

city. It may be that flower gardens will take the place of unsightly weed patches. It may be that we will live to see all these reforms, yet we cannot hope for the millennium just yet. Anyway, here is to the success of the city improvement society! It is bound to be popular, and those who want to be in the push would better get into the wagon before it gets full, and begin to blow a horn.

Miss Prey's Interview With Mrs. Henrotin.

Club women who go to Beatrice this fall will hear and perhaps meet one of the most attractive women I have ever known, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, the president of the National Federation of Woman's Clubs. In looking up the club work here in Chicago I have met her several times and always she has given me with keen intuition the very help I needed.

My first impression from her face was that she would be a woman who would require and give perfect sincerity. Her grey eyes are uncompromisingly steady and her bearing told in a second that she could trust herself to forget herself. She is a woman of middle age with a face no longer young but with a cheerfulness and freshness in it that makes one remember her as much younger than she at first seemed. Her beautiful white hair seems rather an exponent of perfect physical harmony than of age. Her dress of grey linen fitted in quietly with the idea of an unobtrusive, self possessed kindly woman.

She has apartments in the Virginia hotel, where I felt bound, as coming from the west, to admire the richness of marble steps and velvet carpets, mahogany woodwork and noiseless elevators run by personages—they were no less—whose one ambition apparently was to stop the elevator with such precision and scientific delicacy as befitted their station. I confess that I was somewhat overawed by the mahogany and marble and elevator boys. I sat a trifle ill at ease in a big plush chair in an upper parlor, looked at the red plush carpet and the spider-legged table in the middle of the room, studied the grand piano and the ceiling with its delicate Marie Antoinette decorations and waited for what was to be the terror of all these awesome terrors, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, wife of the Belgian consul and president of something, I almost forgot what in my trepidation.

When she came and looked at me and held out her hand I recovered as if by magic. She met me in the parlor she said because there were visitors in her rooms who might make us less free to speak.

Then she answered with characteristic directness and brevity the questions I asked. She was born in Poland she said but she has always felt that she belonged to no special part of the United States. She was educated in Germany and France and England so far as schools went and came back to America in 1859; was married and began the long education that has made her a brilliant newspaper woman and perhaps at present the best known club woman in the United States.

She had great plans for her newspaper work, she said cheerfully. She always found it fascinating even when it was most exacting. But lately she has found other work more pressing, first her work as vice-president of the woman's congress at the Columbian exposition and then as president of the National Federation of Woman's Clubs in which she is serving her second term of office. So she has dropped for the most part any newspaper work. She will take it up again when her second, and, according to the rules of the federation, last term expires. She wants now to have her

full time to round out the work she has tried to do in the federation.

Mrs. Henrotin is modest, but not overmodest in estimating the worth of her own work. "I may not have done the best always," she said honestly, "but I have done my best."

She has been interested in woman's clubs almost from their beginning. She has been a member of the oldest woman's club in Chicago, the Fort night, for twenty years and of the Woman's Club for fifteen. But only the latter part of this time has been given in any completeness to public work. Before she was made vice president of the Woman's Congress of the Columbian exposition she had done little more than ordinary club work. But in the three years, exposition work, much of which as a matter of course fell to Mrs. Henrotin, she got the training and the working knowledge which fitted her supremely for the work of organization that she has done.

She saw, she says, then, that the work of woman's clubs must not be aggressive but must be constructive and practical. She thought she saw a chance for work that would mean something in the office she now holds, so she accepted it eagerly. The work has developed of itself beyond anything she had expected or hoped.

Her whole effort at first was to build up the National Federation by trying to draw into it states, that, while they had clubs, had little or no state organization and no connection with other states, even in the federation. Now this part of the work will practically need no further pushing. States as they are ready for the Federation will find out their own need themselves. The work she is giving special attention now is the co-ordination of woman's clubs with other organizations, such for instance, as the teacher's associations; to get the clubs to add this force to the forces already working. Each state would of course have different organizations for the clubs to work through. Education would probably be the object that most would work toward.

This is the sketch Mrs. Henrotin gave me of her work. She said nothing of the oppositions and discouragements that almost of necessity must have come to her. As she talked she seemed to forget herself in the intensity of her enthusiasm. She is especially enthusiastic over the work in southern states. Her eyes became brilliant, her cheeks flushed softly and her whole face grew alert and keen as she talked at some length of the opportunities of the southern women and their somewhat recent tendency towards broader, less exclusive work.

For the people of the west Mrs. Henrotin has a strong admiration. She says she had never seen land more carefully cultivated or people that seemed more energetic and prosperous than in the states she passed through on her way from Chicago to Denver. The people in the east, she said, do not appreciate at all the rapid development going on in the west.

This failure to appreciate each other was one of the things, she explained, that the National Federation would do away with. Delegates and club women meet from all parts of the United States first in one state and then another. They cannot help getting gradually more in touch with the spirit of the different sections, they must see after a while the conditions under which the different states work, and understand each other's successes and failures. The meetings would not be so largely attended if the club members went, not as delegates, but as individuals; and not so many states would be represented. So the Federation is a necessity. Speaking of gratuitous entertainment at the meetings of the Federation, Mrs. Henrotin said that many of the delegates now

went to hotels because they meet other delegates there and because headquarters are usually there, though the towns where the meetings are held, still give entertainments to delegates who wish it, being glad in most cases to do this, since the meetings do not come to any one place often.

Mrs. Henrotin's work, which has been visiting the various states for purposes of organization, has given her a wider view than is given to most women—even club women. She sees the details, for she knows the club work of the United States thoroughly, understands the modifications in aims and methods and the conditions that give rise to these modifications, and knows many of the leading club women of the various states; but she can see beyond these details and make out the direction in which the clubs of the United States are moving, towards closer federation among themselves and co-ordination with outside bodies doing work in which they are themselves interested. Her own work has been not so much leading to new ideas and pushing in new directions as it has been the directing of impulses already existing and rapidly growing.

"If my name is to stand for anything among the women of the United States," she concluded, "it will be rather for my work in the federation of clubs than in any other line."

As I rose to come away, I almost doubted her last statement. If her name is remembered among club women, as it is quite sure to be, I think it will be at least in part because she is an example of the very best kind of club woman a half century has been able to produce, one who unites perfect womanliness with the not unwomanly qualities of keen perception, sound judgement and untiring activity.

She rode down in the elevator with me; she must have understood sympathetically my gruesome awe of the dignitary who manipulated the levers, and saw me safely out into the corridor. I expected then to see a look of relief come over her face; I was painfully conscious, too, that the elevator boy was watching, what it was for me to be talking on a seemingly friendly footing with the President of the National Federation of Woman's Clubs. I thought to hear a rather cool "Good day;" she must realize now that I had taken a full hour of her time.

But the look of relief did not come, nor the cool dismissal. Instead she asked rather hesitatingly if I cared to come again and get the details of a new development in club work; she would be glad to give them to me if I cared for them.

As I came away I found myself thinking almost sentimentally that any one who had never heard Mrs. Henrotin say "good-bye," did not know how much could be expressed in one word.

This is my impression of Mrs. Henrotin. I confess in myself now and henceforward almost unbounded admiration for her. I have not met very many women of her kind.

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First Publication, July, 24th.
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, v. Burr, 16-118.

To the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, S. A. Maxwell and Company, David B. Welch, Jane E. Chamberlain, Abbie M. Chamberlain, Mary S. Jacobs, Jane D. Dowdall, the Sullivan Savings Institution of Claremont, New Hampshire, the Citizen's National Bank of Des Moines, Iowa, Louis Hax and James Porter:

You and each of you are hereby notified that in the case pending in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, number 16-118, wherein the said Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is plaintiff, and you and others are defendants, the National Life Insurance Company, of Montpelier, Vermont, on the 23rd day of July, 1897, filed its petition against you and the other defendants in said cause the object and prayer whereof are to adjudge that the petitioner, the National Life Insurance Company has a valid and first lien on a certain frame dwelling house now standing on a part of the land in controversy in this cause, to-wit: Lots number 10 and 11 in block number 92 in the city of Lincoln in said county, which house formerly stood on lots number 1 and 2 in block number 180 in said city, and on which said petitioner claims and prays a lien by virtue of a certain mortgage executed by the defendants, Carlos C. Burr and Mary E. Burr, on July 11, 1887, for the sum of \$11,000, recorded on July 12, 1887, in book 14 of mortgages, page 502, of the mortgage records of said county, and covering the last above described land; that the decree in said cause may be so modified and corrected as to exclude in express terms from the property to be sold for the payment of the liens thereby established the house aforesaid; that said house with all its appurtenances may be sold for the payment of your petitioner's lien; and that you and all the defendants herein may be excluded from all interest therein or lien thereon, and enjoined and restrained from in any manner interfering with the petitioner and all persons claiming through or under the same from the removal thereof.

You are required to answer said petition of the National Life Insurance Company on or before the 30th day of August, 1897.

The National Life Insurance Company, of Montpelier, Vermont.

By S. L. GRISTHARDT, Attorney.

Aug 14.