

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Convention

OF

The Kentucky Equal
Rights Association

HELD AT

Trinity Church

Covington, Ky.

October 17-18, 1901 + 1902

Page 21

"If Ye Abide in My Word * * * Ye Shall Know
the Truth and the Truth Shall Make you Free."

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1901-1902

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LEXINGTON, KY.

1903.

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—OF—

THE KENTUCKY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

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MISS LAURA CLAY.....Lexington, Ky.

First Vice-President.

MRS. MARY B. CLAY.....Richmond, Ky.

Second Vice-President.

MRS. MARY CRAMER.....Lexington, Ky.

Third Vice-President.

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Corresponding Secretary.

MISS ANNA MILLER.....Louisville, Ky.

Recording Secretary.

MRS. EMMA ROEBUCK, 112 West Front St.....Newport, Ky.

Treasurer.

MRS. ISABELLA SHEPARD.....Covington, Ky.

SUPERINTENDENTS.

Bible Study.

MRS. ELLEN V. GIBSON.....Richmond, Ky.

Press Work.

MRS. L. C. OBENCHAIN.....Bowling Green Ky.

National Enrollment and Petition Work.

MRS. S. M. HUBBARD.....Hickman, Ky.

Work Among Young People.

MRS. JOHN BURK.....Newport, Ky.

Advancement of Women's Work.

MISS ANNA MORGAN.....Newport, Ky.

Political Study.

MRS. A. M. HARRISON.....Lexington, Ky.

Literature.

MRS. SUSAN LOOK AVERY.....Louisville, Ky.

Educational Opportunities for Women.

MRS. CAROLINE LEECH.....Louisville, Ky.

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF
The Kentucky Equal Rights Association,
TRINITY CHURCH, COVINGTON, KY.

October 17th and 18th.

1901.

THURSDAY, 9 A. M.

Opening Executive Committee Meeting.

The President, Miss Laura Clay in the Chair.

The Committee adopted the following recommendations as a plan of work for the ensuing year.

1. That we endeavor to secure for all women in the State the same privileges of school suffrage now enjoyed by women in cities of the second class.
2. That a conference be held between the legislative committee of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association, and the legislative committees of the State Federation of Clubs, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, that we may cooperate in working for those measures the three organizations are alike interested in.
3. That we work for presidential suffrage for women.
4. That we endeavor to secure legislative action making mandatory the appointment of not less than three women on the Board of Control of State College.
5. That we endeavor to secure any suffrage for tax-paying women that may be constitutional.
6. That we endeavor to secure women on the Boards of all reformatory, punitive and philanthropic State institutions.
7. That we continue to press the claims of mothers for an equal co-guardianship with fathers over minor children.

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Morning Session.

The convention opened at ten o'clock with devotional exercises, lead by the President, Miss Clay.

The Recording Secretary, Mrs. Rose Wiggins being absent, Mrs. Alice Carpenter of Lexington was made Recording Secretary, *pro tem*.

The Committee on Credentials was appointed.

The courtesies of the floor were extended to all members of Kentucky Equal Rights Association present.

The printed program was made the orders of the day.

The convention enthusiastically welcomed our National President, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, and received much inspiration from her presence.

Mrs. A. E. Ellis appointed to arrange to have Mrs. Catt address the pupils of the High School Friday morning.

A number of fraternal delegates from Cincinnati were introduced. Their presence and assistance in the discussions added greatly to the interest of the convention.

The reports of the various superintendents were read and fully discussed.

It was voted that we try to secure co-education at the new consolidated Presbyterian College at Danville. The matter was referred to Plan of Work Committee.

It was voted that a special effort be made to secure a Department of Domestic Science at the State College.

A delightful message of greeting was read from Miss Anna Miller of Louisville.

The Convention adjourned.

Thursday Afternoon Session.

The Convention met at 2 p. m.

After devotional exercises and the reading of the minutes of the morning session, the recommendation of the Plan of Work Committee were read and fully discussed.

The recommendations were adopted.

Mrs. Catt addressed the Convention.

Mrs. Shrader of Ohio, spoke on How to Promote Interest in Woman's Suffrage.

W. A. S. I.
W. T. U.

Mrs. Drucker, Mrs Sachs, Mrs. Suell, Mrs. McCall, Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Walker were introduced and spoke helpfully along the lines of school suffrage.

A letter was read from Mrs. Geo. Avery, President of Federation of Clubs in Kentucky, pledging the hearty co-operation of the Clubs in the effort to secure full school suffrage.

Fraternal delegates were introduced from the Susan B. Anthony Club of Cincinnati.

The Convention adjourned.

Second Day, Friday, 10 A. M.

Devotional Exercises conducted by Miss Morgan.

Minutes read and approved.

The reports of the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary were made and adopted.

Mrs. Sallie Clay Bennet was reappointed chairman of Federation Suffrage Committee.

It was voted that it was the sense of the Convention that the size of the National Executive Committee should be reduced by dropping the State member..

Is was voted that the Legislative Committee be composed of the general officers.

The news of the death of our valued friend and co-worker, Mr. Hubbard of Hickman, was received with sadness and was felt as a great loss to the work. The Corresponding Secretary was directed to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. S. M. Hubbard.

The following pledges for money to carry on the State work were given:

Mr. George Handy.....	\$ 8.00
Mrs. Hubbard.....	5.00
Mrs. Sallie Bennet.....	10.00
Madison Co. E. R. A.....	10.00
Miss Laura Clay.....	25.00
Mrs. Mary B. Clay.....	6 00
Newport E. R. A.....	5.00
Mrs Giltner.....	3.00
Twentieth Century Club.....	5.00
Mrs. Wolcott.....	1.00

Making a total of 78.00



The following officers were unanimously elected.

President, Miss Laura Clay.

First Vice President, Mrs. Mary B. Clay.

Second Vice-President, Mrs. Mary Cramer.

Third Vice-President, Mrs. McLaughlin.

Recording Secretary, Mr. Emma Roebuck.

Corresponding Secretary, Miss Anna Miller.

Treasurer, Mrs. Isabella Sheperd..

The following Superintendents were elected.

Bible Study, Mrs. Ellen V. Gibson.

Press Work, Mrs. L. C. Obenchain.

National Enrollment and Petition Work, Mrs J. M. Hubbard.

Work Among Young People, Mrs. John Burke.

Advancement of Woman's Work in Schools, Miss Anna Morgan.

Political Study, Mrs. A. M. Harrison.

Literature, Mrs. Susan Look Avery.

Educational Opportunities for Women, Mrs. Caroline Leech.

The Auditing Committee reported they found the Treasurer's report correct.

The Convention adjourned.

Friday Afternoon.

Devotional Exercises conducted by Miss Clay.

Minutes read and approved.

Mrs. Mary Light Ogle read an able paper on Taxation.

Mrs. Harriet Brown Stanton of Cincinnati, gave an able address urging more intelligent activity on the part of suffragists.

Greetings read from the Women's Missionary Union of Newport.

The following delegates to the National Convention were appointed:

DELEGATES.

Prof. and Mrs. Giltner.

Mrs. Obenchain.

Mrs. Trimble.

Mrs. Ellis.

ALTERNATES.

Mrs. Gibson.

Mr. Mary Clay.

Miss Laura Bruce.

Mrs. Cramer.

WASU

WASU

A vote of thanks was tendered the Twentieth Century Club for their hospitable entertainment of the Convention, to Miss Zimmerman for her delightful solos and to Prof. La Vassar, the Pianist.

The Convention adjourned.

Night Sessions, Thursday 8 o'clock.

Miss Laura Clay delivered her Annual Address in which she explained in detail the need of the proposed legislation and aroused much enthusiasm by her masterly presentation of the subject.

Judge James Tarvin made a happy speech in which he spoke of the present law relating to the guardianship of children as a blot on our civilization and a relic of barbarism. Judge Tarvin gracefully introduced Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt who gave an address of remarkable strength and beauty.

Delightful music was a feature of the evening's program.

Friday Night, 8 o'clock.

Judge Pryor introduced Mrs. Catt who again spoke to a delighted audience.

REPORTS.

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Circular letters have been sent to every Equal Rights Association in the State setting forth plans of work and giving suggestions.

Letters were written to friends over the State soliciting contributions to the National Bazaar Work.

Much literature has been distributed.

Dr. Frances Wood and Miss Clay made a lecture tour over the State greatly strengthening old organizations and forming new ones. They visited Barboursville and organized with Mrs. M. A. Tinsley as President. Lancaster organized with Mrs. W. O. Bradley, President; Mrs. Mary R. Patterson as Treasurer.

They held a public meeting in Richmond. Dr. Woods being sick, Miss Clay went alone to Ashland and made an address in the Christian Church. Organized with Mrs. Davis as President and Miss Laura White as Treasurer. Dr. Woods spoke in Lexington to a delighted audience. Several new members were added. Miss Hallie Herndon arranged for a meeting at Frankfort but no organization was made. Spoke in Arlington, Paducah, Louisville, Covington and Newport.

As a result of the fine work done by Mrs. Obenchain and the lectures that have been made over our State on woman suffrage, we notice a very marked growth in public sentiment for our cause. Space permits only the briefests *resume* of the reports from the various associations.

PANUCAH.

A helpful lecture from Dr. Woods. Dues promptly paid; literature distributed.

LANCASTER.

This Association was organized by Miss Clay and Dr. Frances E. Woods, with the following officers: President, Mrs. W. O. Bradley; Vice-President, Mrs. Margaret Gill; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary R. Patterson; Secretary, Mrs. B. F. Walter; Dues are promptly paid.

ARLINGTON

Reports the loss by death of their beloved and able President, Mrs. Stanley. They have distributed literature and have encouraged the discussion of women suffrage by the young people in the schools. The membership has been gratifyingly increased and dues paid. Dr. Woods lectured.

MRS. M. B. McCONNELL, Secretary.

RICHMOND

Reports a membership of 61. Much interest aroused by lectures by Dr. Woods. Literature distributed.

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB OF COVINGTON

Reports an increase of 25 members as a result of the work of Dr. Woods. Weekly meetings were held. Made special effort to secure a woman's name on the ticket for Members of Board of Education. Appointed a special committee to ascertain what percentage of taxes are paid by women in Covington.

MRS. N. S. McLAUGHLIN, Secretary.

BOWLING GREEN

Reports literature distributed and dues promptly paid, Donation sent to Bazaar at New York.

MRS. L. OBENCHAIN, President.

NEWPORT

Reports literature distributed and a gain in membership as a result of Dr. Woods' lecture. A large registration of women voters. Circulated a petition against the licensing of vice in the Philippines and obtained a large number of signatures. This petition was sent to President McKinley.

MISS ANNIE B. MORGAN, Secretary.

FAYETTE

Reports the holding of successful open meetings and a very marked increase in membership. A committee was sent to Frankfort to request Governor Beckham to retain Dr. Louis Bergman as assistant in the Eastern Asylum for the Insane and to promote her to the place of second

(7)

assistant. Special effort made to increase the registration of women voters. Three thousand registered. Literature distributed. Contribution made to the National Bazaar. Dr. Woods and Mrs. Ida Withers Harrison lectured and much good resulted.

MISS LAURA CLAY, Secretary.

KENTON COUNTY E. R. A.

Pays dues promptly. Increase in membership and in interest.

BARBOURVILLE

Sends dues. Distributes literature.

HICKMAN

Sends dues. Distributes literature.

REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

PRESS WORK.

Mrs. Lide Obenchain, Bowling Green, Superintendent, reports 33 papers in our State that publish suffrage articles. These are the leading ones in the State. Urges the appointment of local press superintendents who shall co-operate with the State Superintendents. Asks friends of suffrage to help in the work of getting good suffrage matter in the press. Urges Kentucky men and woman to write articles on woman's suffrage over their own signatures that their influence may be for our cause. Expresses a special desire that all our college papers may have frequent contributions. Expresses hearty appreciation for valuable assistance received from Mr. Geo. Handy of Harrodsburg. Over five hundred suffrage articles have appeared in the press of our State during the past year.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMAN'S WORK.

Miss Anna Morgan, Newport, Ky read a full report showing marked gain all over the world in privileges accorded to women.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Mrs. Caroline Leach of Louisville, Superintendent, reports that in the Medical School of the University of Kentucky, a woman has been admitted with the promise from the Dean that he will stand by her if objections arise. This practically will mean the opening of all Medical Schools in Kentucky to women.

Written reports were not received from other Superintendents.

REPORT OF TREASURER KENTUCKY

BY RECEIPTS.

1899-1900.

To Balance		\$ 87 73
Donation from Laura Clay for Mrs. Catt's Lecture at Convention of 1899		25 00
Salary Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary B. Clay.....	\$2.50	
" " " " Morton75	
" " " " Gibson	3.50	
" " " " Loughridge60	
" " " " Bruce	5.00	
" " " " S. C. Bennett ...	5.00	
" " " " Thornton	2.00	
" " " " Madison County Asso'n..	6.50	
" " " " Miss Belle Bennett....	5.00	30 85
Donation, Miss Laura Clay for Press Work.....		10 00
Pledge of \$50 to H. A. W. S. A. (Mrs. Hubbard \$15 paid last year)		
" \$50 to Mrs. S. C. Bennett.....	\$30.00	
Mrs. W. W. Trimble	5 00	35 00
Mrs. Susan L, Avery for State Work		2 00
Donation, Friend		5 00
" Newport E. R, Association for Press Work.....		6 40
" Mrs. Geo. Handy.....		8 00
Annual Dues Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Handy.....		2 00
" " Local Associations: Lexington	\$11.20	
" " " " Richmond	21.00	
" " " " Newport	2.80	
Covington: Twentieth Century Club	2.45	
" Kenton County Equal Rights Association,	1.65	39 10
Total		\$226 08

1900-1901.

To Balance		\$94 33
Appropriations by N. A. W. S. A. for State Work, Dr. Woods		70 00
Donation, Miss Laura Clay.....		21 40
Receipts from Collections: Barboursville	\$6.07	
Richmond.....	4.40	
Arlington.....	1.78	
Louisville.....	1.95	14 20
Miss Laura White, for State Work.....		10 00
Mrs. Hubbard for State Work		5 00
Miss Laura Clay, Sale of Leaflets.....		25
Donation, Mr. Geo. Handy		8 00
Annual Dues, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Handy		2 00
" " Local Associations: Arlington.....	\$ 3.15	
Ashland	2.45	
Barboursville	2.10	
Bowling Green.....	4.00	
Covington { 20th Cent. Club.....	16.45	
Kenton Co. Asso'n..	3.15	
Hickman	2.25	
Lancaster	2.10	
Louisville	7.35	
Lexington	29.05	
Newport.....	3.85	
Paducah.....	2.75	
Richmond.....	21.35	100 00
Total.....		\$ 325 18

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

DISBURSEMENTS.

1899-1900.

By Mrs. Catt	\$ 25 00
Error in entry of amount paid to N. A. W. S. A. for '99.....	60
Appropriations: Postage, etc. Corresponding Secretary.....	5 00
" Work among Young People, Mrs. Grinstead,	3 00
" Press Work, Mrs. Obenchain	5 00
" Recording Secretary	1 00
" Traveling Expenses same.....	1 85
Mrs. Obenchain	16 40
Salary Corresponding Secretary	41 35
Printing Minutes	10 00
Annual Dues to N. A. W. S. A.....	11 10
Revenue Stamps.....	20
Printing Programs.....	1 25
Balance	94 33

Total\$ 226 08

1900-1901.

For State Work, Dr. Frances Woods, etc.....	\$ 105 60
Rent of Hall and Cards, Louisville.....	6 75
Mrs. Obenchain for Press Work	20 00
Salary to Corresponding Secretary.....	68 65
Annual Dues to N. A. W. S. A.....	28 70
Balance	95 48

Total\$ 325 18

KENTUCKY REPORT.

National Convention at Minneapolis Kentucky sent five delegates.

Miss Laura Clay, First National Auditor.

Miss Laura Bruce Lexington.

Mrs. Mary Cramer, Lexington.

Mrs. Sarah Clay Bennet, Richmond.

Mrs. Mary B. Clay, Richmond.

Kentucky pledged one hundred dollars to the National for the coming year. Respectfully submitted,

MARY B. CLAY, First Vice President E. R. A.

REPORT OF THE FRANKFORT COMMITTEE.

The Convention having voted that the Executive Committee should take in charge the Legislative work, as Chairman I went to Frankfort on January 14 in the interest of the bills of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association, and during the session I spent several weeks in that City. The measures decided upon by the State Convention were Presidential Suffrage for women, Co-guardianship for minor children, women trustees for the State College, and the extension of School Suffrage. As is already known, no success attended our efforts. Hon. V. H. Baird introduced the Co-guardianship bill in the House and Senator R. E. Puryear in the Senate. Hon. Chas. S. Searcy introduced the bill for women trustees for the State College in the House. Until this Session, the efforts of the Frankfort Committee had always failed to find any one to introduce the Presidential Suffrage bill. It was something of a success therefore, that this time Senator J. L. Whitehead introduced the bill which came to its second reading, and received the votes of seven senators, viz: C. H. Dye, B. L. Huntsman, A. T. Howard, T. L. Kirk, J. P. Huff, J. W. Cotton, J. L. Whitehead. The mention of this bill in the newspapers attracted the attention of the Anti-Suffrage Society of Massachusetts, and for what I believe is the first time, they sent their little newspaper, The Remonstrance, to our Legislators.

The principal effort of the Frankfort Committee was devoted to resisting the repeal of School Suffrage for the women of the second-class cities.

The members of the Equal Rights Association in Covington and Newport made very earnest efforts to defeat the Klair Bill.

The Woman's Club and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union all over our State worked faithfully to retain the School Suffrage. It is regretted that we have not a detailed record of the splendid service done by these organizations outside of Lexington.

IN LEXINGTON

A joint committee appointed from the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Fayette Equal Rights Association was selected to devise means to prevent the repeal of

the clause in the charter of cities of the second class granting school suffrage to women. This committee in turn selected a general committee of one hundred. The Executive Committee consisted of Miss Laura Clay, Mrs. Magdeline Mc Dowell Breckinridge, Mrs. Frances Beauchamp, Mrs. Louise Bewley, Mrs. Minor Simpson, Mrs. Ida Harrison, Mrs. Eugenia Dunlap Potts, Mrs. Mary C. Roark. Special editions of the Herald were issued filled with high testimonials from the most prominent men in Lexington, regarding the value of women's services on the Board of Education, and the advantage of women's voice in the control of the school.

The following memorial was sent to each member of the General Assembly and published in the press of the State.

**MEMORIAL OF THE WOMEN OF LEXINGTON ON THE RETENTION
OF THE SCHOOL SUFFRAGE.**

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

With an abiding faith in your sense of justice and in the belief that your devotion to the highest good of our citizens transcends all other considerations, we, a committee of one hundred, representing the intelligent and home-loving women of Lexington, do respectfully ask that the law granting school suffrage to women in cities of the second class be retained. In support of this plea, we submit the following considerations:

I. The law, in its present form, has resulted in an awakened educational interest on the part of all the citizens, and in consequent improved conditions in the schools themselves. The highest authority in Lexington may be quoted to prove this statement. Superintendent Wm. Rogers Clay, in his report to the Board of Education at the close of the first year of women's service on the School Board, says: "At no time in the history of our schools have our teachers worked with greater energy and faithfulness." And again he reports: "I am glad to be able to say that work of the past year (1900) was exceptionally good." "I have visited the schools in other States and have never seen our discipline excelled."

II. In this, as in all other American cities, a very large majority of the teachers are women and these should have the advantage of sympathetic council and direction from members of their own sex.

III. As education is a public trust, it is perhaps the highest duty of the law-making body of the Commonwealth to create conditions that shall conserve the physical, intellectual and moral health of the children of the State, since upon these rest the safety and soundness, even the perpetuity of the State itself. Who can be more interested, who is so much interested in the welfare of children as the mothers?

This interest, seeking every opportunity to do the children good, would manifest itself at the voting booth in the election of those best fitted to administer the schools to whose care the children must be com-

mitted for the greater part of the day. The mothers yield their children, when they are at the most impressionable age, to the public schools. It is manifestly right that they should have a voice in the selection of those who manage and control the schools.

IV. As members of the Board of Education, women, who constitute the majority of the intelligent leisure class of every community, have besides the incentive of their deep interest in the children, much better opportunities than men to visit the schools, to inspect there the sanitary conditions of plumbing, water supply, heating and ventilating, and to acquaint themselves with and correct wrong methods of teaching and disciplining pupils, and to rectify any other defects of educational policy that may appear.

V. Throughout our own State the interest of women in the condition of our schools is deepening. The Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization representing five thousand women, at their annual meeting in Bowling Green last summer instructed their committee on education to present a bill to this Legislature asking for an extension of school suffrage to all women in this State. Other State organizations of women equally strong earnestly favor this progressive movement.

Unprejudiced testimony to the splendid results of school suffrage in communities in all parts of our nation where it has had the best opportunity to show its value is found in Volume II. (1895) of the report of Hon. W. T. Harris, National Commissioner of Education. Inquiries regarding the influence of women upon the schools were sent to the State Superintendents of those States granting full school suffrage to their women. A few typical statements from their replies are here quoted. The State Superintendent of Michigan says; "No intelligent man in Michigan, who has the best interests of schools at heart, has any desire to deprive women of this right."

The State Superintendent of Minnesota says: "In several of our cities ladies have been members of boards of education and have shown good business qualifications and have exerted an elevating influence upon the school boards and the schools themselves."

The State Superintendent of Wisconsin says: "Women have made efficient school officers and the State and the school system have certainly gained by the extension of these privileges to woman."

The State Superintendent of Kansas says: "Kansas has had for a number of years a law permitting women to vote and be voted for by members of school boards. No objections have ever been raised against their voting. The mother, having a more tender feeling for her offspring, has been brought in contact with the workings of the schools and as a result her interest has gone out from the home to the schools, and consequently the schools have been made better."

From Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Connecticut and many other

States come equally commendatory expressions of the results of women's participation in the school elections.

Can it be justly said that the women of Lexington whose work in the establishing and maintenance of a splendid free library, free hospital, orphan's homes and innumerable other public institutions, is known throughout the State and outside of its bounds, are not competent to exercise as beneficent an influence upon public education as have the women in these States cited above? Since when and by what means have Kentucky women become more indiffent to duty or have become less capable of discharging it than the women of Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, Wyoming and Minnesota?

The repeal of the law granting school suffrage to women in cities of the second class would be a marked reflection on the intelligence and public spirit of Kentucky women. We appeal to you, the honored legislators of Kentucky, selected to guard the best interests of all the citizens, to protect the women of Lexington in their right of school suffrage.

Mrs. John Reid.	Mrs. Louisa Bruce.	Mrs. Charlton Morgan.
Mrs. Sarah H. Allen.	Mrs. Helen J. Berryman.	Mrs. H. H. Gratz.
Mrs. Laura F. Shropshire.	Mrs. Wood G. Dunlap.	Miss Ella Williams.
Miss Lizzie Halstead.	Miss Anna F. Didlake.	Miss Sue B. Scott.
Mrs. J. W. McGarvy.	Mrs. Lewis F. Burton.	Miss Nannie Bush.
Mrs. V. M. Alexander.	Mrs. Stanley Milward.	Miss Margaret Shaw.
Miss Eva C. Stevenson.	Mrs. Mary D. Short.	Mrs. Wellington Payne.
Mrs. M. B. Saunders.	Mrs. Wm. J. Loughridge	Mrs Wallace Searles.
Mrs. N. C. Terrill.	Miss Mattie Hutchinson.	Miss Katherine Pettit.
Miss Mary D. Sharpe.	Miss Annie McElhinny.	Mrs. George Denny.
Mrs. M. A. Ballard.	Mrs. M. H. Hodges.	Mrs. George Didlake.
Mrs. Carrie Hanson.	Mrs. M. E. Robinson.	Miss Lillie Robinson.
Miss Anna Totten.	Mrs. John M. Clay.	Mrs. Jere Morton.
Mrs. Susan Shelby.	Mrs. Robt. Berry.	Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp
Mrs. Harrison Garman.	Mrs. Wm. Threlkeld.	Mrs. M. A. Harrison.
Mrs. G. A. DeLong.	Mrs. Virgil McClure.	Mrs. J. C. Taylor.
Mrs. Sarah Rogers.	Miss Laura Rogers.	Mrs. James Todd.
Mrs. Mat Walton.	Mrs. James White.	Mrs. Wickliffe Preston.
Mrs. R. G. Elliott.	Mrs. M. J. Durham.	Mrs. Lee Huffman.
Mrs. Hart Boswell.	Mrs. Elizabeth Scott.	Mrs. Alex G. Dunlap.
Mrs. Thomas Bradley.	Mrs. Fannie Barnes.	Mrs. Roger Williams.
Dr. Julia Washburn.	Mrs. Ella F. Williamson.	Mrs. Edith Cox.
Mrs. James P. Headly.	Mrs. D. G. Falconer.	Mrs. S. R. West Marshall.
Mrs. T. B. Hay.	Mrs. G. W. Darnall.	Mrs. A. S. Winston.
Mrs. Shelby T. Harbison.	Mrs. Wilbur R. Smith.	Mrs. Clarence Egbert.
Mrs. J. Withers Smith.	Miss Zelinda Neville.	Mrs. J. A. Stucky.
Mrs. Clarence Mathews.	Mrs. M. L. Moore.	Mrs. Milford White.
Mrs. Joseph Clark.	Mr. J. H. Overstreet.	Mrs. Hamilton Scott.
Mrs. Hart Gibson.	Mrs. Wm. C. Goodloe.	Mrs. B. L. Coleman.

Mrs. Desha Breckinridge.	Mrs. H. C. McDowell.	Miss Julia McDowell.
Mrs. G. D. Kelly.	Mrs. James H. Mulligan.	Mrs. William McDowell.
Mrs. Percy Scott.	Mrs. Wm. A. Gunn.	Mrs. Alice L. Carpenter.
Mrs. W. McClure.	Mrs. Ellen D. Payne.	Mrs E. O. Hiatt.
Mrs. J. S. Tompkins.	Mrs. M. A. Ketchum.	Mrs. A. D. Willetts.
Mrs. Thomas H. Clay.	Miss Lucretia H. Clay.	Mrs. James B. Clay.
Miss Fannie M. Anderson.	Miss Fannie D. White.	Mrs. Mark Collis.
Mrs. Maggie Clark.	Mrs. R. P. Stoll.	Mrs. James E. Pepper.
Mrs. M. T. Scott.	Mrs. Minor Simpson.	Mrs. Mary C. Roark.
Mrs. Euginia D. Potts.	Mrs. Richard Arnspiger.	Mrs. Phillip Grinstead.
Mrs. Kate Bronaugh.	Miss Laura Clay.	Mrs. Henry Bewley.
	Mrs. F. A. Cramer.	

After the Klair Bill had passed the Lower House and was pending in the Senate the following letter was sent to the Senators.

**APPEAL OF THE WOMEN OF LEXINGTON TO THE LEGISLATORS
OF KENTUCKY.**

It is stated by those favoring the Klair School Suffrage Bill that the women of Lexington do not want school suffrage. This statement is made in the face of the fact that more than eight hundred of the best class of white women—in which number the white Republican women are not included—attested their desire in October, 1901, by placing their names upon the registration books; and this, although the registration places were intentionally placed in negro cabins, barber shops and livery stables; although no women were permitted to serve as officers of registration as in preceding years; although an effort was made by local politicians to get out an objectionable class of women in order to bring school suffrage into disrepute. Owing to these facts and the absence of any special issue, the registration of white women in 1901 was smaller than in any preceding year since the granting of school suffrage to women.

The statement that the white women of Lexington do not want the school suffrage is made in the face of the fact that an executive committee, representing organizations comprising three thousand white women of Lexington and Fayette County, delegated by those associations to carry on the work, have been engaged for several weeks in an agitation against the proposed repeal of the suffrage privilege. To a memorial put forth by this committee the names of one hundred conservative women were signed.

The suffrage is desired not, as stated by the local politicians, by a few leading club women alone, but by a large number of conservative women, by the mothers of children in the public schools and by those intelligent women whose interest in public affairs has been proven year after year, as above stated by the registration books. On the contrary

the opposition to the school suffrage for women proceeds from a few local politicians, and their statements that it is not desired by the community at large, not by the white women of Lexington, are entirely unsupported by proof.

We the women of Lexington, appeal to you, the Legislators of the State of Kentucky, to protect us in a right already granted us. We ask this as citizens, as tax-payers, as mothers of children in the public schools. We ask it believing that the participation of women in the management of the public schools is for the best interests of the children in those schools and of the community at large. What man among you is there who believes that women are not capable of being the teachers of children, or who would cast a vote to deprive women of the right to teach in the public schools? If then you believe women capable of teaching your children, do you not also believe them capable of exercising a wise and wholesome effect in the management of schools? We have been taught that the Legislators of our State were ever ready to protect and uphold the rights of the women of Kentucky. In this assurance, we, the women of Lexington, earnestly desiring that the privilege of school suffrage be not taken from us, appeal to you to protect us in this right.

After the final defeat of our efforts the Executive Committee published the following statement:

**Statement of the Executive Committee for the Retention of
School Suffrage.**

School suffrage for women of cities of the second class has been repealed. Since the repeal was earnestly opposed by the women of the second class cities, and since school suffrage for women in general has been endorsed within the last year by the State conventions of the principal organizations of women, whose objects at all include public interests—the Federations of Women's Clubs, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Equal Rights Association—the repeal is a notable event in the history of the school laws; and, in the interests of public education in Kentucky, deserving all the information this committee can give concerning the circumstances attending it.

The repeal originated with the Democratic organization of Lexington; and Representative Klair early announced that it would be carried by a party vote in the General Assembly. So it proved; it was introduced in the House and 65 out of 74 Democrats voted for it, eight being absent or not voting, and Hon. J. W. Kennedy voting against it in response to a protest from his constituents; and 19 out of 26 Republicans voting against it, six being absent or not voting, and one voting with the Democrats, because, it is reported, he said he could not afford to lose the help of the Committee on Municipalities for a bill of his own. The bill did not receive a moment's discussion on its merits in either house.

The efforts of the women to resist the repeal are too recent to need

more than a brief mention. As there is no organization among them to meet such an exigency as an attack from their city's representative upon a franchise they valued and used beneficially for the schools, they were at an immense disadvantage to voice their protest. Even the knowledge that such a repeal was contemplated, never having been announced in print, spread slowly and indefinitely among them from the accidental conversation of one or two women with the city's legislators. As soon as the report was verified, the Woman's Club, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Equal Rights Association appointed a joint executive committee to devise and put in operation means to resist the repeal. They in turn appointed a committee of one hundred and more leading women, chosen without regard to their political preferences, but representing mothers whose children attended the public schools, the tax-payers and the philanthropy and public spirit of Lexington women.

A memorial to the General Assembly was carefully prepared, urging the reasons why women should retain school suffrage, and signed by the committees. Mrs. A. M. Harrison was delegated to go to Frankfort, and she appeared before the House Committee on Municipalities, which had the Klair bill under consideration. She explained the fact that for the first time at the last election there had been a larger registration of colored women than that of white ones by stating that the negroes had been much aroused by the fear of the appointment of a colored man whom they disliked very much as principal of their schools; and she made an admirable address, in which the rights of mothers to a voice in the management of schools, the beneficial results of their suffrage in Lexington and the commendations of women's school suffrage in other States by the highest educational authorities, were ably set forth. Representative Klair made it clear that the record of the one School Board to which some women were elected was commendable, when, trying to turn the force of Mrs. Harrison's argument that the mother sex would be deprived of a voice in the control of the schools, he pointed out that the Bill retained women's eligibility to election to the School Board. Mrs. Harrison presented the memorial signed by the committee of one hundred. But the Bill was reported favorably and was passed in the House by the vote mentioned.

Strong in their sense of justice of their cause, the women were not deterred from efforts to defeat it in the Senate. A committee was instructed to see the Democratic Committee of Lexington and Fayette County, and beg their influence to stay the repeal; but after several day's trial they failed to obtain an interview, as all their efforts to do so were persistently evaded.

In the meanwhile, the women had published in *The Herald* opinions of many prominent citizens, men and women, and other articles favoring their school suffrage; and each Senator was supplied with a copy.

At this time the women hoped the Klair Bill might be amended so

as to retain the franchise for those who could read and write intelligently, as the large registration of illiterate women at the last election had been argued as a reason for the repeal. In this hope several Democratic gentlemen of Lexington were seen, and expressed themselves as satisfied with such a solution of the question; and its constitutionality was affirmed in a legal opinion given in an editorial in *The Herald*. Senator Allen said he preferred an educational qualification to a repeal, that he would present such an amendment in the Senate and was confident he could carry it. Representative Klair also said that if the amendment passed the Senate he would carry it through the House. The women had the bill prepared by a lawyer, incorporating the amendment agreed upon, but in a few days Senator Allen wrote that he had received so many protests against the amendment that he should have to support the bill as it passed the House.

The women prepared another appeal, and placed it on the desk of each Senator, in which they refuted the statement that the white women did not want school suffrage by referring to the agitation they had maintained for weeks against the Klair Bill, and by showing that 800 white women, not including other hundreds of Republican white women, had registered at the last election, although the registration places had been intentionally placed in negro cabins, barber shops and livery stables, and although no women were appointed to serve as officers of registration, as in previous years.

Another delegation visited Frankfort to appear before the Senate Committee on Education. Mrs Frances E. Beauchamp spoke first, and made a graceful and convincing address, refuting the objections that had been rumored to have been made against school suffrage, and showing the benefits that had accrued to the schools from women's voting. She was followed by Judge Jere R. Morton, who announced himself as a life-long Democrat, and made a strong speech, saying he had found a very large majority of the professional men of Lexington in favor of the woman's franchise, that he had heard of no movement among women requesting its repeal, while those who were pleading for its retention were worthy of confidence as representatives of the best element of the citizens. He argued that it was unjust and foreign to all idea of progress to repeal a law which had not yet been given a sufficient trial to allow a judgment of its merits. Senator Allen made a speech in favor of the repeal. Mrs. A. M. Harrison closed the hearing with the plea that women should not receive what must seem an affront to them in the eyes of the world, by the repeal of a franchise which, when exercised by the women in other States, had succeeded beyond expectation in the advancement of education.

It has been suggested that a petition signed by a majority of the intelligent white women voters would have induced the Senate to defeat the Bill. The women thought of such a petition and had every reason

to believe that it would have been signed by a very large majority; but Senator Allen was asked if a petition from any number of women would alter his actions, and he answered that it would not, as he had satisfied himself of what were their wishes. In his speech before the Senate Committee he said he had got a friend to go out and secure names of women who did not want to vote, and she had brought back thirty names from one precinct and knew of sixty more who thought the same way, but did not care to put their names down. As none of these names were published, the public had no means of judging whether those women were influenced by partisan views or by the broader views announced by the women who made their protest public. There is no reason to believe that a petition, however numerous signed, would have served any purpose. No indication ever appeared that the controlling majority in either house would be affected by any appeal from the women against the wishes of the Legislators from Lexington; and they were decided in their action by those members of the Democratic organization who were not willing to allow the franchise to be retained, even with an educational qualification.

In the light of the result, it appeared that all the protests of the women never induced the majority of the promoters of the repeal to consider any other aspects of the question than the mere partisan advantage they sought to gain.

Whatever grief and humiliation the women who valued the franchise may suffer at being bereft of it, they desire to subordinate their feelings in this review to a presentation of some facts which show that their loss is but a part of the injury to the larger interests of the State.

Twenty-three States—Kansas, Wyoming, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, New Hampshire, Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, Nebraska, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio, Utah, Idaho and Delaware—covering a very large part of the United States which has made conspicuously better progress in overcoming illiteracy than our own State, have adopted school suffrage for women with results so favorable to education through the enlistment of their responsible interest, as to call forth the testimony of high and unprejudiced authorities. In Kentucky a limited school suffrage for women has been the policy of the State since the establishment of its school system in 1838, as in rural districts widows with children of school age have always been allowed to vote for school trustees. In 1890 the constitutional convention gave the General Assembly such power in regard to school suffrage as to permit its extension to women and to require qualifications for its exercise, either by men or women. In 1894 a Democratic General Assembly granted school suffrage to women of cities of the second class. For seven years they used it with that constantly increasing interest resulting so favorably in other States. And now it has been withdrawn, because at one registration in one city there was a majority of the illiterate and non-taxpaying class.

The General Assembly has authority to throw around this franchise such qualifications of education or of tax-paying as it may deem advisable. Clothed with these powers, it was not necessary to ignore the protests of tax-paying, law abiding, intelligent women, and to depart from the grand principle of maintaining the greatest freedom of every class, compatible with the good of all, by a sweeping repeal of a franchise. By so doing it has receded from what has been the Democratic policy throughout the school history of the State; and has checked one of the most hopeful movements for the stimulation among the people of a healthful and much needed interest in their public schools.

MRS. M. T. SCOTT.
MRS. MARY C. ROARK.
MRS. MAGDELINE BRECKINRIDGE.
MRS. MINOR SIMPSON.
MRS. EUGENIA D. POTTS.
MRS. RICHARD ARNSPIGER.
MRS. FRANCES E. BEAUCHAMP.
MRS. HENRY BEWLAY.
MRS. F. A. CRAMER.
MISS LAURA CLAY.

The gratifying fact that the best people of the State were on our side gives us confidence to believe that the next General Assembly will extend full school suffrage to all the women of Kentucky.

LAURA CLAY,
Chairman Legislative Committee.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

By vote of the Executive Committee in April, 1900, \$5 was appropriated to the Corresponding Secretary, \$5 to the Press Superintendent, \$6 40 to the Press Superintendent by donation from the Newport E. R. A., \$3 to Mrs. Grinstead for expenses to Frankfort incurred in carrying the petition; there having been no State Convention in 1900.

In May, 1901, the Executive Committee elected by circular letter, to the National Convention at Minneapolis, as follows: Miss Mary B. Clay, Member of Executive Committee; Miss Laura S. Bruce, Mrs. Mary C. Cramer. A vote was also taken to pay the remaining salary of the Corresponding Secretary to June, 1901; to appropriate \$15 for the use of the Press Superintendent.

NEWPORT, KY., June 22, 1903.

The Executive Committee met at the residence of Mrs. Roebuck, with the following members present: Miss Clay, Mrs. Isabella H. Shepard, Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin and Mrs. Emma M. Roebuck.

Delegates selected for the National Convention in New Orleans, in March, 1903, were:

Mrs. S. M. Hubbard, Hickman, Ky.

Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin, Covington, Ky.

Mrs. E. M. Roebuck, Newport, Ky.

On motion of Mrs. Shepard it was decided that we adopt the resolution of the last convention, that the first alternate fill the first vacancy, the second alternate the second vacancy, etc. The alternates selected were:

First alternate, Mrs. Laidley, Covington, Ky.

Second Alternate, Miss L. S. Bruce, Lexington, Ky.

Third alternate, Prof. W. S. Giltner, Covington, Ky.

Fourth alternate, someone from Louisville, Ky.

Moved and carried that the Treasurer write to the five delinquent Associations and two State members to send in their dues before the National Convention in March.

Moved and carried that the Treasurer send Miss Annie Miller \$30, being the salary due her as Corresponding Secretary for the last half of the year 1902.

Moved and carried that since we have had no State Convention and the minutes of the last convention not yet printed, the report of the Treasurer, of the Corresponding Secretary and the minutes of this Executive Committee Meeting be printed in the minutes.

Committee rose.

EMMA M. ROEBUCK,
Recording Secretary.

REPORTS OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR 1902.

CAMPBELL COUNTY, EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Has held monthly meetings. At the beginning of the year we had eleven paid up members. In march 1902, Miss Gail Laughlin lectured for us, and twenty one new members were added. Miss Laughlin lectured to the pupils and teachers of our high school. We worked hard to retain school suffrage. Two of our delegates voted against the Klair Bill. Our Society takes the Women's Journal and distributes literature. We have thirty members—among them six gentlemen..

EMMA ROEBUCK, President.

ASHLAND

Sends \$4.20, dues. Reports no decrease in interest.

COVINGTON.

Twentieth Century Club sends \$17.50 for dues. Worked hard to retain school suffrage. Reports increase in interest and good work accomplished.

KENTON COUNTY.

Pays dues promptly. Did faithful work to defeat Klair Bill. Reported 1143 white women registered at last election.

FRANKFORT.

Pays dues promptly. Much interest felt by the members.

HICKMAN.

Distributes Literature. Pays dues. No abatement in loyalty to our cause.

LANCASTER.

Increased realization of need of ballot for women in fighting saloons. Pays dues. Ready for greater effort in future.

RICHMOND.

Pays \$25.00 dues. Doing good work.

LOUISVILLE.

Sends dues. A great suffrage revival expected soon. The women in the various philanthropic organizations see the need of the ballot in order to carry out their purposes.

LEXINGTON.

Reports lectures from Mrs. Catt and Miss Gail Laughlin. Did hard work to retain school suffrage.

An open meeting was held on June 30, 1902, for considering what action the Equal Rights Association should take to present the interests of women to the Board of Trustees of the State College. A committee

was appointed to act with a similar committee from the W. C. T. U. in asking the Board of Trustees of State College, that the girl's dormitory be built without further delay, that the three women supervisors required in the dormitory Legislative act be appointed at once so they could advise in the details of the building; that a Dean of women be appointed and that a department of Domestic Science be made a part of the curriculum. This plan was carried into effect the next day, Miss Laura Clay serving as spokesman for the joint committee. Reports the death of a noble friend of women and an honored member, Dr. Lyman B. Todd. A growing increase in members and interest is noticed. Dues are paid promptly. Literature distributed.

Treasurer's Report, 1901-1902.

RECEIPTS.

January 1, 1903.

To Balance	\$ 95 00
Mrs. Cantrill, Donation Legislative Work	\$ 5.00
Miss Laura Clay, Donation	25.00
Mrs. Giltner, Donation State Work	5.00
Mrs. Wolcott, " "	1.00
Twentieth Century Club, Donation State Work.....	5.00
Newport E. R. Association, " " "	5.00
" " " " " Fund.....	5.00
Mrs. Bennet, Donation	10.00
Mrs. M. B. Clay, "	6.65
Miss Laura Clay, "	6.65
" " "	30— 74 60

For Miss Laughlin's Expenpes.

Miss Laura Clay	42.59
Covington	3.50
Lancaster.....	3.50
Richmond	2.50

Annual Dues from Local Associations.

Ashland	4.20
Covington Twentieth Century Club	17.50
Kenton County E. R. Association	2.45
Frankfort	3.50
Hickman	2.00
Lancaster	2.10
Lexington	31.50
Louisville	6.50
Newport	10.50
Richmond	25.00—105 25

Total..... \$327 42

DISBURSEMENTS.

By Amount Paid Mrs. Catt	\$ 25 00
" " Programmes	2 50
Traveling Expenses, Mrs. M. B. Clay.....	\$6.65
Miss Laura Clay.....	6.65
Mrs. Roark	4.80
Mrs. Cramer	4.80— 22 90
Salary, Miss Annie Miller	60 00
Annual Dues to National Association (300 members)	30 00
Miss Laughlin's Expenses	\$14.59
Salary, two weeks.....	37.50— 52 09
	\$ 192 49
Balance	134 93
Total.....	\$ 327 42

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