

part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.

He has compelled her to submit to laws in the formation of which she had no voice.

He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men—both natives and foreigners.

Having deprived her of this first right of a citizen, the elective franchise, thereby leaving her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides.

He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law civilly dead.

He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns.

He has made her, morally, an irresponsible being, as she can commit many crimes with impunity, provided they be done in the presence of her husband. In the covenant of marriage she is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, he becoming to all intents and purposes her master—the law giving him power to deprive her of her liberty, and to administer chastisement.

He has so framed the laws of divorce, as to what shall be the proper causes of divorce; in case of separation, to whom the guardianship of the children shall be given, as to be wholly regardless of the happiness of women—the law, in all cases, going upon a false supposition of the supremacy of man, and giving all power into his hands.

After depriving her of all rights as a married woman, if single and the owner of property he has taxed her to support a government which recognizes her only when her property can be made profitable to it.

He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow she receives but a scanty remuneration.

He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction which he considers most honorable to himself. As a

teacher of theology, medicine, or law she is not known.

He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education—all colleges being closed against her.

He allows her in church, as well as state, but a subordinate position, claiming apostolic authority for her exclusion from the ministry, and, with some exceptions, from any public participation in the affairs of the church.

He has created a false public sentiment, by giving to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society are not only tolerated but deemed of little account in man.

He has usurped the prerogative of Jehovah himself, claiming it as his right to assign for her a sphere of action, when that belongs to her conscience and to her God.

He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life.

Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation—in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.

In entering upon the great work before us we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and ridicule; but we shall use every instrumentality within our power to effect our object. We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the State and national legislatures, and endeavor to enlist the pulpit and the press in our behalf. We hope this convention will be followed by a series of conventions, embracing every part of the country.

Firmly relying upon the final triumph of the right and the true, we do this day affix our signatures to this declaration.

Signed by sixty-eight women and thirty-two men, among whom are many names conspicuous in the history of our country.

National Suffrage Bulletin

VOL. I., No. 3

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1895

25C. PER YEAR

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

BY
ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
OF**National-American Woman Suffrage Association**

183 World Building, New York

Entered as second-class matter at New York Post Office

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THE BULLETIN goes free of cost to all presidents of States, to all presidents of local clubs, and to all who have contributed \$50 or more to the organization fund. All other who desire to receive it may do so by paying 25 cents per annum.

We publish in this issue of THE BULLETIN the famous Woman's Declaration of Independence. It is well to have it read at the Stanton celebrations, but it should be accompanied by a brief recital of the conditions which led up to it, as outlined in the September number. It has a little too much the tone of a declaration of war upon men to please the present generation, and might excite

antagonisms without explanations. This was a very natural conclusion at the time it was written, but under the influence of the new thought of our own day all true suffragists realize that existing conditions are the result of inheritance, and the men of this generation are no more to be blamed for them than are women. Together we have inherited the false ideas and together we must work for better and wiser conditions.

The Rochester Political Equality Club has inaugurated a series of eight social entertainments for the winter season. These will be entirely separate from the regular business sessions of the club. They include a yellow tea, a Stanton anniversary, a Lucretia Mott anniversary, a Susan B. Anthony anniversary, a banquet and a "character party." We have neglected the social element far too long in our work and the example of Rochester is certainly encouraging. This kind of work would prove especially valuable in the largest cities, and it is hoped many other clubs will at least try the experiment of one social undertaking.

A "Character Party" as outlined by the Rochester Club invites all guests to appear in costume, or with some token whereby they may be known in the character of some man or woman who has now a name as a pioneer in the field of reform. Such a program is capable of infinite variety and might well result in much instruction as well as pleasure. The records of the centuries are filled with illustrious names of those who have sacrificed self to principle. To see them gathered in one assembly should be an

inspiring vision. Are there not other clubs who will give such a party? If you do, do not fail to "pass the hat"

Delaware and West Virginia are the two States remaining unorganized. In November a tour through each will be taken by Rev. Henrietta G. Moore and Miss Mary G. Hay. They will travel together; Rev. Moore will be the orator and Miss Hay the organizer.

A few days ago, in Los Angeles, the fourth annual session of the Woman's Parliament of Southern California took place. One feature of the programme was a symposium on Woman Suffrage. It was stated in so unique a manner that we give it below and recommend it heartily for conventions, social or public meetings. If each speaker will adhere to her topic, a more powerful or practical argument could not be produced.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

- Does the Wife need it?
 - Does the Mother need it?
 - Does the Unmarried Woman need it?
 - Does the Working Woman need it?
 - Does the Business Woman need it?
 - Does the Professional Woman need it?
 - Does the State need it?
- Time limit on each paper, ten minutes.

The hotel headquarters for the New York City celebration of the Stanton birthday, under the auspices of the National Council, will be at the Vendome. Already messages are received from many of the pioneers of woman's progress, announcing their intention to be present. It will be an occasion long to be remembered by all witnesses, and will, without doubt, be the last opportunity to see congregated together so many of our noble leaders.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EXCHANGE.

The Organization Committee, in the hope of raising more funds for its work, has established a Christmas Shopping Exchange. Arrangements have been made with the leading stores of New

York City to give us a small per cent. on the sales we secure. If large orders are obtained, as we hope, there will be a handsome profit for our work. On the other hand, our Exchange is prepared to serve our friends in a most desirable way. A few ladies have agreed to give their entire time from now until Christmas to this work. They will conscientiously strive to please and satisfy all customers. They are accustomed to shopping, and know where the best things are to be purchased for the least money. They are well posted upon the latest fashions, and will select, when required, the latest novelties in dress and dress furnishings. The customer will pay no more than she would do if she were to visit the store herself. It will save her the trouble and time, and will give her the benefit of the judgment and assistance of experienced shoppers. Very many kinds of articles are cheaper in New York than elsewhere, while a greater variety renders shopping here always desirable. In the small towns what woman has not experienced the sensation of seeing the woman most disagreeable to her clad in a gown cut from the same piece as her own? All this can be avoided by patronizing our agency. We can purchase anything, from a baby's rattle to a bicycle. Wearing apparel of all kinds, ribbons, laces, embroideries, white goods, carpets, curtains, draperies, furniture, toys, books, music, are a few of the things which we are quite sure we can secure at a reduction to the customer.

In sending orders we ask you to be as explicit as possible. If it is a dress, for example, give us the color you prefer, the quantity of goods and the amount you wish to pay. If you desire to have prices quoted to you and correspondence is necessary we shall expect you to provide postage. We ask you always to send cash in advance, as we must pay cash for all we buy in order to secure our commission. Of course you cannot tell always how much would be required, but you can specify the most you are willing to pay for an article and the least you hope to get it for. Send enough to cover the larger price. At a distance from New York postage or express will have to be borne by the customer, and there should always

be money enough to prepay it. Our shoppers will do the best that can be done for you and will return the money not needed with scrupulous honesty. You can put your Christmas shopping in their hands and they will endeavor to satisfy you. If you will tell us what kind of persons you wish to remember with Christmas presents, how much you are willing to pay for each, they will do their best to purchase for you. We do not wish to have very small orders. We prefer a club would solicit from their members and friends several orders which can be sent together and which will make a whole day's shopping. In this way you can help us. We await your orders and trust we may prove of mutual benefit to each other. Send orders to Miss Jessie I. Cassidy, 703 Nostrand avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., and make all post-office orders and checks payable to her. She will take entire charge of the Exchange.

The Organization Committee has in preparation a woman suffrage calendar for 1896. We have designed them in the expectation that the friends of the cause would purchase them for Christmas gifts. Everyone has a list of friends, always remembered by some small and inexpensive token. To meet this demand we offer our calendars. They will prove a gift no one need feel ashamed to offer and all will be glad to receive. They will consist of a dainty card bearing in the foreground the heads of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott, together with the church in which was held the first "Woman's Rights" convention. The background will contain a bunch of sunflowers printed in three colors, yellow, green and brown. The heads and calendar will be printed in brown. Each month will bear an appropriate suffrage motto. The whole calendar will be suspended by a handsome yellow silk cord and tassel. They are dainty and artistic, and we feel we can guarantee the approval of all who purchase. We expect to sell them at 25 cents each, postpaid. We await your orders. Pay your Christmas debts this year by helping the organization work at the same time. Why not?

THE WOMAN'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

ADOPTED AT THE FIRST WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION, HELD AT SENECA FALLS IN 1848.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it, to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they were accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of the women under this government, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the