HISTORICAL RECORDS *of*
Conventions of 1895-96
of the COLORED WOMEN *of* AMERICA



1902

A History of the Club Movement

AMONG THE COLORED WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AS CONTAINED IN THE MINUTES OF THE CONVENTIONS, HELD IN BOSTON, JULY 29, 30, 31, 1895, AND OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN, HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 20, 21, 22, 1896



1902

PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



MRS. J. ST. P. RUFFIN, *Pres.*
Boston, Mass.

Officers of Convention of 1895



MRS. HANNAH SMITH, *Rec. Sec.*
Boston, Mass.



BERKELEY HALL, BOSTON, MASS.



MRS. FLORIDA R. RIDLEY, *Cor. Sec.*
Boston, Mass.



MISS ELIZA GARDNER, *Chaplain*,
Boston, Mass.

The National Federation of Afro-American Women was the outgrowth of the First National Conference of the Colored Women of America, called in Boston, Mass., July 29, 30 and 31, 1895, by Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, President of the Woman's Era Club of that city.

THE CALL OF MEETING OF '95.

A CALL.

LET US CONFER TOGETHER.

The coming together of our women from all over the country for consultation, for conference, for the personal exchange of greeting, which means so much in the way of encouragement and inspiration, has been a burning desire in the breasts of the colored women in every section of the United States.

The matter has been discussed and re-discussed. Of some things all are convinced—the need of such a conference is great, the benefit to be derived inevitable and inestimable. In view of this, we, the women of the Woman's Era Club of Boston, send forth a call to our sisters all over the country, members of all clubs, societies, associations, or circles to meet with us in conference in this city of Boston, July 29, 30 and 31, 1895.

And we urge upon all clubs, societies, associations and circles to take immediate action, looking towards the sending of delegates to this convention.

Boston has been selected as a meeting place because it has

seemed to be the general opinion that here, and here only, can be found the atmosphere which would best interpret and represent us, our position, our needs, and our aims. One of the pressing needs of our cause is the education of the public to a just appreciation of us, and only here can we gain the attention upon which so much depends.

It is designed to hold the convention three days, the first of which will be given up to business, the second and third to the consideration of vital questions concerning our moral, mental physical and financial growth and well-being, these to be presented through addresses by representative women.

Although this matter of a convention has been talked over for some time, the subject has been precipitated by a letter to England, written by a southern editor, and reflecting upon the moral character of all colored women; this letter is too indecent for publication, but a copy of it is sent with this call to all the women's bodies throughout the country. Read this document carefully and use discriminately and decide if it be not time for us to stand before the world and declare ourselves and our principles.

The time is short, but everything is ripe; and remember, earnest women can do anything.

A circular letter will be sent you in the meantime. Let us hear at once from you.

Dear Sisters:—

Accompanying this letter is a circular which will explain itself; we respectfully call your attention to it. Although apparently precipitate, the matter of a conference has long been considered by us and we have been led to set the date because of many and peculiar advantages possible at this time. The Christion Endeavor Society brings to Boston fifty thousand delegates in July, railroad rates all over the country are consequently reduced. Many colored women come to Boston at that time as delegates to this Convention. The assured presence in this city of so many representative women is too good an opportunity for a coming together to be missed, and although we do not hope that this our first conference will in all respects meet our ideal, yet we trust that it will be the beginning of a movement for creating a community of interest among all earnest women who love purity and demand justice.

The letter of Mr. Jacks which is also enclosed is only used to show how pressing is the need of our banding together if only

for our protection; this is only one of the many matters upon which we need to confer. We do not think it wise to give this letter general publishing and ask you to use it carefully.

Will you call your society together at once and attend to the appointing of delegates and let us hear from you immediately.

Circulars giving programme, dates, etc., will be mailed to you as soon as you signify your intention to attend.

This invitation is extended to all colored women of America, members of any society or not.

Committee of Arrangements: Josephine St. P. Ruffin, President; Rachael C. Richardson, 1st Vice-President; Mary S. Ransom, 2nd Vice-President; Hannah Smith, Recording Secretary; Elizabeth Stewart, Asst. Rec. Secretary; Florida R. Ridley, Corresponding Secretary; Arianna C. Sparrow, Asst. Cor. Secretary.

Executive Board: Maria L. Baldwin, Chairman; Mary L. Danbridge, Harriet Ruffin, Agnes Adams.

Special Committee: Annie G. Brown, Alice A. Casneau, Ellen Taylor, Eliza A. Gardner, Annie Wilson.

OF THE WOMAN'S ERA CLUB.

Boston, Mass., June 1, 1895.

Address all letters to the "Woman's Era," 103 Charles Street.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COLORED WOMEN HELD IN BERKELEY HALL, BOSTON, MASS., JULY 29, 30, 31, 1895.

PROGRAMME.

MONDAY.

10 A. M.

Organization (Not open to Public).

2 P. M.

Formal Opening.

Reports from Leagues and Clubs.

8 P. M.

Address of President,

Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin.

Address,

Mrs. H. A. Cook, Washington.

Woman and the Higher Education,
Ella L. Smith, A. B. A. M.
Need of Organization,
Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Washington.
Poem,
Miss A. T. Miller, Boston.

TUESDAY.
10 A. M.

Secret Session.

2 P. M.

Industrial Training,
Miss L. C. Carter, New York.
A Plea for Justice,
Miss C. E. Hunter.
Address,
Mrs. E. E. Williams, New York.
Address,
Mr. B. T. Washington, Tuskegee.
8 P. M.
Individual Work for Moral Elevation,
Mrs. B. T. Washington, Alabama.
Value of Race Literature,
Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York.
Political Equality,
T. Thomas Fortune, Henry B. Blackwell,
William Lloyd Garrison.

WEDNESDAY.
10 A. M.

Social Purity,
Mrs. Agnes Adams, Boston.
Temperance,
Mrs. A. G. Brown, Boston; Mrs. L. C. Anthony, Missouri;
Mrs. Butler, Atlanta, Ga.
2 P. M.

Business Meeting.

8 P. M.

Reception.

THURSDAY.
All Day.

Business.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COLORED WOMEN.

The First National Conference of Colored Women of America held in Boston, Mass., opened its session on Monday, July 29, at 10 A. M., Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, President of the Woman's Era Club, calling the meeting to order. Miss Eliza Gardner, of the Era Club, offered prayer. The call was read by the Recording Secretary. A motion was made to elect officers for permanent organization, the chair to appoint the committee on nomination, with the following result:

Nominating Committee—Mrs. Aldridge, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. Jeffries, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Sampson, Boston; Mrs. Garner, New York; Mrs. Pitts, St. Louis, and Mrs. Mahammitt of Omaha, who reported the following as officers for the convention: Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, of the Woman's Era Club, President; Mrs. Helen A. Cook and Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Pitts and Miss Eliza C. Carter, Secretaries. Mrs. Pitts declined and the Secretary of the Woman's Era Club, Mrs. H. Smith, was elected in her place.

A committee on resolutions was appointed to forward to Miss Impey the expressions of sympathy from the convention, Mrs. Pitts, Miss Gardner and Mrs. Williams comprising the committee.

The following committee on address to establish the platform of the convention, was appointed: Mrs. Victoria Mathews, Mrs. B. T. Washington, Mrs. Aldrich, Miss Ella Smith, Mrs. Pitts, Mrs. U. A. Ridley and Mrs. Mahammitt.

The chair then gave a few simple rules to govern the convention, which were adopted.

Pages Ernest Kenswill and Franklin Carmand were appointed.

Motion to adjourn.

Rules presented and adopted. 1. That speakers be limited to five minutes. 2. No person to speak more than twice on the same subject without unanimous consent of conference.

2 P. M.—The convention met at 2 P. M., and continued business by listening to the reports from the delegates. 14 states and the District of Columbia, 53 delegates, responded.

It was voted to defer the president's address until the evening session.

Voted, that the report of Committee on Resolutions and Reports not responded to be read at next session.

Adjourned to meet at 8 P. M.

8 P. M.—The platform of the Convention was read by the Secretary, and the address of welcome was delivered by the President, Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin.

The programme for the evening was carried out with the following additions: Mrs. Arianna Sparrow and Mr. M. M. Hodges singing solos.

A collection was taken—$9.11.

Adjournment.

10 A. M., Tuesday morning, July 30.—The Convention opened with devotional exercises.

Arrangements were made, as Mr. Henry Blackwell, husband of Lucy Stone, would be present at the evening session, to sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" before his remarks.

The Convention went into secret session and discussed Jacks' letter. Resolutions were offered by Mrs. Ardelia Hill, Mrs. Anthony and Mrs. Mahammitt, followed by discussions by all the women, the whole culminating in a set of resolutions by Mrs. Mathews which were adopted by the Convention. Leaflets on Jacks' letter to be sent to England.

Letters were also read from Gen. O. O. Howard, Rev. Therkield, Berea College, Talladega College, George W. Cable and others.

Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Dickerson and Mrs. Mahammitt were appointed to draw up resolutions to be forwarded to Judge Albion W. Tourgee, who is now ill.

Voted that collections be taken for the printing of whatever matter the Convention, in its deliberation, may decide to have printed.

2 P. M.—The programme for the afternoon was carried out, with the exception of Mrs. Victoria Mathews' paper, which was laid over until evening. Miss Hunter read a paper, "A Plea for Justice," and a song was rendered by Miss Goings, also a paper read by Mrs. Williams of New York.

8 P. M.—The order of original programme was changed by the introduction, before the regular programme, of a paper on "Individual Work for Moral Elevation," by Mrs. B. T. Washington, and a paper on "Race Literature," by Mrs. Victoria Mathews.

10 A. M., Wednesday, July 31.—The morning session of the First National Convention of Colored Women was opened with prayer by Mrs. Agnes Adams. Singing by the Convention.

Minutes of Monday and Tuesday sessions read and approved, with the necessary corrections.

Dr. Crummell was invited to make some remarks and a rising vote of thanks was tendered him by the Convention. The exercises for the morning were reversed so that the remaining time could be given up to business. Subject of Social Purity was discussed and a paper by Mrs. Agnes Adams was read, Mrs. Dr. Butler and Mr. Chas. Morris making remarks on the same subject. The subject of Temperance was then taken up, Mrs. A. G. Brown reading a paper, followed by Mrs. Anthony.

Resolutions endorsing Miss Wells' work and congratulations on her recent marriage were offered by Mrs. B. T. Washington, and adopted.

Committee on the Impey letter and resolutions to be sent to Judge Albion Tourgee reported and reports adopted.

Committee was appointed to draw up resolutions on the Georgia convict system, lynching, and the Florida state law making it a crime to teach white and colored children at the same time in the same schools, and other atrocities.

Voted, that this body support the Congregational church in its action in matter of the Florida law.

After singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic in honor of Julia Ward Howe, the Convention adjourned.

2 P. M.—No papers were read on this afternoon.

Mrs. Ridley of Boston, Mrs. Maxwell of New York, and Mrs. Cooper of Washington, were appointed on the committee on resolutions relating to the Georgia convict system, Florida state school law, lynching, and other atrocities.

The Convention then took up the business of national organization. Mrs. Cook was allowed time to make the necessary explanations regarding the National League. Mrs. Mathews presented resolutions asking that a national organization be now formed.

The Convention adjourned to meet to finish business Thursday morning, at 10 A. M., in Charles St. Church to complete organization.

Thursday, Aug. 1.—The extra session of the Convention opened at 11 A. M. in Charles St. Church. Devotional exercises were led by Miss Gardner, Chaplain. Minutes read and approved. Mrs. Ruffin asked for time to make an explanation in regard to a false statement made in the Boston Journal, after which the docket was cleared for new business. Mrs. Ridley proposed that a national organization be now formed, with its own laws, officers, constitution, etc. Mrs. Mathews offered

resolutions agreeing with Mrs. Ridley's proposition, which were adopted, and a committee on organization, consisting of one delegate from each delegation, was appointed. A discussion followed as to the clause looking to a union with the Colored Women's National League.

A committee was then appointed to perfect organization, and the following names reported to be balloted for by the Convention: Mrs. B. T. Washington Alabama, Pres.; Mrs. F. Y. Ridley, Boston, Cor. Sec.; Miss L. C. Carter, Brooklyn, Rec. Sec.; Mrs. Ruffin, Treas. Mrs. Ruffin positively declining to serve, Mrs. L. C. Anthony of Jefferson City, Mo., was substituted. The Vice-Presidents were chosen by the Convention as follows: Mrs. Dickerson, Newport, R. I.; Mrs. Helen Crum, Charleston, S. C.; Mrs. Ella Mahammitt, Omaha, Neb.; Mrs. Mabel Garner, New York.

Voted that the Woman's Era be made the organ of the national organization through which to gain all information regarding the organization.

Mrs. Mathews' resolution to frame a constitution adopted.

Voted, that the name of the new organization be laid over; a collection to be taken to defray the expenses of the leaflet; the clubs to be taxed pro rata; a new committee be formed to gather up the loose ends of the Convention; Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Carmand, Mrs. Casneau, Mrs. Agnes Adams, former committee on atrocities, discharged. That this Convention gives a rising vote of thanks to the pastor for allowing us the use of the church; to Mrs. B. T. Washington's resolution to Era Club; a rising vote for entertainment; vote to Franklin Carmand. That printed minutes be left in the hands of the ex-committee; officers and ex-board National Organ confer with the officers and ex-board Washington National League toward a union with the Colored Women's National League. To adjourn, subject to the call of the Pres., Mrs. B. T. Washington. That we thank the press generally for their courteous, kind and dignified report of the Conference, with the exception of the Boston Journal.

Convention adjourned, singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Miss Gardner dismissed with prayer.

Hannah Smith,
L. C. Carter,
Secretaries of Convention.

Whereas, a most indecent, foul and slanderous letter, traducing American womanhood, has been sent to Miss Florence Balgarnie of England, by one Jno. W. Jacks, Pres. of the Mo. Press Association,

Be it therefore resolved, that this National Conference of Colored Women denounce this man as a traducer of female character, a man wholly without sense of chivalry and honor, and bound by the iron hand of prejudice, sectionalism and race hatred, entirely unreliable and unworthy the prominence he seeks.

That no man capable of reverencing his mother or protecting the unsullied fame of any woman, much less Miss Balgarnie, whose life work entitles her to the respect at least of progressive and wholesome minds, regardless of sex, wherever principle and unselfish efforts to uplift struggling humanity exist. And as the man has not only slandered the women of negro extraction but the mothers of American morality, on a question that not only involves the good repute of the present generation, but generations yet to come,

Be it resolved, that our condemnation be expressed in leaflet form and forwarded to England, with the request that a copy of each be enfolded in all the publications sent out by the Anti-Lynching society.

Be it further resolved, that we hereby express our appreciation of Miss Balgarnie and the whole English people for their unselfish interest in the cause.

Whereas, it occurred to the Era Club of Boston to issue a fraternal call to the Colored Women's Clubs of America to meet in this city to discuss the needs of the race,

And, whereas, the result of that call has brought together many of the noblest women of the race, who might otherwise never have met, and whereas the meeting has been one of profit and pleasure to the individuals and the race,

Be it therefore resolved, that we do now extend to the Era Club and its honored president our deepest appreciation of the pleasure, profit and courtesy extended to us as a conference and as their guests.

Resolved, That we, the representative women of our race in United States, have witnessed with great admiration the noble

and truthful advocacy of Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, defending us against the lying charge of rape, and we take this opportunity of congratulating her upon her recent marriage, and are glad to hail her, in the face of all her assailants, as our noble "Joanna of Arc."

Miss Catherine Impey, Boston, Mass., July 30, '95.
Street, Somerset, Eng.,

Dear Friend—The National Conference of Colored Women now assembled in Boston in the interest of the race and in the cause of oppressed womanhood, now turn from our deliberations, on hearing of the serious illness of your dear mother, to express to you our deepest and sincerest sympathy in your distress. To us you are inexpressibly dear, and we wish you to feel that your sorrow and anxiety are ours, and that the prayers of the colored women of America are that God, in His infinite mercy, may "let the cup pass" and spare your parent for many years, so that her watchful love and care may continue to guide you and help you in your noble work for humanity. But to one of your abiding faith there is no sweeter consolation than that "He doeth all things well."

May the blessings of God rest upon you, may the Lord bless you and lift the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Yours in deepest sympathy,
Mrs. M. F. Pitts,
Mrs. M. E. Williams,
Eliza Gardner,
Committee.

Albion W. Tourgee, Boston, Mass., July 30, '95.
Mayville, N. Y.,

Esteemed Friend and Co-worker—The National Conference of Colored Women now assembled, being informed of your illness, voted unanimously to extend to you the heartfelt sympathy of the body and their earnest hopes for your speedy recovery. And further desire to express to you their appreciation of your life-long efforts in the cause of oppressed humanity.

Yours sincerely,
Victoria Mathews,
Mary Dickerson,
Ella L. Mahammitt.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S LOYAL UNION OF NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN.

Feeling the need of our women coming in closer contact with one another to discuss matters of vital interest to the race we represent, and which can only be done by organization, the Women's Loyal Union was formed December 5, 1892, with Mrs. Victoria Mathews as president, which office she now holds, and to whom much of the success of the Union is due.

We have for our watchwords, "Vigilant, Patriotic, and Steadfast."

Our object is the diffusion of accurate and extensive information relative to the civil and social status of the colored American citizen, that they may be directed to an intelligent assertion of their rights, and unite in the employment of all lawful means to secure and retain the undisputed exercise of them.

The methods of the Union are, First, full and free discussion of existing evils, moral, physical, and political. Second, the circulation of printed matter relating to the colored American, whether written by them or not.

We have a membership of over seventy women, pledged as willing workers. Many have proven themselves zealous, earnest, and always ready when called upon to contribute not only their time, but their means. Among our members we claim professional women, doctors, school teachers, literary women, writers of poetry and prose, tradeswomen, artists, home-makers and housekeepers.

We have formed chapters, or branches, in Charleston, S. C., Memphis, Tenn., Philadelphia, Penn., and Brooklyn, N. Y. Since our organization, we have called public meetings in our churches to discuss topics affecting the interests of the race in the Southland and in our own section, with beneficial results. At one of our meetings we had the honor of having present as our guest, the President of your club, Mrs. Josephine Ruffin, who read a very interesting paper. We have contributed clothing and money to the Sea Island sufferers; presented a very fine Mason and Hamlin organ to the Colored Hospital and Home of this city. To stimulate race pride, we held in the parlors of a private residence an exhibition of art, work done by colored men and women, with marked results; so much so that an organization now holds an art exhibit every year. Sent

petitions on the Blair Resolution to Congress, signed by over ten thousand men and women. Through the untiring energy of our President, distributed hundreds of circular letters through the South and West, asking for information concerning the moral, intellectual, physical, and home life, generally, of families. Assisted various causes by giving entertainments. Presented Miss Hallie Q. Brown with a purse of money toward her mission in England, to solicit funds to establish a library at Wilberforce College, to be called Frederick Douglass Library. Presented to Miss Jennie Dean the sum of fifty dollars for the Manassas Industrial School.

In the death of the Honorable Frederick Douglass, we felt that the women of our land had lost a great advocate and staunch friend, and as a token of our appreciation of his efforts in our behalf and sorrow for our bereavement, our Union presented to his widow and family a handsomely engrossed, bound, memorial resolution.

In the early part of June last we gave an entertainment at Bethel Church, where Mr. Richings exhibited his views of people, places, industries, and progress made by the colored people, especially in the South, despite the oppression and disadvantages they labor under. The race problem seems to be solving itself. Give us a chance!

We are now turning our time and attention to the circulation of printed matter in the form of leaflets, which have been suggested to us by the answers contained in the replies to the circular letters. We have already printed for distribution, at a small price within the reach of all, leaflets addressed to "Parents and Guardians," and will soon have another, "The Sanctity of Home," to be followed by others—all of which are written by members of our Association. In this way we hope to reach the masses, and do more effectual good than spoken words to the few.

We have not always had the helping hand extended to us that an organization and such an object calls for and demands, but by persistent effort in the future, as in the past, we hope to merit the good will and ready assistance of all good women throughout the land.

Katie V. Carmand,

Corresponding Secretary of the Women's Loyal Union.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Under the name of the Harper W. C. T. U. a few of our women have been organized and work along reformatory lines for the past five years, the object being to better the condition of the colored people of the community by a gradual training of the mind to higher aims and purposes of life.

Realizing the value of the words of Solomon, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," we early opened a training school, and each Saturday afternoon gathered the children and gave them about an hour's instruction in plain sewing, after which short talks on temperance, truthfulness, honesty, etc., were given by some of the women of the Union. Pretty songs were also taught which the children delighted in. At length a fair was held, and each article made by the children, together with fancy articles made by members and friends were placed on exhibition with the maker's name attached. Each child delighted to point out to parent or friend any article she had made, and a parent delighted to buy because her child made it. This training school proved very helpful to the children.

The Union also held mothers' meetings, and special talks were given on "Child Culture," "Social Purity," "Value of Example," etc.

Our much beloved and esteemed Mrs. F. E. W. Harper was brought to Jefferson City to lecture, and the great zeal and inspiration of this race-loving woman is still bearing fruit, from seed sown when she was with us years ago.

In fact, any zeal that I, or most of the colored women of Missouri have today for the uplifting of humanity, we owe to Mrs. Harper, who came to us and turned our thought to the great need of earnest effort by our women.

At Jefferson City, Mo., there were a number of women who, for various reasons, we could not enlist in our W. C. T. U. work, so in a meeting of the Union we decided to extend our borders, and admit women who were not specially pledged to temperance work. Therefore, the Woman's Club was formed, the special object of which is to work more earnestly for the purity of our homes and the general advancement of colored women.

The first week as a club was to bring Miss Ida B. Wells-Barnett to Jefferson City to lecture, June 18. By her graphic de-

scriptions of the wrongs upon our race, she won the applause of all who heard her.

The Era and other colored papers are read and discussed at our meetings.

When the call for this Conference was made through the Era, to refute the charge of immorality by one J. W. Jacks of Missouri, on hearing his slanderous letter our women became aroused as never before. Committees were appointed to confer with ministers; as a result, three large public meetings were held and strong resolutions adopted and sent to Montgomery City, Mo., his home, to England, and the press.

Nothing has ever called forth such just indignation from the citizens of Jefferson as did this base letter, coming as it did from our own state. When this call for a Conference was read, they decided to send a delegate, at any cost, to utter their protest. And never did women work more earnestly than did these slandered women to raise the money which makes it possible for me to be with you today. Their prayer is that we may yet bring good out of this great evil done us, by resolving here to so unite ourselves and concentrate our forces that we may be able to show to the world that we, as colored women, are struggling for a higher, nobler, and purer life.

The following resolutions were adopted and sent to this Conference:—

Jefferson City, Mo., July 23, 1895.

National Convention of the Women's Club, Boston, Massachusetts:

At a recent meeting of the Woman's Club, located at Jefferson City, Missouri, in Cole County, a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions denouncing certain slanderous statements which were written in a letter to Miss Florence Balgarnie, London, England, dated March 6, 1895, by one J. W. Jacks, president of the Missouri Press Association. Whereas he says, first, that the Negroes of this country are wholly devoid of morality; second, that the women are prostitutes and all are natural liars and thieves.

Therefore be it resolved, That we denounce him publicly to the entire country as a falsifier, and his statement as wholly devoid of truth.

M. E. Dorsey,
L. H. Wooldridge,
S. A. Dupee,
M. E. Capelton,
Committee.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF OMAHA.

In answer to the call of Mrs. Ophelia Clenlaus and Mrs. Laura M. Craig, eighteen women assembled in Omaha, Feb. 14, '95, to discuss plans for organizing the progressive women of the city into one united body, whose aims and purposes might be the education of the heart, hand and mind of the individual members and the promotion and advancement of all race measures. Realizing the fact that the best success results from concerted action, and that not individual effort, nor the efforts of the few, but rather the united efforts of the masses must win the desired end, the women unanimously agreed to organize themselves into a body that should be liberal in its principles, broad, charitable and far reaching.

The result was an association called "The Woman's Club of Omaha," which aims to serve a three-fold purpose. First, to stimulate intellectual development; second, to promote unity and good fellowship amongst its members, and thirdly, to strengthen by organization, individual, philanthropic and reformatory effort.

The club is strictly nonsectarian in its principles and offers its advantages to any respectable woman who is in sympathy with the work and may present herself for membership. Already the number enrolled has increased from 18 to 45 active workers, and the club enjoys the happy distinction of possessing the approbation and endorsement of nearly every broad-minded, race-loving, progressive citizen of Nebraska. As a further mark of recognition, the club has received greetings from the Omaha Woman's Club, an organization composed of 600 white women; resolutions of endorsement from the Afro-American League of Nebraska, an institution operated by the negro talent of the state, and numerous letters of approval from the clergy, literary societies and private citizens. It is the hope of the women to soon establish themselves in permanent club rooms where they may hold their regular meetings, lectures, etc., and conduct a library and reading room for club members and any other women who may desire to take advantage.

A committee is now negotiating for such rooms and until the plans are completed the club will continue to hold bi-weekly meetings at the homes of the members.

For intellectual development the club work is divided into three departments, viz., Political Economy and Civil Government, Current Topics and English Literature and History.

Every member of the club must register in some one of these departments, all of which, under competent leaders, are doing excellent work.

In all reformatory efforts affecting mankind generally and women particularly the club enters enthusiastically. At the last general assembly of the state of Nebraska it was engaged earnestly in the effort to stop the manufacture and sale of cigarettes in the state, and joined heart and soul in the social purity question, sending down to the legislature a petition, bearing the names of 150 colored women, praying that body to raise the "age of consent" from 15 to 18 years.

In many ways the association has helped individual advancement, and much credit attaches to it for its unceasing and untiring efforts in securing the appointment of a negro teacher in the public schools of Omaha.

While the club was organized primarily for intellectual improvement, social affairs are not entirely neglected, and the members strive to create and foster a spirit of kindliness and sociability amongst women generally by bringing them in friendly touch with one another, but the lighter amusements of life are discouraged in that the club as a club does not engage in them. To supply the diversion necessary to healthy social life, a series of lectures, followed by an hour's social intercourse, has been inaugurated and is yielding excellent results. The annual lecture course consists of eight numbers, the most of which are to be gratuitously furnished by local talent, in which Omaha happily abounds, and as the club can arrange to do so the remaining numbers will be filled by the best imported talent the race affords.

Together with the prescribed club studies and readings and the lecture course the Women's Club of Omaha is thoroughly enjoying its initial year. Perfect harmony and good will prevail amongst the members, and the women seeking to "touch life with upward impulse" are quietly executing their desires to make our girls better women, our women better wives, our wives better mothers.

LETTER OF ONE THOUSAND WOMEN OF BETHEL CHURCH, NEW YORK.

To the Women's Convention, Boston, Mass.:

The call sent out by the Era Club proposing a gathering of Afro-American women in deliberative convention simply put in words what has long been the wish of thousands.

We are sorry that the "Jacks' letter" should seem to be the prick which stung to activity. We would not have it appear that we are aroused to action only by the irritation of external circumstances, but would be glad for the world to know that, in reality, our women are taking intelligent cognizance of the inner life of the race, and that the desire to be actually noble is more potent than the impulse to resent insult and seek vindication. What we think of ourselves is always more important than what others think of us, that is to say, self-respect based upon truth is the foundation we seek to lay.

We would desire the world to know that long before the base slanders, born in the vile mind of a common Missouri white man, were uttered, our women were actively at work among the masses of our people, seeking to ground them in the fundamental principles of true progress. The existence of such a sheet as The Woman's Era, the existence of such organizations as the Women's Loyal Union, the Women's Afro-American League, the Women's Meeting of Bethel Church, the work which these various enterprises have laid out and the earnestness with which it has been pursued, are in themselves a complete vindication against all slander. We trust that the vile "Jacks' letter" will not give color to your deliberations nor in any sense become the spur under which you lay out the work of the future. We would have the world to see that there is a large element of our women who, in convention assembled, can show complete freedom from the imaginative and mercurial disposition which has been the fatal defect in so many conventions of our men.

We believe that it would be unwise to permit this convention to be made the sounding board of mere "agitators." We recognize in the "Jacks' letter" and other such slanders the natural results of the resentment provoked by the fierce denunciation of "southern white women" that have been injudiciously indulged in by some of the "mercurial persons" of the race. We look with more hope to the conservative workers who seek to lay true foundations and who employ such means as the well-edited Woman's Era and the well-conducted organizations referred to above. The truly representative women of the race can never be enlisted in any movement that is led by the ignorant enthusiasts or the fiery agitators, whose incentive to action is the intoxication of excited sensibilities, full of the chimeras of distempered fancy.

We know the character of those under whom this convention

is called, and we have faith in the calm sobriety which has always characterized their endeavors. We send to you Mrs. Hannah Jones, who will represent the one thousand Afro-American women of Bethel congregation. Our work is among the masses and our motto is "true progress." We can and will lend powerful support to such enterprises as promise true good to the race.

May God prosper your great undertaking.

The Women of Bethel Church.

New York City.

New York, July 24, 1895.

To the Woman's Conference in session in Boston, Mass., under the auspices of the Woman's Era Club:

Greeting.

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Rom. 12: 9.

We, the Cleave Circle of King's Daughters of the Antioch Baptist Church, New York city, regret very much that we find it impracticable to be represented among you in person, and take great pleasure in conferring with you by letter. We heartily unite with you in all good in behalf of the object of your work. We think it a very timely move, and hail with joy the "era" of woman's activity amid the many interests which should demand the attention of every "energetic" woman, for upon each rest greatly individual thought, expression, and action, which can and shall do much toward revolutionizing the present state of affairs existing in this the most enlightened age of all time—the dawn of the twentieth century—and believe much can be done in this direction by working in conference for the improvement of law, leading to equity in the administration of the rules of government, without partiality.

The Rev. Granville Hunt, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, kindly called our attention to the infamous letter written by John W. Jacks of Missouri to Miss Florence Balgarnie of London, England, regarding the characters, etc., of colored women. After having considered it thoroughly, we are prepared to say emphatically that it is erroneous and contradictory as a whole; and we are inexpressibly sorry that enlightened America has a citizen in public service, who manifests in plain English his lack of that sensibility, love for neighbor, which teaches us to consider both sides, yes, all sides of man's condition, especially when treating on character.

As members of an organization striving for the betterment of humanity along all lines impartially, we would advise John W. Jacks to read Prov. 28 and digest its contents; and we pray that he, through Christ, may be led to think and act according to God's own words as written in His Book. May he be saved! And as to the disposition of his letter, we are content that your mature judgment will, with divine guidance, manage it aright. After this manner, we pray for you in all your deliberations, and most co-operatively sign ourselves,

Yours, In His Name, the Cleave Circle of King's Daughters.
Miss Josie B. Hunt, Leader.
Mrs. Granville Hunt, Sec.

FROM OHIO TO HER SISTER STATES REPRESENTED.

Women's Mite Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Toledo, Ohio, July 29, 1895.

To the National Conference of Colored Women now in session in Boston, Mass.:

Greetings.

My dear Sisters,—This is a very trying ordeal for me to undergo, this of not being able to be with you. However, I pray God's guidance in all you do. I feel that I voice the sentiment of all of the noble women of the grand old Buckeye State, in saying that in the galaxy of states represented in the Conference, none are more loyal to the cause of justice than Ohio, "the fairest among ten thousand, and the one altogether lovely." May the grace of a triune God overshadow you as a cloud by day, and when the shades of night appear may this same grace protect you as a wall of fire. God bless you!

Yours for the protection of our women,

Sada J. Woodson Anderson, Cor. Sec.

Omaha, Neb., July 21, 1895.

To the National Convention of Colored American Women assembled in Boston, Mass.:

Greeting.

It was proposed in local circles—too late, however, to become practicable—that joint resolutions and a general letter endorsing

your Convention and expressing sympathy with its motive and tenor be prepared by the various religious bodies and other altruistic organizations in this vicinity, and sent by the hand of the Nebraska Delegate to your Convention.

In lieu of such general documents from my congregation, I send you most gladly a personal letter, less authoritative, perhaps, but none the less sincere, as an individual expression of my deep interest in this advance movement among the women of our race, which issues in your Convention.

This is the age of centralization and unification: concentration of forces, unity of purpose. You show yourselves children of the age by assembling in convention for "devising liberal things" for the advancement of the interests of and for the protection of the womanhood of the Negro race in America.

National conventions are not necessary, however, to vindicate the honor and good name of Negro womanhood from libellous attacks by obscure Southern journalists, such as the unknown individual from Missouri whose letter to Miss Balgarnie was in part responsible for your Convention. What vindication needs Negro womanhood? Look at our happy and virtuous homes. If our womanhood is depraved by what miracle are our homes preserved? National conventions of Negro women are necessary, however, to demand such legislation as will protect comely colored girls and women from the insults and rapacity of Southern chivalry.

Your deliberations will be, I trust, marked with wisdom, and fruitful in results.

Awaiting with interest reports from your Convention, I am with cordial sympathy and good will,

Yours faithfully,

Jno. Albert Williams,

Rector Ch. of St. Philip the Deacon.

ST. LOUIS COLORED ORPHAN'S HOME.

One of the departments of work taken up by Harper W. C. T. U. is the care of orphan and neglected children. In October, 1888, the ladies of the union opened a home for homeless children. Since that time it has fed, clothed, and for a time, schooled 110 children. The management consists of a board of fifteen

ladies chosen from the W. C. T. U., under whose entire charge is the care of the Home. The Home is unendowed, our means of support being by donation, subscription, and entertainment. Our current expenses are from $100.00 to $115.00 per month. We keep regularly employed a matron, nurse, and cook. While non-sectarian, it is emphatically a religious institution. While we try to meet the physical and mental wants of our children, we also give them religious instructions and a reverence and love for God's word.

Friends or strangers are welcome to make inspection of our Home at any time. We have 42 children in our Home at present. We receive no children under two years of age or over twelve years. At the age of twelve we find homes for them, as we know the individuality of each child can better be preserved, its character studied and molded and more freedom granted in a private home than in an institution.

We place children out for adoption on three months' trial. If, at the end of that time, the party and institution are both satisfied, we make the stay permanent by adoption; if either is dissatisfied the child is recalled. When adopted, so far as possible, we keep in communication with them and know their welfare.

As to our resources, we have none. All of our expenses are met by donations from a generous public and entertainments, without which our Home would long since have closed its doors, but with which we have thus far been able to receive and properly care for all its inmates.

It will be readily seen that upon a Board of fifteen ladies there is entailed in this work of soliciting a very arduous task. With great cause for gratitude in the past, we look earnestly into the future, hoping the time is not far distant when the St. Louis Colored Orphan Home, which has proven itself a necessity in the community, will not be allowed to struggle on without an endowment fund, the income of which will be sufficient to relieve us of the outside and humiliating work of securing money to feed and care for the helpless orphans who appeal to our sympathy. We cannot measure the good. It reaches into eternity.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. M. F. Pitts, Pres.
Miss L. Carter, Sec.

Copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the Afro-American League of Omaha held July, 1895:

Omaha, Neb., July 20, 1895.

To the Honorable President of the Woman's National Convention, Boston, Mass.,—

Whereas, one John W. Jacks, President of the Missouri Press Association, has written a letter to Miss Florence Balgarnie, Honorable Secretary of the Anti-Lynching League of London, England, whereby he attempts to traduce the womanhood of the American negro, and whereas the future of every race of people is entirely dependent upon the intellectual and moral status of its womanhood, and

Whereas, the letter referred to is a wilful misrepresentation of facts, originating from a morbid brain and a lack of appreciation of truth and justice,

Therefore, resolved, that we hereby denounce and brand the Southern gentleman as a wilful and malicious falsifier and traducer of womanhood. That no gentleman worthy of the name could afford to lay aside his dignity to indulge in such language as that contained in the letter to Miss Balgarnie from John W. Jacks; that we entertain no fear for the anti-lynching cause through such agencies or methods.

Be it further resolved, that we heartily endorse the action of the Colored Woman's Club of Omaha in sending a delegate to the National Convention to be held at Boston, that they have our sympathy and will have our co-operation in all they may do for the elevation of mankind, regardless of race or nationality.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Woman's National Convention through the representative of the Colored Woman's Club of Omaha.

W. H. C. Stephenson,
President Afro-American League, Omaha.

M. L. Wilson,
J. W. Long,
W. H. Scroggins,
Committee.

St. Louis, Mo., July 24, 1895.

To the Conference of Colored American Women assembled in Boston, Mass.:

The colored women of St. Louis have received with pleasure

the call issued by their sisters of the Woman's Era Club for a Conference to be held in Boston. We recognize the fact that there is a pressing need for such a conference, since never in the history of our country has prejudice against our race been more active, and in certain directions more influential and more regnant.

We recognize the fact that we are no longer wards of the nation; the time when we could ask for special legislation in our behalf, either by the national Congress or the state legislatures, has passed; that to ourselves, and ourselves alone we must look for progress in the future, and that that progress must come through the cultivation and exercise and virtues proper to a Christian civilization.

Living in the state from whence has recently emanated a foul slander upon our people, we emphatically protest against the truthfulness of the same, and joyfully join our sisters of the whole country in vindicating the womanhood of our race.

Hoping that deliberations of the Conference may be moderate in tone and wise in purpose, and that the plans of action proposed may be prudent and practicable, we pledge ourselves to the extent of our ability to aid in carrying out the work which it may propose.

Signed by the Committee, Rev. W. J. Brown, Pres.
Lavinia Carter, Sec.

Salem, July 2, 1895.

The Woman's Progressive Club of Salem was formed June 12, '95. The purpose of this club is to broaden and strengthen the moral, social, intellectual and religious life of its members, and through them to make itself a power for good, not only in their home, but abroad in other fields; also to help those who have not had the advantages of home influence and education, thereby assisting them to a higher plane of living.

As our club is of very recent formation, the report is necessarily brief, but as the days and months pass by we trust we shall be enabled to accomplish some good. Our club consists of seventeen members, who are wide awake, enthusiastic, and interested in helping to solve the various problems of our day and time.

Annie L. Blanchard, Pres.
Anna M. Barbadoes, Sec.

July 21, 1895.

To the Woman's Era Club:

We, a few of the members of the Tuskegee Woman's Club, though numbering more than those necessary for a quorum, feel that we would express to the Conference our sentiments, and take for granted the ready agreement of those of our members who are debarred from joining us, because of absence attendant upon the summer vacation of Tuskegee Normal School.

We consider this Woman's Conference to be a matter of vital importance to the women of our race, and would extend our hearty goodwill and appreciation of the movement through Mrs. B. T. Washington, the originator and president of our club, who, with Miss Susie H. Porter, our vice-president, will represent us and our aim,—that of the welfare of our women, based upon our general intellectual development.

Sara Peake Greene.
Mary M. Fleming.
Estelle C. Penney.
Leonora L. Chapman.
Adella Hunt Logan.
Emma G. Young.
Ida T. McCall.
A. K. Hamilton.
E. J. Scott.
Evy A. Johnson.
Norma W. Caster.
Fannie E. Killian.
S. M. Washington.
Nannie S. Calloway.
Lottie T. Greene.
Virginia L. Driver.
Alice A. Torbert.
Estelle Maude Jackson.
M. Louise Jenkins.

Elizabeth E. Lane,
Secretary Tuskegee Woman's Club, Tuskegee, Ala.

At a meeting of the Woman's Club of Omaha, held July 20, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That we, the Woman's Club of Omaha, congratulate you on the forming of the organization of a National Club of Negro Women, and will heartily co-operate in every effort towards the advancement of the race, and

Whereas, a calumnious letter has been written by John W. Jacks, in which he characterizes the Negroes of this country, especially the women, as being immoral, be it

Resolved, That we denounce such accusations as false, and that the convention take such steps as it may deem necessary to refute these scandalous statements.

Augusta, Ga., July 31, 1895.

Woman's Convention, care Mrs. Ruffin, 103 Charles St., Boston.

Greetings. May success attend the meeting. We need houses, homes, good mothers.

L. C. Laney.

Pittsburg, July 27, 1895.

To the First National Conference of Colored Women, Boston, Mass.:

Greetings.

We, the members of the Belle Phœbe League of the twin cities, namely Pittsburg and Allegheny, beg leave to submit the following report to your noble body:—

We were organized November 20, 1894. Object: Self culture, and to advance the interest of the women of our race on all lines pertaining to the development of a nobler womanhood and the securing of our rights in every legitimate way, and to second the efforts of our leading women such as Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett and others. Number of members, nineteen; monthly taxation, five cents. Our league is in a flourishing condition. Signed on behalf of said league,

Mrs. Rebecca Aldrige, Pres.,
Mrs. S. A. Bentley, Vice-Pres.,
Lillian S. Dorkins, Sec.,
Lizzie H. Monroe, Rec. Sec.

July 25, 1895.

Women of the Era Club:

The Woman's League of Denver, Col., send you greetings!

We have received your call and respond in spirit, if not in presence. We are not lacking in progressiveness neither in indignation at the slur cast upon our mothers, sisters, daughters, and ourselves by Mr. Jacks' letter, but circumstances involving finances prevent us from sending a delegate. Our women have

held meetings, read and re-read the articles sent by your club, and we assure you that every sentence of Mr. Jacks' letter—the most infamous ever written by a man possessing the attributes of manhood—has been literally burned in each and all hearts.

Whatever action may be taken by the women who will meet you to discuss present conditions and how best to elevate the race, you can count upon our co-operation.

We wish you a pleasant and satisfactory gathering.

I am very cordially yours,

Ida DePriest, Cor. Sec.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 25, 1895.

To President and Members of Women's Conference, Berkeley Hall:

Greetings. Owing change date Conference regret inability to send Miss Veno, our delegate.

Rev. D. R. Jones,
M. E. Syke, M. D.,
Mrs. H. M. Spiller,
Rev. S. A. Hawkins,
Mrs. Lillia Williams,
Mrs. Emma Baker,
Mrs. E. A. Talbot,

Citizens' Committee.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER FROM MISS BALGARNIE.

Anti-Lynching Committee.

Objects.

The objects of this Committee are to obtain reliable information on the subject of Lynching and Mob Outrages in America, to make the facts known and to give expression to public opinion in condemnation of such outrages in whatever way may best seem calculated to assist the cause of humanity and civilization.

London, Eng., July 19, 1895.

My Dear Mrs. Ruffin Ridley,

I shall think of you and your friends in your convention beginning on the 29th, and only wish I could be there. You have done just what I expected brave, true-hearted women would do,

that is, put on a bold front to the traducers of your race and sex. I am sure great good will come out of your discussions. Please let me see your paper if it contains accounts of it. I am most anxious to learn all particulars.

Please also convey my expressions of sympathy to your friends, and make it quite clear to them that in sending you the letter I was convinced of its utter and dastardly falsehood from the first. You have a hard fight before you in America, but never fear, right must triumph, and with God on your side you are in a majority.

Your loyal comrade in the cause,

Florence Balgarnie.

Chicago, Ills., July 29, 1895.

To Women's Conference, care of Mrs. Josephine Ruffin, Berkeley Hall:

Our earnest greetings! Success to your endeavors! Our letter later.

Ida B. Wells,
Woman's Club.

LIST OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Washington Colored Women's League—Mrs. Annie J. Cooper, Miss Ella L. Smith, Miss Lucinda Cook, Miss Marion P. Shadd, Mrs. Helen A. Cook.

Omaha, Neb.—Mrs. Ella Mahammitt.

Golden Rule Club, Cambridge—Mrs. James E. Wilson.

Salem, Mass.—Mrs. Lucy Washington, Miss Annie Blanchard.

Boston—Ruth Circle, Mrs. Ruth Turner, Mrs. J. Hopewell.

Working Women's League, Providence, R. I.—Mrs. Hannah Greene.

Female Benevolent Firm, Boston—Miss Elizabeth Smith, Mrs. M. Stephenson.

W. A. A. U., New York—Mrs. E. E. Williams, Flushing, N. Y.

St. John, N. B.—Mrs. Whetsel.

Women's Loyal Union of New York and Brooklyn—Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Garner, Miss L. C. Carter, Mrs. Carmand.

Alabama—Mrs. B. T. Washington, Miss Porter.

B. T. Tanner Club, Chelsea—Mrs. M. C. Bond, Mrs. Matilda Delt, Mrs. Carrie Roberts, Mrs. Carrie Hopewell.

Woman's Era Club, Boston—Mrs J. St. P. Ruffin, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. R. P. Ransom, Mrs. Hannah Smith, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. U. A. Ridley, Miss Eliza Gardner.

Wayman Club, Everett—Mrs. M. C. Bond, Miss Ida Price.

Newport League—Mrs. Mary Dickerson.

Woman's Club of St. Louis, Mo., Citizen's of St. Louis, Harper W. C. T. U.—Mrs. M. F. Pitts.

Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Mrs. Katharine Maxwell, Miss Charlotte Berry.

Woman's Club of Jefferson City, Mo., Citizens of Jefferson City—Mrs. Libbie B. Anthony.

Women's Protective Club, Rochester, N. Y.—Mrs. Jerome Jeffrey.

Belle Phoebe League, Pittsburg, Pa.—Mrs. Taylor Aldrich.

One thousand women of Bethel Church, New York—Mrs. Hannah Jones.

Calvary Circle of King's Daughters, Boston—Mrs. G. W. Smith.

E. M. Thomas Lodge, I. O. G. T., Boston—Miss Rachel Thompson.

Lend-a-Hand Circle of King's Daughters—Mrs. Arianna Gould.

Gloucester A. & I. School, Cappahoosic, Va.—Miss Susie E. Edwards.

Woman's Club, Charleston, S. C.—Mrs. Ellen Crum.

Clubs sending greetings—Woman's League, Kansas City, Mo.; Woman's Club, Los Angeles, Cal.; Woman's Club, Chicago, Ill.; Women of Toledo, Ohio; Woman's Club, Denver, Col.; W. C. T. U., Charlotte, N. C.; Cleave Circle of King's Daughters, New York.

ADDRESS OF JOSEPHINE ST. P. RUFFIN, PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE.

It is with especial joy and pride that I welcome you all to this, our first conference. It is only recently that women have waked up to the importance of meeting in council, and great as has been the advantage to women generally, and important as it is and has been that they should confer, the necessity has not been nearly so great, matters at stake not nearly so vital, as that we, bearing peculiar blunders, suffering under especial hardships, en-

during peculiar privations, should meet for a "good talk" among ourselves. Although rather hastily called, you as well as I can testify how long and how earnestly a conference has been thought of and hoped for and even prepared for. These women's clubs, which have sprung up all over the country, built and run upon broad and strong lines, have all been a preparation, small conferences in themselves, and their spontaneous birth and enthusiastic support have been little less than inspirational on the part of our women and a general preparation for a large union such as it is hoped this conference will lead to. Five years ago we had no colored women's clubs outside of those formed for special work; today, with little over a month's notice, we are able to call representatives from more than twenty clubs. It is a good showing. It stands for much. It shows that we are truly American women, with all the adaptability, readiness to seize and possess our opportunities, willingness to do our part for good as other American women.

The reasons why we should confer are so apparent that it would seem hardly necessary to enumerate them, and yet there is none of them but demand our serious consideration. In the first place we need to feel the cheer and inspiration of meeting each other; we need to gain the courage and fresh life that comes from the mingling of congenial souls, of those working for the same ends. Next, we need to talk over not only those things which are of vital importance to us as women, but also the things that are of especial interest to us as colored women, the training of our children, openings for our boys and girls, how they can be prepared for occupations and occupations may be found or opened for them, what we especially can do in the moral education of the race with which we are identified, our mental elevation and physical development, the home training it is necessary to give our children in order to prepare them to meet the peculiar conditions in which they shall find themselves, how to make the most of our own, to some extent, limited opportunities, these are some of our own peculiar questions to be discussed. Besides these are the general questions of the day, which we cannot afford to be indifferent to: temperance, morality, the higher education, hygienic and domestic questions. If these things need the serious consideration of women more advantageously placed by reason of all the aid to right thinking and living with which they are surrounded, surely we, with everything to pull us back, to hinder us in developing, need to take

every opportunity and means for the thoughtful consideration which shall lead to wise action.

I have left the strongest reason for our conferring together until the last. All over America there is to be found a large and growing class of earnest, intelligent, progressive colored women, women who, if not leading full, useful lives, are only waiting for the opportunity to do so, many of them warped and cramped for lack of opportunity, not only to do more but to be more; and yet, if an estimate of the colored women of America is called for, the inevitable reply, glibly given, is, "For the most part ignorant and immoral, some exceptions, of course, but these don't count."

Now for the sake of the thousands of self-sacrificing young women teaching and preaching in lonely southern backwoods for the noble army of mothers who have given birth to these girls, mothers whose intelligence is only limited by their opportunity to get at books, for the sake of the fine cultured women who have carried off the honors in school here and often abroad, for the sake of our own dignity, the dignity of our race, and the future good name of our children, it is "mete, right and our bounden duty" to stand forth and declare ourselves and principles, to teach an ignorant and suspicious world that our aims and interests are identical with those of all good aspiring women. Too long have we been silent under unjust and unholy charges; we cannot expect to have them removed until we disprove them through ourselves. It is not enough to try to disprove unjust charges through individual effort, that never goes any further. Year after year southern women have protested against the admission of colored women into any national organization on the ground of the immorality of these women, and because all refutation has only been tried by individual work the charge has never been crushed, as it could and should have been at the first. Now with an army of organized women standing for purity and mental worth, we in ourselves deny the charge and open the eyes of the world to a state of affairs to which they have been blind, often wilfully so, and the very fact that the charges, audaciously and flippantly made, as they often are, are of so humiliating and delicate a nature, serves to protect the accuser by driving the helpless accused into mortified silence. It is to break this silence, not by noisy protestations of what we are not, but by a dignified showing of what we are and hope to become that we are impelled to take this step, to make of this gathering an object lesson to the world. For many and apparent reasons it is espe-

cially fitting that the women of the race take the lead in this movement, but for all this we recognize the necessity of the sympathy of our husbands, brothers and fathers.

Our woman's movement is woman's movement in that it is led and directed by women for the good of women and men, for the benefit of all humanity, which is more than any one branch or section of it. We want, we ask the active interest of our men, and, too, we are not drawing the color line; we are women, American women, as intensely interested in all that pertains to us as such as all other American women; we are not alienating or withdrawing, we are only coming to the front, willing to join any others in the same work and cordially inviting and welcoming any others to join us.

If there is any one thing I would especially enjoin upon this conference it is union and earnestness. The questions that are to come before us are of too much import to be weakened by any trivialities or personalities. If any differences arise let them be quickly settled, with the feeling that we are all workers to the same end, to elevate and dignify colored American womanhood. This conference will not be what I expect if it does not show the wisdom, indeed the absolute necessity of a national organization of our women. Every year new questions coming up will prove it to us. This hurried, almost informal convention does not begin to meet our needs, it is only a beginning, made here in dear old Boston, where the scales of justice and generosity hang evenly balanced, and where the people "dare be true" to their best instincts and stand ready to lend aid and sympathy to worthy strugglers. It is hoped and believed that from this will spring an organization that will in truth bring in a new era to the colored women of America.

GREETING TO THE CONVENTION.

Alice T. Miller, Boston.

We greet you with glad welcome who have come
To share with us the fruit of garnered years,
To share our joys and griefs, our hopes and fears,
To join us in this—Wisdom's harvest—home!
Now may the truth we gather here become
A treasured store,—like the golden ears

The farmer safe bestows, ere winter nears,
To feed his flocks withal,—that we to some
Sad heart may comfort give, some want relieve
Lend hand or voice to aid some strife for Right:
And learn we with our gifts ourselves must give.
So may we hail with joy the dawning bright
On the fair days when all their rights receive.
Once more, we welcome you this summer night.

To the Woman's Era Club.

They say the woman's era draws at last,
When now this century draws near its end,
Old notions of man's lordship, fading fast,
Make way for woman's aid to help to mend
Affairs that sorely need her presence bright;
Nor can it be denied, when fairly tried,
Suffrage has proved a lover for the right
Equally shared; for unto neither side
Reason and sense belong, but unto both;
And where one sex doth supplement the other,
Causes are weighed more wisely than the truth,
Laws surely made more just for wife and mother.
"Union is strength"; let all, not half, unite
Bravely to war against all foes of Right!

At an extra session held in the Charles Street A. M. E. Church, Aug. 1, 1895, Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin presiding, on motion by Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews, New York City, a national organization as the outgrowth of the Conference was formed and adopted the following Constitution:—

ARTICLE I.—Name.

This organization is and shall hereafter be known as The National Federation of Afro-American Women.

ARTICLE II.—Object.

The object of this organization is (1) the concentration of the dormant energies of the women of the Afro-American race into one broad band of sisterhood: for the purpose of establishing needed reforms, and the practical encouragement of all efforts being put forth by various agencies, religious, educational, ethi-



MRS. B. T. WASHINGTON, *Pres.*
Tuskegee, Ala.

Officers of Convention of 1896



MRS. VICTORIA EARL MATHEWS,
Chairman Executive Board,
New York.



NINETEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D. C.



MISS ELIZABETH C CARTER, *Rec. Sec.*
New Bedford, Mass.



MRS. L. C. ANTHONY, *Treas.*
Jefferson City, Mo.

cal and otherwise, for the upbuilding, ennobling and advancement of the race; (2) to awaken the women of the race to the great need of systematic effort in home-making and the divinely imposed duties of motherhood.

ARTICLE III.—Government.

The organization shall be governed by a President, four Vice-Presidents representing the four geographical sections of our country, a Treasurer, two Secretaries—Corresponding and Recording—and an Executive Committee, whose members shall be chosen by the chairman from the sections represented by the membership with a view of making the committee truly representative.

ARTICLE IV.—Membership.

All women's clubs are eligible to membership (number not restricted) whose work is embraced in the object of this organization.

ARTICLE V.—Meeting.

The organization shall meet annually, time and place subject to the Executive Committee.

Following is the list of officers for the ensuing year, ending July 22, 1896:

President, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Ala.

1st Vice-President, Mrs. Mary H. Dickerson, Newport, R. I.

2d Vice-President, Mrs. Ellen Crum, Charleston, S. C.

3d Vice-President, Mrs. Ella Mahammitt, Omaha, Neb.

4th Vice-President, Mrs. Mabel Garner, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Florida Ridley, Boston, Mass.

Recording Secretary, Miss Lizzie C. Carter, New Bedford, Mass.

Treasurer, Miss Libbie C. Anthony, Jefferson City, Mo.

Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews, New York City, Chairman of the Executive Board.

FIRST DAY.

JULY 20, 1896.

MORNING SESSION.

The first Annual Convention of the National Federation of Afro-American Women convened in the 19th Street Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., on the above date, Mrs. Booker T.

Washington of Tuskegee, Ala., President, in the chair, assisted by Mrs. Mary H. Dickerson of Newport, R. I., First Vice-President.

At 9.50 A. M. the meeting was opened with reading the 46th Psalm by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson of Washington, D. C., which was followed with singing "Coronation" by the audience and prayer led by Rev. Walter H. Brooks, pastor of the church.

Rev. Brooks delivered a pleasant address of welcome, declaring that when the best women of the land unite in one mighty company all their force of character, their intelligence and their active services, to lift up and ennoble the womanhood, a brighter and better day was dawning.

Mrs. Rosetta Douglass-Sprague, only daughter of the late Frederick Douglass, responded in behalf of the Afro-American women of the United States.

"From the log cabins of the South have come forth some of our most heroic women, whose words, acts and deeds are a stimulus to us at this hour. We have had such women by the score, women in whose hearts philanthropic impulses have burned with ardor; whose love for mankind was second only to their love for God. Women who have suffered death rather than be robbed of their virtue. Women who have endured untold misery for the betterment of the condition of their brothers and sisters.

"While the white race have chronicled deeds of heroism and acts of mercy of the women of pioneer and other days, so we are pleased to note in the personalityof such women as Phyllis Wheatley, Margaret Garner, Sojourner Truth and our venerable friend, Harriet Tubman, sterling qualities of head, heart and hand, that hold no insignificant place in the annals of heroic womanhood.

"These and many more that I could name whose strength of character is an example to us, are from the log cabins of the South.

"Our wants are numerous. We want homes in which purity can be taught, not hovels that are police-court feeders; we want industrial schools where labor of all kinds is taught, enabling our boys and girls to become skilled in the trades; we want the dram shops closed; we want the pool rooms and gambling dens of every variety swept out of existence; we want reform schools for our girls in such cities where the conscience of the white Christian is not elastic enough to take in the Negro child.

"These and many more are the wants we desire gratified. Your words of welcome, your gracious greeting cheering us on in our endeavor," said Mrs. Sprague, "is an inspiration for us to work with a will and a determination worthy of our cause.

"Our progress depends in the united strength of both men and women—the women alone nor the men alone cannot do the work.

"We have so fully realized that fact by witnessing the work of our men with the women in the rear. This is indeed the women's era, and we are coming."

At this point credentials were presented by the delegates.

Motion by Mrs. B. K. Bruce of Washington, D. C., that a Committee on Credentials be appointed by the chair. (Carried.)

The chair appointed Mrs. L. C. Anthony, Miss Lizzie C. Carter, Mrs. Hannah Smith.

Motion by Mrs. Mary H. Dickerson of Newport, R. I., that delegates holding credentials not present be received during the next session. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Richmond, Va., that Roberts' Rules governing other Conventions be adopted for use during this Convention. (Lost.)

Motion by Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York City, that the Convention proceed with the programme as arranged until after the report of the Committee on Credentials. (Carried.)

Fraternal delegates were then called upon, and responses were received as follows: Mrs. Ella Shepherd Moore, Nashville, Tenn., for the American Missionary Society; Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Chicago, Ill., Anti-Lynching Society of England; Mrs. Lucy Thurman, W. C. T. U.; Miss Mattie Bowen, Washington, D. C., Sojourner Truth Home; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, for the A. M. E. Zion Church, inviting to the centennial of the church, soon to be held in New York City; Mrs. Ida Bailey of the National League of Colored Women. Letters and telegrams were read from Mrs. Edna B. Cheney, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. M. F. Pitts, St. Louis, Mo.; T. Thos. Fortune, New York; Alex. Crummell, Washington, D. C. Fraternal greetings were also received from Miss M. L. Jordan, Woman's Relief Corps; Mrs. Haidee Campbell, St. Louis; Mrs. Paige, for the Virginia Educational Society.

Mrs. Hannah Smith, Boston, Mass., gave a partial report for the Committee on Credentials, thirty-four Clubs having reported with fifty-two delegates present.

Motion, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, that the seating of the delegates be deferred until the evening session. (Carried.)

Motion for the continuance of the programme. (Carried.)

Reports were then read by delegates from the following organizations: Ladies' Auxiliary, Washington, D. C., Mrs. B. K. Bruce; Woman's Club, Tuskegee, Ala., Mrs. Booker T. Washington, President, read by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson.

Motion to defer taking the picture of delegates until Tuesday. (Carried.)

Motion to adjourn one-half hour for lunch. (Carried.)

The meeting adjourned with the benediction.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

JULY 20, 1896.

2 P. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, and the minutes of the organization of the National Federation of Afro-American Women were read. Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin of Boston suggested that the minutes be approved with the necessary corrections. As there were no corrections, the motion of Mrs. Mathews that the minutes be approved and adopted, was carried.

Delegates from eight of the Clubs read reports, after which Mrs. Mathews moved that the reports be withheld. (Motion carried.)

The following communication from the National League of Colored Women was read:

Washington, D. C., July 18, 1896.

Mrs. Florida R. Ridley.

Dear Madam:—The National League of Colored Women in executive session has appointed a commission of seven ladies, who, with seven other ladies, to be similarly appointed by the National Federation of Afro-American Women, shall meet in Conference upon the second day of your Convention, with a view to effecting a union between these two national organizations.

If our proposition prove favorable to your body, please appoint a time and place for the consideration of this matter, which is of such grave importance to us all.

Very Respectfully,

CORALIE L. FRANKLIN,

Cor. Sec'y National League of Colored Women.

Motion by Mrs. Mathews that a Committee be appointed by the chair to confer with the National League of Colored Women. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. B. K. Bruce that courtesies and privileges be extended Mrs. Lucy Thurman and Mrs. Ella Shepherd Moore, also motion by Mrs. Mathews that the same be extended Mother Harriet Tubman. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Richmond, Va., that Roberts' Rules for the conduct of this Convention be used. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Mathews that the Committees on Rules, Resolutions, Courtesies and Finances be appointed by the chair.

Amendment to the motion by Mrs. B. K. Bruce that the committees be appointed by the floor, not accepted by Mrs. Mathews.

Motion that the amendment be tabled. (Carried.)

The original motion that the chair appoint the committees was carried.

The chair appointed the following committees:

Committee on Rules: Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mattie Upshaw Ford, Atlanta, Ga.

Committee on Resolutions: Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York City; Mrs. Lucy Thurman, Jackson, Mich.; Mrs. Mary Church Terrill, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Rebecca Aldrich, Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. Lucy B. Stephens, Lynchburg, Va.; Mrs. Selina Butler, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, St. Paul, Minn.; Miss Georgia Washington, Ft. Meigs, Ala.; Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. H. E. Anderson, Newport, R. I.; Mrs. Ella Shepherd Moore, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Mary E. Sulis, New Bedford, Mass.; Miss Alice Ruth Moore, New Orleans, La.

Committee on Finance: Mrs. Libby C. Anthony, Jefferson City, Mo.; Mrs. Hannah Smith, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. M. Foster, Boston, Mass.; Miss Nellie Ford, New York City.

Committee on Courtesies: Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Arthur Gray, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Addie Hunton, Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Kate De Jarnette, Montgomery, Ala.

Motion, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, that all resolutions be read

before the house and be immediately passed to the respective committees. (Carried.)

Motion to adjourn. (Carried.)

The meeting adjourned with singing "Coronation."

EVENING SESSION.

8.15 P. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, who introduced Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews of New York City as the Chairman of the evening.

Mrs. Mathews gave a vivid account of the work accomplished by the National Federation during the past year, also an account of her visit through the South, which was received with applause by the large audience. After a chorus by the choir of the 19th Street Baptist Church, and prayer by the pastor, Rev. Walter S. Brooks, the Hon. John W. Ross, President of the Board of Commissioners of the district, was introduced and delivered the address of welcome in behalf of the city. He spoke of the importance of education and what it had done for Afro-Americans. He advocated the establishment of the manual training schools and said the time was almost at hand when Congress would have to be asked to build such schools in Washington.

Mr. Ross complimented the delegates on the progress made by the race generally and themselves particularly during the last fifteen or twenty years.

He referred to the accomplishments of some of the Afro-American children of the District, which, he said, were so superior to what he had expected to find when he inspected the schools, as to almost render him dumbfounded. Mr. Ross further said he was glad to be able to welcome the delegates to Washington for many reasons, and for none less than that they were part owners of the capital. In concluding, Mr. Ross extended a hearty invitation to the delegates to visit the reform school while they remain in the city, and if they see anything there that needs to be reformed he urged them to inform the Commissioners, and, if possible, the latter would adopt their suggestions.

Mrs. Josephine St. P. Ruffin, Boston, Mass., replied to Mr. Ross, and during her address she said that the National Federation was the result of plans submitted by two or three of the

ladies present to Frederick Douglass, and approved by him, some time before his death.

Referring to Mr. Ross' remarks, Mrs. Mathews made a thrilling address, in which she related some incidents of the effects of the chain-gang law as she said she witnessed them in some parts of the far South, and she made the statement that many cases could be cited in which children were undergoing sentences in the gang for fifteen and twenty years for what would be considered in other parts of the Union trifling offences. The convict lease system of which the chain-gang is a part, was, she said, a blot on the fair fame of the United States.

Miss S. Cole, and Mr. Jas. T. Walker rendered vocal solos, after which Mother Harriet was introduced to the audience by Mrs. Mathews, who referred briefly to the great services that Mrs. Tubman had rendered to her race.

When Mrs. Mathews retired to take the chair of the presiding officer, and Mrs. Tubman stood alone on the front of the rostrum, the audience, which not only filled every seat, but also much of the standing room in the aisles, rose as one person and greeted her with the waving of handkerchiefs and the clapping of hands. This was kept up for at least a minute, and Mrs. Tubman was much affected by the hearty reception given her.

When the applause had somewhat subsided, Mrs. Tubman acknowledged the compliment paid her in appropriate words, and at the request of some of the leading officers of the Convention related a little of her war experience. Despite the weight of advancing years, Mrs. Tubman is the possessor of a strong and musical voice, which last evening penetrated every portion of the large auditorium in which the Convention was held, and a war melody which she sang was fully as attractively rendered as were any of the other vocal selections of the evening.

Rev. Alex. Crummell was introduced and gave one of his characteristic speeches, after which Mrs. Washington, in reference to appointing the Committee on Union, stated she was heartily in favor of the union and would do all she could, as she had done from the first, to bring it about. She believed she represented the Federation in the matter, and hoped that the committee would afford every opportunity for establishing it. The committee appointed by the President of the Federation to confer with the committee of the National League of Colored Women is as follows: Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews,

Mrs. Mary Church Terrill, Mrs. Josephine St. P. Ruffin, Mrs. Ella Shepherd Moore, Mrs. Libby C. Anthony, Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, and Mrs. Selina Butler.

Among the distinguished guests introduced to the audience by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, chairman of the Committee on Courtesies, was Mrs. La Fetra, World's Superintendent of the W. C. T. U. Department of Citizenship; Mrs. Haven, Woman Suffrage; Mrs. Rosetta Douglass Sprague; Mrs. Booker T. Washington, President of the Federation; Mr. Jesse Lawson, Hon. B. K. Bruce, Hon. John R. Lynch, Dr. D. A. Williams, Mr. Kelly Miller and Mr. Hilliard.

After the benediction by Rev. Crummell, the meeting adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

JULY 21, 1896.

9.30 A. M.

The Convention was called to order by Mrs. Lucy Thurman, Michigan, who was appointed by Mrs. Washington as chairman of the morning session.

The meeting was opened with singing "Coronation" and reading of the 19th Psalm by Mrs. Thurman. After prayer by the chairman the minutes of the previous session were read and on motion approved and adopted.

Mrs. Washington read the communication on Union from the National League, saying that she had mailed a letter to the League, stating that the Committee of the Federation would meet the Committee of the National League at 11 A. M. or 1.30 P. M. in the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Tuesday, July 21, 1896. Motion that reports be limited to five minutes. (Lost.)

Motion, Mrs. Arthur Gray, Washington, D. C., that courtesies and privileges be extended to Mrs. Francis Ellen Watkins Harper and Mrs. Fanny Jackson Coppins. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, that reports be limited to five minutes. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, that the reports be deferred and that fraternal greetings, letters, telegrams, etc., be given a hearing. (Carried.)

Mrs. Coppins suggests that six reports be read at each session. Motion, Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Richmond, Va., that six reports be read at each session. (Carried.) At this point Mrs. Rosetta Lawson introduced to the audience the following guests: Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Caroline Kent, Mrs. Fanny Jackson Coppins, Mrs. Frederick Douglass, Mrs. Thomas Moore, Mrs. Mary Church Terrill, Mrs. A. T. Williams, Mr. T. H. Lyles, Dr. F. J. Shadd, Mr. W. A. Hunton, Mrs. J. Napier Kemp and others.

The meeting adjourned with singing.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

JULY 21, 1896.

2 P. M.

The Convention was called to order by the President, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, after which the minutes of the previous session were read and on motion were approved and adopted. Mrs. Addie Hunton, Richmond, Va., suggested that Mrs. Thurman offer prayer for the Committee now in session to confer on the Union of the National League of Colored Women and the National Federation of Afro-American Women.

Prayer was offered, which was followed with the reading of reports from six clubs. Letters, telegrams, etc., also were read, after which the motion by Mrs. Thurman that the report of the Committee on Resolutions be deferred and that it be the first business after the reading of the minutes at the morning session, Wednesday. (Carried.)

At this point Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, of Chicago, Ill., was introduced and spoke of "Reform." Motion by Mrs. Barnett that six reports be read. (Carried.) After the reading of the reports the motion by Mrs. Lucy Thurman that the Committee on Union report to this body and not confer with the Executive Board or any other Committee. (Carried.) The discussion of the name of the Federation was called for by Mrs. Hamilton, Pittsburg, Pa. Motion by Miss Alice Ruth Moore, of New Orleans, La., that the discussion be left until after the return of the Committee on Union. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Lucy Thurman that the Committee on Union be instructed to report during the evening without discussion. (Carried.)

Motion that the report of the Committee on Union be open for discussion Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Julia Layton that the Committee on Union for the Federation be given full power to act. This motion was largely discussed and finally lost. At this point Mrs. Bowser, Richmond, Va., gave the report of the Committee on Rules.

Motion by Mrs. Thurman that the report of the Committee on Rules be approved and adopted. (Carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Thurman that the House hear the report of the Committee on Union. (Carried.)

Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York, chairman of the Committee on Union for the Federation stated that the Committee from the National League and the Committee of the National Federation were not on an equal basis, the Committee from the National League having been given final powers of action. That they had put before the Committee of the National Federation the following propositions:

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

I. Name.—The name of the consolidated body shall be National Association of Colored Women.

II. The Officers of the National Association of Colored Women shall be chosen in proportion to the number of clubs represented in the two organizations before the union was effected.

III. There shall be a new Constitution drafted by the Commission.

IV. Each commission shall retire separately and vote upon these Articles of Agreement as presented by both and a basis of union be agreed upon. We shall again retire and vote for union. If the union be effected the two shall be resolved into a Committee of the whole for the transaction of business, which shall require a vote of nine.

Mrs. Mathews stated that both Committees had agreed upon the name of the new organization. Mrs. Fanny Jackson Coppins, Philadelphia, thought the present name of the Federation too long, and that as the race was known in the census as colored people she did not admire the name Afro-American, but colored.

Mrs. Mathews, New York City, replied by permission of the chair, that her preference would always be for Afro-American as the name meant so much to the Negro in America.

Mrs. Mathews gave the audience to understand that she had African blood in her veins and was of African descent, which entitled her to the name Afro. While this was true, having been born in America, she was an American citizen and entitled to all the privileges as such, although many of these rights are constantly denied, she was entitled to the name American, therefore she claimed that the Negro in America was entitled to the name Afro-American as much as the French, Franco-American, or the English, Anglo-American; as for the name "colored," it meant nothing to the Negro race. She was not a colored American, but an Afro-American.

Motion by Mrs. Barnett, Chicago, that full power be given to the Committee of the Federation.

Amendment by Mrs. Terrill that the report of the Committee be received first.

The amendment was accepted and after more discussion of the report of the Committee, Mrs. Barnett renewed her former motion that the Committee of the Federation be given full power. Motion carried.

The following resignation was read and the President appointed Mrs. Addie Hunton, Richmond, Va., to fill the vacancy:

Madam President:—

I am too weak and ill to stand such long Committee Sessions, and I feel too ignorant of the causes which seem to hinder the general spirit of union, so please accept my resignation from the duties laid upon me by the courtesy of this body. I would gladly serve you did I not feel that one more conversant with the serious difficulties ought to lend her assistance in such an important decision.

Mrs. Ella Sheppard Moore.

Motion to adjourn. (Carried.) The meeting adjourned with singing.

EVENING SESSION.

8 P. M.

The evening session was called to order by the President, Mrs. Booker T. Washington. The meeting was opened with Devotional Exercises, after which Mrs. Fanny Jackson Coppins, Philadelphia, spoke of "The Necessity of a Course of Training for the Elevation and Improvement of Domestic Service." Mrs.

Coppins, being a very practical woman, impressed upon the audience that the servant problem will be very much simplified if those to whose lot it falls to render service become impressed with the conviction that their occupation cannot lower them in the estimation of their employers, their friends or themselves; that the better and more conscientiously they perform their allotted tasks, the more will they dignify their labors. Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Washington, D. C., gave an exceedingly interesting paper on "Woman's Work," which was received with prolonged applause. Miss K. N. Hughes, Somerville, N. J., spoke of "Moral Influences;" Mrs. L. B. Stephens, Lynchburg, Va., "Defects in the Training of Colored Girls;" Miss Alice Ruth Moore, New Orleans, La., "The Afro-American Child and Patriotism;" Mrs. Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, Philadelphia, "The Ideal Home." All of the papers were excellent, and it would be well if some method could be adopted to preserve these papers for the rising generation.

By request, Mother Tubman gave one of her characteristic songs, which thrilled the audience. Mrs. Mathews announced that the Committee on Union had agreed upon a basis of union, and that the two Committees appointed by the two "national bodies" now existed as a Committee of the whole, and that they would elect the officers of the new organization Wednesday.

After several announcements and singing the meeting adjourned.

THIRD DAY.
MORNING SESSION.
JULY 22, 1896.

The morning session of the Convention was called to order by the President. The meeting was opened with Devotional Exercises, after which the minutes of July 21st were read and on motion by Mrs. Etta Webster, Washington, were approved and adopted.

Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett gave the following report of the Committee on Resolutions, which consisted of the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS.

Education.

Whereas, The social conditions of the Afro-American race

make home-making and home-getting questions of supreme importance.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the movement lately inaugurated in this city looking to the establishment and maintenance of industrial schools wherein our youth may by the co-ordinate training of hand, heart and head thoroughly equip themselves for the great battle of life.

Resolved, That we commend to the race the work being done at all institutions whose purpose it is to give our youth the higher and more truly practical education.

Families Living in One Room.

Whereas, It is the custom in some portion of this country for whole families to live in one room and,

Whereas, The mothers of our people are sadly in need of appreciating the value of good homes, be it,

Resolved, That we use our influence throughout the country to have mothers' meetings, held where the mothers of our race be taught the necessity of pure homes, and lives, and privacy in home apartments.

Temperance.

Resolved, That we do heartily endorse the noble work of the W. C. T. U. as an absolute necessity to the best physical, mental, and spiritual uplifting of all people;

Resolved, That we do especially endorse the work of Mrs. Lucy Thurman, national Superintendent of W. C. T. U. work among the colored people.

Sheats Law.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the action of the Florida Legislature in passing what is commonly known as the Sheats bill, an outrage upon not only the colored people but the American people, and in palpable violation of the spirit of the National Constitution. By the operation of this bill Orange Park School, established and maintained by the A. M. A., has been closed; and should this legislation be adopted in other southern states 200 schools would be closed,

Resolved, That the members of the N. F. of A. A. W. pledge ourselves to support the A. M. A. in its fight against this infamous Sheats Law.

Storer College.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention, that the

action of the management of Storer College, in depriving the colored patrons of the summer facilities of Lincoln Hall, merits our severest censure and disapproval, since it may be firstly; regarded as sacrificing manhood rights to mercenary motives and a deplorable example of treachery and prejudice from a hitherto trusted quarter against such unfriendly action we protest, and invoke the aid of every friend of Storer College to use his influence to restore Lincoln Hall its former patrons.

Justice Harlan.

Resolved, That the recent dissenting opinion of Justice Harlan, rendered on Louisiana statute that requires the railroads of the state to supply separate coaches for the white and colored races is a vindication of the equal right of citizens and of the spirit and the integrity of the National constitution established for the protection impartially of all races and all classes that the conclusions reached are sound in law and justice and this convention gives hearty thanks to the wise and upright judge, not alone for the righteousness of this conclusion, but for the manliness of their utterance.

Plantation Women.

Whereas, The Plantation Women are left alone in their homes except as the day school teachers take up the work,

Resolved, That we appeal to the missionary societies to aid us in sending material to the country school districts to give instructions in all branches of home keeping.

U. S. Supreme Court.

Resolved, That we deplore the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court which sustains the separate car law of the state of Louisiana. Words cannot express our regret that the court of last resort, the highest tribunal in the land, should again place the seal of its approval upon the race prejudice of this country as was done in the Dred Scott decision of ante-bellum days.

Separate Car Law.

Resolved, That the separate car law in operation in several of these United States perpetuates an unjust, un-American and unconstitutional discrimination against the Afro-American whose claim to American citizenship is second to that of no race in the country,

Resolved further, That as "the gods help those who help

themselves," we hereby condemn unreservedly the excursions and picnics of our race which patronize the railroads in the states where the separate car law is in operation, and pledge ourselves to do everything in our power through the press and pulpit to educate race public sentiment on this point. The recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court convinces us that we must depend upon ourselves in this matter. So long as we continue to spend thousands of dollars every year on needless excursions, we enrich the railroads at our own expense. Cut off this source of revenue because of the "Jim Crow Cars" into which the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the race are forced to ride and the railroads will fight the separate car law through self interest.

Resolved, That the thanks of this convention be and are hereby extended to George M. Pullman for extending to the race on the Pullman sleeping cars the equal accommodation in railroad travel which many of the states deny us.

John Brown's Memorial Association.

Resolved, That as there is urgent need in these United States for more industrial training schools where boys and girls may learn a complete trade, that the John Brown Memorial Association, under the leadership of Mrs. T. H. Lyles, the National president, whom we heartily commend, is working to the end of establishing a memorial which will redound to the memory of John Brown, and said memorial be an institution for the benefit of humanity.

Resolved further, That we use our influence as a body of women to assist the John Brown Memorial Association to raise funds for the establishing of such institution which shall be located in the state making the largest contribution, and that all clubs in the Federation hold a John Brown Memorial meeting on the 9th of May, the birthday of John Brown, and forward the funds collected to the treasury of John Brown Memorial Association.

Douglass Memorial Association.

Resolved, That the Federation accept the invitation of the Douglass Memorial Association of Rochester, N. Y., to have our history inscribed on the corner stone of the Douglass monument and our name placed on a tablet.

Resolved further, That we set apart a day among the several clubs forming the federation to raise funds for the furtherance of this object.

Lynch Law.

Resolved, That we again voice our condemnation of Lynch Law and mob violence and redouble our efforts to arouse public sentiment to the demand that the majesty of the law prevail throughout this broad land of ours until every human being is guaranteed a fair trial by law for life and liberty.

Resolved, That we commend the Republican Party that it has at last inserted in its platform a clause denouncing lynching, and condole with the Democratic Party that, in the interest of good morals and good government it failed to do the same. We commend also the action of the governors who have offered rewards for lynchers and the legislatures of the states which have passed laws against it.

Resolved further, That we commend and heartily endorse the work of Ida B. Wells-Barnett in arousing the civilized world to the horrors of lynch law as it now stands in our country.

Convict Lease System.

Resolved, That the convict lease system which prevails in many of the states of the Union is a shame and disgrace to the nation—that in these stockades is found a condition of affairs outrivaling anything Geo. W. Kennan has told of Siberia. That we earnestly appeal to the christian and moral sentiment of the country to take steps for the abolition of the convict lease system.

Resolved, That our thanks are hereby extended to Gov. Atkinson of Georgia for the steps he has taken on this subject.

Resolved, That this Federation urgently request the state W. C. T. U.'s to bring their mighty influence to bear for the abolition of the convict lease system, and that Mrs. Lucy Thurman, National Supt. of Colored Word, be delegated to bring this matter to their notice and report to this association a year hence.

Resolved further, That a delegate be sent by this Federation to the next session of the Prison Congress, to ask their assistance in this much needed reform.

Anti-Lynching Committee.

Resolved, That this Federation in convention assembled extend to the Anti-Lynching Committee of Great Britain our thanks for the noble work it has done and is continuing to do to arouse public sentiment against the lynching evil.

Miss Florence Balgarnie.

Resolved, That we extend to Miss Florence Balgarnie of London, the secretary of that Anti-lynching Committee of Great Britain, the one who sent us the infamous Jacks letter, the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy in the persecution to which she has been subjected because of her defence of the honored name of Douglass and urge her not to grow weary in well doing.

Resolved further, That this body representing the largest organization of Afro-American women in the country respectfully request the Baptist Women Temperance Association which has deposed Miss Balgarnie as an officer in that organization to grant her request for an arbitration committee which shall adjust the differences between herself and the officers of that body.

Booker T. Washington.

Resolved, That the Federation of Afro-American Women in National Convention assembled do most heartily endorse the grand work for the moral and educational advancement of our people in which Prof. and Mrs. Booker T. Washington are so nobly engaged in the South; that we commend their courage and devotion to this arduous duty and bid them God-speed, and that we appreciate the action of Harvard College in the recognition given Prof. Washington in conferring upon him the degree of M. A.

Legal Status of Women and Girls.

Resolved, That this body call attention of the various clubs composing it to the value of a legal information committee in each club to look into the legal status of the women and children in their respective states.

Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Resolved, That as Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, the woman whose soul burned within her over the horrors of slavery until it found vent in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and girdled the globe with a flame of indignation against that institution, has slept the sleep that knows no waking since last we gathered in National Convention, it is eminently fit and proper that the race whose sufferings were made known to every civilized nation by this inspired woman, should do something as a memorial of her.

Resolved further, That this federation recommend that the clubs celebrate annually June 14th, Mrs. Stowe's birthday, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to her family.

Kate Field.

Resolved, That in the death of Kate Field in the Hawaiian Islands, this federation recognizes the loss of a friend who was ever ready to proffer aid and sympathy to the oppressed and distressed: a hater of shams and humbug and a staunch defender of the rights of her sex and humanity.

Resolved, That the minutes, papers and all proceedings of the first Convention of the National Federation of Afro-American Women be published in book form, and sold to defray the expense of publication.

Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York, Chairman; Mrs. I. B. W. Barnett, Illinois, Secretary; Mrs. Lucy Thurman, Michigan; Mrs. B. K. Bruce, District of Columbia; Mrs. T. T. Fortune, New York; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, Minnesota; Miss Alice Ruth Moore, Louisiana; Mrs. Rebecca Aldritch, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Mary Sulis, Massachusetts; Mrs. Selina Sloane Butler, Georgia; Miss Georgia Washington, Alabama; Mrs. Lucy B. Stephens, Virginia.

Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, Boston, Mass., suggested that a resolution on the law of common consent should be included in the resolutions. Motion, Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Washington, D. C., that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Resolutions. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Rosa Bowser, Richmond, Va., that the report of the Committee on Resolutions be approved and adopted. (Carried.)

The President announced that as it was after eleven o'clock, all business was out of order, as there was a motion Tuesday that the question of union be discussed at that time, she suggested that the ruling of the House Tuesday to report on union be laid aside until later, and that the discussion of the resolutions continue, and would so rule if it was the pleasure of the House.

Motion, Mrs. Lucy Thurman Jackson, Michigan, that the chair be sustained. (Carried.)

Motion, Miss Lizzie C. Carter, New Bedford, Mass., that owing to the lateness of the hour, each speaker be limited to three minutes, and only speak once on the same subject. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Rosa Bowser, Richmond, Va., that each Resolution be discussed separately. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York, that the subject

of each resolution be heard and then decide whether to discuss it or not. (Carried.)

Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Chicago, then read the resolutions, each being properly approved and adopted either by motion or common consent.

Motion, That Mrs. Ella Shepherd Moore, Nashville, Tenn., give an explanation of the Sheats Law. (Carried.)

Motion that especial attention be given to the resolution to Justice Harlan. (Carried.) Motion, Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Washington, D. C., that a copy of the resolutions be forwarded Judge Harlan signed by the Officers of the Federation and the Committee on Resolutions. (Carried.)

Mrs. Selina Butler of Atlanta, Ga., gave full explanation of the Convict Lease System in Georgia, stating that Gov. Atkinson was the most impartial governor Georgia ever had, knowing no color line, but encouraging justice.

Motion, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, New York, that as the Minutes had been so full and accurate, that the same be printed in book-form. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, that the expense of printing the minutes be taken from the Treasury of the Federation after all bills of said organization have been paid. If not sufficient money for the purpose, copies of the minutes to be sold at 25 cents each to defray the expense, the matter of printing to be put in the hands of a Committee. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Webster, Washington, D. C., that the report of Union be heard. (Carried.)

Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews, New York, gave a partial report for the Committee, stating that the National League of Colored Women claimed 113 societies, of which 85 are in Washington, while the National Federation has but eighty-one clubs in all.

Mrs. Arthur S. Gray, Washington, D. C., said, amid applause, if the League had such a number of clubs they ought to furnish the names and locations of each and their representation at the recent convention of the League.

Mrs. Terrill, Washington, D. C., as chairman of the joint-committee, said the union had now been effected.

To repudiate their action now would throw doubt upon their honesty and capacity.

Mrs. Gray declared that the House should have a voice in the matter, and as the delegates had come from such long dis-

tances they should have the privilege of expressing their ideas.

Mrs. Terrill stated that the question of how many clubs were in each organization was of no consequence.

Mrs. Washington declared the whole discussion out of order, and was sustained by a vote of the House.

Motion, Mrs. Etta Webster, Washington, D. C., that the Committee on Union be requested and beseeched to hold a special meeting Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. (Carried.)

Reports from six clubs were then read, after which Mrs. Thurman of Michigan made a motion that Baby Barnett be the first Honorary Member of the Federation. (Carried.)

Suggested by Mrs. B. K. Bruce that as Mother Tubman was the oldest member, that she introduce Baby Barnett to the audience.

Motion, Mrs. Thurman, that Baby Barnett be hereafter known as the Baby of the Federation. (Carried.)

Mrs. J. Napier Kemp of St. Paul, Minn., was introduced and read a paper on "The Great International Exposition to take place in Paris in 1900."

After the reading of several notices, etc., the meeting adjourned with singing.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2.30 P. M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, whose position for a while was filled by Mrs. Thurman. Miss Jenny Dean of Manassas Industrial School gave an interesting account of her work. Miss Dean is the founder of the school, and she devoted the time allotted to her in describing the difficulties she had to contend with in establishing it. She advised the Federation in the establishment of as many industrial schools as possible.

Mother Tubman spoke of "More Homes for our Aged Ones," and her remarks were listened to attentively, after which Mrs. T. H. Lyles of St. Paul, Minn., pledged $25.00 to the Tubman Home. The paper, "Prison Reform," by Mrs. Marie S. Foster, Cambridge, Mass., was read by the Secretary. The paper was given ten minutes' discussion. Mrs. T. H. Lyles was introduced and gave the report for the John Brown Monument Association of St. Paul, Minn., which was followed by an interesting account of the Frederick Douglass Monument by Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffrey of Rochester, New York.

Motion, Mrs. Thurman, that the chair appoint a Committee to prepare resolutions and mail to the family of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, also to Prof. and Mrs. Booker T. Washington for their noble work for the race. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Barnett, that a resolution be forwarded Mrs. Belgarnie of England. (Carried.)

Motion, Mrs. Lawson, that the following resolution be adopted. (Carried.)

Resolved, that a Committee, resident at the National Capital, which shall be increased upon advices of competent persons residing in the states where the Convict Lease System exists, shall be appointed by the chair, which shall interview the Representatives from the states where this system exists, and weary them, if needs be, concerning the atrocities which exist in their several states.

The chair appointed Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Mrs. B. K. Bruce and Mrs. Arthur Gray as a committee for the same.

Mrs. Lottie W. Jackson, Bay City, Mich., was introduced and read extracts from a paper entitled "Anna Murray Douglass," the first wife of Frederick Douglass, in which she paid a glowing tribute to Mrs. Douglass, and declared that much of Mr. Douglass' success in life was owing to the advice and care of his wife. In conclusion she said: "What John A. Logan's wife was to him, what Elizabeth Barrett was to Browning, Anna Murray was to Douglass."

Hon. John M. Langston was introduced and paid tribute to Mrs. Douglass, also Mrs. Booker T. Washington, the honored President of the National Federation of Afro-American Women.

Motion, that a vote of thanks be extended Mrs. Jackson and Hon. John M. Langston. (Carried.)

After the reading of reports the President appointed Mrs. Victoria Mathews, Miss Lizzie C. Carter, Mrs. Hannah Smith and Mrs. Libby C. Anthony as a Committee to attend to the printing of the minutes.

Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett offered a sub-resolution to the already existing resolution on the Convict Lease System. After discussion, Mrs. Barnett withdrew the resolution and on motion by Mrs. Lawson was appointed to attend the next Prison Congress of the United States and urge them to take some action on this infamous system.

Motion, that the report of the Credential Committee be received and adopted. (Carried.)

Motion to adjourn. (Carried.) The meeting was closed with singing.

EVENING SESSION.

8.15 P. M.

The convention was opened with a chorus of one hundred voices, Prof. J. T. Layton, Director. After the reading of a selection from the Psalms by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and on motion approved and adopted.

The first speaker of the evening, Mrs. T. H. Lyles, President of the John Brown Monument Association, St. Paul, Minn., delivered an eulogy on John Brown, whom she declared was "the grandest warrior who ever buckled on a sword and the greatest hero of the 19th century." She referred to the time spent by Brown in assisting slaves by his underground railroad, described the scene at the old engine house where he was captured, and spoke feelingly of his four dead sons. "He died a hero," concluded the speaker, "happy on the scaffold, knowing that his four sons and himself had been laid on the altar of sacrifice."

Mrs. Selina Butler of Atlanta, Ga., read a paper entitled "The Needed Woman of the Nineteenth Century." She said she had studied the question socially, physically and spiritually, and was convinced that the foundation of race prejudice, lynching, bloodshed, and strife had its origin at the fireside. She believed that if mothers were more careful to teach their children properly, much of these would disappear.

She said that woman's sphere was in church work, and "let women be removed from the churches and they will lose three-fourths of their members. Woman's true calling is to make people better, and she can do this best by teaching the word of truth, beginning at her fireside. We need the women who will give the world practical and not theoretical Christianity. Let the women of this generation frame a platform so broad that those of the next century will find their way without falling." The statement made to the effect "that the twentieth century woman will be the woman of color who will be as proud of the Negro blood that courses through her veins as her white sister is proud of the Anglo-Saxon blood that courses through hers," was received with enthusiastic applause.

After a vocal solo by Prof. J. T. Layton, little Margaret Tate of Grand Rapids, Mich., recited "We are Coming," and responded to the hearty applause with "Sandy's Romance," a parody on "Comin' thro' the Rye."

Mrs. Rosetta Douglass Sprague, the only daughter of the late Frederick Douglass, was introduced, and in a few words expressed her thanks for the tribute paid to the memory of her father.

Following Mrs. Sprague was a song, "Jerusalem," by Prof. F. J. Loudon, one of the original jubilee singers.

"Our Country Women and Children" was the interesting topic on which Miss Georgia Washington of Central Alabama, a graduate of Hampton Institute, Virginia, read a paper. She referred particularly to the situation of the colored women at Mount Meigs, a village near Montgomery, Ala., where a school has been established for Afro-Americans. "Country women," she said, "are suffering for the help and for the influence of her more educated sister of the North and in other sections."

A chorus by the pupils of the Girls High School was rendered after which Mrs. Lucy B. Thurman, National Superintendent of the W. C. T. U. work among Afro-Americans, made an earnest appeal for a contribution to assist in defraying the expenses of Mother Harriet Tubman during her visit in Washington.

Mrs. Thurman appointed Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews, Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Mrs. Rosetta Douglass Sprague, Mrs. T. J. Lyles, Miss L. C. Anthony, Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, Miss Jenny Dean and Miss Georgia Washington to wait upon the audience. The contribution netted $27.42.

Miss Libby C. Anthony, Treasurer, read the following report of the Committee on Finance.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts.

1.	Woman's Newport League	$2.00
2.	Woman's Loyal Union, New Bedford, Mass.....	2.00
3.	Woman's Club, Jefferson City, Mo.	2.00
4.	Woman's Era Club, Boston, Mass.....	2.00
5.	Woman's Mutual Improvement Club, Knoxville, Tenn.	2.00
6.	Woman's Progressive Club, Salem, Mass.....	2.00
7.	Woman's Loyal Union & John Brown Industrial Club, St. Paul, Minn.	2.00

8.	Ada Sweet Club, Minneapolis, Minn.	$2.00
9.	Biddle University Club, Charlotte, N. C.	2.00
10.	Tuskegee's Woman's Club, Tuskegee, Ala.	2.00
11.	Phyllis Wheatley Club, New Orleans, La.	2.00
12.	Francis E. W. Harper League, Pittsburg, Pa.	2.00
13.	Woman's Club, Atlanta, Ga.	2.00
14.	Cleave Circle of King's Daughters, New York	2.00
15.	Sojourner Truth Club, Montgomery, Ala.	2.00
16.	Woman's Club, Omaha, Neb.	2.00
17.	Woman's League, Montgomery, Ala.	2.00
18.	Woman's Mutual Improvement Club, Selma, Ala.	2.00
19.	Lend-a-Hand Circle, Boston, Mass.	2.00
20.	Woman's Loyal Union, New York and Brooklyn.	2.00
21.	Golden Rule Club, Cambridge, Mass.	2.00
22.	Francis E. W. Harper W. C. T. U., St. Paul, Minn.	2.00
23.	Cotoric Migratory Assembly, Memphis, Tenn.	2.00
24.	Phyllis Wheatley Reading Circle, Jacksonville, Fla.	2.00
25.	Phyllis Wheatley Club, St. Louis, Mo.	2.00
26.	Woman's Club, St. Louis, Mo.	2.00
27.	Woman's Suffrage Association, St. Louis, Mo.	2.00
28.	Phyllis Wheatley Club, Chicago, Ill.	2.00
29.	Woman's Club, Rochester, N. Y.	2.00
30.	W. C. T. U., Charleston, S. C.	2.00
31.	John Brown Monument Association, St. Paul, Minn.	2.00
32.	Young Ladies' Trilby Club, Evansville, Ind.	2.00
33.	Ladies' Auxiliary Com., Washington, D. C.	2.00
34.	Woman's League, Richmond, Va.	2.00
35.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.	2.00
36.	Lucy Thurman W. C. T. U., Washington, D. C.	2.00
37.	Second Baptist Lyceum, Washington, D. C.	2.00
38.	Francis E. W. Harper Reading Circle, St. Joseph, Mo.	2.00
39.	19th St. Baptist Church W. C. T. U., Washington, D. C.	2.00
40.	Woman's League, Charleston, S. C.	2.00
41.	Sierra Leone Club, Lawrence, Kan.	2.00
42.	Female Benevolent Firm, Boston, Mass.	2.00
43.	Equal Rights Council, Washington, D. C.	2.00
44.	Ida B. Wells Club, Chicago, Ill.	2.00
45.	Phyllis Wheatley Club, Greenville, Miss.	2.00
46.	Lincoln Memorial Congregational Church, Washington, D. C.	2.00

47.	Woman's Uplifting Club, Eufaula, Ala.	$2.00
48.	1st Baptist Church Missionary Society, Berkley, Va.	2.00
49.	Thimble Club, St. Louis, Mo.	2.00
50.	Phyllis Wheatley Reading Circle, Albuquerque, N. M.	2.00
51.	Woman's Club, Los Angeles, Cal.	2.00
52.	S. S. Convention, Northern Virginia	1.00
53.	Temperance Social Assembly, Washington, D. C.	1.00
54.	Harper W. C. T. U., St. Louis, Mo.	1.00
55.	Wayman W. C. T. U., Pittsburg, Pa.	.50
	Total receipts from Clubs	$105.50
	From sale of Bannerettes	1.90
		$107.40

Personal Contributions.

Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Baltimore, Md.	1.00
Mrs. C. P. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.	2.00
Mrs. Jenny Ford, Macinac Island, Mich.	2.00
Total	$5.00
Total receipts	$112.40

Expenditures.

Mrs. Victoria Mathews, for printing, postals, stationery, etc.	$19.10
Ideal Printing Co., for badges	6.00
Daniel Freeman & Co., for bannerettes	5.70
Corresponding Secretary's office expenses	5.00
Treasurer's office expenses	3.50
Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, for programmes	10.00
Mrs. Arthur S. Gray, for badges	1.25
Total expenditures	$50.55

Summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

Total receipts	$112.40
Total expenditures	50.55
Balance in hand, July 22, 1896	$61.85

LIBBIE C. ANTHONY,
Treasurer.

Motion, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, that the report be approved and adopted, with the amendment that the names of the various Clubs be inserted. (Carried.)

Mrs. Addie Hunton, Richmond, Va., read the following report of the Committee on Courtesies. The committee was introduced to the audience by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson of Washington, D. C.

The Committee on Courtesies of the National Federation of Afro-American Women in convention assembled desire to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, First, That we do heartily thank the pastor and membership of the 19th Street Baptist Church who have so graciously allowed the use of their beautiful edifice for this Convention and have given their support and encouragement during our sessions.

Second, That we also express our thanks and deep appreciation to the Citizens' Committee, Woman's Auxiliary and friends of Washington for their very generous and hospitable contribution to the comfort and entertainment of the delegates.

Third, That to those who have arranged and participated in the musical programmes that have been such enjoyable features of our evening sessions, and to dear little Margaret Tate for the beautiful exhibition of her wonderful and delightful talent, also to the young men and women, who, in the capacity of ushers, have been so useful and attentive during this Convention—our thanks are also extended.

Last, but not least, do we gratefully thank the representatives of the press for the faithful, full and impartial reports published, invoking upon each and all divine blessings for the assistance to the cause of upbuilding humanity.

The above is respectfully submitted.

Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, Chairman,
Mrs. Arthur S. Gray,
Miss Katie De Jarnette,
Mrs. Addie Hunton.

Motion, Mrs. T. J. Lyles, St. Paul, Minn., that the report be approved and adopted. (Carried.)

The list of officers which had been selected by the joint committee to act during the ensuing year for the new organization, which is to be known as the National Association of Colored Women, was announced by Miss A. V. Tompkins as follows:

Mrs. Mary Church Terrill, Washington, D. C., President.

Mrs. Fannie Jackson Coppins, Philadelphia, Pa., 1st Vice-President.

Mrs. Josephine St. P. Ruffin, Boston, Mass., 2d Vice-President.

Mrs. F. E. W. Harper, Philadelphia, Pa., 3d Vice-President.

Mrs. J. Silone Yates, Kansas City, Mo., 4th Vice-President.

Mrs. Sylvanie Williams, New Orleans, La., 5th Vice-President.

Mrs. Jennie Chase Williams, Abbeyville, S. C., 6th Vice-President.

Mrs. Lucy Thurman, Jackson, Mich., 7th Vice-President.

Miss Alice Ruth Moore, New Orleans, La., Recording Secretary.

Miss A. V. Tompkins, Washington, D. C., Corresponding Secretary.

Mrs. Helen A. Cook, Washington, D. C., Treasurer.

Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Ala., Chairman of the Executive Board. (The other members of the Board will be appointed by the Chairman of the Board.)

Mrs. Victoria Earle Mathews, New York City, National Organizer.

Editorial Staff: Mrs. B. T. Washington, Tuskegee, Ala.; Dr. Rebecca Cole, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Frances J. Jackson, Kansas City, Mo.

Ways and Means Committee: Mrs. J. Napier Kemp, Minneapolis, Minn.; Miss Lulu Chase, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Wm. A. Hunton, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Ella Mahammitt, Omaha, Neb.; Miss Julia F. Jones, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee to draft Constitution: Miss A. V. Tompkins, Mrs. Anna Jones, Mrs. Victoria E. Mathews, Miss C. L. Franklin, Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser.

The Woman's Era was made the Official Organ of the new Association.

Miss Jones of Raleigh, N. C., on behalf of a few of the visiting delegates, presented Mrs. Booker T. Washington with a handsome bouquet of white roses in appreciation of the wisdom and kindness she had shown as chairman of the Convention.

It was announced that at the conclusion of the meeting an informal reception would be tendered the delegates. The details of the reception were prepared by the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Citizens' Committee.

Dr. Daniel H. Williams, surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital, invited all the delegates to visit that institution.

Invitations were received from the City Council, Board of Public Works and Officers, Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, Director General of the Centennial and the daily press of Nashville, Tenn., to hold the next Convention in that city; also from Minneapolis, Minn., and Chicago, Ill.

The Executive Committee will determine at a later meeting when and where the next Convention will be held.

After a brief word from Pastor Brooks of the church, the Convention adjourned with singing "Blest Be the Tie," and prayer by Rev. Brooks.

Lizzie C. Carter, Recording Sec'y,
New Bedford, Mass.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN BE MADE TO SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF OUR WOMEN?

M. F. Pitts, St. Louis.

"A perfect womanhood, nobly planned
To warn, to comfort and command."

To arouse the women of the race to the necessity of needed reforms along all lines pertaining to home and national life; to faithfully picture the women of the race as to their purpose, plans and capabilities; to provide for the communion and interchange of thought between women engaged in the same and different lines of work; and to exert an educative influence for the unification and uplifting of the race; to serve the women well is the work of the Federation.

In uniting the women of the various sections into one great union, we entertain every difference of opinion and belief, we are orthodox and heterodox, suffragists and anti-suffragists, temperance and anti-temperance, Christians, agnostics and theosophists.

The result of all this commingling will be to rub down the rough edges of eccentricities and pet hobbies and teach a wholesome respect to others' opinions and to give a capacity to see others may be right and we ourselves wrong. Never before in the history of the world has the capacity of woman been more recognized than now. It is her era of promise, a vivid reflection of exaltation; we must keep abreast of the times. In the midst of every calamity the Afro-American women must remain undaunted, shoulder to shoulder, singly and together. They must fight with poverty and misfortune, for principle and improvement, and must keep through it all faith in each other; as one corps of workers grow weary or faint-hearted another must

take up the struggle, working, perhaps, on an entirely different line, but all having the one great object in view, and the proving of themselves worthy and capable in any sphere they may find themselves, and their loyalty to their race, so that they will be a power for good which shall be felt wherever an Afro-American shall be found on this broad earth.

To accomplish this, women must become more considerate for their sisters, who are struggling under the burdens of life, cause them to remember that no matter what station in life they occupy the Creator did not intend widespread separation for women. Women must stand by each other, trusting and believing not only in the honesty, but the ability of their sisters, as never before. We must try to get the Church of God to put her hand upon the work of rescuing girls and women from a life of shame as a part of her missionary work. This will do more toward elevating womanhood than any other one thing. The home must be made simpler and less an object of care and anxiety. Our dress must be determined by taste, health and utility rather than fashion and caprice. We must try to bring about freedom for the women because it will elevate them politically. socially, financially and morally. For in the coming education of the masses she will need all her freedom to preserve her best interests and the best interests of the home and family.

We advocate the organization of reading clubs wherever possible and practical. In isolated places where there is no club, let some of the other clubs send a delegate to organize one, with a plan of work adapted to the taste and mental requirements of the persons sought. In this way the club can bring a mental stimulant to every careworn, tired housewife who has nothing to look forward to but the monotonous routine of farm life and its lonesome cares; to such women a reading club or debating society, call it what you please, so you get the women to express themselves and take her outside of herself and of the care with which her life is filled; and saves the intellect from stagnation, as well as to awaken a lofty thought in a dormant mind, which is only secondary to saving a soul. Women must labor to be dressed with purity, crowned with wisdom, and adorned with the jewels of patience and perseverance. Whatever form religion may take, women in the future, as in the past, must give it loyal fidelity and faithful service.

All the magnificent work done and participated in by women along all lines demonstrate the fact that henceforth and forever

"woman's sphere" in life will be defined and determined by herself alone; her place in nature shall be as broad and multifarious in scope as God shall decree her capacity and ability to accomplish.

St. Louis, Mo., July 16, 1896.

To the N. F. A. A. W. in Convention assembled. Greeting:

We, the members of Phyllis Wheatley Club, feel grateful to the Giver of all good gifts that we are blessed with the privilege of expressing our interest in the cause that has brought you together. Though in our infancy we feel that we are in the line of progress and marching on to victory.

We look forward to the not far distant day when our banner shall proudly float to the breeze and amid the Stars and Stripes inscribed in dazzling brightness the aim and object of our grand organization—"Race advancement."

That you may have a most profitable meeting and that love may predominate throughout your session, is our earnest desire and prayer.

Yours for success,

Mrs. Julia Henderson, Pres.,
Mrs. Ella V. Jones, Cor. Sec'y.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S LOYAL UNION OF NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN.

The causes leading to the organization of the Woman's Loyal Union and its central object of effort having been clearly set forth in the report submitted at the Convention held in Boston last year, we need only reiterate here that the Union was organized Dec. 5, 1892, for the promotion of all measures affecting the best interests of the race, and the advocacy of that justice which is the divine right of man. The association would seek by correspondence with all sections of the country to keep abreast of the tide of public opinion, and by free discussion of questions moral, political and philanthropic to reach that correct estimate of the situation so essential to an unbiased judgment and decision.

Its threefold motto, "Vigilant, Patriotic, Steadfast," is suggestive. The Union would be vigilant that naught of vital interest to the race need be overlooked; patriotic that its women may feel the welfare of the country concerns them as closely as

it does those who wield the ballot; steadfast that having apprehended the drift and significance of any matter presented to their notice they may support their views with that unwavering steadfastness which alone insures success.

The Union has a membership of fifty-five, many of the members being earnest, thoughtful women, ever ready to further any wise measure to which their attention may be called.

During the past season the President, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, was absent many months in the South and took part in the proceedings of the Atlanta Convention; also visiting the Black Belt, where she studied the conditions of the people and the methods of work of that section. During her absence, the First Vice-President, Mrs. Maggie Dalton, accepted the cares and responsibilities of the office and presided with dignity and discretion.

The first case that attracted the attention of the Union in the early autumn of '95, winning the enthusiastic sympathy and cooperation of its members, was that of the unfortunate ex-Consul Waller, and the sum of ten dollars was added to the Waller Press Fund. The work claiming the interest of the association at present is the establishment of a library and reading-room, where may be gathered, primarily, works written by colored authors, or those that discuss the race question. The scope of the library, however, will be broad, as it is expected to include in time all works of standard value in literature. Toward the furtherance of this object an entertainment was given during the month of April, and it is hoped that the undertaking may meet with success in the near future.

The Union having had courtesy extended to them for two years by the Rev. Wm. B. Derrick, in the use of his office as a place of meeting, upon his elevation to the Bishop's chair deemed it an appropriate and graceful act for us to be present on the occasion of the reception tendered him and to add their mite toward the robe presented to the honorable gentleman.

Wishing to celebrate in some fitting manner the 85th birthday of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, since deceased, the members of the association testified their appreciation of her noble work for freedom in a letter written by Mrs. Katie V. Carmand, the Financial Secretary, and a poem of greeting composed for the occasion by Miss H. C. Ray.

The Union has many plans for future usefulness, one that has been discussed with evident interest being the management

of a building where the club rooms could be located, where women visiting the city might find a pleasant home and young girls seeking employment could be trained in industrial arts. But this scheme admits of further development and must be the outgrowth of time and patience.

Meanwhile the women of the association resolve to continue to be enthusiastic in the advocacy of all that is progressive, dignified and ennobling.

H. Cordelia Ray, Rec. Sec'y W. L. U.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

To the Afro-American Woman's Federation, Washington, D. C.

Wondrous yet strange Southland. The country to which kind Providence directed the hands of the Dutch to locate our wondrous race. Thy name we cherish in recognition of the joy commingled with sorrow, borne well in triumph and with patience by our ancestors. Now we, their many-hued children, are assembled to consider the blessings bestowed upon us by the power of an All-wise Parent and Gracious Master. A thousand sad and fond associations throng upon us, rousing us by the spirit of the hour to unite in one grand and loving effort for the improvement of our women. Great Southland, in thy pleasant valleys rest alike the hoary frost and the sweet dews of morning, the piteous and gentle recollections of our early life; around thy dear hills and lofty mountains, by thy silvery and muddy streams and rivers, and upon thy rugged bluffs, like gathering clouds and floating mists, cling the mighty memories of the great civic struggle for manhood and freedom, and far away in the horizon of thy past, gleam, like thine own strong lights and shades, the awful virtues of our dear old grandsires! But as we devote this time to the remembrance of our terrible past we will not forget that in which our happy lot is cast. We exult in the reflection that though we count by thousands the miles which separate us from the birthplace of our ancestors in far-away Africa, Ireland, England, and Scotland, still this, our country, is the same. We are not here as strangers in a foreign land begging the sympathy of a strange people, pleading for the organization of inquiring, humane anti-wrong-doing societies to protect us from the cruel torch, shot-gun, and hemp in the hands of an "alien" class; we are not here, dear women, as helpless mendicants upon the shores

of a distant sea to swell its tributaries with our homesick tears; we are not here as exiles, banished from our homes because we have been untrue to our sex; we are not here to spread the details of our family heartache to a people who once hated us because we desired our independence; we are not here to expose the cancerous sores of an ill-despised generation of our youths; but we are assembled in this, the capital of our own country, where we have an inherent God-given right to be, we are here at home assembled for the purpose of elevating our women; we are here to devise ways and means for the betterment of the condition of our race and country. We are here to change the condition of our women, and, by this change, we will thus be enabled to help lighten the burdens that are bearing us down. We are here to unite in lending a helping hand to the fallen. We mean to seek to restore joy and peace where there is sorrow and strife. Yes, we are here, dear women, to help put our arms about them who are sinking into disgrace, carrying not only themselves—by their mistakes and stumblings—into endless misery, but are dragging the whole race, the whole nation and country, down. We are here to unite in one determined effort to lift the women of our race, nation, and country, up to a nobler, higher, and better standard.

Dear women, we have answered the call of a few noble and grand workers for humanity to assemble, and here let us seek to benefit ourselves by the sad experiences and failures of the past to improve the conditions for the future, feeling assured that the race, nation and country, by the improvement of our many, many women, will be benefited. Think:—here, over and above us, floats the banner with its many beautiful stripes and stars, the same which has rustled over and above our heads for many years, differing only in the fact that its mighty folds are wider and its glittering stars have increased in number, and although we once looked upon the beautiful flag of our country in anguish and sorrow as it gently waved to and fro, we have the blessed and glorious privilege now to look upon its beautiful colors as citizens of one common country. Oh, may we ever be true, patriotic, loyal and brave, not only asking for its protection in all that is sacredly granted by rights of our birthhood, but may we be united in demanding our heritage as American free-born citizens. The many-hued daughters of the South are found now in nearly every state of our broad Republic. In the East, North, and the unbounded West; their blood commingling freely with

every kindred current. They have but changed their room in this earthly mansion, yet in all its rooms they are at home, and all who inhabit them are their kindred, for "of one blood hath all nations been made."

May this united band have but one domestic hearth. Upon us quite peculiarly devolves the sacred duty of feeding the fires upon that kindly hearth, and of guarding carefully and piously the "sacred household goods." Keeping our souls and bodies free from the taints of sin will help to keep the souls and bodies of others free. Resisting temptation ourselves, we help others to free themselves from the thoughts of the tempter.

Let us then do with nothing less than a united effort to help our women to rise up higher in the world of beauty. United may we ever be. In the veins of our children flow alike pure Southern and Northern blood, pure Anglo-Saxon and African blood. How shall it then be separated?

Who shall tear asunder the dear affections of the heart which bind us together with all people? Let there be nobler instincts of our nature to be true and good.

If we would progress, if we would rise in the scale of civilization, if we would excel in loveliness and strength of body, we must unite in one loving band to guard the virtue and chastity of our women.

Palsied be the hand put forth to loosen this golden cord of union and purpose to protect our sex. Silent be the traitorous lips which propose a difference or severance of purpose; parched be the tongue which shall attempt to speak in derision of pure womankind. Crazed be the brain that shall try to thwart the purpose of any woman to rise. May we resolve never to be dissolved nor suffer our sex to be slandered nor abused. So long, aye, long enough has woman borne the trials of cruel temptation and wrong. Long enough has she silently and quietly submitted to the most torturing struggles to hide man's falsity and shame. The day has passed when to "stone the woman but let the man go free" was the divine law. Oh, blessed Savior! Thou didst forgive, and when cruelly pressed upon Thou saidst, "Let him without a sin cast the first stone." In this great gathering let there be a firm union of purpose and aim to help some others to live true. Let the noble and good women send forth helpers, toilers for the Master.

Once united, once firmly encircled in a loving band, no more than this great union of states can suffer dissolution can this union of loyal servants of the blessed Master's vineyard.

Once united, our fortunes will be too brilliant to be marred, our destinies too powerful to be disturbed, our armies too great to be resisted. And here in this grandest of all countries and in this, the greatest and most marvelous of all the world, will be our greatest triumph, our most mighty development.

Justice for woman may appear to be asleep; aye, she may feign death, but she yet lives and is not blind to the "deeds of the unknown."

Only a day or two ago one grand and good woman in the great meeting of C. E. stood pleading for the women of her race and now we stand pleading for the "slaves" of our race. Our pleadings will unite before the throne of Justice and though she has slumbered long, she is awaking, and we unite in a call to her to arise.

Another century hence, when this country shall have filled its golden horns of plenty, when within her broad territory and upon the banks of her mighty rivers shall be gathered the products of the industry of our sons and daughters with the kindred thousands of proud and great Anglo-Saxon sons and daughters; aye, when we shall have established our own galleries of art, our own conservatories of music, and when our halls of learning shall have made classic this great mart of trade, then may we, the many-hued true mothers and trusty daughters of the South and from the bleak hills and cold shores of the North and golden East, wonderingly gaze out upon the dawn of that beautiful day and exclaim with pride and joy: "Lo, this is our country, the home of the Free, the true, loyal and brave."

"United we stand." All hail dawning day. Auspicious day, when women unite in one grand purpose to rise to the dignity of pure and true womanhood. Honor, glory and praise to His name, who conquering came to die, that we might live. Blessed be the name of Him who suffered ridicule and shame to bear our cross and bid us rise. United then may we be to follow His blessed precepts and example.

United may we ever be to take the loving message to the broken-hearted, to the weary and heavy laden. United may we ever stand to help protect our sex in life, liberty, and the pursuit of a useful life. Praise ever be to the women who projected the plans for the federation of our women for good. God speed the day when their efforts shall be crowned with success. "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Let us unite in an effort to right-form the children, that the next generation may be better than the present.

The "true guide-post" placed at the beginning of the right path is better than the "frowning or scowling pole" often met with at the end of the wrong path.

Let us unite to memorize John Brown by the erecting of Mission Homes in all the cities in our Southland where "mob law" has held sway, with a proviso that the citizens so desire and show such by their aid and determination.

Thus will we perpetuate his memory and brighten the future of so many sad homes, allowing the homeless to be cared for if they wish our aid. Sisterly yours,

Julia A. Hooks.

Pittsburg, July 20, 1896.

To the Officers and Members of A. A. M. Women now assembled in the 19th Street Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

The Wayman Union of the W. C. T. U. is but five months old—a few women banded together for the purpose of uplifting fallen humanity. In the short time we have been organized we have rescued three men and one woman from that terrible monster, Drink.

We are with you in every grand movement that will help to make the world better.

Rebecca Aldridge, Sec'y,
Rebecca I. Smith, Pres't.

Denver, Colo., July 14, 1896.

To the National Federation of Afro-American Women:

Dear Sisters: With pride we think upon your noble band of women who have responded to the call and are gathered from sections of the Union to devise plans for the elevation of the race. Our hearts and hands are with you in this great work, for we feel that wherever the standard of purity, justice and progress is to be planted, the women of the race must be the standard-bearer. The need of rescue work among our people is more apparent every day and appeals to every woman of the race. Already we are working along this line in our city. In this work lies the rise or fall of our people. Pure homes, upright living, will insure good citizens.

It is with sincere regret that we cannot send a delegate to sit with you and bring to us the inspiration that will be gained by contact with the women whose life work is the battle for

womanhood. We hope to receive your periodicals, etc. Send us your Constitution. Enroll us as among the workers for God, Home and Progress. May God be with you. May His guiding hand direct you. May the women of the race, North, South, East and West, be united in this good and great work, and we will by voice and pen and purse aid any and every plan that you may inaugurate for uplifting the race.

Yours in the work,

Woman's Central Club.

Mrs. Enzie Rodgers, President; Mrs. Lottie Alexander, Treasurer; Mrs. A. M. Saunders, Secretary, 608 15th Street, Denver, Colo.

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY CIRCLE, GREENVILLE, MISS.

The Phyllis Wheatley Circle was organized in 1892. At first its object was nothing more than self-culture, but the members believing this to be a narrow, selfish sphere, added the word "Aid." Then we began finding the homes of the needy and giving to them a helping hand. During the years of '94 and '95 we raised nearly four hundred dollars for church purposes, giving alike to all denominations. In the meantime we forgot not the sick and the poor. In January, 1896, we organized among the girls of School No. 2 a branch circle known as the Literary and Industrial Club of No. 2. In this club the girls are taught sewing, mending, cooking, painting, and many kinds of fancy work.

At the closing of our last school term, May 19th, we were able to have on exhibition sixty-five articles made by members of the class. Next term we shall have members of the class make garments for the poor and also make fancy articles to sell, the proceeds of which shall be used in the purchase of books for the poorer children.

Respectfully submitted,

Miss L. C. Williams, President.

Mrs. K. E. Lewis, Secretary.

Jefferson City, Mo., June, 1896.

The Woman's Club of Jefferson City, Mo., present greetings to the National Federation of Colored Women, and herein submit a brief report. For several years we have been endeavoring to uplift and inspire to a higher plane of living under the

auspices of the Harper W. C. T. U. We rejoice that our efforts have not been in vain. We have seen great improvement in the social customs of the community. It is now no longer the rule, but the exception, to serve wines or any intoxicating liquors at social gatherings.

In order to enlist women who could not be enrolled in the W. C. T. U., we organized the Woman's Club in May, 1896.

The work of the club is divided into three departments, viz.: Temperance, Charity and Current Topic. Each of these departments has its chairman, who directs the work, and every member of the club is expected to enroll as an active worker in one of these departments.

The Temperance Circle has co-operated with the W. C. T. U. in all lines of their work. Many children have been pledged, and efforts made to form Anti-Cigarette Leagues to protect our boys from this rapidly increasing evil.

The Charity Circle places a superintendent over each of the city wards, whose duty it is to visit and investigate any worthy case of charity, and recommend the kind of assistance needed. Whether it be food, fuel, clothing or money, we aid to the extent of our means. This circle has also gathered, mended and distributed clothing to poor children to enable them to attend school.

The Current Topic Circle brings before the club clippings on matters of importance to the race. Among the many topics presented and discussed during the past year, were: Lynchings, which resulted in bringing Mrs. Wells-Barnett to our city to lecture; Separate Coach Law; Age of Protection; Negro Exhibit at Atlanta; Speech of Booker T. Washington; Woman's Congress; Waller Case, and many others that proved not only a source of information, but inspiration.

We are proud that we had a part in the first national conference of colored women ever held in America, but we sincerely regret that as a result of that Boston conference there did not come forth one grand organization; one in heart, aim and endeavor to uplift the race.

We trust that our hopes are to be realized in this meeting; that we are to go forth in solid phalanx commanding the respect of the world, as we plead with others to go with us to the heights through difficulties.

Yours to serve,

Libbie C. Anthony, President,

Celia Roberts, Cor. Secretary.

New York, July 18, 1896.

Our motto is: "Be ye doers of the word, not hearers only."

The Sympathetic Union of New York City sends greetings to the Women's National Conference, Washington, D. C. It has been the pleasure of the Women's Sympathetic Union of New York City to elect Mrs. Victoria Mathews as our representative, which we hope will meet with your approval.

The object of our organization is for the uplifting of fallen women, and it is also a benevolent society. There is much practical work to be done, and we hope to accomplish the work in the future that has not been done in the past. We are young and small in number, but our members are very enthusiastic over the work that is before them and we hope by another conference, if the Lord permits, to do much good, and we further hope the conference now in session will come to a successful close and that God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, may abide in every session so that one light may touch the other and that your meetings may not be in vain, and that its enthusiasm may not only be felt in Washington, but throughout our entire land.

Yours for the uplifting of fallen women,

Captain Maxwell, Elmsford, N. Y., President.
Miss Amy Griffen, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Cor. Sec'y.

Norfolk Co.

The First Baptist Church Missionary Society of Berkley, Va., sends greeting to the N. F. A. A. W. and kindly submits the following report:

Since October, 1894, we have, through this society and the aid of the Supreme Deity, added eighty souls to the church. We have also established an afternoon sewing school for the children and a night class for the older ones who are unable to attend during the day. The little ones sew patchwork, which is donated by kind friends of the North, the Home Missionary Society. At the close of the sewing school, we have Bible reading and a prayer or two and a short talk; both boys and girls attend these meetings, which take place weekly. The older ones make aprons and other useful garments which are sold for a small sum to the mothers who are unable to sew for themselves. We have realized from this and other sources one hundred and twenty-five dollars and ninety-six cents ($125.96). We have distributed among our poor and needy over three hundred

(300) pounds, besides many useful garments. These are free-will offerings. We meet once a month and each sister brings a pound or a garment and we go out on a storm party, taking in about half a dozen families each trip. We take entire care of one aged, paralyzed widow, furnishing her with room, food and clothing. This we have done for over two years. We have given to Virginia State Convention, the Home Missionary Society, Virginia Seminary, Gloucester High School, and the Marable case, one hundred and twenty-three dollars ($123.00).

We wish you a harmonious and successful session, and ask your prayers on this, our mall band of forty-nine (49).

Yours for God and humanity,

Lillie A. Paige, President.
M. C. Holmes, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LUCY THURMAN UNION.

One of our most energetic women, a charter member and the first President of the first Women's Christian Temperance Union of our race in the District of Columbia, ever alive and awake to the needs of our people, proposed to several of her friends living in the northwestern section of the city that as it was inconvenient for many of them to attend many weekly meetings in their own churches, that they form a Woman's Christian Temperance Union in their own section and thus do more effective work.

On the 20th of February, 1896, by invitation of this beloved sister, Rosetta E. Lawson, we met at her home and organized the Lucy Thurman Union. Of the fourteen names recorded at that meeting three were charter members and had been active workers in the Union formed in the 19th Street Baptist Church in 1883. Since organization we have added to our number fourteen more; two of whom were transferred to a Union since formed in the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, of which they are members—leaving us today with twenty-six members.

Our President, Mrs. A. S. Gray, is also Superintendent of mothers' meetings. Every Monday night during the past winter many visitors stopped at the University Park Mission on 6th and Trumbull Streets and were made happy by the sight before them. As they entered the main room they saw seated at tables about twenty-four girls, ranging from 10 to 18 years, gathered

in a kitchen garden and taught to do all kinds of housework. Their bright, happy faces showed plainly what a pleasure it is to learn to do things in the right way. In the room adjoining they found the mothers of these girls gathered around our beloved President, sewing on various articles of clothing or listening to instructive talks on social purity, hygiene and good housekeeping.

This work was carried on by members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the workers were, with the exception of two, members of Lucy Thurman Union. In His name, each did what she could to bring more happiness and light into the families of that lowly section.

Sister R. E. Lawson, our evangelistic superintendent, inspires each of us as we listen to the fervent prayer at the opening of each meeting, and much good is done in His name when she makes her visits to jail, almshouse and workhouse. The prayers seem to stir their very souls; and as from ward to ward she raises the songs of Zion, the dear old Christians in the almshouse, as they join in the singing and make fervent exclamations during prayer, show in their happy, upturned faces that she has truly come in His name—the name of their Heavenly Father, whom they, though poor and lowly, are striving some day to meet.

Need we tell you of the work of our Flower Mission Superintendent, Mrs. R. T. Hamilton? Surely all here have heard of that sweet, good woman, Miss Jennie Cassiday, who gave to the 9th of June its name. Though lying on her bed of affliction, her pure soul longed to help those in like conditions bear their burdens; so she conceived the idea of sending little bouquets of flowers to the sick in hospitals and orphan homes to brighten and cheer them. The idea was so beautiful that wherever we find a Woman's Christian Temperance Union, on this day, the 9th of June, we find the sick visited everywhere and bright flowers tied with a bow of white ribbon with a text-card attached is given each inmate of hospital, almshouse and orphan asylum. It is not only on this day that the sick are remembered by the Flower Mission Superintendent, but as an earnest Christian the work of this department is carried on whenever opportunity permits. Weekly visits are made. Fruit, jellies, crackers and other delicacies are given the sick and they are made to feel that they are not forgotten.

Another department of work by this Union is that of prison

and jail work. The Corresponding Secretary is Superintendent of this department and God grant that the time will come when all the Christians in our churches, whether they wear the white ribbon or not, will feel it their duty to unite in this particular work.

Sisters, would you believe that four-fifths of the prisoners in our jail and workhouse are of our race? Isn't it our duty as children of the living God to visit them and try to win them back from their erring ways? Many an one has been reclaimed by Christians singing and praying and exhorting in these places and speaking the sympathizing word. Many who have felt as though no one cared for their soul have received hope and made a new determination during the visit of one of these children of God. If only a text of Scripture is repeated from the lips of one who feels deep down in her soul the truth of what is said, much good is done in His name.

The Superintendent of prison and jail work is usually accompanied by the Evangelistic Superintendent and the Superintendent of Literature. The latter, Miss S. E. Bush, has been in this especial department of W. C. T. U. work about four years; therefore our Union feels greatly blessed to have this energetic young worker enrolled as one of its members. Every month hundreds of pages of literature are distributed by her hand in the asylums, hospitals and barber shops, and it is only a matter of time before she will keep boxes in each of our depots filled with choice temperance literature, and as persons wait for the trains they will find at hand good reading matter which costs them nothing.

Just a few days ago our committee appointed to this work received from Mr. Crawford, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Depot, permission to put a box for literature in that station. We pray that God may bless these efforts and seed sown in this way may spring up some sixty and some an hundred fold.

Dr. Carrie Thomas, our Superintendent of the study of Heredity and Hygiene, is a young woman capable of doing great good to the masses of our people. Having made the study of medicine her profession and having taught physical culture in our public schools, you can see that this department is especially suited to her.

Papers read by her at our public meetings show deep thought and are very instructive. In this department is distributed lit-

erature which will help our women to understand the significance of physical training as a temperance measure and a most important factor in hygiene and health reform.

Personal visits among the sick and talks on sanitary and hygienic science are productive of great good. The principles of health reform underlie the whole fabric of Christian civilization, for as one doctor has said, "We need to show the direct and positive connection between pure blood and pure thoughts."

Mrs. Hattie King, our Superintendent of Juvenile and Sunday School work, is devoted to children and teaches not only in the Sabbath School of the church to which she belongs, but devotes her Sabbath afternoons to teaching a class in one of our Mission Schools. The children of these classes are intensely interested in the subject of temperance, and it is the purpose of Sister King to have a common meeting place in September, for all children who would like to form themselves into a Loyal Temperance Legion.

Mrs. Lula Jackson is our Superintendent of unfermented wine. The object of this department is to secure the use of unfermented wine for sacramental purposes. As there is a well-grounded belief that danger lies in the use of fermented wine at the communion table, and as it is the duty of the Church of Christ to avoid even the appearance of evil, we pray that sentiment may be aroused on this subject, and that much good may be done in His name.

There are many more departments of work connected with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and we hope that our Union, though small, may before the year is out double its present number and have live Superintendents, not only in eight departments, but five times the number, and all go forth sowing precious seed in His name.

"For ours is the seed-time; God alone
Beholds the end of what is sown.
Beyond our vision, weak and dim,
The harvest-time is hid with Him.
Yet unforgotten where it lies,
The seed of generous sacrifice,
Though seeming on a desert cast,
Shall rise and bloom with truth at last."

Louise Early Hawkins.

July 20, 1896.

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF ART.

The lack of popular education in art is a familiar topic and an old grievance. Think how much we are indebted to art for the very history of the world. What would we know of the ancient history of Assyria, Greece, Rome, Spain, Germany, but for their architectural remains?

They have little or no written history, but when we look upon the masterpieces which even now adorn their territories and note the almost perfect state of some of these structures, which have withstood earthquake, war and time, we of the nineteenth century who boast of our advanced state of civilization and education, see that the skill and perfection to which the ancients attained is something far beyond our present reach.

The art of a given people at a given time is due to the physical, intellectual and social conditions of that people at that time, says Taine.

A stone rudely carved in some design represents a thought expressed in substance and reflects the artist's spirit of the time at which it was made. The most primitive human beings of whom we have any knowledge, the cave dwellers in the palaeolithic period, had not only the useful art of chipping stone into arrow and spear heads, but also the ornamental art of scratching the outline of animals upon the handles and even of carving them in the form of animals. Here skill is used for fancy and pleasure and to add an element of fancy to the useful.

Here, also, we see the germ of all those arts that produce imitations of natural objects such as painting and sculpture and of those that fashion useful objects in one way rather than another because the one also gives pleasure as furniture making and house building.

Art thus forms historic illustration of its immense educational value, as it is the inevitable expression of the human mind.

Suppose, for a moment, that our great American nation should suddenly die out. What great works of art have we to tell the history of our laws, manners and customs? They are indeed very few. A speedy art growth, a leap into the front ranks of culture is predicted for our country in the near future.

We are told that a century has been sufficient to establish the United States on solid foundations. Pre-eminent in agriculture, in manufactures, in wealth, in political power, it is ours now to enter upon the last and grandest stage.

The history of art recognizes but two periods of absolute perfection, the Phidian age in Greece and the age of Renaissance in Italy. The human mind at present is unable to conceive of a higher plane of beauty than that of Greek architecture and sculpture attained by centuries of labor, which the world vouches to be final. Have we any architecture that will so compare with theirs as to be classed final? I think not, and as many of the ancient arts are lost to us it but emphasizes the fact that we have yet much to accomplish.

The nations that found public art museums and picture galleries and whose citizens of wealth decorate their homes with masterpieces of art, are surely on the road to art education. And yet when our large cities in mid-summer are almost empty except for the thousands, perhaps millions of busy toilers, think of the magnificent wealth of art that is hidden in the deserted dwellings of the rich. Why this selfishness and lack of public spirit? Why is it not sent for two or three months to some large museum where at least on one afternoon of the week it will delight the eyes of thousands?

The flowers that waste their sweetness on the desert air are far less a cause for regret than the splendid galleries of the rich shut up, darkened, and deserted.

It is surprising that a city like New York that spends considerable sums to give its people good music in the parks should maintain in those same parks some of the worst sculpture.

Fine monuments have a value to the community that cannot be precisely set down in dollars and cents. They are silent beacons set before a noisy, busy world which preach lofty ideas and breathe dignity and beauty. Some of the former monuments only make ridiculous the great men they were designed to represent and honor. If New York were educated to artistic intelligence she would not tolerate the existence of certain works of alleged art which at present disfigure rather than ornament her public places.

The evolution of art requires an educated public. Great art would be lost among barbarians and the people which has not advanced sufficiently in culture to know the difference between imitative and creative art is still barbaric.

Why is it that many are so proud of the cities from which they come? Is it because they cover so many acres of land and have a population of fifty or one hundred thousand? No, it is because they have many fine buildings, beautiful parks, fine residences and well laid streets which its inhabitants appreciate.

Cambridge is noted as containing Mount Auburn cemetery, not only on account of the eminent dead who rest there but also for the beauty of this old cemetery; New York is noted for its many fine residences, for Central Park and others; Boston for its fine buildings; Brooklyn for its magnificent churches, and well may Washington be proud of its stately buildings and dignified monuments. You see plainly that these things I have mentioned are products of art and that art is essential to a highly educated and cultured nation.

That the benefits of art study are beginning to be appreciated by the people is seen in the establishment of schools of art in connection with many universities. The Art League of New York, the Dwight school in Boston, the Cincinnati School of Design have done a great deal. New fields of occupation are opened after leaving such schools that are inviting and remunerative to young men and women.

It is for the rich to recognize the fact that nourishment of art pays back a hundred fold and there are few more direct modes of patriotic effort.

Crowds throng the Metropolitan Museum of New York. Is it to be supposed that they are not imperceptibly educated? Art, which has been held to be the possession of the few rich, is now to belong to many, to be something for the cultivation and joy of the people and it will grow in inspiration, breadth and power.

The Greek painter, Parrhasius, understood that art is an educator and a necessity. Instead of doing all he could to confine the knowledge of it to a few, he displayed his masterpieces in every public building, square and avenue. Here they were seen by poor as well as rich, by educated as well as uneducated. So the people learned by seeing the best to distinguish between what is true and what is false in art.

I could close with no more fitting words than those of Prof. Morse in an address delivered at Vassar College. In the cities of Japan the most fragile and delicate wood carvings are frequently exposed on the outer walls of the houses, and it is a constant marvel to travelers to see that they are never mutilated by passers-by. In Cleveland, Ohio, when some finely carved stone posts were set along the sidewalks of one of the best resident streets, they were wantonly broken and destroyed by vagabonds.

He bids us pause in our boasts of material power and prosperity, of aggregate wealth, of scientific achievement, long

enough to admit that in appreciation of art, in love of things that give sweetness and light to life we are, as a nation, far behind the despised orientals. It is one of the many evils whose great remedy is education. Speaking collectively, we are today almost wholly untaught in subjects whose rudiments at least are familiar to every child in Japan.

We do not care for beauty because we are not taught to appreciate it—beauty in our dwellings, in our cities, in our daily lives. We miss much that would make life more worth living and set a gentler, higher standard of refinement on our mutual relations.

It is not essential that our civilization should forever be the turbulent, violent, "hustling" thing it now is. We can and must be educated to know better.

Ellen Nowell Ford.

National Colored Woman's League, Denver Branch.

Denver, Colo., July 16, 1896.

Dear Mrs. Mathews:

I received your letter some time ago, but did not answer because of the uncertainty of my attending the Convention. I have hoped and expected that it might be possible, but circumstances over which I have no control prevent me from attending. It is needless to say that I am disappointed. I have read the programme that has been sent me and do not believe that better subjects could have been selected.

You spoke in your letter of organizing clubs; probably you are aware that we have a club already organized in our city, known as the Wowan's League. We owe allegiance to the National Colored Woman's League, but we are very much disappointed in the action they have taken concerning the uniting of the two National organizations, which we have repeatedly urged through correspondence. Our League is in active work, and would like to join and will join the Federation if you will send us the conditions and a membership card.

I have distributed the programmes and circulars among the members. All express sympathy with the Federation and regret the inability of sending a representative. Our work during the past year has been productive of much good; every undertaking has been along the line of advancement, but our league has been crippled by the withdrawal of women of capabilities. Some of the reasons given are: "I cannot associate with some of the members; I am afraid that I may be called upon to write

a paper and I do not want to be laughed at." These are a few of many absurd reasons given for staying away; yet there are a few high-souled women standing together who believe that they can do a great deal of good in this form of work.

We have been represented in some of the most representative gatherings of the state and have deported ourselves only as earnest women can. Our strength has been felt in some of our civic problems in reform work and has been the means of saving one wayward girl from the penitentiary. The colored girls in the State Industrial School have also received some attention. The charity department has looked after and nourished the sick

The educational department has kept the best thoughts before the league. The library committee is collecting the books composed by members of the race and I might go on telling you what we have done and hope to do but time and space will not permit me.

You spoke of support for the Era. I believe that its interests can be best established by an authorized agent in every state in the Union and she may have subordinates in every town and city in that state. I would further suggest that each club belonging to the Federation subscribe for 10 copies monthly, thereby promoting its circulation.

Another suggestion, and I am through, that you might bring before the Convention and that is state organization of clubs. I believe that it would be the means of more direct stimulation.

I know that the Convention will be a grand success and I express my regret again that I cannot be with you.

Sincerely and truly,

Ida DePriest.

REPORT ST. LOUIS COLORED ORPHAN HOME.

Our Orphans.

"In faith and hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is charity."

From early times people have been forced to seek places of refuge for different causes; war, pestilence, famine, religious persecution, etc., have caused them to flee to places of safety and they have generally found some place apparently waiting to

receive them. If not man, nature herself stood with open arms. The mountains, forests, caves and catacombs have at times all furnished refuge to man. In ancient times sacred places, especially the temples, and altars of the gods were appointed as asylums to which criminals as well as persecuted individuals might flee for refuge, and to molest them in such places was regarded as an impiety. And so it has been from early ages down to the present, that some one has always thought of the outcast, some one has tried to ameliorate the condition of the destitute; and so asylums have been founded for the orphans, the lunatic, the inebriate and so on. I have been unable to find the exact date of the founding of the first orphans' asylum, but such institutions have been in existence a number of years. And of all institutions founded for the cure or care of individuals it seems to me the most praiseworthy of all are those places or institutions of refuge called orphan homes.

Shortly after the organization of the Harper branch of the W. C. T. U. in St. Louis, the ladies looked for some work that would benefit their people. Their attention was called to the fact that no provision was made for the colored orphans and destitute children of the city; their only refuge being the poorhouse or the House of Refuge. They readily saw the demoralizing influence that would surround such children and the humiliation that awaited them when they should leave these places and enter upon life's duties. They concluded at once to open a home for colored orphan and destitute children of St. Louis. So, accordingly, in October, 1877, the St. Louis Colored Orphan Home was opened. It is non-sectarian and unendowed. Its management is under the direct control of a board of 15 ladies chosen from the W. C. T. U. It is supported by subscription and entertainment. Each member of the board is provided with a soliciting book from which she reports monthly. Its current expenses are from $100 to $115 per month to meet which is an arduous task, and were it not that it is a just and holy cause our hearts would sink beneath the load and we would cry out in anguish, "It's no use trying, we cannot do it;" but we feel if we trust and look to Him in some way He will deliver us. We pray that the time is not far distant when the St. Louis Colored Orphan Home will not be allowed to struggle on without an endowment fund, the income of which will enable its management to care for it so as to make it an ideal home for the helpless of our race who appeal to our charity.

The home has been crowded to its utmost capacity for two years. There having been from 40 to 45 inmates each month, when 35 with the matron, nurse and cook are all we can accommodate conveniently. Our receipts for the year were $1,290.69; expenses $1,129.85. We receive no children under two years of age nor over 12 years. At the age of 12 years we find homes for them. Our matron takes the children to one of the public schools in the morning and calls for them in the evening. We have a Sabbath school conducted in the home by a very estimable young man. The nurse takes them to Sunday morning service at some of the churches.

Too much cannot be said in praise of these few consecrated women who are sacrificing their home, their pleasures, their all, for the sake of poor motherless children. Surely many will rise up and call them blessed.

Mrs. M. F. Pitts.

THE RICHMOND WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

July 20, 1896.

To the N. F. of A. A. Women, Assembled in Washington, D. C.

Greetings: The R. W. League, now numbering two hundred and fifty members, originated from a call sent out by the Woman's Era Club inviting our women to Boston in July, 1895, to take under advisement certain matters which pertained to the welfare of our women. Your humble servant, though unable to attend in person, joined heartily in the movement, and talked the matter to several women at home. When the noted Lunenburg case, in which Solomon Marable, Pokey Barnes and Mary Abernathy were convicted of the murder of Mrs. Lucy J. Pollard, a white woman, and sentenced by Judge Orgain, under penalty of death, the whole state of Virginia became aroused. The daily and weekly papers proclaimed it a shame upon the state to execute such a severe judgment when the prisoners had not been defended, and were wholly unable, on account of poverty, to secure counsel. Many lawyers of our city took a deep interest in the case. Some of the most influential lawyers talked the matter with Mr. J. Mitchell, Jr., editor of the Planet, and agreed to take up the case at a sacrifice (considering its importance) and secure a new trial for the two women. The

money had to be raised by the free-will offering of the people. Mr. Mitchell went to every church in the city, and by pathetically citing the case, aroused the sympathy of every man, woman and child. After his appearance before the audience of the First Baptist Church, the following Friday he met me on the street and told me of new developments in the case.

During our talk, I spoke of your Convention in Boston, and of a determination to organize a woman's league, which could just at that time assist in his efforts to obtain the means to conduct the case. He remarked that "there could be no better time than now." That was about the 1st of August, 1895.

The same evening our Secretary was informed of our intention. She called to see me the following morning and expressed her interest in the movement; so we then and there agreed to work together and lose no time in the culmination of our plans. We formulated a circular letter, secured the First Baptist Church in which our league was organized August 9th, 1895, resulting in the election of Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, President; Miss M. L. Chiles, Secretary, and Mrs. A. T. Grimes, Treasurer.

In the first meeting the collection amounted to $41.45. A second meeting was appointed two weeks later at the 5th St. Baptist Church. Feeling that a great responsibility rested upon me, I saw no relief save an appeal to the female organizations of the city.

The appeal, in person, was answered by contributions from $2.00 to $25.00 each.

Having obtained $35.00 for my first evening's work from two societies, I became much encouraged. In one week I had in hand $100.00 to carry to the second meeting. Just at this juncture I thought of a plan to secure not money only, but members also.

So during the second week, I requested the appointment of committees of three or five members from each organization to present the money in the regular meeting of the league. The result was that at our second meeting we had a large, enthusiastic gathering and a collection of $215.30. Our efforts have been continued and we have succeeded in raising $690.00, which we banked from time to time, and have now turned over to Mr. Mitchell to assist in the defense of the poor women. It becomes my duty to present to your notice the noble God-fearing women of Richmond, Va., who have so willingly and earnestly supported their President in the work. We have

only to thank God for the benevolent spirit with which He has imbued so large a number of women.

Yes, we greet you with hearts and hands reaching to grasp yours, that we may the better contend against wrong in whatever form it may be presented. We pray for the time when our women will be so united that the prayers of our organization may be as one earnest petition of the soul, with one great object in view, viz.—the amelioration of our women. When this united prayer, accompanied by faith, ascends the mercy seat of the God over all, there can be no tendency to divisions in the work for our Lord and Master, this one Redeemer of all the nations of the earth. It is in union and union only can we expect the rich showers of blessings which God's bounteous love is able and willing to bestow upon us. But words, mere words will not suffice. The age demands action.

Today's transactions should portray an era of good will emanating from hearts true and tried, with a broadened conception of the duty of our women, impelling us onward and upward, and filled with the sunshine of God's love, together strive to obliterate every shadow of a division, which undoubtedly weakens and retards the accomplishment of the purpose for which we are organized.

All of which we respectfully submit, praying that God's love will cement our bands, and that no spirit of disloyalty to the cause we represent will bring about a greater division of our organizations.

Yours in the interest of humanity,
Rosa D. Bowser, Pres. of League.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15th, 1896.

To the President National Federation Afro-American Women,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

The enclosed invitations from prominent officials, citizens and the daily press of this city show how earnestly our people desire that the next annual session of your Association be held in this city. I desire now to add my earnest appeal that your body make Nashville its next place of meeting.

In extending this invitation I am sure I voice the sentiments of all the people in this community. Such meeting held in this city during our Centennial Exposition will prove a very great

benefit not only to our people in Tennessee, but throughout the entire South.

Again urging that you make Nashville your place of meeting in 1897, I am

Very truly yours, etc.,
J. C. Napier, Chief Negro Department.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, '96.

To the President Afro-American Women's League of the U. S.
Dear Madam:

The Chamber of Commerce of Nashville, Tenn., together with other official bodies of this city, beg very respectfully to tender herewith a most cordial and pressing invitation for your Association to hold its annual Convention of 1897 in the City of Nashville during the pendency of our Tennessee Centennial Exposition, opening May 1, 1897, and continuing six months.

We can assure you a most hearty and cordial welcome, and will use all possible means to make your stay among us pleasant, and we feel sure that the recollections of your visit to Tennessee will be a matter of pleasure both to yourselves and the people of our city.

The many attractions and inducements that our state and city have to offer for the meeting here of the different organizations of the country in our Centennial year, 1897, are set forth in part in the accompanying circular. Side trips to any and all points of interest, the many battle fields, Hermitage, Lookout Mountain, celebrated stock farms, etc., etc., can be made in a few hours' ride at greatly reduced rates. Many of the principal points can be reached without charge.

Trusting to have the presence of your Association in our city next year, we remain,

Very respectfully,
Nashville Chamber of Commerce.
By A. J. Harris, Pres't.
A. W. Wills, Sec'y.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 1896.

To the President Afro-American Woman's League of the U. S.
Dear Madam:

I take pleasure in endorsing the invitation extended by the Chamber of Commerce to your Honorable Body to hold your

next Annual Convention in this city during our Centennial year. We will see that you receive a most cordial, hearty greeting, and that your stay shall not only be pleasant, but profitable to each of you.

Yours respectfully,
Wm. M. McCarthy, Mayor.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 1896.

To the President Afro-American Woman's League of the U. S.
Dear Madam:

The Board of Public Works and Affairs, of Nashville, Tenn., joins with His Honor, the Mayor, and others, in extending a most cordial invitation to your Association to meet in Nashville in 1897.

Respectfully,
Board of Public Works and Affairs.
Per Geo. W. Stainback, Chairman.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 1896.

To the President Afro-American Woman's League of the U. S.
Dear Madam:

The Tennessee Centennial joins most heartily in the accompanying invitations, and will be greatly pleased to have you visit our beautiful city in 1897.

We propose to hold one of the grandest Industrial Expositions ever witnessed in this country for the purpose of celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the admission of the State of Tennessee into the Federal Union.

On account of the many conventions to assemble in Nashville next year, we will be able to secure for you a very low transportation rate, and will have the necessary Convention Hall in which to hold your meetings furnished gratuitously.

We will also take pleasure in arranging excursions at greatly reduced rates, should you desire to visit Lookout Mountain, Mammouth Cave, and other noted places in this vicinity.

We deem it proper to state to you, however, that owing to the large number of associations which will visit us in 1897, we cannot arrange for the entire management of entertainments, programmes, etc., prepared for the different conventions, but will aid you all in our power, and have organized a special department for the purpose.

Trusting that you may decide to come to see us, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Tennessee Centennial,

By E. C. Lewis, Director General.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 1896.

To the President Afro-American Woman's League of the U. S.

Dear Madam:

The City Council of Nashville, Tenn., begs most heartily to unite in extending a most cordial invitation to your Association to hold its Annual Convention in Nashville during our Centennial year, 1897. We will receive you with open arms.

Respectfully,

Nashville City Council,

By A. S. Williams, Pres't.

Nashville, Tenn., July 15, 1896.

To the President Afro-American Woman's League of the U. S.

Dear Madam:

As representatives of the Daily Press of Nashville, we join most cordially in inviting your Association to hold its next meeting in this city. We will gladly publish all proceedings of your meetings, and will extend such courtesies as are usually due from the Press on such occasions.

The American,

By Chas. C. Buck, General Manager.

The Banner,

By E. W. Foster, Bus. Mgr.

The Sun,

By A. L. Rome, Bus. Manager.

Madam President, and Women of the Federation:

The Woman's Club of Rochester sends greetings to you, wishing you success in your Convention.

Our Club is young; we have 50 members, and 40 active. Our Club is divided in minor clubs or departments. We have moral education, literature, charity, domestic science, race question, temperance and current topics. These clubs have their own chairman and committees, and every member of the Club is on one of these committees. I will not have time to give in detail the line of work that is carried on in these clubs, but must say a

word on our moral educational department. It is to help the moral sense of the community for the prevention of social vice and promotion of social purity. The mothers' meetings come under that head. One hour in that meeting is given to conversation. The old as well as the young want to acquire the art of conversing well, of knowing when to speak and when to be silent, how to say the right thing at the right time. It seems strange to me why the art of conversing agreeably and usefully should not be more considered from an educational point of view. One writer says mothers can do a great deal of good on that line. When your children are conversing, give such a turn to the conversation as will lead into channels at once instructive and amusing, and in this way cultivate not only the power of expressing themselves easily and well, but also to enlarge their ideas for a higher kind of conversation than mere gossip.

Education does not only consist in taking ideas, but in the power of assimulating them, in making them a part of one's self and be able to reproduce them when necessary in the best and most appropriate way. In order to do this a good flow of language is necessary, so we converse on different topics and we find the hour very enjoyable. In our domestic science department we have a prize for the best loaf of bread and cake, object lesson on bed making, how to build the fire this winter, etc. We will be instructed by a leading caterer how to make a salad and set a lunch table. I might go through all of our departments, but as time is limited will wish you God-speed in your good work.

H. C. Jeffrey, President.
M. O. Thompson, Cor. Sec.

RESOLUTIONS OF JOHN BROWN MONUMENT ASSN.

Whereas, There was on August 17, 1894, duly organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota, an Association known as the John Brown Monument Association, located at the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, which Association was created for the purpose of erecting a marble shaft to the memory of that hero, John Brown, and show our appreciation of his noble deeds; and,

Whereas, At the Afro-American Women's National Congress at Atlanta, Ga., on December 27th and 28th, 1895, a resolution

was adopted by that National body fully recognizing the work attempted by the John Brown Monument Association, but recommending that there should be erected an orphans' home and training school, instead of a marble shaft as provided at the meeting of said Congress, for the less fortunate of our race and thereafter the said Association change its by-laws and constitution in such a manner as to allow the building of said orphans' home and training school.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by this session of the general conference of the A. M. E. Church, now in session in the city of Wilmington, N. C., this 21st day of May, 1896, having been informed by Mrs. T. H. Tyles, National President of the John Brown Monument Association, of the purposes and plans of said Association, organized as aforesaid, to erect a suitable home and industrial training school, somewhere in the Southland in the state raising the largest sum of money for that purpose, do hereby express our most hearty indorsement of said project and commend the same to all of our churches.

Resolved, seconded, That, in our judgment, on about the 16th day of October of this year, the 35th anniversary of John Brown's raid upon Harper's Ferry when the first blow was struck to break the shackles from four million of our race, would be a proper time to hold a John Brown anniversary in all of our churches and raise at that time a collection to assist in building the said orphans' home and industrial school and monument; the same to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the John Brown Monument Association at St. Paul, Minn.

W. B. Derrick, Chairman.
J. F. Jenifer.
L. M. Smith.
W. Hunter.
N. B. Sterrett.
A. L. Murray.
W. P. Bradley.
R. H. W. Leek.

To the Ladies of the National Federation of Afro-American Women in Convention assembled:

We have met here to discuss any and all matters which are of interest or profit to our race—not only to discuss, but to suggest, resolve and, if possible, to act. I say if possible to act, because

in regard to some things effective action is, for the time at least, impossible. Such a case is the recent disgraceful decision of the United States Supreme Court in regard to the "Jim-Crow car-system."

Since the Supreme Court has declared to be constitutional a law that violates both the spirit and letter of that amendment to the constitution which forbids discrimination "on account of race, color, or previous condition," that law cannot be defied or opposed. There is no appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court; and there is no chance of obtaining a different decision from that court, for its judges hold office for life. What, then, can be said or done? I said there is no appeal from a Supreme Court decision. There is one: that is the appeal to the civilization, the culture, the spirit of justice of this age. Hold up to the eyes of enlightened Europe this sample of American justice. Let Europe and the Turk, whose barbarous treatment of the Armenians so lately shocked the fine sensibilities of the upright, the just and humane American nation, wonder at the mockery of the American Constitution, and the inconsistence of America's highest tribunal.

We have been informed that (since justice in this matter can no longer be hoped for) there is a movement on foot to secure, if possible, two classes of accommodation for the negro race in order that we may not be forced into a filthy car filled with the refuse of the whites as well as the lower class of our own race. This expedient will be an improvement in the matter of comfort, but in seeking our personal convenience, let us not forget that there is a principle involved—the principle of right and justice. Let us remember and constantly recall to the minds of the civilized world the fact that this nation which declares that "all men are created free and equal" still continues to violate its own professed principles and written law.

(These are the sentiments of the Golden Rule Club.)

[The movement referred to for the improvement of traveling accommodations for Afro-Americans is an effort soon to be made in which the companies operating under the separate coach system will be requested to furnish the full and exact provisions required by the statute governing the case—equal accommodations.]

The Women's Loyal Union and John Brown Industrial Club, of St. Paul, Minnesota, send greetings to the First Convention of the National Federation of Afro-American Women here assembled:

When the National Confederation of Afro-American Women was organized in Boston, it was understood that every delegate present and every club of women, represented by letter or otherwise, would support and sustain the Federation by making it strong numerically, and representatives of women were urged to organize local clubs and use their influence, not only in bringing into the Federation clubs so organized, but all women's clubs then existing in their respective localities.

We have organized in St. Paul, Minn., the Women's John Brown Loyal Union for moral, intellectual and industrial work. We pay for scholarships for students in the South and send boxes of ready made sheets, pillow-slips and table linen, etc., to needy schools in the South, and help the race in various ways. One of the main purposes of our work this year is to raise funds to assist the John Brown Monument Association in erecting an orphans' home to the memory of our hero, John Brown. This is our plan:

We placed in the hands of one hundred women throughout the state a book to raise a subscription of ten dollars each, and have asked every Sabbath school in the state to contribute something to this fund. This, if followed in every state, would create a fund of over a thousand dollars from each state for the erection of the John Brown's Orphan Home.

Mrs. T. H. Lyles, President.
Mrs. Nellie Francis, Sec.
Mrs. W. B. Elget, Treas.

The Frances Harper W. C. T. U., of St. Paul, Minn., extend greetings to the National Federation of Afro-American Women in this Convention assembled:

What have been the decisions of time for women? Anciently she was looked upon as an inferior being, as either man's slave or plaything. She had little part in the world's reformatory history.

But what is the prevailing sentiment concerning the women of today? Did not the Women's Congress which convened at Atlanta, Georgia, in December, 1895, show to the world that

they are keeping pace with the times, and that they are being raised to their true level? For today the women of our race are uniting themselves together, as they never have before, for the purpose of bettering the condition of their race and for the uplifting of humanity. We have every reason to feel encouraged over the work undertaken by the Frances Harper W. C. T. U. of St. Paul in their temperance, reform and rescue work in the State of Minnesota. We have in St. Paul a population of 3,000 colored, and we had only one saloon, and our brave women have succeeded in closing that. So you see, dear friends, we are in the march of progress.

We have in our Association a committee of friendly visitors.

Mrs. N. Russell, President.
Mrs. S. B. Jones, Sec.
Mrs. T. H. Lyles, Treas.

"WOMAN'S WORTH AND WORK."

Miss Mattie Sykes, Woman's Club, Atlanta, Ga.

"Break, break, break,
On thy cold, gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me."

When we think of the past and present there is no spectacle more suitable to lead the mind into serious reflection than the "Worth and work of Woman."

There is no better way to see this than to note the different ways in which she has made herself an example of true womanhood.

Where can we find more beautiful types of pure womanhood than those of Rachael, of Hannah, and of Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair?

When Columbus was preparing for his voyage many obstacles confronted him, but by the courageous act of Queen Isabella he succeeded admirably, without which he might have failed, signally. When we pass into the fields of human effort in literature, art, or even into deeds of self-sacrifice or any virtues which help to make life pure and sweet woman stands as the helper in them all.

When the names of such women as Phillis Wheatley, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances Harper, Frances Willard, and last, but not least, our own Carrie Steele Logan are presented to us, we at once recall their many noble deeds of self-sacrifice and charity then we are tempted to say, "Lives of great women all remind us we can make our lives sublime."

After the creation of heaven and earth, God created man; but insomuch as a ship is useless without a rudder, the church unprogressive without a pastor, the school-room worthless without a teacher, in just so much was the world incomplete without woman.

Woman from the beginning desired prosperity and well did she know that its price was toil. It was force of will, oneness of aim, and concentration of the mind to one point that has brought woman to where she is.

Whatever degrades woman, degrades man. Whatever elevates woman, elevates man. Woman is the possessor of those faculties, intellect, sensibility and will, that belong to every human being.

While it is impossible to count the sands of the sea, or go for "The bag of gold that awaits us at the end of the rainbow," it is also just as much an impossibility to estimate the "Worth and Work of Woman." But we can safely say that her worth is the worth of the human soul and what that is worth we can have a faint idea by the thought of Christ's giving up life for the human soul on Calvary. Woman then is not a rubber ball, or a rag doll, or by any means the slave of man, but she is a human being and whether given an equal opportunity or not she certainly assumes her share of the responsibilities of life.

The duty of making the most of herself is laid upon her in order that she may be better prepared to help those of the slums and back-alleys. For the motto of the true woman is, "Look up and lift up."

"Balked and baffled though we oft be,
We shall reach the goal in time;
For the mountain must be lofty,
To whose summit none can climb.
Do not tremble when ye near it,
And behold its awful height;
Like the eagle let thy spirit
Soar above it in its flight."

The salvation of the country depends upon woman, and it is unnecessary to put so many unnatural limitations on her. It is womanhood that has told and will continue to tell. She has ever worked for the glory of God and the good of man.

A woman who is a wife and mother must find in her home her chief field of labor. No outside duty, be it ever so important, can be of enough interest to take a true mother away from her children. How then are the little children to be trained constantly, save by the mother? There is no work grander or so far-reaching as this.

Well has Ezekiel said, As is the mother, so is her daughter.

Surrounding circumstances may oblige the mother to be away from her home, and, if so, her children suffer a dreadful loss from which they do not recover through life.

Woman, as woman, has no particular claim to be supported by any man so long as she is in her health, but it is a pity that a mother of many young children has to earn money besides caring for her offspring.

Woman's work, outside the home and inside, is very much alike, particularly that of unmarried women and those whose children have grown up.

Think of woman in the professions and trades. When is she happiest, except when engaged in that work which is like that done in the home; as in nursing the sick, school-teaching, and laundry work? Women physicians, if they are physically able, render excellent service. Woman then is in her proper sphere as editor, lawyer, or, even, minister.

In speaking of her work in general, the purification and elevation of society are dependent upon woman. Should the day come, and I think it is fast approaching, when a more intelligent understanding of official duties will be needed (when reason will have made a deeper impression on her mind to perform independently the ordinary employments of the office-holder, to know for whom she votes and why, and should her constituents see fit to put her in office)—she will, with a little study, be able to do with honor the duties imposed upon her.

"For the hands that rock the cradle shall rule the world."

It is she who must begin and carry through reforms in dress; she must carry the temperance question upon her heart until this question becomes ancient history. She must be the founder of kindergartens and other schools and see that they flourish.

She must lay the foundation for the public library and reading room, and just here I wish to make an appeal to the women of Atlanta with the understanding that "A hint to the wise is sufficient." She must begin at her own door to establish a Village Improvement Society to keep her town or city looking beautiful.

Reformatories for the offenders of the law are in great demand, but how shall they ever be instituted save by woman?

Our churches in general are out of debt through the perseverance of whom? Woman. Did you ever know a church to thrive without the untiring help of woman? She must see that the poor are cared for, that the sick and sorrowing are not neglected and that the wicked have a chance to reform. Surely woman's field is a broad one and she needs the very Christ to help her till it. For ages this work has been going on, and we are asking ourselves, "What shall the harvest be?" We can judge what it will be from what it has been.

We do not start by being expert voyagers in the sea of life, and the mistakes which we make may be a part of our education as seamen.

It has been truthfully said that "He who never made a mistake never made a discovery." Well is it for us if our mistakes lead to discoveries and our suffering to wisdom.

We must above all seek God's help in every misfortune.

The saints above were confronted with many difficulties while here.

"Let us follow Patience ever,
He will always lead us right;
Haste hath won a battle, never,
Save when Patience was in sight.

"Be it ours to watch and listen,
Ours to calmly meditate;
Brighter stars will rise and glisten,
Tho' their coming seemeth late.

"God is just and with his own hand,
He will shape our destiny;
If our future be in this land,
Or in that beyond the sea."

REPORT OF THE MINUTES OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF ATLANTA FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 1896.

The organization of the Woman's Club of Atlanta is one of the fruits of the deeply spiritual, evangelistic and educational "Congress on Africa" which was held in Atlanta City during the month of December, 1895, which shook this country and brought together many thousands, the greater part of whom were the most prominent men and women religionists of the age. In the number that were moved to march in the Army of Jesus Christ to conquer the world were many devoted women. These combined and brought about a "Woman's Congress on Religion." This was convened in one of the largest church buildings in the city, which lasted for a week, embracing many thousands, and in which the spirit of the true woman of Christianity was shown out very conspicuously. Several ladies after the closing of this Congress thought of combining for the purpose of using the powers God had given them to reform, to lift up, to help the churches, and to carry on Christ's work for the salvation of the nation. The organization of these women formed the "Woman's Club of Atlanta."

The minutes of the first meeting confirmed the appointment of a President and Secretary, Mrs. D. T. Howard and M. A. Ford respectively. Thus the Club was organized with a membership of nine and By-laws and Regulations were laid down January 25, 1896.

Division I.—At the next meeting of the Club, Feb. 5, three chief lines of work were marked out, viz.; Sewing Circles, Prison Work and Daily Ministrations with disbursing of literature, each member of the Club showing an amount of active interest in prosecuting every undertaking of work and duty.

Sewing Circles.—It was thought advisable (from the amount of recognition of the work of these ladies by those with whom they had come in contact) that the Sewing Circle should be divided and organized in different parts of the city for the purpose of coming in touch with the destitute and neglected women and girls. These are allowed to gather to sew and make such things as they were in need of; the totally destitute ones were given such things as the Club could afford in raw material. Mrs. Dr. S. Butler was elected general Superintendent. Each division

is ruled over by a Superintendent appointed by the Club, whose business it is to preside and to read such select and choice readings at each session as will tend to enlighten and develop each member spiritually and temporally. Thus we see this branch of the work is proving to be a blessing and power of good.

At a meeting of the Club held March 16, a motion was put by one of the prominent members of the Club, Mrs. A. St. Geo. Richardson, soliciting the Club's attention to the necessity of working with and organizing the young women of the city into a band as the Y's of the Club. After careful discussion as to plans, etc., it was unanimously agreed on that this part of the Christian work should be immediately attended to and a committee of three were appointed to organize the young women. It was further suggested that this organization should be auxiliary to the Club, and that the persons appointed to superintend each band should report to the Club at its regular monthly meetings the progress or non-progress of the young ladies' organization. To the joy and comfort of all, these superintendents have proven to be very painstaking and successful leaders. The band has increased in numbers and in interest and the young women are not only being reached on all sides, but they have each realized and value the importance of their union.

West Atlanta, under the management of Miss M. F. Pullen, has developed into a membership too large for one circle, the young people showing a deep interest in all that is undertaken and done. This circle having to be divided, the Club thought it advisable to appoint Miss Clarke Superintendent of No. 2, and Miss M. F. Pullen remain Superintendent of No. 1. These ladies have combined their zeal and effort to make the work a success. Attention is given to fancy needlework and benevolent acts, alms and visitations.

Summerhill, which is called the Third Ward, taking in the south and southwest of the city, under the auspices of Mrs. Agnes Pitts, is entirely enveloped in work; undertaking every branch of work that can be attended to at present and embracing the young people of every shade and grade, giving the most complete satisfaction. This point may be well considered as the cream of our circles and a great future is expected.

The East Atlanta Sewing Circle, under the management of Miss Jennie Crane, has evinced marked improvement, encouragement and satisfaction. The membership has not only increased considerably, but the whole tone of the community of

young people is being raised, and a bright and glorious future is anticipated.

Division II.—Prison Work. The members of the Club, seeing the imperative duty incumbent on them in coming in touch with the prisoners and the members of the various asylums, availed themselves of the responsibility of coming in touch with these characters, some of whom are very desperate. The Club elected Mrs. W. G. Alexander as Superintendent of this branch of work. It is a trying and difficult work for delicate women, but the spirit of love for the glorification of Christ in the lives of His people intensify these workers and make them embolden for the task. In this way the prisoners of the Chain gang are being reached with periodicals, prayers and admonition in the best possible way. Their work, although meeting with rebuffs at first, proved efficacious, both temporally and spiritually. There is much to be done in this line of undertaking, and at present the Club's attention is turned thitherward. Out of the much good work that has already been achieved, there is one act which offers great encouragement to each member of the Woman's Club of Atlanta, and bringing it into prominence in the minds of the general public, and that is the rescuing and salvation of one Adolphus Duncan, a young man about 18 years of age, who was sentenced to imprisonment and death twice, on a charge of offense upon which there was no material evidence to verify the charges. The Club undertook in March of this year to investigate the validity of the said charges and offense. After much prayer and painstaking the man's non guilt was evident. A committee consisting of the following names, Mrs. Selena S. Butler, Chairman; Mrs. D. T. Howard, Mrs. W. G. Alexander, Mrs. E. R. Carter, Mrs. I. W. Hayes, and Mrs. J. E. Asbury were appointed to approach a solicitor on the matter. Later on, the said committee approached his Excellency, Gov. Y. W. Atkinson, with a timely worded petition, soliciting his favor and praying the release of Duncan. His Excellency received the committee very kindly, and upon deep meditation granted their request. It is thought a very heroic deed of the faithful and devoted ladies of the Club; since they had undertaken to do (and do it well) that that should have been undertaken by the community at large.

Division III.—Current Literature. The names of the following members of the Club form the Committee on Current Literature: Mrs. W. A. Greene and Mrs. Julia Turner. This branch

of the work of the organization has proven to be of great importance and many are comforted by the periodicals which have been distributed in the prison, almshouse and various homes. The last quarter showed a distribution of 185 copies, Bible readings and daily ministrations are being made to the homes of the sick and afflicted and even the well, by the members of the Club. The Club has undertaken to help such struggling churches and Christian organizations in the development of their membership, spiritual tone and buildings, that need their help (irrespective of creed or denomination), by subscriptions, donations and such plans as are thought advisable for the enhancement of the cause; thus encouraging the various ministers of the Gospel in their work. The minutes of the various meetings of the Club since its organization prove the absolute necessity for such a working factor, and a six months' very profitable work has been rendered to the country through these indefatigable women. It is commendable to note that the President, Mrs. D. T. Howard, has proven sufficient for the office and work she was elected to do, viz.: President of the Club; to say nothing less of all the other office-bearers. It is the expressed desire and heartfelt gratitude of each member of the Club that many thanks should be given to our Heavenly Father for the wonderful way in which He has led His people and blessed the efforts of their hands and hearts in this cause of righteousness. It is also the expressed desire that the efforts and zeal be doubled and reunited for the success of the onward march and that great gulfs may be bridged and the morning light of right and truth should dispel the darkness of sin, shame and ignorance; that the devil should be vanquished and Christ exalted in the hearts and lives of the nation. The closing six months show: 1st. A membership of 214—57 seniors and 157 juniors. 2d. Subscription offerings and moneys raised by the Club, $50. 3d. Donations to the Club for charitable purposes, nil. 4th. Periodicals distributed, 200. 5th. Approximate estimate of garments and other things made, 140; garments given away, 120; things donated as aid to the Club, nil.

Donations.—It is the prayer of the members of the Club that persons who have it in their power to give may from time to time feel it a duty and a privilege, also a blessing, to donate such things and amounts as will help the cause materially and prove a blessing to the destitute. There are hundreds of destitute homes needing immediate help. The Club has undertaken

to provide a home for the fallen and bereaved of the city, also to organize and institute such handicrafts as will prove a blessing. But although the needs of these things are prominent, and pressing forcefully upon the heart and mind of each member for immediate attention, none of these can be attended to on account of a lack of funds. Donations are respectfully solicited from those who are able to give, and feel an interest in the work; and may the good God grant that the hearts of the wealthy may be stirred to come to the help and rescue. This is the prayer of the Woman's Club of Atlanta City, Ga., June 30, 1896.

D. T. Howard, Pres.
Mattie Upshaw Ford, Sec'y.

New York City, N. Y., July 20, '96.

To the Federation of Afro-American Women, Washington, D. C. Greeting:

Dear Sisters:—We assemble with you most heartily through our Second Leader, Mrs. Curetta Hill.

We extend to you also thorough appreciation of the privilege to meet with you in the name of Christ; and to work with you for His sake.

May God's spirit guide you during your deliberations, and may His choicest blessings abide with you ever, with our best wishes that you may in consideration of the plentiful harvest of ripe fruit to be gathered, for the feast of the Master, when He shall come again, meet twice a year, instead of once; and thus more rapidly mature plans to His honor and glory.

We most cordially extend you an invitation to have your next session in the city of New York, under the care and provision of the Cleave Circle of the King's Daughters.

Yours in His name,
The Cleave Circle of King's Daughters.
J. H. N.

Pittsburg, July 15, '96.

To the Officers and Delegates of the National Federation of Afro-American Women:

The Frances E. W. Harper League of Pittsburg and Allegheny send greetings and beg leave to submit the following report:

In November, 1894, in answer to an invitation given by Mrs.

Rebecca Aldridge, seven ladies met in her parlor, and in her own very forcible manner Mrs. Aldridge stated that she had invited us to meet her in order to organize a much-needed club for self-improvement.

We caught the enthusiasm, for it is sometimes very contagious, and immediately formed ourselves into a League, some of the ladies not liking the word Club.

Mrs. Sarah Bentley named the League "Belle Phoebe," and as the Belle Phoebe League we were represented in the great Convention in Boston last summer by our President, Mrs. Rebecca Aldridge, to whose earnestness we cannot but do honor.

At that time our membership was nineteen. We had no money, and had accomplished nothing except a great deal of appreciation for each other, for we were and are very earnest, each trying to do her best, consequently surprising not only her audience but herself in her efforts, for we were then purely literary.

We were never satisfied with our name. We were constantly being asked what it meant, and felt that somehow it did not bring us the admiration so desirous in such matters. Some of the members, indeed, could not appreciate it fully. So we decided to change. We are now the Frances E. W. Harper League of Allegheny and Pittsburg. We have no need to explain the meaning of this name, for the person who does not know of the grand and noble woman who has done so much for the good cause of Temperance and who has contributed so largely to the literature of the race, must indeed be obscure.

We have grown larger, having 31 members, and no longer meet in our parlors time about, but our Pittsburg meetings have been accorded the use of Wylie Avenue A. M. E. Church, and the Allegheny meetings the use of Brown Chapel A. M. E. Church, with free use of piano in each place. Our platform is broader: seeking no longer to improve ourselves and our own homes, but others.

We have been delayed in the establishment of our sewing class. We desire to get the use of a room in the Avery Building and the backing of the trustees of the Avery Fund to get a cooking and sewing class in operation. These things take money, and there is money enough in the Avery Fund to operate several such small enterprises, but it always takes time where money is concerned.

This same Avery Fund has in operation a school of carpentry

and cabinet-making which graduated three young men this June. Why should it not, then, help the girls?

Our dues are 5 cents a month, and every new member must pay 50 cents entrance fee. We are mainly literary and some of our members are becoming quite brave and do not tremble any longer when it is their turn to face the audience.

Every three months we open our meeting to visitors, who come and seem pleased; at any rate they tell us they are proud of us, and if they did not tell us so it would not dampen our ardor, for we are really proud of ourselves and nod and smile our own approvals to each other.

Mrs. R. Aldridge, Pres.
Mrs. Gertrude Brooks, Sec'y.

Report of Zion Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.:—

Washington, D. C., July 19, 1896.

We are glad to say the women of Zion Baptist Church are doing a good work.

The young women in the Sunday School are very attentive in training the young that they may go in the right path.

The Y. P. S. C. E. are most all women. They have been very faithful in bringing souls to Christ and helping the missionary cause.

There is a missionary band in the church composed of women who look after the poor and needy and always lend a helping hand.

The old women are steadfast and always ready to help our fallen sisters and comfort the sick.

Yours in love,
Georgiana Jarvis,
Maria L. Middleton,
Delegates Zion Baptist Church.

Report W. C. T. U., Charleston, S. C.:—

While the work in our city among us of the W. C. T. U. is in its infancy, we are much encouraged in the efforts of the Union to do something.

We organized in February, 1896, under the earnest and active National worker, Mrs. Thurman, and since that time we have endeavored that the circle go on, until, with the help of Jehovah,

we all become loyal to the white ribbon, and the great curse, intemperance, be stamped from our land.

Number of members, 96. Officers: President, six Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Our meetings are held twice in each month and much interest manifested. In addition, our President, Miss Burnie, organized the L. T. L. The children are taught the ills of intemperance and its effects upon the human system.

Through the kindness of one of our pastors, we are holding special meetings in the lower section of our city. The room is used as a mission. From these meetings many express a desire to be Christians, and forsake the great monster intemperance.

This awakening among the people gives us much comfort, and to the Great I Am give we praise.

Then our mothers' meeting; we are making fervent efforts on that line. Our Superintendent, Mrs. Craft, endeavors that the best plans be set before the mothers.

We receive the Union Signal every month, and are striving "For God and home and native land."

Ellen E. Sanders, Secretary.

Charleston, S. C., July 7th, 1896.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 17, 1896.

The following is a report of the formation of the "Twin City Woman's Era Club":—

On the evening of June 26th, 1896, there assembled at the residence of Mrs. T. H. Lyles, 782 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, a number of the representative lady citizens of the "Twin Cities" of Minnesota.

The object of this meeting was to form a "Twin City Woman's Era Club," for the purpose of supporting The Woman's Era by giving and securing subscriptions to the same. After the meeting went into temporary organization, a paper was presented by Mrs. T. H. Lyles, in behalf of the ladies of St. Paul, and descriptive of the efforts of Mrs. St. P. Ruffin, in maintaining this worthy paper so far, and the responsibility and necessity of the Afro-American women, as self-helping individuals, to rally to its support.

Mrs. Jennie Napier Kemp, after reading a communication from Mrs. St. P. Ruffin, which was welcome and encouraging, responded with a paper, in behalf of the Minneapolis ladies,

which set forth the necessity of preserving a recorded history of the life and doings of the women of our race.

Discussions were then listened to from the various individuals present as regards the propriety of this undertaking, and the sentiments which gave birth to this organization were approved by all and promises for its thorough and unanimous support were gladly accepted. The idea of forming such a club was conceived and carried out by Mrs. T. H. Lyles of St. Paul, Mrs. J. N. Kemp, Mrs. Jasper Gibbs, and Miss Cora Napier of Minneapolis. This club numbers thirty-four in Minneapolis and about the same number in St. Paul, and we hope to reach one hundred members before the coming autumn. The club is to meet monthly and report the work accomplished, at which time a literary programme will be rendered. The place of meeting will be Minneapolis and St. Paul alternately.

May the desires of this organization materialize and be considered worthy of emulation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. T. R. King, Pres't.
Miss Martie Grey, Rec. Sec'y.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 18, 1896.

Report of "Ada Sweet Pioneer Club":—

The organization known by the above name is one of six months' growth and is composed of twenty-five active and fifteen honorary members, which include prominent and representative lady citizens of Minneapolis.

The object of its formation is literary and musical culture, social unity, and to direct domestic economy. Its work, so far, has been largely historical in nature, with musical and literary programmes.

From June 10th to June 16th, inclusive, we were successful in securing our worthy sister, Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, for a course of lectures, and the strength gained from these will never be forgotten by us.

This club has been admitted into the "Woman's Council" of Minneapolis, and are requested to furnish the musical portion of the programme at its next session, which will occur in August.

The fundamental and ultimate object of this club at its forma-

tion was philanthropic, and the directions of this branch of its work will be governed largely by the success of its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Jasper Gibb, Pres't.
Miss Mary Morgan, Rec. Sec'y.

To the N. F. of A. A. Women:

The Women's Uplifting Club of Eufaula, Ala., send a greeting. Our club was organized June 15th, 1896, with 25 members. We now have 40. We meet weekly. We have a visiting committee who visit the lowly, and then they report their finding to our club. We have found many in almost indescribable debauchery and shame. But most encouraging work has been done. Many have been restored to the church, and they have joined our club. Permit me to say, however, that we do not wait for them to return to the church, but we take them into our club as soon as they are willing to come, for it is by close contact that we can impress our character upon them. We have not forgotten their hygienic surroundings, and have noticed many signs of improvement in cleanliness and dress.

We have also a young ladies' club known as the White Shield. They organized with six members, now number fifteen. They are doing good work among the younger girls. We are in need of a woman's home for our orphan and erring girls, which we hope to establish before long. We see that if the race is to be made better we must save our young girls. Make our women better and we will have better men.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. C. M. Wells, Pres't.
Mrs. M. L. Lenard, Sec'y.

REPORT.

The Phyllis Wheatley Woman's League was organized in March, 1896. Its membership numbers 52. Its object is to promote an interest in education, industry, philanthropy, and all things pertaining to the elevation of home among all women.

The work is divided into sections, and is placed in the hands of committees, who report at each meeting.

The Reading Class meets every Monday evening. Subjects of general interest are read, studied and discussed.

The regular meetings of the club are held every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. The subject for general discussion for several weeks has been punctuality, and we feel that the entire club has been benefited, for two-thirds of the ladies have so far improved that they are able to be in their seats at the appointed hour, instead of one-half or one hour behind time, as formerly.

A few of the girls of the neighborhood have been gathered into a sewing class which meets every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4.

A musical and literary entertainment is given once a month and the proceeds applied on the purchase of a piano for the club.

We hope to organize a kindergarten in September, for the benefit of the small children in the neighborhood.

The Committee on Charity make weekly visits to the sick and needy who are reported to the club. Each member has pledged herself to donate one pillow case to the new Provident Hospital, when completed.

We are young and have not accomplished much as yet, but we hope to make our work practical and our influence felt, that we may have a much longer report of work done when the Federation meets next year.

Respectfully submitted,

L. A. Davis, Delegate.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

To the Federation of Afro-American Women in Assembly at Washington, D. C. Greeting and Regrets:

Greeting, because being one of you for God, Home and Progress, I am glad to be able to greet you even by proxy.

Regrets, because I cannot, on account of serious illness of a devoted mother-in-law, I am unable to be present in person as I had planned and desired to be.

You have assembled not from vain glory, but for a true and noble purpose. Would I could be present in the great city, the capital of our nation, to join with you in voice as well as sentiment. Think, dear women from the North, East, South and West, of the great work to be done. The uplifting of the masses of our race to a higher sphere of usefulness. We, my dear kinswomen, are not judged by the individual, but by the masses.

Then is it not our bounden duty as individuals to unite in an effort to raise the standard of our sex?

I often wonder if we rightly value true education. Such embraces helpfulness, and we are, indeed, of all people, in need of helpers as well as educators. We who know how to help and can do so, should encourage by united co-operation, by wholesome advice, and aid by all the means within our power the women of our race who are so much in need of help.

We should ever be ready to unite in every effort put forth to help the youths of our Southland to awaken to a sense of the great responsibilities resting upon them.

Oh! dear women, so much work is needed, and it is for you to will and determine how best to do this work. True, we have many beautiful homes, many fine schools and churches; true, we have many intelligent men and women here in this grand country and in this beautiful part of our country; but there is need of sunshine in so many dark places. There is need of joy in so many homes where there is sadness. There is grief to banish, there are hearts full of sorrow over the beautiful "flowers" that have been plucked by the ruthless hand of the destroyer, and help is needed in the forms of Mission Homes.

Our educators too often grasp after all and give so little. Energy, pluck, will and determination, coupled with wealth, will and purpose, will overcome the difficulties in our way.

So many women of our race stand shivering at the cold wintry blasts of discouragement, failing to do what they could to keep up and press onward.

Dear women, let the glorious warmth and sunshine of your united helpfulness and encouragement be felt all over our land. True, we have the blessings of schools, etc., for our children, but the system is not what it should be. A healthful education means habits of industry. Book learning is not all our children need now. Mental greatness and intellectual strength are indeed divine gifts, but they count for naught in a desolate one-room uncarpeted cabin, whose inhabitants have an empty purse and cupboard. Let me impress upon you, dear women in assembly, the spirit of helpfulness as the root of all genuine growth in a nation.

Your help, dear kinswomen, is needed here in our land to help remove the great lion (idleness) out of the way of a prosperous career in the future of our youths. These same, we must remember, will soon be the men and women of the morrow.

Grant that the human soul in this present progressive age is like a ship without a rudder, or like the marble in the quarry. Education in like manner does not show its worth and grandeur until the possessor goes to work upon his own mind and draws out every hidden virtue. Without help it never makes its appearance. Education begins the woman, but sound judgment, will and purpose must finish her.

Dear women, if we refuse to give this help we sin against our Creator and Benefactor. May kind heaven help you to will and determine upon plans to better the conditions of the masses of our women. God help us to become stronger morally, financially, as well as intellectually and religiously. We need a firmer foothold in the onward march of civilization.

The "river's breadth" of immorality hinders our advance. Oh, unite and help to bridge it and thus cause the many to go onward across life's fitful stream. The future hope of our race, the future hope of our nation and country lies in unity.

"One for all, all for each."

Our general welfare, you all know, lies not in the goodness, wealth nor intelligence of the few, but in the masses. Your work is not an easy nor light work. Your work, indeed, let me say our work, in not only in our own homes, but in the commonwealth. I repeat it is our duty to assist in the ordering, the comforting and beautifying the state. What the woman is within her home, "the centre of order," the balm of distress, "the mirror of beauty, that she must be without where it is even more difficult to obtain comfort, where distress is more imminent and beauty more rare." Beautiful thoughts of Ruskin who was ever ready to accord woman so much. Remember, oh remember, this is our work, our duty.

Here's to the Cause and the years that have passed.
Here's to the Cause, may it triumph at last.
The end shall illumine the hearts that have braved
All the years and the fears that the Cause might be saved.
And tho' what we hoped for, and sadly have groped for,
Come not in the manner we planned that it should,
We shall gladly confess it, and the Cause may God bless it,
And shall find us all worthy who did what we could.

Julia A. Hooks.

426 Landerdale St., Memphis, Tenn.

WOMAN'S MITE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.
"OUR MITE MISSIONARY WORK."

The subject of missions is of no small import. At no time since the birth of the Christian Era has this cause been agitated as now.

Perhaps we think this because we are brought face to face with the true character of the work. Perhaps, too, it is more noticeable since the work has been so successfully carried on by the women of the church.

To begin with, the work of the Mite Missionary society in its incipiency and review it to the present would be useless, as we all know that organizations have to pass through their Gethsemane, and this organization has not been an exception.

Suffice it to say that struggles and oppositions almost unbearable have marked the line of progress from its earliest existence to the present.

Yet with all these to contend with, the work has not been void of good results. Unfaltering praise should be given to Him whom it has so well pleased to add to the armies of Christian workers, both at home and abroad, such a noble reinforcement of women filled with His spirit. The church today yields a greater power on account of the consecrated and individual work of woman. This is but the age of feminine consecration and activity shining out after long obscuration. One has well said that this quarter century has been marked by what, for want of a better term, can be called the epiphany of woman.

The success of their work along this line of missions was not so much noticed until systematic work begun. Their efforts have been unfairly commented upon in many ways, but now the dear brothers hail with joy the dawn of the day of the systematically organized efforts of their sisters. Ask the church who has assisted so materially in the sustaining of the Gospel since 1701, and every missionary department of every denomination under the stars will reply in one voice, that through the untiring efforts of consecrated womanhood the inhabitants of a redeemed world will shout, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ." In the march of progress along this line our women have not been asleep. In 1874 the craft which was launched on the ocean of activity by five consecrated women has now developed into a massive vessel, not

guided by five pairs of loving hands only, but all of its parts from bow to stern, from mast to hull, is guided by thousands of devoted women who realize that the development of their spiritual strength depends upon the fulfilment of duty to mankind.

It was not the magic hand of some unseen genii which has so transformed this vessel that was set afloat twenty-two years ago, but implicit faith in God by these women who were foreordained to be in every best and highest sense operators as well as co-operators in all holy service, has brought about all this. It is a mistaken idea to think that the raising of funds is the end of missionary work. The rescuing of human souls from abject misery and regenerating them is a part of the purpose for which we were organized. "No man liveth to himself," "Bear ye one another's burdens," "Ye are members one of another," are gospel facts which were meant for us as well as for the seventy followers who first started out in the missionary work.

We should, if we have not already, arouse a new appreciation for these truths, and take a step forward in this Christian warfare. Dr. Peabody of Harvard University said to the students on one occasion, "The signs of the time, the most conspicuous and characteristic of all, is of course the new sense of social responsibility. Never before was it so plain that the religion of Jesus Christ is not a plan of personal safety in the midst of a general wreck, but a call to save the whole great shipload of humanity, and bring it safe to port." How beautifully is this grand idea interwoven in the work of the women of the Mite Missionary Society. Yet the society is not what it should be. It should co-operate with the pastor in organizing the church for work, in enlisting the whole membership in active face to face contact with the knotty problem of regenerating the unsaved multitude. Our woman's missionary society has a great function in the church. Hope and fear of the future should spur us on to "do noble things, not dream them all day long."

We can not do this work successfully nor inspire others to do it without being filled with the Christ spirit ourselves, first of all and above all.

Do we crave for that baptism which came to the disciples who gathered in the upper chamber in Jerusalem?

Do we covet the spirit which sent Luther and Wesley on their mission of love? When we look back over the road of the past twenty-two years we are constrained to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

The possibilities of this work are greater today than they were in those days of darkness, and with the legislation of our past General Conference comes the demand for better organized societies throughout our church. The Third Episcopal District, after operating as a district organization for three years, has wheeled into line under the new law, and now instead of a district organization our women are organized into conference societies. As a district organization we enriched our treasury to the amount of over $2,000.00.

At present our home work is confined to our poorly paid pastors, but we intend to enlarge it to reach the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters in the southland. We are educating an African girl at Wilberforce University. There is no district so thoroughly organized as ours, and it is our prayer that the women of this convention will weigh this subject of missions as never before, and with thoroughly organized missionary societies in every church in the Union, obstacles which often darken our pathway will be overcome.

God will look down upon us and smile approval; and coming generations will arise and call us blessed.

Very truly yours,
Sada J. Anderson,
Cor. Sec. W. M. M. Society,
North Ohio Conference.

To the President and Ladies of the National Federation of Afro-American Women:

The Woman's Club of Omaha greets you. It has been the earnest desire of this club to see one instead of several National Organizations among our women. But from what we glean from the press, the National organization labors under the same difficulty the local ones do, viz., personal rivalries and petty jealousies, by which the hope of bringing about a successful union among our women is retarded. We deplore this state of affairs, and earnestly hope that a union among our national organizations may be brought about. We believe that if the womanhood of our race was a unit, their possibilities would be unlimited.

When a year ago you gathered, this club was then in its infancy, being only five months old. Believing that representation would be beneficial to us, we sent a delegate to your first convention.

The result was the infusion of new and higher aspiration. Among the many beautiful thoughts brought to us was the following motto: "Lifting as we climb," which was unanimously adopted. Since then the club has steadily but slowly increased in membership.

We have lost several by removal, and press of business affairs have caused some to fall by the wayside, until our present membership numbers thirty-three active members.

The club has made its influence felt in the community, always being foremost in everything for the advancement of the race. Much credit is given this club for its untiring efforts in securing a colored teacher in the public schools, and assisting individuals in securing lucrative positions.

Her charity has found the widow and substantially aided her on her lonely way. The financial efforts of the club during the year, have all been successful, the most gigantic effort being the Easter Edition of the Enterprise, from which the club realized $98.86 clear of all expense. We also realize the alienation of friendships brought about by this effort. However, we trust Father Time will remove these clouds from our otherwise bright future.

The work of the departments has been diligently pursued the past year, with much success.

The receipts for the past year and five months have been $239.-85. Expense, $128.75. In treasury, $111.10.

The first milestone in the history of this club was passed with the June election, and if we are to measure the future by the past, we shall feel our labors are not in vain, and that if union and good fellowship obtain, nothing is impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura M. Craig, Pres.
S. Lillian Coleman, Sec'y.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S ERA CLUB, BOSTON, MASS.

To the President, Officers and Members of the N. F. A. A. W. this report is respectfully submitted:

The Woman's Era Club was formed in Boston, Mass., in the year 1893, having a membership of 133 members, and has for its object the furtherance of the interests of the race generally

and of our women particularly, not only through collecting of facts which shall show our true position to the world, by endeavoring to create sentiment against the proscription under which we suffer, and by co-operating to aid in our general advancement, but also to awaken in our women an active interest in the events of the day and giving to them through such an organization an opportunity of hearing and participating in the discussion of current topics. Because of the well organized bodies of white women in the State of Massachusetts and the invitations given in most cases to women regardless of color to join with them in their work, it has been and is quite difficult to concentrate the efforts of our women in this direction, but by the untiring efforts of the pioneers of this Club much effectual work has been done and the Club has made a place for itself in the community, which is amply proved by the constant stream of invitations to meet with other clubs of the State, which if accepted would leave little time for the work in hand.

Meetings of the Era Club are held twice a month, and an annual fee of $1.00 subject to increase, with occasional entertainments, pay the running expenses of the organization.

Our aim has been for practical work and we have tried in every particular to live up to the object of our Club. How far we have succeeded is demonstrated in the interest which has been taken in all things pertaining to the uplifting of the race. Scholarships given to worthy students, the giving of tickets to minors to sell, elicited the following editorial on a resolution sent by the Club to all the leading journals:

The Texas Freeman, Apr. 27, 1895.

"A Widespread Evil.—The Boston Woman's Era Club has taken cognizance of a widespread evil, in this recently adopted resolution:

"Whereas, The Woman's Era Club having had their attention called to the very common practice of putting tickets in the hands of children to be sold for the benefit of different objects, do herewith

"Resolve, That inasmuch as the custom of permitting young girls to solicit men to buy tickets from them is damaging to modesty and a menace to morality, we do set the seal of our condemnation upon it, and call upon the church people especially to help us abolish the custom.

"The good sought to be done by this woman's club should meet with a hearty response in every section of this country.

It is a matter of constant occurrence here, and almost everywhere, for churchmen and benevolent society officials to place in the hands of innocent girls tickets to be sold in competition for prizes, in the sale of which they are forced to importune designing young and old men to assist them. There are numerous pitfalls into which the unwary is, at any time, liable to fall and this ticket-selling device of the devil is one of the worst. Let our preachers and teachers and society leaders and entertainment givers stop the practice, and come to the rescue of bright-faced girls to whom we must look for the future of the race."

A Sewing Circle connected with the Club is busily at work for a fair to be given in aid of St. Monica's Home, a hospital for colored women.

While we are not formed for charitable purposes, yet few cases come to us that do not find relief in some tangible form. The sick of the Club are visited by the Relief Committee, and on the death of members the tribute of respect to them and the family is not forgotten.

One hundred copies of the Woman's Era, a paper edited by the President of the Woman's Era Club, are bought monthly by the Club and given free to all financial members, others buying them. We find this a project working well for both journalist and Club. Lectures by specialists on such subjects as Domestic Science, The Influence of Club Life on the Home, The Science of Human Life, and others, are among some of the good things for the benefit of the members and friends. The expenses being paid out of the treasury of the organization. The Vice-President in the East of the N. F. A. A. Women, Mrs. Dickerson, has seen the need of a union of forces in New England and has formed a New England Federation, so that we might do more effectual work in harmony with the National Federation, and bids fair to give promising results.

A membership ticket has been issued by the Club which helps to keep the member informed of her term of membership and helps the Financial Secretary to keep her books and accounts straight, a very necessary thing in organization. We will be glad to explain the system, which is very simple, after this session. The treasury of the Club is in a wholesome condition, although frequent drafts are made upon it; we have $70 in hand, and a long list of financial members.

Our aim is union of forces for the good of the race above

everything else. This Club of women sees that all thought of self must be cast aside if they would do practical work. The untold good experienced by the women can never be expressed; better mothers, better wives, better companions and the breadth that comes to lives lived for humanity. Our own poet has said:

"Humanity needs more and heaven less from
Thee. With pity for mankind, look round,
Help them to rise and heaven is found."

DIRECTORY.

The following list gives a directory of the State, City, Club, Names of President and Delegate, also taxes:

Alabama, Eufaula, Woman's Uplifting Club, Mrs. C. M. Wells, pres.; Mrs. C. M. Wells, delegate; tax $2.00.

Alabama, Greensboro, Woman's Mutual Benefit Society, Mrs. S. A. Christian, pres.

Alabama, Mt. Meigs, Woman's Club, Mrs. Cornelia Bowen, pres.; Miss Georgia Washington, delegate.

Alabama, Montgomery, Sojourner Truth Club, Miss M. A. Jenkins, pres.; Miss Kate V. De Jannette, Miss Edith Garrett, delegates; tax $2.00.

Alabama, Montgomery, Woman's League, Mrs. E. C. Wilson, pres.; tax $2.00.

Alabama, Notasulga, Woman's Club, Miss Anna Davis, pres.

Alabama, Selma, Woman's Mutual Improvement Club, Mrs. M. A. Dillard, pres.; tax $2.00.

Alabama, Tuskegee, Tuskegee Woman's Club, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, pres.; Mrs. B. T. Washington, delegate; tax $2.00.

Arkansas.

California, Eufaula, Woman's Club, Mrs. C. L. Wells. pres.

California, Los Angeles, Woman's Club, Mrs. C. I. Christian, pres.; tax $2.00.

Colorado, Denver, Woman's Central Club.

Florida, Jacksonville, Phyllis Wheatley Reading Circle; tax $2.00.

Georgia, Atlanta, Atlanta Woman's Club, Mrs. D. T. Howard, pres.; Mrs. Selina Butler, Mrs. Mattie U. Ford, delegates; tax $2.00.

Illinois, Chicago, Ida B. Wells Club, Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, pres.; Mrs. Ida B. W. Barnett, delegate; tax $2.00.

Illinois, Chicago, Phyllis Wheatley Club, Mrs. L. A. Davis, pres.; Mrs. L. A. Davis, delegate; tax $2.00.

Illinois, Chicago, Y. P. S. C. E. of Quinn Chapel, Mrs. Harry J. Turner, pres.; Mrs. Harry J. Turner, delegate.

Indiana, Evansville, Young Ladies' Trilby Club, Miss Georgia A. Nance, pres.; Miss Georgia A. Nance, delegate; tax $2.00.

Kansas, Lawrence, Sierra Leone Club, Mrs. J. H. Young, pres.; tax $2.00.

Louisiana, New Orleans, Phyllis Wheatley Club, Mrs. Sylvania Williams, pres.; Miss Alice Ruth Moore, Miss Laura Allain, delegates; tax $2.00.

Maryland, Baltimore, Mrs. A. E. Johnson, delegate; tax $1.00.

Massachusetts, Chelsea, B. F. Tanner Club, Mrs. M. C. Bond, pres.

Massachusetts, Boston, Calvary Circle, Mrs. G. W. Smith, pres.

Massachusetts, Boston, E. M. Thomas Lodge, Miss Eliza Gardner, pres.

Massachusetts, Boston, Female Benevolent Firm, Mrs. Emma Gray, pres.; Mrs. Agnes Adams, delegate; tax $2.00.

Massachusetts, Cambridge, Golden Rule Club, Mrs. Nancy Lewis, pres.; Mrs. Nancy Lewis, delegate; tax $2.00.

Massachusetts, Boston, Lend-a-Hand Circle, Mrs. Hannah Smith, pres.; Mrs. Ariana Gould, delegate; tax $2.00.

Massachusetts, Boston, Ruth Circle, Mrs. Ruth Turner, pres.

Massachusetts, Boston, Woman's Era Club, Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, pres.; Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, Mrs. Hannah Smith, Mrs. A. Foster, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. L. Armstead, Mrs. M. S. Ransom, Miss E. Tolliver, delegates; tax $2.00.

Massachusetts, New Bedford, Woman's Loyal Union, Mrs. Mary Sulis, pres.; Mrs. Mary Sulis, Miss Lizzie C. Carter, Mrs. Martha D. Webb, delegates; tax $2.00.

Massachusetts, Salem, Woman's Protective Club, Mrs. N. R. Freeman, pres.; tax $2.00.

Michigan, Macinac Island, Mrs. Jenny Ford, delegate; tax $2.00.

Minnesota, Minneapolis, Ada Sweet Pioneer Club, Mrs. Jasper Gibbs, pres.; Mrs. Jenny Napier Kemp, delegate; tax $2.00.

Minnesota, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Twin City Woman's

Era Club, Mrs. T. Rodney King, pres.; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, delegate.

Minnesota, St. Paul, Woman's Loyal Union and J. Brown Industrial Club, Mrs. T. H. Lyles, pres.; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, delegate; tax $2.00.

Minnesota, St. Paul, Francis E. W. Harper W. C. T. U.; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, delegate; tax $2.00.

Minnesota, St. Paul, John Brown Monument Association, Mrs. T. H. Lyles, pres.; Mrs. T. H. Lyles, delegate; tax $2.00.

Mississippi, Greenville, Phyllis Wheatley Club; Miss L. C. Williams, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, Jefferson City, Woman's Club, Mrs. L. C. Anthony, pres.; Mrs. L. C. Anthony, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Joseph, F. E. W. Harper Reading Circle, Miss Lillian M. Jackson, pres.; Miss Lillian M. Jackson, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Louis, Phyllis Wheatley Club, Mrs. Julia Henderson, pres.; Mrs. L. C. Anthony, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Louis, Woman's Club, Mrs. Haydee Campbell, pres.; Mrs. Haydee Campbell, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Louis, Woman's Suffrage Association, Mrs. Margaret Hill, pres.; Mrs. L. C. Anthony, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Louis, Thimble Club, Mrs. B. Burles, pres.; Mrs. Haydee Campbell, delegate; tax $2.00.

Missouri, St. Louis, F. E. W. Harper W. C. T. U., Mrs. M. F. Pitts, pres.: tax $1.00.

Nebraska, Omaha, Woman's Club, Miss Laura M. Craig, pres.; Miss S. Lillian Coleman, delegate; tax $2.00.

New York, New York, Cleave Circle King's Daughters, Miss J. B. Hunt, pres.; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, delegate; tax $2.00.

New York, New York and Brooklyn, Woman's Loyal Union, Mrs. Victoria Mathews, pres.; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, Mrs. Mabel Garner, Miss Ellen N. Ford, Mrs. Carrie Fortune, Mrs. Miller, delegates; tax $2.00.

New York, Brooklyn, Young Ladies' Culture Club, Miss Mary A. Perkins, pres.; Miss Mary A. Perkins, Miss Fanny M. Perkins, delegates.

New York, Buffalo, Woman's Club, Mrs. A. H. C. Thomas, pres.

New York, Harlem, Woman's Sympathetic Club, Mrs. Catherine Maxwell, pres.; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, delegate.

New York, Rochester, Woman's Club, Mrs. Hester C. Jeffrey, pres.; Mrs. Hester C. Jeffrey, delegate; tax $2.00.

New York, New York, Christian League; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, delegate.

New York, New York, Y. P. S. C. E., H. G. Miller, pres.; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, delegate.

New York, New York, Mount Tabor Club; Mrs. Victoria Mathews, delegate.

North Carolina, Charlotte, Biddle University Club; tax $2.00.

Ohio, Toledo, Mite Missionary Society.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburg and Allegheny, F. E. W. Harper League, Rebecca Aldridge, pres.; Sadie Hamilton, delegate; tax $2.00.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, Reapers' and Gleaners' Circle, Luella Stewart, pres.; Emma Moore, delegate.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, Wayman W. C. T. U., Rebecca Smith, pres.; Mrs. Rebecca Aldridge, delegate; tax 50 cents.

Pennsylvania, Allegheny City, Douglass W. C. T. U., Mrs. M. A. Irwin, pres.; Sarah A. Bentley, delegate.

Rhode Island, Newport, Woman's Newport League, Mrs. Caroline S. DeCoursey, pres.; Mrs. Mary H. Dickerson, Mrs. Anderson, delegates; tax $2.00.

Rhode Island, Providence, Working Woman's League, Mrs. Hannah Greene, pres.

South Carolina, Charleston, Woman's League, Julia P. Dart, pres.; Mrs. Anna L. Welsh, delegate; tax $2.00.

South Carolina, Charleston, W. C. T. U., Marian R. Birnie, pres.; Mrs. Anna L. Welsh, delegate; tax $2.00.

Tennessee, Knoxville, Woman's Mutual Improvement Club, Sylvia M. Staples, pres.; tax $2.00.

Tennessee, Memphis, Coterie Migratory Assembly, Mrs. F. P. Cooper, pres.; Mrs. M. C. Terrill, delegate; tax $2.00.

Tennessee, Memphis, Hook's School Association, Mrs. Julia Hooks, pres.

Tennessee, Nashville; Mrs. C. P. Smith, delegate; tax $2.00.

Virginia, Berkley, First Baptist Church Missionary Society, Mrs. L. A. Paige, pres.; Mrs. L. A. Paige, delegate; tax $2.00.

Virginia, Cappahoosic, Gloucester A. and Industrial School, Miss Susie Edwards, pres.

Virginia, Lynchburg, Woman's Christian League, Mrs. L. B. Stephens, pres.; Mrs. L. B. Stephens, delegate.

Virginia, Northern Virginia, Sunday School Convention; tax $1.00.

Virginia, Richmond, Woman's League, Mrs. Rosa D. Bow-

ser, pres.; Mrs. Rosa D. Bowser, Mrs. Addie W. Hunton, delegates; tax $2.00.

Virginia, Sudley Springs.

Virginia, Urbanna, Urbanna Club, Gertrude A. Jones, pres.

District of Columbia, Georgetown, W. C. T. U., Miss Lydia Hamlet, pres.; Miss Mary E. Pryor, Miss Sadie Gaskins, delegates.

District of Columbia, Washington, Equal Rights Council, Jesse Lawson, pres.; Mrs. Etta Webster, Mrs. O. P. Griffin, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. B. K. Bruce, pres.; Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Mrs. Arthur S. Gray, Mrs. Jesse Lawson, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Women's Societies of the Lincoln Memorial Congregational Church; Mrs. E. A. Duffield, Miss S. C. Johnson, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Lucy Thurman W. C. T. U., Mrs. A. S. Gray, pres.; Miss Louise E. Hawkins, Dr. Carrie Thomas, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Lyceum of the Second Baptist Church, Jesse Lawson, pres.; Mrs. Julia Mason Layton, Miss Laura A. Robinson, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Temperance Social Assembly, David Freeman, pres.; Miss Sally C. Smith, delegate; tax $1.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, Mt. Zion Baptist Church; Miss Maria L. Middleton, Miss Georgiana Jarvis, delegates; tax $2.00.

District of Columbia, Washington, 19th Street Baptist W. C. T. U.; tax $2.00.

New Mexico, Albuquerque, Phyllis Wheatley Reading Circle; Mrs. F. M. Simms, delegate; tax $2.00.

Oklahoma, Guthrie, Woman's Club.

Totals—States, 25; District, 1; Territories, 2; Cities, 56; Clubs, 82; Delegates, 73; Taxes, $110.50.