

Near Richmond, Ky.

Aug. 13th, 1912.

My dear Miss Gordon,

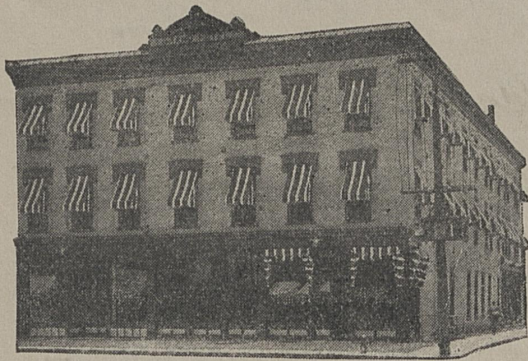
I went to Richmond yesterday, to make some preparations to go to Monteagle, Tenn., where I give a suffrage address Thursday evening, and I found a number of letters which the postmaster should have sent out by rural delivery. Among them was yours, of Aug. 5th, asking if I could come again to Cincinnati. It would give me pleasure to do so; but I start for Kansas Sept. 2nd, and I am pushed to get my business and other things in readiness for that campaign. Besides, I think I have about exhausted myself in Cinn., having been there a week, and spoken to clubs, etc.

I agree with you that parlor meetings are most excellent; and I always try to have them where I go. I am glad you are in Ohio, and I hope you can go to Kansas after the 3rd. I wish you would write to me about your campaign. You can direct your letters to care of Mrs. Lucy Johnston, 617 Mills Building, Topeka, Kansas.

I am enclosing a letter which will give you some of the names you asked for. Those I missed for some reason I have marked out.

I am always so glad to hear from you.

Very sincerely your friend,



## THE GRAND HOTEL

LYMAN COLLINS, Prop.

Xenia, Ohio Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 1912

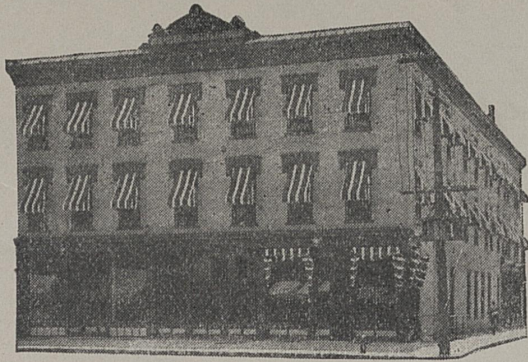
My dear Miss Clay:

Your message  
educating will not be  
complete until you have  
been in a parade. I  
had my first experience  
and it was as exhilar-  
ating as Champagne.  
Three miles seemed no  
longer than three  
blocks + the effect  
on the crowds of spec-  
tators wonderful.

Saturday night  
closes my four weeks  
of daylight + day out-  
speaking - The route  
I had was a pretty  
hard one but generally  
speaking I feel was

productive of good  
results - but I am  
glad the end is in  
sight - the weak  
part in this cam-  
paign is the lack  
of interest among the  
women. In reality  
it is not a suffrage  
campaign but a  
wet - & dry one -  
with the extreme  
prohibitionists & the  
low lawless element  
of the liquor interests  
making a common  
fight against the  
liquor amendment.

I had a long  
talk with Mrs Boyer



[Aug 28, 1912]

## THE GRAND HOTEL

LYMAN COLLINS, Prop.

Xenia, Ohio

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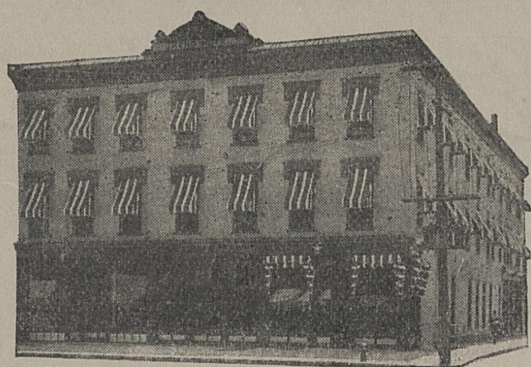
on H<sup>st</sup> Affairs - She says  
Hana Hobd Park says  
the attitude of the H<sup>st</sup>  
to the Journal is killing  
Alice B. who she des-  
cribes as in a very mis-  
erable & unhappy con-  
dition - H<sup>st</sup> Park is  
indeignant at the H<sup>st</sup>  
These bankrupt con-  
dition they place to  
the door of the Journal  
evidently no blame  
attached to a \$6000 a  
yr. It goes for a store  
& sale of literature,  
For that is all the  
H<sup>st</sup> Aris seems to  
have degenerated into.  
Miss Shaw looks ill  
& unhappy - very wor-

too. The salary fund  
is exhausted unless  
the Carey, Thomas &  
Garrett Co collect some  
more we will see  
some consecrated ser-  
vices draw to a close.

Mrs B. said further  
that the Lady President  
was at odds with  
Miss Adams. It is  
is true it is poetic  
justice & I hope  
Miss Adams gets the  
best of the situation.

I did not speak to  
Miss Shaw — I know  
she waited for me  
to do it, but I never  
noticed her. She then  
came up when in  
line & shook hands  
with a most cordial

Aug 28, 1912 ✓



## THE GRAND HOTEL

LYMAN COLLINS, Prop.

Xenia, Ohio

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aid - I was polite - & nothing more - I resent the treatment - we received at - I'ville as fellow officers & as members of the Ass'n. and I will always resent the insulting way you were treated as the State Hostess & when the State's hospitality was so abused by the H. et.

I'm dying to have a talk with you. Are you going to Kansas via Cincinnati? Unless I can be of special service. How. & Fees. The campaign will

be over Sat. night -  
I will go down Sun.  
night - If you are  
to be in Sat. I can  
come over + spend  
a few hrs. leaving  
out the L.C. going  
South that night -  
but if you are  
coming to Cin. I  
can arrange to wait  
here. Of course if  
you are leaving  
from Richmond  
these suggestions will  
not be practical - so  
don't hesitate to say  
so, if inconvenient.

I want to talk about  
the Net. - the Miss.

Valley Conference +  
other things. kindest  
regards to your sister

Affectionately

Kate H. Gordon

Aug 5, 1912

# THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY

HEADQUARTERS: 411-413 RACE STREET

CINCINNATI, OHIO

President:

Mrs. Elliott H. Pendleton

Executive Secretary:

Miss Bettie Wilson

Treasurer:

Mrs. Frank H. Simpson

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Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. Samuel Allen

Mrs. Hamilton Bell

Mrs. Moses Bittenweiser

Miss Edith Campbell

Mrs. Arthur T. Cobb

Mrs. George Dittman

Mrs. Louise Eastman

Mrs. Henry N. Hooper

Mrs. Fenton Lawson

Miss Mary MacMillan

Miss Emilie McVea

Mrs. Bernard Pollak

Mrs. Carl Rankin

Mrs. E. R. Stearns

Mrs. A. G. Strong

Mrs. F. C. Tuttle

Mrs. Geo. B. Twichell

Mrs. Stephen Wilder

Mrs. John M. Withrow

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> - li  
My dear Mrs. Clay:  
I am disappointed  
not to find you here  
I was under the impression  
you were holding the  
for: + there seems to  
me to be need of better  
work in Cin. I think  
there is a crying need  
for some parlor meeting  
work for as far as I  
can judge there is  
too much dependence  
being placed on street  
meeting, but nothing being  
done to rouse the women  
of Cin. to take part. You  
know my faith in parlor  
meetings to make women  
see the light + there  
need in no way inter-  
fere with the street-  
vote getting meetings.



Would you be able to  
give any more time  
to work in Cinn.

With kindest - regards  
to you + your sisters  
Affectionately  
Kate Gordon

Richmond, Ky.

July 30th, 1913.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I have received both of your letters of recent date, and I answer first that of July 5th.

I am sure that any meeting to which you devote your thought will be useful; and I think the time has arrived when different sections should seek expression of suffrage views without too much reference to the convention of the N.A.W.S.A., which is becoming more and more a sectional organization. Therefore, I approve very cordially of your Governors' meeting, and I am authorized by my sisters, Mrs. Mary B. Clay, and Mrs. Sarah C. Bennett, to say that they, with myself, will sign the call as individuals, if you decide that you desire it. I am not empowered to promise for the Ky. W. S. A., and I am not able to promise that I shall attend the meeting, for the time in November which you have selected is just the time about which our Ky. W. S. A. annual convention is held. You know we are in the initial stage of a Constitutional Amendment, and all our forces must assist at this very important state convention. I have written to Mrs. Breckinridge that I approve of your plan; and I think it is likely because she is now arranging dates, etc., for our State convention that she has not yet answered your letter. If Mrs. Breckinridge decides to have the Ky. W. S. A. join in your call, I think you had better leave off the names of individuals in Kentucky.

I am so little of a newspaper woman that I cannot be of any assistance in the Southern syndicate suffrage letter.

Now as to your letter of the 23rd inst.

As chairman of the Membership Committee I am obliged to say that I think the Louisiana Woman Suffrage Party has complied with all the requirements prescribed by the Louisville Convention for additional auxiliaries in states. There can be no denying of the disturbing and disrupting effect of these additional auxiliaries; but after that point and other objections were fully pointed out, the convention voted that it should be allowed; and as a result there have been about a dozen duplicate or triplicate associations formed in states. It is thrown back upon each one of those states to form their own plan of co-operation with the auxiliaries for a state plan of work. I suppose it really does not make a great deal of difference in the more advanced states, because they are not depending any way upon advice or ~~assistance~~ assistance from the National.

I think in the N.A. . . S.A. convention in Washington there should be a full discussion of the form of U.S. constitutional amendment which the suffragists shall endorse. Personally, I believe the time has come when the politicians for their own advantage are going to champion the suffrage cause; and they will do this in Congress, as well as elsewhere. Therefore, if this amendment is not carried, some other congressional action will be taken; and I think there should be some serious agreement among the suffragists what we desire to have that action be. This is one reason I approve of your call of Southern governors. We ought to try to have the National Amendment accord with our sectional interests.

Since the different states are no longer supplying the money which the National Board is spending (except the legacies) I am not going to worry myself with trying to control the action of the Board. Whatever they can raise the money to do is just that much gain. However, I think we should turn our attention to having the

[July 30, 1913]

legacies spent in a way that will benefit all the states, and not let them go for New York rent, salaries, etc. I am going to ask for the return of the \$1000 I advanced out of the Bruce fund for Oklahoma. As we now have a campaign on in Ky. we need the money at home.

Let me hear how you come on. I really would not raise a fight about that Louisiana W.S. Party. Many of the states are suffering just like the State Asso. of Louisiana; and now that the additional societies all have votes in the convention I believe you would be defeated in any effort to curtail this duplication.

I am busy on my farm, which has been considerably neglected for suffrage campaigning in the last two years. Besides, I am doing some field work in view of our own desired amendment. As the weather has been nearly torrid, I am doing only what I am compelled to do each day.

Please remember me to your sisters, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Louisiana State Suffrage Association.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



"A government is not complete that withholds from its most enlightened citizens what it freely gives to its most benighted men."

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

New Orleans, July 5, 1913.

Miss Laura Clay,  
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

I have written to all the Southern State Presidents and to a few prominent women in each State, asking them if they would be willing to sign a Call for a Southern Governors' Meeting in New Orleans. I hope Kentucky will join in the Call, for I think we could make a very effective demand for the Southern States to fall in line and avoid the undesirable alternative of a constitutional amendment. If they will not do anything, then we can as Southern women work tooth and nail to get the enfranchised States to filibuster, if need be, the sixteenth amendment. I see in the situation a splendid opportunity for valuable agitation. So do sign and encourage Mrs. Desha Breckenridge to do so.

Was not the Illinois victory a glorious surprise?

Yours most cordially,

*Nate H. Gordon*

New Orleans, July 3, 1913.

Dear State President:

Do you think it possible for you to get one of your leading newspapers to pay for a syndicate Southern letter on woman suffrage. I find that the whole South is woefully ignorant of the history of woman suffrage, and a comparison of NOW and THEN, showing the improved status of woman seen in the light of comparison with the woman of fifty years ago, is of tremendous service in making converts, both of men and women.

Miss Anthony used to say that she considered Ida Husted Harper's weekly letters, that were carried on for a number of years in the New York Sun at Miss Anthony's expense, had a great deal to do with not only making converts, but in educating believers to enable them to argue the suffrage question.

My desire is to write a weekly letter and, if possible, make the newspapers pay for the expense of this suffrage work. The New Orleans Times Democrat will gladly take such a letter and, according to its editor, \$2.50 a week is a very reasonable sum to ask for it. If a number of papers in a State would pay for it, we could make it at a cheaper rate, but possibly one leading paper featuring it would do the greatest amount of good. If a sufficient number of papers would subscribe to it, I could afford to have experts, like Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Boyer, occasionally prepare letters.

I believe there is a Southern viewpoint that only a Southerner can give and which will give to these letters a local coloring that will be of value. Take, for instance, Maryland and Louisiana and the grandfather clause. What a wealth of opportunity is being lost in not showing up in both of these States how men of the politician type prefer to create an ignorant electorate rather than to enfranchise educated, intelligent women as the balance in preserving white supremacy! This very sixteenth amendment is another mine that we could exploit from a Southern viewpoint. The spreading of the information that Kentucky, a Southern State, was the first to accord to women the right to vote as human beings, on a democratic basis, when the State gave widows with children of school age the power to vote on school matters. Then there is the interesting information about Hannah Lee Corbin and the women of the counties of Rowan and Mecklenburg of North Carolina, and Margaret Brent-- all Southerners, who in Revolutionary times endorsed the principle of woman suffrage.

As I said before, a letter of comparison will, I think, be of extreme service to the movement in the South. Would you, therefore, personally see some of your leading editors and ask whether they would be willing to take such copy. They might test it for a month or six weeks. I think, however, it will require personal attention of local women to secure a reasonable number of papers.

Would you kindly let me hear from you as soon as possible upon these two points that are submitted in these two letters.

Yours cordially,

Kate M. Gordon,  
Pres., La. State Suffrage Ass'n.

Louisiana State Suffrage Association.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



"A government is not complete that withholds from its most enlightened citizens what it freely gives to its most benighted men."

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

New Orleans , July 23 1913.

My dear Miss Clay:

I want you to read my letter to Mrs. Dennett and her reply. The reason I wrote for a definition of the State's status was due to the fact that in a recent communication the Press Superintendent in asking whether I would accept some material for a Sunday write up in favor of the Ntl. Amendment writes that a similar communication had been sent Mrs. Meehan the woman who has made so much trouble in the State. I knew at the time that they had not received their ~~xxx~~ notification of acceptance into the Ntl. and I therefore think it strange that the Ntl recognize <sup>the</sup> the new association on equal terms with an association in good standing for so many years.

Now I want a ruling from the membership committee on the eligibility of this association for membership in the National. When the trouble was on I wrote Mrs. Dennett when I heard that they were eligible to membership in the Ntl and I said that according to the Louisville Constitution they wd. have to be refused by the State organization before they cd be eligible ~~xxxx~~ to the Ntl if my understanding of the situation was correct. She sent me a leaflet of the Constitution as amended at Philadelphia but it is the same thing in regard to Members as the Louisville Constitution. "Societies now auxiliary to our State Associations shall not be eligible to direct membership in the National unless they have been refused auxiliaryship in their states"; is the way it reads and I want to ask how this affects an organization which is made up of women who because they could not seize the control of the Era Club's money and name to exploit their own interests, after flagrant disloyalty to the club as officers and with deliberate misrepresentation of me as the State President, when they fail to carry their point, form another organization with a membership of the very lowest character and made up of the people who have been educated by the State Association. Their letters in the papers, their telling of the action of executive meetings has made them town talk. Now can such an organization, become auxiliary to the National, and be treated on an equal basis as the regular State organization? of course they have never asked to be auxiliary to the State, but that is what they want do, for they know the State Association will recognize them in order to prevent them getting National Auxiliaryship. My understanding of the clause was that any organization must have first been refused by the State organization before it could be admitted to the National, is the technicality of "Societies now" equally applicable to any organization formed in a state which does not apply to the State Organization.

It seems to me it is a very disrupting method of working and calculated to create cross purposes. Take for instance this Ntl Amendment. The Era Club tabled any action and agreed upon a line of passive resistance. Now the National recognizes the Woman Suffrage Party and it may be they will exploit it for the Lady who is interested in this feature of the work is the one that gave as her reason for <sup>leaving</sup> ~~not indorsing~~ the <sup>club</sup> the lack of militancy in the Era, and then in the

Louisiana State Suffrage Association.

July 23, 1913

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

"A government is not complete that withholds from its most enlightened citizens what it freely gives to its most benighted men."

THOMAS JEFFERSON.



newspapers describes the lack of militancy as shown in the failure of the club not turning out in parade to escort the Committee that went on to Washington last winter, and not meeting them with a band when they returned. Just made the Era Club the shaft of ridicule for all the yellow journals in the City. They have done such ridiculous things, and wrote such awful letters that they have defeated their purpose of disruption and I rather think they will die out. But that is not the point. What I want to know is whether an organization whether previously auxiliary to the State or not, can become directly auxiliary to the National when there has been no state application for membership. If this is the situation then I want to ~~make~~ give notice of an amendment to the Constitution.

Did you receive my letters. I have heard nothing from Mrs. Breckenridge but I ~~want you to~~ sign the Call from ~~KKK~~ Kentucky as an individual altho I would like very much if you could sign for the State. The states which will sign, are Texas, Tenn. *outgo* Louisiana, Miss. Georgia, Virginia, Oklahoma, with the Carolina's and Florida, Missouri ~~Maryland~~ and Kentucky yet to be heard from. Ask Mrs. Bennett if she will sign for the Governors to attend such a conference. I think the possibilities are tremendous.

I favor the suggestion made by Miss Ryan for an amendment to be offered for the Convention to decide where the next Convention will be held. At least to determine the locality if not the actual place of convention. It is unfair to let one part of the country control now that one woman, one vote represents the voting power.

I sent the other letter to the Lexington address, but will send this on to Richmond. Let me know what you think of the La. situation and then I will formally write the Committee.

Kindly remember me to your sisters,  
Very cordially,

Walter H. Gordon

Alabama signs - Do send me word that you & Mrs. Bennett see Jack etc. three days wd. be fine if you will but consent.



Richmond, Ky.

Oct. 10th, 1913.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I have received your letter urging us to come to New Orleans for the 10th and 11th of November; but I am very sorry that positively I cannot promise to come. Our State E.R.A. convnetion comes the very next week, and I have a great deal of preliminary work to do for the convention.

Besides, this is a very busy and important time in Kentucky. The women are going to vote for the first time for County Superintendents, and they will also vote on large school bonds in Louisville and Lexintton, and on other school questions in some of the smaller cities. The exercise of this right is going to prove an immense argument in our favor with those people who now believe that the polls will be a disorderly place for women to go with men. In all our school voting the women go to the same polls and at the same hours as the men. It must strike them that there is a distinction without a difference when the women have to cast one ballot for school questions, whilst the men cast that one and then another for other questions or officers.

I did so much enjoy seeing Miss Jean in Memphis. I suppose she has heard of the death of Mrs. Meriwether, which took place in New York, on the 27th of Sept.

I have heard from Mrs. Ellington that Miss Jean helped them greatly in Little Rock; and that they hope soon to have a state asso. in Arkansas.

Please give my regards to your sisters; and with the assurance that my heart will be with you at your conference, even if I cannot come myself, I am

1800 Prytanis Street,  
New Orleans, Nov. 21, 1913.

My dear Miss Clay:-

I do not know whether the Associated Press reports, notified you that you were elected Vice-President at Large of the "Southern Woman's Suffrage Conference". We all wanted you for President, but your letter was so definite on that point, I did not dare, but risked the Vice Presidency.

My idea is to humbug the Democratic Party, thro the State Central Committees, bring the pressure of the Democratic Party in the Enfranchised States to recognize that the Democratic Party and it alone is responsible for women in most of the southern states being kept out of their citizens rights. I will send Constitution and by-laws in a short time. I am only writing now to get your consent ~~in the amount~~ as Vice President, in order to have our stationery printed. Just slip ~~intoxxxx~~ into inclosed envelope a yes or no for time presses.

It was agreed by everyone at the convention after hearing the various points of view, that the movement is a flank movement, to aid the National. The Convention was a very great success. Far better than I had any reason to hope for. Representatives from Maryland, N. Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Miss. Arkansas Tennessee, Louisiana. Arkansas and N. Carolina represented their Governors.

I would have written this sooner and in detail, but I have been a sick & bed ldy. You will see Jeannie at the Convention. Mrs. Helen Gardner was magnificent. Mrs. Blatch failed us, Mr. B. was to be operated on.

Very cordially,  
Kate M. Gordon.

Louisiana State Suffrage Association.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



1800 Prytania St.,

New Orleans, Nov 6, 1913.

"A government is not complete that withholds  
from its most enlightened citizens what it freely gives  
to its most benighted men."

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

My dear Miss Clay:

I have read with great interest your letter. I wish I could feel like you-- that suffrage will be here for all of us in five years. There is but one way that I see wherein that could be possible, and that would be through every political party taking an active stand on the question.

I had already discussed with my committee the advisability of organizing a Southern States' right suffrage conference on the lines of the Mississippi Valley Conference, with no president and no constitution. I would rather have had a more complete organization, if I could have had you at the head of it. But I realize that your hands will be full with a campaign in prospect in Kentucky, and I imagine to take you out of Kentucky would remove the most active force in the State.

I am greatly interested in the clipping you sent me. I shall ask some legal advice and discuss this phase of the question at the conference. I would give anything under the sun if Mrs. Bennett could come and present it to us, and I am going to send her a telegram tonight to that effect and ask her to leave her friends for a while to the tender mercies of other members of the family and join us in our deliberations. I feel deeply the great danger of any mandatory amendment, unless we could make the Fifteenth Amendment only applicable for Federal elections. The discriminations against the South in more ways than one should make all of us hesitate to force a National Amendment, which can, if the lessons of the past are worth anything, be made to work very disadvantageously for a section. Not only from this viewpoint, but I view with alarm the reopening of all kinds of subterfuges resorted to to get around the negro woman voting. In the constitutions of the South, designed to preserve white supremacy, we have such an awful boomerang in the understanding and grandfather clauses. What excuse has kept us back at a rate that only those who are in touch with the situation can feel the influence of. It has been a veritable goal for literacy among the negroes and a goal for illiteracy on the part of the white, and, if in order to get around the same subject, woman suffrage has to be the excuse for a little more of crooked political conditions, I can see the point of view of the many who would regard it as a doubtful benefit. I, of course, want it at any cost, but, if in the meantime I can get the people of the South roused to see their duty, that seems to me to be the most important thing before me today. But it is a disheartening job at best.

I do not expect to go to the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

I would be delighted to be with you all in Louisville and enjoy your State convention. Many thanks for your kind invitation to be your guest.

Cordially yours,

Dict., but not read.

Kate M. Gordon per L.C.

November 25, 1913.

Miss Kate M. Gordon,  
1800 Prytania St.,  
New Orleans, La.

My Dear Miss Gordon:

I have just received your letter of November 21 st.

Yes, I saw the Associated Press account of your conference and was just awaiting a letter from you to say that I accept with pleasure the vice-presidency at large.

I returned last evening from a very successful State Convention, in Louisville. In view of the state's rights movement, and at the same time to avoid any conflict with the plans of the N. A. W. S. A. the convention passed a resolution something like this: "Resolved, that the Kentucky Equal Rights Association request the Kentucky U. S. Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their efforts to secure the right of women to vote for U. S. Senators and Representatives by appropriate national legislation".

"~~He~~ will send this letter promptly to our Kentucky Congressmen and later to all. I hope the Kentucky delegation to Washington will see many of our representatives there. We ~~will~~ believe a pressure for Federal suffrage will help us to get state suffrage and at the same time will not conflict with the states rights idea. I am glad to know that Miss Jeanne will be in Washington. My hotel will be Hotel Gordon, 16th and Eye Sts., Mrs. Breckinridge's will be Pohowtan. I am very sorry you are not coming. I am delighted to know that your conference was a success. I believe you have a great idea and that you are able to work it out to good effect. Please remember me to your sisters and believe me,

Very cordially yours,