

The dirty stolid beggars that I have known as Indians were not, maybe, fair samples. Then I took a step and came upon the scalp-locks tanned and made into ornaments with exactly the same care given to the baby cradles. In a huge room north of the Indian room, among totem poles, wigwags and canoes too large for the smaller rooms is an old Egyptian boat dug out of the bank of the Nile, used in all probability four thousand five hundred years ago. It is a rough boat, the wood warped and discolored by the sand. If I had been somewhat surer of my Jewish history I would have imagined this boat filled with bricks and rowed by Hebrew slaves. It would have been a great satisfaction but I had to be content without it.

For pure and simple hideousness the Chinese room is far beyond any of the others. There is nothing beautiful about totem poles, especially those carved in grotesque imitation of human beings, the misshapen little gods from Africa are bad enough, the mummies give their own creepy feeling; but the Chinese room holds more unrelieved ugliness than all of these together. Most people show some attempt toward ornamentation, a real struggle perhaps towards their own artistic ideal. And there is a rough beauty in some collections to be admired by even the civilized. The wickerwork and pottery of some of the Indian tribes has a firmness of outline not improved upon by the best of our own work.

But the Chinese seem to have worked for nothing except elaborated ugliness. The figures of their gods are grotesque, distorted and exaggerated. There are combinations of colors and ugly luring faces till one almost gets seasick looking at them. I would not care to live in a Chinese heaver. ANNIE PREY.

**What Woman's Clubs Have Done for Kansas.**

The Social Science Federation of Kansas numbers fifty seven clubs and Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, who was greatly interested in organizing the federation, says that "in cataclysmal Kansas there are two types of women—one the sensational, spectacular, political woman, who is often taken seriously as a type, and the other, the true Kansas woman, the refined, progressive, club woman, who labors along the lines of true advancement, not at all pyrotechnically, but faithfully and without pause."

Two thousand of such women are represented in the fifty seven clubs of the Social Science Federation, and to a stranger present at Hutchinson, where the federation meeting was recently held, the refined, earnest and self-poised women who were in attendance were most attractive, and that "Kansas is now all right," as one of the delegates expressed it, is because her "women would make it all right." The Social Science Federation of Kansas was organized as early as May, 1888, by several of the large towns in the Kaw Valley, and included the two Kansas Cities, thus embracing Western Missouri in its jurisdiction, and it claims to have been a complete federation many years before federation was known. In 1893 it extended its membership and embraced all women's clubs. It was thus one of the first two States to form a union of women's clubs. By 1895 this federation had assumed such large proportions that it was judged wise to restrict the membership to the women's club of Kansas, and Missouri formed her own State federation, which, in point of numbers, is now larger than that of the Social Science Federation of Kansas. But the cordial relationship which was formed between the Missouri and Kansas clubs was not interrupted by the formation of the two federations, and at the annual meeting of the Missouri Federation

held in Kansas City last November, a very large number of Kansas women were present.

The various Chautauqua assemblies have inaugurated women's club days, which afford a good opportunity for extending the hand of fellowship to women in remote districts, and those who spend their lives in solitary farm houses, and at these assemblies country clubs are being formed, every one of which becomes a center of a broader social life.

Lawrence and Topeka reported having formed city federations, and the big Seventh District, of which Newton is the center point, has an unique federation of its own. The general consensus of opinion was that as the clubs entered upon practical work the division into departments becomes imperative and renders the club organization more efficient. Extemporaneous speaking is advocated very strongly by this federation, and that symposiums be arranged for the discussion of intellectual as well as social subjects, rather than so many essays; as one club member expressed it, "they had been papered to death!"

The Kansas Federation has not been backward in grappling with the question of public libraries, some clubs having effected a local union of clubs to establish a library. Kansas City, Kan., being a notable instance. Mrs. Scammon reports "that this Federation procured the city tax on dogs and appropriated the money thus collected to their book fund, an example of library enterprise which would seem likely to turn the canine race of Kansas into a many dog power for furnishing its towns with public libraries, since several clubs in different cities avowed their intention to go and do likewise."

Many clubs distribute books and the best magazine literature through circulating libraries.

Through the false and one sided reports of all matters in Kansas that are sent out, a certain prejudice has arisen against the state which is not warranted by the actual conditions. The citizens of Kansas have suffered from climatic causes, especially from the long drouths, and right here I might repeat as typical of the suffering which so many of the farmers have undergone a story told me by a traveller in Kansas: It happened to a friend of his who was travelling in a buggy in the western part of the state, on some land surveying business. The spring had been very rainy, the first wet season after several years of severe drouth. The rivers were swollen, and in crossing a bridge he observed an old man seated on the bank of the river with his feet in the water. He stopped his buggy and called out to the man, but received no answer. The old farmer seemed absolutely oblivious of the presence of a human being. The man called several times, as he wished to inquire the way to a certain village, but the old man did not answer. He stopped his horse, got out of the buggy and walked down to the farmer and touched him on his shoulder. He looked up in the stranger's face, gave a smile, and, with a little quiver of the lip said: "It's water, sir, water." Perhaps no words could have been better chosen to typify the suffering which had been endured by some of the Kansas farmers. The west is broad and magnificent, but all over it are strewn human wrecks, most of them from the east, and on their despair and failure is being built up a great and powerful civilization. One must live there, or at least go among them as one of them, to understand these social conditions. In speaking to a student of social economics, the dean of one of the large universities of the country, this remark was made: "I so regret the effect of the snapshot judgment of the east on the west." The great state federations which are united in the general federation have a mission to accomplish in this respect, to do away with the "snapshot judgment," and replaced it by personal knowledge of the women who, throughout the west as well as the east, are working along great constructive and educational lines.—Helen M. H. protin in *New York Journal*.

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