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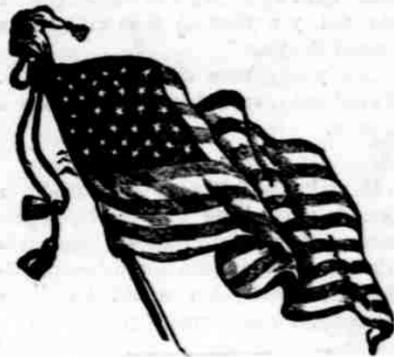
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OBSERVATIONS

The former editor of this paper, Mr. W. Morton Smith, has gone to New York where he will work on The Times. He leaves a great many friends, personal and journalistic, who will be glad to know that he will contribute a weekly letter to The Courier. Believing that the republican party represents principles the application of which makes a nation healthy, wealthy and wise, The Courier will continue to uphold them as zealously in the future as in the past.

The third annual meeting of the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs met at Fremont on Thursday and Friday October 8th and 9th, 1896. The president, Mrs. A. W. Field, of Lincoln was in the chair. About eighty-eight delegates were present and thirty-five visitors. At eleven o'clock when the delegates had nearly all arrived Mrs. Field presided at a meeting of the board of directors which is composed of presidents of clubs or their alternates.

It was decided that all resolutions presented to the federation must first be approved by the committee on resolutions to be appointed by the president and it was voted to recommend to

the executive committee, which consists of the officers of the federation, a change in the constitution in regard to the admission of new clubs. As it stands at present the constitution provides that no club can be considered a member of the federation unless accepted by the board of directors which meets only once a year at the time of the meeting of the state federation. The dues of a club are accepted at any time although it may be nearly twelve months before the club can become a member of the federation. The directors then adjourned.

The women assembled at 2 p. m., to listen to a musical and literary program. Mrs. Frawley and Miss Blanche Turner played a duet—the first two numbers of Beethoven's septet. They played in perfect time and with more musical feeling than the conditions of a duet generally allow. After very satisfactory reports from Miss J. S. Haskell of Stromsburg, secretary, Mrs. Amoret Roseman of Fremont, treasurer, Mrs. F. B. Harrison of Fremont sang a love song. She has a sweet voice and dramatic feeling, and both were much appreciated. Western audiences have the reputation among actors and musicians of being cold and unsympathetic, and unresponsive to the most impassioned appeals. They might change their mind if they could play to the federation of women's clubs of Nebraska. Their responsive is immediate and spontaneous.

After the president of the Fremont women's club, Mrs. T. F. Reynolds, had delivered a hospitable welcome to the federation, Mrs. A. W. Field replied with a gracious recognition of Fremont hospitality. Her address, which followed was a statement of the objects, functions and benefits of federation, with a reference to what other federations are doing in the way of practical benefit to the places they live in. For instance in some small towns in Minnesota the woman's club has become a village improvement society. The members have planted trees, induced drinking fountains, discouraged the weeds and above all created a love of neatness in the children which prevents them from throwing banana peels, paper or any refuse in the street or on the sidewalk. When those village boys are men the habit of tidyness may keep them from expectorating where women's skirts are apt to be soiled by it and every-body's health endangered. The effects of the village improvement societies in Minnesota is apparent in beauty and neatness where ever the women have taken up the work. Literary culture is good but social usefulness is better, and women's clubs are the first to accept it. Federation also gives to the whole association the benefit of the best papers written during the year by any member. Mrs. Field said that she found the biennial meeting at Louisville "inspiring, disappointing and

consoling." The addresses and the southern hospitality were inspiring.

Not to be able to hear all the speeches was disappointing. The meetings were held in different halls at the same time because there was no auditorium large enough to accommodate all of the delegates and visitors. In consequence there was an embarrassment of riches making it difficult to decide which meeting to attend. Another anniversary the session will be longer, the voices and halls stronger so that there will be no tantalizing necessity of missing two thirds while listening to one-third. Mrs. Field, in closing, recommended the federation to make an appropriation for the president's travelling expenses during the coming year so that she may be enabled to visit the clubs of the state. It was consoling to find that Nebraska women were as brilliant, as cultured, as eloquent as the eastern women.

Mrs. Ella W. Peattie read her report as treasurer of the library fund, and Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, who was appointed custodian and distributor of books read her report. The number of books bought, given to the circulating library and loaned to the clubs of the state. Her report also included the names of the books. These reports were preceded by a few remarks from Mrs. Keysor of Omaha, who presented the offer of the art department of the Omaha Woman's club to loan a collection of three hundred small photographs in the name of art and fraternity.

Mrs. Frances M. Ford of Omaha, member of the board of directors of the general federation, delivered the next address on the "Responsibility of the Woman's Club Toward Public Questions."

She said that the woman's clubs were a development and continuation of the Soldier's Aid Society which was the first woman's club in this country. The Christian soldier is now represented by his wife. In regard to politics a club in order to retain its usefulness and unity must be very careful, careful as the pulpit should be. There are certain principles that every woman individually and in club assembled should stand for. But the various party ways of expressing these principles should be ignored by the various members who may, as individuals stand on any platform their interest or preference may select. For instance, as in Omaha if the school board dismiss a teacher for political reasons and if her withdrawal from the teaching force seem a distinct loss to the educational energy of the city it is within the functions of the club to address a remonstrance to the board and to use any further means which use is likely to reinstate that teacher. The difference between party enthusiasm and the love of justice, truth, purity and honesty is hard for any one to decide and especially hard for women who are nat-

urally more ardent partizans than men; but upon such discrimination rests the future of women's clubs. No woman is a good club woman until the public weal is above everything else. The club is no place to grind axes. And it must not be used as a weapon to punish political opponents, nor used as a cats paw in any way. On the other hand when an occasion arises in which the influence of the club, in the opinion of a majority of the members, will aid a good cause it should be used without fear of the word "cat's paw."

The club need not beware of politics if politics mean public health and public morality. Dr. Gunsaulus in a recent sermon on the text "Thine enemies are disappointed by the hand of a woman" said that the regenerating forces—love and pity were essentially feminine. That women knew the right and that it was her mission to make the world ready for it.

The paper by Miss Shuman of Nebraska City on "Significant Phases of the Club," is published herewith.

The Lorelei quartet, composed of Miss Lillian Terry, Mrs. A. G. Edwards, Miss Maud Oakley and Mrs. D. A. Campbell, sung several times before the federation. They are getting into more perfect tune each time they sing. Mrs. Campbell's rare alto gives a body and depth not often heard in a woman's quartette. She is supported by Mrs. Edwards, and Miss Terry's and Miss Oakley's sopranos chord with the other two voices like the treble of an instrument in perfect tune.

The discussion, "Woman Before the Law," was opened by Miss Vesta Gray, a practicing lawyer in Fremont and an alumnus of the state university. She discussed the subject of the personal rights of woman, with the apparent conclusion that in Nebraska they were the same as men's. Mrs. Elizabeth J. Travis of the Plattsmouth Woman's club, unravelled the tangle, which sometimes becomes a snarl, of woman's property rights, and Mrs. Archibald A. Scott, president of the Lincoln Woman's club, talked about woman's personal and property rights in Nebraska. Her paper concluded with the clever rhyme which follows:

If you Nebraska laws will scan
You'll find they all were made by man.
Yet, woman's taxed, you will admit,
Without a voice or hand in it.
Justice to all we would see done,
At least to her, the weaker one.
We ask club women, in this state,
The woman's sphere to elevate.
Knowledge is power, use it with might;
Teach her to know what is her right.
Help her in any way you can;
Consult with her, as man to man.
She, too, loves the stripes and stars,
And loves this noble state of ours.
Let us, as women, plead this cause,
"Equality Before the Laws."

After the foregoing apotheosis of woman under seven different heads, Mr. O. C. Holmes Secretary of the Nebraska