

E. Thompson said at the time we were attempting to test this well, that he would make it his business to see that that well should not become a part of the city water system. The fireman at Mayor Graham's trial testified that he had been instructed by the mayor to plug the well so that the test for the abundance of water should fail. It was said in the council that the stream of water which supplied this well was shallow and irregular, not worth digging for and putting in an expensive pump to raise. But the councilman was persistent and The Courier was satisfied that the citizens had used salt water long enough. No other paper in the city was on the side of pure water. The salt water comes from the Salt creek basin. It spoils iron boilers, lead pipe and warps and destroys the human stomach. Nevertheless the coal dealers and Mr. Thompson thought the water stations should remain on the west of the city, and Mr. Mockett was advised in language which he said was unique, because of its profanity, to attend to his own business. But in spite of plots and counter-plots the Mockett well was dug, satisfactorily tested and now supplies the city with a stream of untainted, refreshing water, whose conduit is now being widened.

#### "The Management."

Mr. Thompson's managers are a blundering lot. In the hands of the opposition they are as cattle led to the shambles by a disguised confederate of the butcher. The opposition to Mr. Thompson had deadened in this section. Former opponents had accepted the inevitable, made up their minds to be quiet and do nothing to interfere with republican success. Mr. Thompson's chances were never better in Lincoln when Messrs. Bud Lindsey, Billingsley, Tom Benton and Courtney mistook passive disgust for popularity. They decided the time had come to take the horses out of Mr. Thompson's victoria and give him a triumphal entry into the city, where he has advertised that he means to build three large, very expensive and ornamental wholesale houses. For this purpose the Abraham Lincoln club was assembled and a resolution was offered endorsing and pledging loyalty to the county convention which nominated well known Thompson men for the legislature. When it was first offered it stirred up only two anti Thompson men who happened to be at the meeting. These men responded to the pole and Captain Billingsley magnanimously offered to let the matter rest for a week. In addition Mr. Thompson's intimates dared the opposition to produce proofs of his offer to sell what republicanism he had for a place in the senate. And this, though everybody, populist, democrat or republican assuredly knew that Mr. Thompson made the offer and attempted to effect the sale. A week from that time, last Saturday night, the anti-Thompson men were present with fourteen affidavits, sworn to by well known legislators of character. When Mr. Hall began to read the affidavits it occurred to the four men to whom Mr. Thompson has entrusted his destiny that the affidavits and the proceedings would be published and would not increase his reputation with the republicans of the state or with those non-partisans who are not politicians, but who prefer not to vote for a candidate who has been incontestably proven a traitor.

With this end in view they howled and made so much noise that Mr. Hall could read only a part of what he had prepared. They still

might have passed the resolutions approving Mr. Thompson's candidacy, for the opposition was only one-eighth of the audience, but they noisily left the brainy minority in possession and passed the resolutions somewhere else. If Mr. Thompson be not defeated on his own record the lack of acumen of Messrs. Lindsey, Billingsley, Courtney and Tom Benton will insure it. The denouement of last Saturday night and the active opposition which it evoked and is still stirring up was entirely of their preparation. Though Mr. Hall's quickness to take advantage of their mistake was admirable.

#### Van Wyck and Tweed.

Mayor Van Wyck's confession of his acceptance of stock from the ice trust has overwhelmed New York with shame. A student of human nature has suggested that thirty years ago when the New York Times secured the testimony that convicted Tweed of having stolen \$40,000,000 from New York, the people were astonished. They talked about the large sum of money and were interested in the exposition of his robberies. Now the conscience of the people is profoundly shocked. People are not talking about the money Mayor Van Wyck has made. School children are taught the duties of citizenship, the relation of the mayor and other city officers to the community, and the heinousness of betraying a city.

This changed attitude of the people towards Van Wyck's crime demonstrates that civic consciousness is deepening, and that, however it may seem we are not advancing in a circle.

The Tweed scandal, the revelations of the Lexow committee and now evidence of Mayor Van Wyck's corruption are discouraging. Apparently they indicate that city officials are all dishonest and that a few of them are found out. In Tweed's day it is doubtful if the discovery of ice stock under the same circumstances of its possession by Van Wyck would have disqualified the mayor from holding the mayoralty and earned him the disfavor of men of his own party. There is no discussion now about the impropriety of his acquirement of the stock and his inevitable retirement from politics.

The World is a yellow newspaper but its services to the city in this case are just as grateful as those of The Times in the Tweed case. By the cleverest and patientest detective work World reporters discovered that the mayor held five thousand shares of ice trust stock. Their lawyers cited him to appear in justice court where they produced the irrefutable evidence of his guilt.

#### Sacrilege.

The destruction of the fine old trees on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home at Milford is an inexcusable act of vandalism. Commandant Fowler ordered the big tree near the home cut down because the song of the birds in the morning disturbed his slumbers. The rustling, verdant vine-hung grove has been denuded of trees large enough for fence posts by this unmitigated philistine. The ancient venerable trees, among the oldest in the state have been cut down and the rights of the people of the state, to the property of the state have been ignored in order that the commandant may not be disturbed by the meadow-larks, robins, orioles, and blackbirds that he says "infested the grove." The noble girth of the ancient trees, the wide reach of the branches, the years they had been growing, the traditions of Indian encampments and councils whispered

by the leaves, the old, old vines, whose fringing shivered bark was sign of age to everything but a head full of dough, have been ignored by commandant Fowler for fence posts and because the birds disturbed his sluggish slumber. Travellers to Milford are blind with impotent rage at such imbecile spoiling of monumental, irrecoverable beauty. But we have no recourse. A man grossly unfit for such a charge is in control, and the surroundings of the Soldiers' Home which his predecessors have preserved and enjoyed and for the beauty of which the site was selected, will be ruined by a brute who prefers fence posts and the price he gets for them to his reputation, and century-old trees.

#### The Chrisman.

Mr. Chrisman, the teacher of pedagogy in the Kansas Normal School, who made unscientific statements about women before the Mother's congress at Des Moines has been investigated by the regents of the Kansas school. One half were in favor of asking for his resignation, and the other half willing that he should remain till he sighted another school, willing to employ a survival of the dark ages or a Turk.

Kansas clubdom is a particularly strong and progressive body of women and as more than four-fifths of the undergraduates in the normal school are young women, Chrisman's early departure from Kansas is predicted with some show of authenticity.

#### Census Questions.

Mrs. May Wright Sewell, president of the International Council of Women refused to answer the census taker's questions as to whether she was black or white and whether she could write or not. The newspapers have advised her that it is silly to get mad at anything the government chooses to direct the canvasser to ask. But the canvasser represents the whole people and even an average intelligence would not be guilty of asking Mrs. May Wright Sewell if she was black or white, or if she could write. There are also doubtless intelligent people at the head of the department, but the agents, "O worse than senseless things" that the commissioner generals send into the sacred homes of the people incite them to revolution and ambiguity.

#### Reorganization.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs will remain what the title indicates: an aggregation of women's clubs. The state federation is represented only incidentally, because it may be broadly considered a woman's club. Strictly speaking the state federation is in the general federation only on tolerance. The individual clubs are the basis of representation. They are the units and will counteract the inevitable approaches of aristocracy or exclusiveness. The overwhelming verdict against an aristocratic composition showed that the large majority of the delegates appreciated the meaning, the value and the vitality of democracy. Adoption of the reorganization recommendation would have made the Federation an aristocratic body. It might have met in a small place without crowding the touchiest inhabitant. Railroad rates, hotel rates and all sorts of the consideration it receives for its size, would no longer be offered it. Most of the women recognize the wholesomeness of the present organization and refused to meddle. And all the women's clubs are rejoiced over their sagacity.

## CLUBS.

OFFICERS OF N. F. W. C., 1899 & 1900.  
 Pres., Mrs. Anna L. Apperson, Tecumseh.  
 V. P., Mrs. Ida W. Blair, Wayne.  
 Cor. Sec., Mrs. Virginia D. Armp, Tecumseh.  
 Rec. Sec., Miss Mary Hill, York.  
 Treas., Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.  
 Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.  
 Auditor, Mrs. E. J. Hainer, Aurora.

#### FIFTH BIENNIAL.

##### Officers for 1900-1902.

President—Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe, Georgia.  
 V.-President—Mrs. C. T. Denison, New York.  
 2d V.-Pres't—Miss Margaret J. Evans, Minn.  
 Rec. Sec.—Mrs. Emma Fox, Michigan.  
 Cor. Sec.—Mrs. G. W. Kendrick, Pa.  
 Treas.—Mrs. E. M. Van Vechten, Iowa.  
 Aud.—Mrs. George H. Noyes, Wis.  
 Directors—Mrs. Edward L. Buchwalter, Ohio;  
 Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, Indiana; Miss  
 Margaret J. Evans, Minnesota; Mrs. Margaret  
 J. Lockwood, District of Columbia; Mrs. Annie  
 West, Massachusetts; Mrs. W. J. Christie,  
 Montana; Mrs. W. J. Coad, South Dakota; Mrs.  
 William Streeter, New Hampshire; Mrs. R. L.  
 Priddy, Kansas.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 6.—While the Mason and Dixon line was being retraced by members of the General Federation of Women's clubs today Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, the colored representative of the New Era club of Massachusetts, came quietly into the convention hall and took a seat with the Massachusetts delegation. The few that know she was there whispered to one another: "Wait until the board acts." The southern states, with the exception of Tennessee, claim that the passing of the Georgia resolution is all that stands between them and secession. The northern states, some of them, cry: "Let the South secede if it will."

The board must deal with these factions, both of which have presented protests for and against the admittance of colored women into the federation. And so these women are digging up the hatchet of discord buried by their husbands and fathers. "Southern women will leave the federation at once if the delegates admit colored women," said Mrs. Kate Cobell Currie of Dallas, Texas, president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Currie was a warm personal friend of Miss Winnie Davis and wears an exquisite miniature of Miss Davis at her throat. She says "we women of the South."

The cry of "no North, no South, no East, no West," does not ring out as it did at former biennials. The cry has changed to "You of the North, we of the South." Perhaps when the Federation vindicates Mrs. Lowe in her attitude against reorganization tomorrow the South will smile again. The smile would broaden if the nominating committee would put its arms around Mrs. Lowe and place her in the presidential chair once more. The board of directors of the Federation wants to postpone action so it will avoid the discussion that will come when it makes its report to the convention.

Chicago women, who, with all Illinois, urged the board to ratify the admission of Mrs. Ruffin's club and to reconsider its former action, were glad when they got a long message from Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, the colored club woman of Chicago, to-day. Mrs. Barnett has been looking after the anti-lynching bureau of the National African-American council.

The message was sent to Mrs. J. Edward Thorndyke of the Catholic Woman's National league, and was as follows:

"The color-line tide is stronger than ever. Friends of justice, to say nothing of Christianity, seem more and more afraid to stand for right and justice and