

or Jan. for permission
to present my name
for the office - The
only indication she
gives for ~~any~~ reason
of retiring is an
intimation that the
situation had been
misrepresented - Did
the financial end of
the bargain tumble
down? Miss Shaw
assumed the responsi-
bility for that - I
did not know whether

1800 ¹⁹¹⁰ Prynania St
New Orleans
March 1888

My dear Miss Clay:
Can you write
out any breach of
confidence throw any
light on Mrs. Porter's
resignation - Of course
I have known for
some time that she
contemplated re-
signing - for she
wrote me in Dec.

The College League refused
financial assistance -
I regard Mrs Potter a dis-
tinct loss and leaving
with a feeling of having
been imposed upon, I con-
sider a calamity. I hope
there are no plans afoot
to get you off the Board.
- For we need you
sadly - Mrs Kelly going
too - poor prospects for
the next year - do not
hesitate to decline to
inform me on "reasons
why" - strictly speaking
it is none of my business
but my intimate asso-
ciation naturally keeps
me alert for all pertaining
to conduct of H. C. I
am going to Convention -
in the interest of S. B. A.
Fund - Cordially Kate M. G.

Susan B. Anthony Memorial Fund

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

January 19, 1910.

My dear Miss Clay:

Last week I had a letter from Miss Shaw asking me to take up Southern organization work, as it were, because the Board had unanimously voted that I be put to that kind of work. This week, preceding a formal business letter, I ^{for am} got notice that ~~they~~ wanted me to ^{to} go to Oklahoma.

Now, I think I made it pretty clear, in resigning the Corresponding Secretaryship, that I did so because I believed that the interests of the position demanded the presence of the Corresponding Secretary at Headquarters, and that I was not willing to give up my home surroundings to follow the duties of office. I can't for the world see where the difference would be if I go out on organization tours in the South or campaign in Oklahoma. Consequently I have declined to accept either position. Even if I felt inclined, I cannot afford to accept either proposition. I do not go out as an ordinary organizer in the field because of the bread and butter question attached. The very influence the Board feels I ~~would~~ have as a Southern organizer comes from the fact that I meet socially these people all over the South. I have to dress in a certain way, and I am obligated, (or I feel that I am obligated) when the people who have entertained me come to New Orleans to return in a measure some of the hospitality received; and all of that kind of business requires a long purse. In the meantime, the expenses of our home are running on just the same- whether I am there or not- and I ^{ever} am not assuming my share of the responsibility ^{to} of it. When my time is paid, or so-called paid for, by the National Association, I must pay out for clothes ~~that~~ ^{that} I could myself make, and at the end of the year I ~~would~~ find that I ^{am} ~~was~~ consid-

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Jan. 19, 1910

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erably out of pocket, and yet ^f appear to be a paid employee of the Association.

Now, as a matter of fact, if I felt there was no suffrage work for me to do at home, I might feel differently, but there is plenty of good work, and I can assure you I am improving every opportunity that petty interruptions will permit me to fulfil. Another thing, I have not quite gotten over the spirit shown when Miss Thomas asked me to take the National position she wished created in the city of Washington. Of course, you and Mrs. Kelley wanted me to do it, but the fault-finding that immediately took place with me and my work in Buffalo I recognized ^{the motive is,} at once, and the fool headquarters that were established at a lightning rate, and which has cost the Association so much money (something like \$5,000 when it is all summed up) had ^{to} for its motive "head me off", although I really had no idea of accepting the offer.

I hope this little review will make you understand why I do not wish to go out into the Southern field. Now for Oklahoma. Mrs. Boyer's idea that a Southern woman is necessary is to me a strained point. Mrs. Belmont offers to pay me \$100 a month and expenses. It would take several hundred dollars for me to get ready to go at short notice to Oklahoma, for I would need special wraps, which would be of no earthly need to me in our Southern climate; but to go campaigning one has to be provided for all kinds of weather, even though it meant a short time. I personally believe that the money Mrs. Belmont offers to give for my services paid to an Oklahoma woman would be far more effective. If a Southern woman is absolutely necessary, why don't you go, with the prestige of a National officer. I

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would be going simply on the basis of a paid organizer, and yet I would be really out of money if I accepted the proposition, which I positively will not. If it is impossible for you to do so, and they still want a Southern woman, why not transfer Miss Pennfield.

I am rejoiced that Mrs. Boyer is going to be at the helm. I think there are strong chances for victory. I understand that a point has been raised that some of the signatures to the petition are forgeries, but as the accuser is a man who is to serve his term in the penitentiary, I don't think we need to worry. I tell you, it is a splendid tribute to the energies of those Oklahoma women- ~~these~~ ^{as well} getting those 40,000 signatures- and it seems to me it is a vindication of the attitude of the members of our Board who stood for the recognition of Oklahoma.

Many thanks for the information in regard to Kentucky speakers. You certainly have a brilliant galaxy of women.

I am hard at work on the Susan B. Anthony Fund, the possibilities of which are simply enormous, if we can only get our women roused to the importance of it.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon

Have telegraphed declining Okla:
proposition

Lexington, Ky.

Jan. 17th, 1910.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I have just received your letter of Jan. 8th.

I know nothing more of Mrs. Avery's reason for asking the attitude of the Congressmen than what her letter tells. I received just the same letter, and do not know whether she wants me to write to the Congressmen and give what information I may have acquired from other sources. There is to be a great effort made to have the use of the House of Rep.'s Chamber for the presentation, and that may have something to do with her request.

Now about speakers. I believe Mrs. Breckinridge could be heard in a very large hall. Her voice is as good as three-fourths of women speakers, though not so good as that of Miss Shaw's, for instance. I can say the same thing of Mrs. Mary C. Roark, Richmond, Ky. Mrs. Roark is a fine speaker, and has been more the life of the Educational Committee than Mrs. Breckinridge. Mrs. Roark is now the acting President of the Normal School at Richmond, and has been since the death of her husband more than a year ago. She expects to be replaced by a permanent president about April, and it is possible she might go to Louisiana. She has been an educator all her life, and no better selection as a speaker at that meeting can be selected in Kentucky. I can also highly recommend Mrs. Charles P. Weaver, 2010 Third Avenue, Louisville. She has done much public speaking for the School Improvement League, and has given great satisfaction. The School Improvement League has been the instrument of the woman's movement for the advancement of the schools.
(Over)

Also, Mrs. A. M. Harrison, Elm Tree Lane, Lexington, Ky., whilst she has not been so actively connected with the movement as the other three I have mentioned, would be a delightful speaker on the subject, if she consented to go. On that subject, at least, Ky. has a fine array of woman speakers.

Now about yourself. I know how you feel tormented because your time is used up piecemeal, leaving you only remnants to devote to what you want to make your chief work. I am going to repeat the suggestion of the argument I made about your going to Washington City, only this time it takes the form of your accepting engagements to go in the ~~field~~ field as a speaker for the National, first in Oklahoma and then in the other Southern states, according to the vote taken at the Official Board meeting recently held in N. York. I found my views of what is needed practically were so much changed by my stay in Oregon, Oklahoma and Arizona that I feel the same practical advantage would accrue to you if you travelled and studied the southern situation from actual contact with the people and politicians. Please consider this in answering the application which you have already received or will receive, through Miss Shaw's office.

Please give my regards to your sisters, and believe me

Very sincerely your friend,

Susan B. Anthony Memorial Fund

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

January 8, 1910.

My dear Miss Clay:

I received from Mrs. Avery's secretary a request to find out at once the attitude of our Senators and Representatives on woman suffrage in connection with the presentation of the Petition. Have you any idea what the Committee has in view. I have written that the position occupied at present is one of neutral or absolute indifference, except on the part of two of the members- one opposed and the other in favor.

Now, they sent out that letter without giving you one single blessed idea of what their intention is, and I really and truly think, with Mrs. Avery's absolute lack of political sagacity, they may do a great deal of harm, because the position of most of our Congressmen today is that this question of who shall compose the electorate of a State is the business of the States to decide for themselves. On the other hand, a man might be very bitterly opposed to this amendment forcing a situation on the States. This whole Petition business is such a farce, and costs so much money, and is being carried on by such an incapable person, that I am glad I am out of it.

Now for a bit of information which I just put on a postal if you are too busy to write further. What kind of a speaker is Mrs. Roark. It seems the Educational Association of Louisiana is to meet some time in April. The splendid work of the Educational Committee of the Kentucky women has attracted their attention. I told them that I believed Mrs. D. Breckenridge represented the dominating influence in it all, and that while I knew she made a good speech, I did not know about her voice as a speaker. It seems Garig Hall, where the Convention is to be held, is large, and they would prefer and they would prefer to take

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1800 PRYTANIA STREET

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

[Jan 8, 1910]

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a less capable woman with a good voice then vice versa. Let me know Mrs. Roark's capabilities in this regard, and also recommend to me other women whomight do as speakers in Mrs. Roark's place for the position.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon

I thought: This had been sent -
I am almost rushed to
death - no time for really
serious work, such as I
would like to do.

Lexington, Ky. Feb. 4, 1910.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I am always glad to hear from you, even if it is but a few lines. I received a letter similar to yours from Mrs. Stevens which I return. I answered her that I could not assist in writing the "argument". I am glad, however, that you will write something. I think your idea of the main argument is good. Do not fail to throw in something about the Democratic principle of "Equal rights to all, special privileges to none."

Yes, I think our affairs are somewhat in a muddle in New York. Miss Shaw is very far from well. However, if she would stop trying to do office work as well as speaking, there is no reason why she should not continue her work. She seems to have great recuperative power. I do not believe that Mrs. Avery would run for president or that she would be elected if she did. There are reports in the newspapers and elsewhere that both Mrs. Belmont and Mrs. Mackey are candidates for the place. I suppose it will be no less than public that it is no breach of official secrecy to say that Mrs. Kelley has written to the Board that she will not be a candidate for re-election, and Mrs. Potter has done the same.

I received a letter from Mrs. Biggers this morning, which contains one passage of such good news that I copy it for you. You know we have thought all along that at a general election, it would require a majority of the votes cast for the officer receiving the greatest to carry our amendment, and today Mrs. Biggers says, "From

things we heard in Guthrie, it seems to be the very ^{general} belief by everyone that there will be a special election at the primary election in August. I have learned that I was mistaken in my belief regarding the number of votes required. It is a majority of all for ^{any} initiative petition ~~type~~. The advantage in the special election is simply that so many do not vote. It is really a surprise to me for I had heard that said over and over again. This puts an entirely new aspect on the situation in Oklahoma and makes it vastly more hopeful in every way. The only great advantage I see in a special election is that if it should occur several months before the November elections and we should carry or even have a very good vote, it would be worth as much as spending many thousands of dollars in the other states where there are campaigns. "Nothing succeeds like success" and you remember Roosevelt's advice to us to get another state. Don't you think Oklahoma would make a turning point in all these other states? The letter I have received from Oklahoma repeats the invitation to me to come out and help them in the lecture field; and I have not decided not to go. But this being our legislative year and the E. R. A. having some important legislative work to do, I think my own state has ^{the} first claims on me until this work is over, and then our Convention comes so soon afterwards and I must take considerable time to audit the books before the Convention. So I ~~shall~~ not think of going unless there seems to be an urgent need of my going so.

Please give my regards to your sisters, and believe me

Very sincerely your friend,

Dict.

Susan B. Anthony Memorial Fund

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

February 1, 1910.

Dear Miss Clay:

I presume you have received a like request from Mrs. Stephens- to compile with me the argument which the State sends out for the suffragist in the event of the special election being called- but in case you have not I enclose my letter.

I have written to Mrs. Stephens accepting the invitation, but my idea of the argument is that it should be a short one and printed in large type. It is simply absurd to expect the mass of the people to read a whole lot of technical argument. I think we should stand upon our constitutional right of the ballot in the light of a weapon and demand for women and their special interests the same protective right that the ballot insures to men. If you agree with me in this idea, outline what points you think should be written up and I will try and get it off for them. I think as near 500 words as we can confine it to the better, and then in the event of it being attacked, we will have more space in which to rebutt. Let me have your point of view at once.

I am distressed to death to learn of some of the reports of conditions as brought in by Jeanie from New York. She seems to think that Miss Shaw is a very seriously ill woman, but I think the thing that brought terror to my soul , more than anything else, was the fact that Mrs. Catt had suggested, as the logical successor to Miss Shaw, Mrs. Avery. If by any hook or crook that incompetent woman ever should or would accept the National presidency then I think it time to cry out in defeat. Of course, don't mention this. I think the less said about such an idea being feasible the better, and I do not know how far Mrs. Catt's disgruntled attitude to the regular National Association accounts for the suggestion. I do know that in her innermost soul she has less use for Mrs. Avery than she has for any woman in the whole Association.

Very cordially yours,

Kate M. Gordon.