her to conduct any of the necessary correspondence; and I herein ask Mrs. Roebuck to assume the duties of both secretaries for this convention.

I beg Mrs. Shepard to go to work at once to collect the dues and all the other officers to help her to do so in every way practicable.

I shall write letters when I think I can be of use; but I realize I am too far away to help a great deal. This letter is to explain my circumstances, and to beg each and every one of you to put your shoulders to the wheel and prove to me that my presence is not necessary to make everything go off well.

While I say I do not wish to burden you with consulting me, for which there is no time, I earnestly entreat you all to let me know at the earliest moment what you have decided to do. I shall be most anxious.

I have suggested what seems to me to be the best under the circumstances, but you may think of something better. You may be sure of my approval and gratitude for any arrangement you may make about the convention. The only thing I stipulate for is that there shall be a convention. It has occurred twice in the 15 years of our C.R.A. that we held no convention, and it threw our business into tangles for years. Any convention legally called and conducted is better than none, and I hope

5.

none of you will think for a moment of getting out of difficulties by not having a convention; but turn your thoughts earnestly to deciding what is best to do.

I shall be so anxious till I hear from you; so please each and every one write, if it is only a postal card.

I am getting my mail from the General Delivery, as our little Headquarters are very near the postoffice; but in case you wish to telegraph my address is 375 Yamhill Street, Portland, Oregon.

Hoping to hear very promptly some good news of arrangements for the convention, I am

Faithfully your co-worker and friend,

Sept. 16. 1905

MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

HEADQUARTERS, 716 MASONIC TEMPLE, MINNEAPOLIS

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MISS MARION L. SLOAN, **Vice President**,
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DR. CORA SMITH EATON, **Rec. Secretary**,
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MRS. OLIVE S. CLARK, **Cor. Secretary**,
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PROF. GEO. W. E. HILL, **Second Auditor**,
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Increase of Membership—Miss AUGUSTA A. CONNOR,
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Enrollment— Mrs. ELIZABETH McCLARY,
121 E. 14th Street, Minneapolis.
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Miss MARY A. WHEDON,
625 Temple Court, Minneapolis.
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2946 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis.
MRS. ELIZABETH M. CLARK,
627 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud, Minn.
MRS. GEORGIANA LOWE,
4548 Vincent Ave. S., Minneapolis.

St. Paul, Minn.
Sept 18-1905.

My dear Miss Day:

It has been a long time since I have heard from you, not since you first went to Warren: but you have been so very busy. I know that you have not had the time to write.

I heard from you through Dr Eaton, and Mrs Stockwell while at Portland. What a grand time you must have had from the reports in the Journal. am so glad that you could remain so long after the convention to enjoy other meetings and see the beautiful country.

The press business keeps me busy as I now have 70 papers on my mailing list. I do enjoy this work very much, and Mr Farmer is such a help to me in many ways- he being connected in business with his nephew by marriage, an old newspaper man, who established two papers here fifty years ago. After I organized the Defiance Club of thirty members, ^{was made} I was the v. President and Secretary. I am about to organize the Finnish women

women of this City - having been urged to do so by
Mrs Steiner of Toledo - a Jewish woman (a rich woman)
who organized among them a Suffrage Club - she was
their president up to January of this year, she
resigned because she was elected to the School Board,
and received more votes than the four men
running on the ticket with her who were elected.
We have many Jews here, quite a large settlement
in the West End - where we have a Settlement House.
I am always interested in all of the work in Kentucky,
and what success you have had. I feel at home
when I read all about your work, and long to see
you once more, perhaps we will meet again. I hope so.
There you surprised to hear of the departure of Mrs
Charles & family to California? I have been expecting
the change for Mr Charles ever since we left there.
I have written to Mrs Charles but have not had a
reply - a great breaking up for her. Mr Charles wants to
establish himself in the same business either in
San Diego (they are there now) or in Los Angeles.

How are Mrs Bennett & Mrs May B. I shall
hope to hear that Mr Bennett is better. I was glad
to hear that your brother was sent to Switzerland. I
believe that is correct, and hope the climate will prove
beneficial to him. Do write just a few lines, I love you
not the same of you do not write, but a few lines
will be comforting. Love to your sisters. Mr Farmer wishes to
be remembered - Ever lovingly your old friend - Eugenia B. Farmer

National American Woman Suffrage Association

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

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

President, REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW,
7443 Devon Street, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Vice President at Large, FLORENCE KELLEY,
105 East 22nd Street, New York City.

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.
Dr. ANNICE JEFFREY MYERS, 375 East 12th St., N., Portland, Ore.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO

Sept. 19th, 1905

Dear Miss Clay:-

It seems you have misunderstood the Business Committee a bit in reference to your work in Oregon, or you would not have felt so strongly the necessity of being "authorized" to stay. Now Mrs. Upton was delighted from the first to know you could stay and so pleased when she learned that it would be possible for you to remain throughout the campaign. I know Miss Shaw shared this feeling for when she was here she said she would be so glad if you could stay but she supposed you would feel you had to come home on account of ~~my~~ your State work. I cannot remember whether it was to her that I said it or to Mrs. Upton that I felt sure you would let Kentucky stand aside for Oregon. I think it is splendid and generous of you to remain and I feel that our chances of winning are greatly enhanced by your decision. That day in Business Committee meeting when Dr. Jeffreys proposed your taking charge of the campaign I felt distressed because it was then, and is now, my conviction that one who has had little experience in practical campaign work should not be given the management of a State campaign. I like you so much personally, respect your judgment so much, and have such a high regard for your work that it was very painful to me to say that I believed Mrs. Upton would not vote for this. I have asked her since if I was right in saying that I felt sure her vote would be against your taking the management of the campaign and she has said, "yes". But because I thought you ought not to take charge did not mean at all that I do not appreciate the invaluable aid you will be able to render in conjunction with Miss Gregg. It seemed so like

[Sept 19, 1905]

2- Miss Clay

presumption on my part to make any remarks, but I think you know that I tried throughout the Business Committee meetings to do exactly what I believed was right for the work. No one can ever know the difficulties of my position. I tried to represent Mrs. Upton's opinions and beliefs, I tried to be as straightforward and direct as she is (which by nature I am not, as I lack her moral courage) and yet I felt all the time that I had not the right to say or do what, many times, I felt sure she would say or do. I know you are too generous and big to have anything "in" for me, but I thought this explanation might not be out of place.

Yours lovingly,

Elizabeth J. Hauser

'admission' was not made after we had reached the station acceptable to all which we had reached after some months
 delay. I think we have not lost anything by it, though, so there is no
 need of anything in Sept. 25th. [1905]
 Miss E.J. Hauser, Warren, Ohio.

My dear Miss Hauser,

I received your sweet letter of Sept. 19th this morning and answer without delay. I am glad you have written the explanation of what I have been puzzling over the whole summer whenever my thoughts touched it, - why the Bus. Com. objected to my taking part in the Oregon campaign. I was not aware till your letter came that my offer to stay was understood as an offer to take charge of the campaign. I supposed that all knew that I was trying to persuade Mrs. Catt to do that, in conjunction with Miss Gregg. I never had it in mind to take more responsibility than it now appears the Bus. Com. are willing to have me do, which, at the greatest, is to advise Miss Gregg.

However, I did not doubt that you and Miss Gordon desired to do the best possible for the campaign and that you had reasons for your objections, so I did not press the question: At you can now readily understand that I was not willing to stay at Miss Gregg's request, but made the endorsement of the Bus. Com. a requisite.

I appreciate the difficulty of your position as a proxy for Mrs. Upton; and if I had been disposed to find fault with your execution of your trust I would for that reason have been lenient in my judgment. I do not doubt that you, as I do after I have had an "experience", will endeavor to learn the lesson I shall from this, and that is that a few questions asked would have cleared up our minds and would have made us all come to

a conclusion acceptable to all which we have reached after some months' delay. I think we have not lost anything by it, though, so there is no need of regrets. I am glad you feel that I shall not have anything "in" or you on account of this little misunderstanding; in that you only do me justice. I honor your intention to act up to the trust reposed in you as Mr. Upton's proxy; and if you were a little hasty in speaking before I had fully explained my intention, no doubt I was responsible for that to a great degree; and in any case it is a mistake I often fall into myself, and I sympathize with it.

I enclose copies of letters I have just written Miss Shaw, which will tell her all the news here.

Please give my love to her and to all in the office, including yourself.

Cordially yours,

P.S. I enclose a letter and stamps which came to Dr. Jeffreys and was handed to me.

I appreciate the difficulty of your position as a proxy for Mr. Upton; and if I had been disposed to find fault with your execution of your trust I would for any reason have been lenient in my judgment. I do not doubt that you, as I do after I have had an "experience," will endeavor to learn the lesson I shall learn this, and that is that a few questions asked would have cleared up our aims and would have made us all come to

[1905?]

Corvington Sept. 27.

My Dear Miss Mary

I think I

shall be in Ky

when the convention

meets, but I am

by no means sure

of it - If I am

here I shall be

pleased to make

a brief address

I am pleased to
hear from you
that I may possibly
see you so soon.

My work was
reviewed in 300 papers
in Great Britain
in 14 weeks & by over
100 in this country.
Some of the papers
have given entire
pages to it - & dozens
have given it -

one & two columns. About
two crowned heads in Europe
acknowledged its receipt
& many of the noblest
people in Europe either
met me or wrote me re-
garding it. This shows
"the woman question" lives

With many kind
regards to you & your sister
I remain

Yr very cordially
Hunt. Woodley

Sept. 27th, 1905

Mrs. E. G. Farmer,
615 Cedar St., St. Paul,
Minnesota.

My dear Mrs. Farmer,

No doubt you will be surprised to see my letter dated from Portland; and perhaps still more when I tell you that I expect to stay till the election next June. After the convention we thought in view of the great importance of the petition work some one ought to stay to help the Oregon women with it. I was foot-free, so I stayed till our National organizer, Miss Laura Gregg, arrived to take charge. Immediately she wished me to stay on; and this I consented to do, as I feel work put in Oregon at this time is worth more to Ky. than any thing I could do there; and my own personal interests I was willing to set aside for this time.

Your letter was forwarded in a budget of mail; for I have not had my letters forwarded since I left home, because I thought I should be so much on the wing I would be likely to lose them entirely. After I decided to stay Mary forwarded all of them and I received them this morning and am answering your most welcome one the very first. Yes, I have been uncommonly busy ever since last fall; and while I have often wished to write, as my business was chiefly writing I was too tired in that way when I had leisure from my business to write friendly letters.

This is a beautiful city and I have enjoyed my stay here, though I have been very busy helping with the correspondence about the petition. The climate is bracing to me and I have felt a relief from our hot Ky. summers. A few days have been very warm in the afternoons but I really have felt cold oftener than too warm. I suppose all the warm weather has now past; but I am told the roses are likely to be in bloom till Christmas; and such roses I never saw before, wonderful for profuseness, size, and perfection. The hydrangeas are finer than any I have seen and the mountain ashes. Other things, perhaps, I have seen equally beautiful. The air is fine for the complexion and I am struck by the freshness and clearness of the complexions of both men and women.

We are in great hopes of winning this campaign. Miss Gregg says she never saw a position so hopeful. All that we need is plenty of work; and we hope to be able to pit that in.

I am glad to tell you that Mr. Bennett's health is better than it has been for a long time; we are very much encouraged about him, for though we have no hopes of vigorous health for him we are not now immediately apprehensive about him. He has been trying a new treatment.

Mary and Sallie and Anne are very well. Mary's second son, Frank, is to be married about the middle of Oct. to a lovely girl, no other than the oldest daughter of our friends and my relatives, the Watsons, of Frankfort. You remember Jane Watson. While there is a distant relationship it is not much. Jane's grandmother was Mary's first cousin. You can study out the relation between the young people. Mary is much pleased.

Do write to me again. I long to hear from you, even if I am slow to answer. Please remember me to Mr. Farmer. I love to hear of all the good work you are doing for suffrage, as I knew you were doing through others.

Good-bye.

Always affectionately yours,

Laura Clay

[Sept 28, 1905]

At Home
after November the tenth,
The Ellwood, Summerlea Street,
Pittsburg, Penn.

Sept 28, 1905,

Mrs. Henry Howe Watson
requests the honor of your presence
at the marriage of her daughter
Jane Swigert,
to

Mr. Francis W. Herrick Clay,
on Thursday evening, October the twelfth,
Nineteen hundred and five,
at six o'clock,
Frankfort, Kentucky.

Lock Box 390, Portland, Oregon.

Oct. 23rd, 1905.

My dear Mrs. McCulloch,

I have received the leaflet, "Women and the Legislature", with the line telling of the arrival of your 10 and 1/2 pound son. I congratulate you and hope soon to hear his name and other interesting particulars. I had been in hopes he would be a girl; but perhaps you did not share that wish.

I have read the leaflet with interest and think it excellent. I think such intelligent work must surely bear good fruit before very long. Women must see how help less they are without the freeman's right of the ballot.

We have many things to encourage us to expect a great victory for our cause next June. Sentiment seems to be on our side everywhere. We hear prophecies of success on all sides; and work seems all that is necessary to win. Miss Gregg is throwing herself into that with great zeal and intelligence. Miss Laughlin is now here and we are expecting Miss Chase in a few weeks.

Please remember me to Mr. McCulloch and to the children, and give a kiss for me to the new baby. With much love to yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,

Randerson. N.Y.

Nov 6th, '05.

My dear Mrs Rockwell;

Your letter & card
received. When the former reached
me, my daughter was ill with
scarlet fever, & the house had
not been quarantined, & of course
no letters were written.

You are in great trouble from
another cause. My grown son
has spent fifteen months in
Lepus, for the benefit of his lungs

but lately the climate did not
agree with him, & now he is at
home. The doctors tell us he is
in an exceedingly grave condition
& the universe looks very blue,
to us.

In regard to your Association
there are four persons - three women
& one man - in our town who are
in sympathy with your movement
& last year each of us contributed
fifty cents to help the cause a bit,
but we never were more organized
never even a committee. This I

is planned, but it seems not to
have been understood.

Just at present it is impossible
for me to help in any way. I
do not know how the other three
sympathizers may feel about it.

Very sincerely yours

Paul Armand Lockett

(Mrs J. H.)

135. S. Main St.

Catlettsburg, Ky-

Dec. 6th 1905.

Miss Laura Clay

Leopington, Ky-

Dear Miss Clay:-

Inclosed please find
check for three dollars (\$3.00).

Dues from the six members
of the Equal Rights Club at
Catlettsburg, Ky.

My long silence makes
me seem dilatory in regard to
my duty, but I have been
very, very busy. Some of the
members have been away and
some have had sickness and
death in their families, hence
my seeming negligence.

Mrs. Marcum says her mother
pays her dues at her home for
her, and Mrs. Adams whom
you thought might join

declined the honor. [Dec 6, 1905]

I find that my home duties are such that I cannot act as treasurer any longer.

You might prevail on Miss Mary Morse to accept the office. Hoping that you may, I am,

Sincerely

Mrs. R. H. Kilgore.

I rec'd your letter also the leaflet for which I thank you.

[Dec 14, 1905]

Dear Mr. [Name]

Faded handwritten text, likely the body of a letter, containing several paragraphs of cursive script.

anywhere; and I have written to
our C. P. A. officers how I thought
about it. I have been most grat-
ified to see how well our local
clubs have gone right on with
their work, notwithstanding my
absence, and how our convention
on Novem. 10th was carried on suc-
cessfully. It was the best way pos-
sible for the Ky. suffragists to
show their sympathy with the
Oregon suffragists, and their de-
sire to hold up the hands of the
National Association in what it
is doing to help in the campaign.

It was a great pleasure to me
to receive your letter dated Dec. 6th
which was forwarded to me here.
I am so gratified that our Battlet-
burg Assn. has fulfilled its oblige-
tions of membership and sent in
its dues in time to convert in the
"argument of numbers" for 1905. I found

Dec 19, 1905

enclosed your check³ for \$3.00, which you write is the dues from the six members. The dues you should send to the state, however, are only 35 cents for each member, or \$2.10 for the six. Since you have sent the whole fifty cents for each, I hope your members will be pleased with the expenditure of the 15 cents of each for subscriptions to our little National quarterly, "Progress," and a subscription for our series of political leaflets. Therefore, I am sending the National dues of 10 cts. each to the National treasurer; and 10 cts. each from Mrs. James Patton,

Mrs. A. F. Morse,

Mrs. R. H. Kilgore,

Miss Grace D. Runyon
and Mrs. James Hughes for subscrip-
tions to "Progress"; and the Political
Equality leaflets I will have sent to
Miss Mary C. Moore, who will find them
very valuable literature to distribute.

I will send \$1⁵⁰/₁₀₀ to ⁴our state treasurer,
Mrs. Isabella H. Shepard, 31 East 12th St.
Covington, Ky. I would have sent the
whole to her and have left it to her
to send on the National dues, except
that it is so near Jan. 1st, at which
date Mrs. Wpton closes her books, that
I am afraid it would be too late
for your dues to appear in the min-
utes of 1909, as the distance is so
great from the Pacific coast.

I regret that you feel that you can-
not continue to be treasurer another year,
and as you will not have to collect un-
til next convention, I hope you will
reconsider. If not, it would be the place
of the Battlettsburg C. R. A. to elect another
treasurer, and because you have recom-
mended her, I have addressed the Political
Series Brochure to Miss Moore, trusting that
may be satisfactory to all of you;
for it is your money, and not
the state's, which I am sending
on to Headquarters for that purpose.
I suppose in time one gets accustom-
ed to it, all these details are rather

Dec 14, 1905

confusing. I am ^{so} desirous that all
our clubs should keep in touch with
the general work through "Progress;" and
should be familiar with our excel-
lent literature that I have assu-
med that you would be willing
to spend the part of the annual
dues which belongs to the local as-
sociation in this way. But next
year you can bear in mind that
only 35 cts goes to the state, and the
other 15 cts. remains in the local treasury.

Please remember me to my suffrage
friends; and thank them for their
dues, which is helpful to the work all
along the line. I wish you could have
had a delegate at the state convention;
and hope you will receive an account
of it from Miss Laura White and Mrs.
Agnes Cifak, of Oakland, who I under-
stand were there.

Very cordially yours,
Laura Clay.



MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

Officers

MRS. MAUD C. STOKWELL, *President*
3204 East 51st St., Minneapolis.

MISS MARION L. SLOAN, *Vice-President*
915 Zumbro St., Rochester, Minn.

DR. ANNAH HURD, *Rec. Secretary*
716 Pillsbury Bldg., Minneapolis.

MRS. OLIVE S. CLARK, *Cor. Secretary*
Anoka, Minn.

DR. MARGARET KOCH, *Treasurer*
716 Masonic Temple, Minneapolis.

MRS. MARGARET M. PENTLAND, *First Auditor*
225 Moore Block, St. Paul.

MR. CHARLES F. MILLER, *Second Auditor*
1201 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis.

Chairmen Standing Committees

Press—MRS. EUGENIA B. FARMER
615 Cedar Street, St. Paul.

Increase of Membership—MISS AUGUSTA A. CONNOR
1415 University Ave. S. E., Minneapolis.

Enrollment and State Fair Work—
MISS GRACE A. GRINSTEAD
504 W. 32nd Street, Minneapolis.

Legislation—MR. S. A. REED
208 Century Bldg., Minneapolis.

Talks to Other Clubs—DR. FLORENCE C. BAIER
2946 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis.

Member National Executive Board—
MRS. E. A. BROWN, Luverne, Minn.

Executive Committee

DR. ETHEL E. HURD
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MRS. LORA C. LITTLE
1114 21st Avenue N., Minneapolis.

MRS. JULIA B. NELSON - Red Wing, Minn.

MRS. ELIZABETH M. BRASIE, Monticello, Minn.

MRS. MARGARET K. ROGERS
286 S. Exchange St., St. Paul.

MRS. HANNAH EGGLESTON - Wykoff, Minn.

MRS. LIZZIE McCLARY
131 East 14th St., Minneapolis.

MRS. LILLA P. CLARK
803 East 15th St., Minneapolis.

*St Paul, Minn
Dec-21-1905.*

My dear Miss Selay,

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of September 27th, and surprised that you had decided to remain in Oregon until next June. How fortunate that you can do so. The accounts in Mrs Colby's paper of the work being done in that State, shows that an able company of women are at work. Of course we, suffragists, are interested in all that you are doing there. Mrs Upton notified me that one thousand names over the required number for the Initiative Petition had been secured. I have this morning received another letter from her informing me that "the petitions have been accepted by the Secretary of State in Oregon; that there is no doubt but that the question will be voted upon next June". This is gratifying news. Mrs Colby writes me that the anti-suffragists have organized with headquarters in Portland - Why do they not stay at home, where they say we should be; If they would tell the truth it would not be so hard to

bear. If we can Oregon, we will hope for Nebraska
and Minnesota. Mrs Upton says that "we may
have a Constitutional Convention in addition to
the Oregon work. I think this means the union of
Indian Territory with Oklahoma. With all of your
labors. I am glad that ^{you} are pleasantly situated in
a beautiful city with a bracing climate & abundance
of flowers. I received cards to the wedding of
Frank Leloy and Jane Watson, what a surprise to
me. I wrote to Mrs Watson and your sister Mary,
and to the young people as the card stated: at home
after November 20. Am pleased to hear of Mr
Bennett's improved health, and that all of the
members of your family are in good health.

We had a very satisfactory State Convention, but
have failed to make a memorandum of sending
you a Bulletin - I may have done so, but it will
do no harm if I send another. The press work for
the year ending November 1st, was heavy, but I
enjoy it very much. The Sacajawea Club, of which
I am the Secretary, is composed of young women,
they all seem very fond of me, therefore we can
work well together, for they are anxious to be instructed
in suffrage, parliamentary ruling &c.

One great sorrow has come to our State Association,
the removal of Dr. Cora Smith Eaton to Seattle. The
dear good woman, leans here on account of the
man whose name she bears. She has supported him



MINNESOTA WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

Dec. 21, 1905

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181 East 14th St., Minneapolis.

MRS. LILLA P. CLARK
803 East 15th St., Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, and boone with him until she could no longer
lecture it. She has made all her arrangements to
return in Seattle. left this week to be in Spokane
in time to take the winter examination before the
State Board of Medical Examiners. Financially she has
been of great assistance to the State and local work.
I shall write to Mrs. Trimble of Livingston about her,
as her eldest son resides in Seattle, and I am
well acquainted with him and his wife.

Twice a year I receive a letter from Mrs. Henry, and
I enclose the last one. You may not like to have me
send them to you, do not hesitate to say so.

At our last Executive meeting it was decided to have
a booth at the State Fair next September, the first week,
and as me Mr. F. and I have passed, the Committee
asked me if I would go out every day, take charge of
the Booth, answer all questions, and have some of the
younger members with me. Of course, each day some
of the Executive Committee would be there.

I have not had a line from Mrs. Charles since she left
Livingston - I wrote her at San Diego, but she is still
silent. I enclose a small picture of myself, which I
consider a better one than the one I sent you last year.

Write whenever you can, but I shall write often as I am in this line of work daily, and it does not seem such an effort.

I am expecting Mrs Colby in January, to spend the day with me, while she is en route to Washington. The Judiciary Committee in Washington have already reported (in our papers) that the Committee on Federal Suffrage will be heard during this session of Congress. I am strongly in favor of Federal Suffrage, and hope Mrs Colby will be able to win. Here is another sad case of desertion of a wife by the Major - cause, a stenographer living with him in their home (Mrs Colby & the Major) at Beatrice, Nebraska. She has to make a living for herself, and seems much attached to the Indian girl who gives her a great deal of trouble.

Well, Well, this is a gossipy letter, but this is between you and me. Dear friend, May the New Year be one of joy, peace, happiness and prosperity also victory. God bless you and all your dear ones. I am glad that we have faith to believe in the one true God. Although separated, we can bow before the same Father in Heaven.

Mr Farmer joins me in best wishes, and believe me always your loving friend,
Eugenia B. Farmer.

December 23 1905,
Albany Oregon.

Mrs Wallis Ash,
Portland Oregon.

My dear Mrs. Ash,

I am gathering material for a colloquation which shall be based on a plea for woman's suffrage; and so have ventured to ask for your help. If you have time to consider my request, please give me any suggestions which you from

from your standpoint, may consid-
er helpful. Will you also send avail-
able statistics or refer me to sources
from which I may receive infor-
mation and inspiration.

In anticipation of your reply,
I thank you.

Yours truly,

Edna C. Wright

648 Belmont

Dec 25

c. 1905

Very dear Miss Day
I enclose a
note which asks for
itself. I have mailed
a Postal saying the
request shall be
attended to from
our General Supts. head-
quarters. I am afraid
you must have seen
this by on Tuesday
rather gloomy as
to weather - but
weather is not long
thing. With best
wishes to you and
the Co. workers..

Yours sincerely
Lorinda A. Nash

I am glad Mrs. Harford
is to be one of you!

[ALFORD]

2626 Alford Ave
Louisville Ky Dec 28th 05

Miss Laura Clay, Pres't W. R. Ass'n,
Lexington Ky,

Noting your constant devotion to the cause of Woman's rights, which often means property rights, I have long intended to suggest a method that may hasten the desired result.

There is no reason why property should be deprived of its voice in the question of taxation because it belongs to a woman, only. If a man dies his wife is widowed, ^{and} his children orphaned, but the estate he leaves behind for their benefit should not be widowed ^{and} orphaned also, but should retain all the rights it held under his ownership which he transfers to them, hence should be allowed to speak in protest or approval at the polls upon taxation, which concerns it directly.

No honest, thinking Legislator can object to this proposal. After that right is granted, ^{and} established, then consecutive rights may be asked for, ^{and} perhaps obtained.

The thin sharp edge of the wedge enters the tough log first, then the wide thick part follows.

We tread the first step of a stairway first, then the other steps until we ascend to the top. So we take

2nd

Miss L.C.

Dec. 28, 1905

a circuitous route up the mountain, ^{and} thus attain the summit that we never could attain by a direct route.

Now to the point, viz; Let the W. R. Ass'n make the 1st appeal for the right of women property owners to vote (either in person, or by proxy,) upon questions of taxation the edge of the wedge to first enter the tough legislative body, - the 1st step of the stairway, - the beginning of the circuitous pathway up the mountain. In asking this, your ass'n will most likely have the support ^{and} influence of Ministerial affairs, Benevolent orders, social clubs, etc, throughout the state, hence be more likely to succeed, ^{and} when this 1st right is granted, it will be a basis for such other reasonable rights as may be asked for later on. This seems to me the surest ^{and} best way to proceed. Excepting the professional, trading politicians, (the foes of our Republic) I predict $\frac{9}{10}$ ths of the people of our state will support above measure. It is right ^{and} should have been enacted years ago. If woman is the "weaker sex", why oppress her by denying her an essential right that the "stronger sex" enjoys?
with respect,

Ben F. Alford,

over

addendum.

3rd

I would ask for that right only, at first, not entangle it with any other right. Many of the legislators are farmers, ^{2nd} it appeals to their common sense, they can see in it preservation of their own family interests in case of their own death, ^{and} the appeal to their good sense is such that trading politicians cannot offset it, ^{and} their home constituencies will demand it of them.

Lock Box 390,

Dec. 29th, 1905.

My dear Mrs. Farmer,

Your letter of Dec. 21st was most welcome, and I thank you for the photograph of yourself you enclosed. It is excellent; you do not look a day older than when I saw you last. Minnesota certainly agrees with you.

Well, we have finished the petition, and last Wednesday I made another trip to Salem, to see that the printed leaflet we are permitted to file with the petition reached the Secretary in safety. Miss Laughlin wrote it and we think it is a fine document. 105000 copies were sent, and made about a ton and a half of printed matter. The Antis also have the privilege to file an opposing document, and we understand they will do so. Both are bound with the copy of the amendment and the county clerks are required to hand one out to each voter as he comes to register. To have these 100000 leaflets is worth \$1000 to us in the saving of postage. All the attention of Headquarters will now be turned to precinct and other field work; of course, excepting the Press work, to which Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer is giving her whole time. I expect to go out as one of the campaign speakers early in the new year. Does not that make you think of our delightful organizing trip in Ky. now so many years ago? If I had you to go with me I think I would go without some of the heart failings I feel now somewhat, at the idea of going among strange people in strange places, and so much depending upon each speaker's making just the right impression. But I am more than

willing to try to do the best I can. I hope I shall learn much that will be useful to me in my work in Ky.

I am very glad to have you send me Mrs. Henry's letters. I am glad to hear from her for old times' sake; and I mourn her bitterness more on her account than for any thing she can say against us. After reading her letter I felt that Christians had a great cause for thankfulness that our religion forbids us to allow such bitterness to grow upon us and be expressed by us. I note with pain the attack she makes upon the Business Committee for the National. I wish she would study the treasurer's statement in the printed minutes, and surely it would be easy for her to see that the Association has no such amount of money as she says. Every cent that is spent is accounted for; and unless she expects the officers to pay their own expenses when travelling in the work of the convention I do not know why she complains of railroad expenses when the business calls the Committee at times from one end of the country to the other. Our convention here was the best send-off we could have given to this campaign, as many persons here have told us; and if we win, as we have every hope of doing, she will have no occasion to say "nothing is done". I cannot see how any one who can read would make such charges of extravagance as she does. But it seems a part of the change of feeling a pervert undergoes. I was glad to learn of the good fortune of Mrs. Sawyer in getting a life position in the Census Department. She has had a hard life in many respects and I am glad she has a place where she can earn her living comfortably.

I have not heard either from Mrs. Charles since she left Lexington; but I have not written to her and so have no right to expect a letter. If you hear you must tell me what she writes, as I shall always feel interested in hearing of her.

Have I written to you that Sallie Bennett's youngest daughter and my namesake, Laura Clay Bennett, was married on the 14th of Dec. to Mr. Erskine Russell Garland, of Huntingdon, W. Va? I understand she is marrying very well, and I

Dec 29, 1905

3.

pleased that she will not have to go so far from her family as the eldest daughter, Mary Collins, who lives in Bellingham, Washington. She is now on a visit to her home people with her two little boys, and looks better, all of them say, than they ever saw her. So it seems she is congenially and happily married. Anne Crenshaw also came out to the wedding, and to make a visit to them all. I seem to be absent just when it would have been most pleasant to be at home.

I enjoyed reading your little bulletin. You had sent me the resolutions before, but not the whole Bulletin. I notice with pleasure that they appreciate the good Press superintendent whom Ky. still claims for her own.

Your letter reached me on Christmas day and was a delightful remembrance to me. I went to church to the early service and communion, and then devoted most of the day to letter-writing; for writing by hand has become such a task to me that I am glad to use the machine whenever it is not in office use. I suppose you were frozen up in St. Paul, but here the roses are in bloom, fresh and beautiful. Is not that wonderful? There have been some heavy frosts, but the moist air seems to prevent severe injury to hardy plants; and though some of the roses looked frost-bitten others were perfect as we see them in the fall. It rains a good deal, most frequently at night, fortunately, so that it does not interfere with out-of-door pursuits as much as it might do. I find that I need as heavy underclothing and as warm a cloak as I do in Ky., though the weather is not so cold. It is more penetrating, on account of the dampness. It agrees with me very well, however, and I do not have more colds than elsewhere.

Do write soon to me again. I suppose I shall be so busy that I shall not find much time for writing, but I think of you often, and if you can write to me without counting letters until I am done with campaigning. Please give my regards to Mr. Farmer, and believe me

Your attached friend,