

the congress will greatly aid the promotion of a mutual understanding between the women of different nations. The language problem has been a difficulty to many American delegates, for it has been hard to follow all continental delegates. We American women are not, as a rule, so well equipped in the knowledge of foreign languages as the English. The congress showed me, while Englishwomen have made great advances in recent years, Americans yet lead the van of progress. You must remember the congress represents not alone suffrage women, but women interested in all kinds of work—philanthropic, social, religious, and industrial. Many of them have not yet advanced as far as suffrage, but we regard them all as our children, for until we suffrage women organized there was no women's organization whatever."

"The chief result of this congress will be that women of each different nationality will become acquainted with the work actually being done by women of every country. This teaches each woman that her own nation is not the only one in the world, and that there are other people besides 'Me and my wife and my son John and his wife.' The English and Americans are apt to get swelled heads about their respective countries, and congresses like this will tend to reduce them."

Mrs. May Wright Sewell, vice president of the congress says: "I look for one supremely important result of this congress. It brings women of different nationalities into closer sympathy and enables us to join hands in promoting the large principles in which we all believe. We have been able to demonstrate, for example, that enlightened women of all countries are in favor of international arbitration."

The Rev. Anna Shaw says: "The whole arrangement of the congress is convincing proof of the vast amount of trouble and work taken by the English officials to aid strangers. Nothing has been left undone that could promote the comfort of the delegates or smooth the progress of the great gatherings, but I am convinced it would have been better had the speaking been put in the hands of trained platform speakers rather than experts on different subjects. Many women experts spoiled admirable papers because they did not know how to deliver them. The congress affords encouraging proof that the women's movement is not confined to America. This congress reveals that altogether the Englishwoman's great charm of manner and kindness is more conservative than the American. She is apt to adopt an air of patronage towards the American and attempt to instruct her in things which the American thinks she knows better than her teacher. The Englishwoman cannot forget we are a daughter nation. She fancies she still has the maternal right of patronage and instruction. She thinks, too, that class distinctions and social life may be used with Americans when dealing with them."

Miss Mary Shaw, the actress delegate says: "We Americans are apt to fancy we are further advanced in our views about the education and special rights of women than people of other countries. This congress shows us we are mistaken, as we find women reformers, even in non-progressive countries, have been working on the same lines and inspired by the same ideas of mutual helpfulness and sympathy."

A lively scene in the congress was occasioned by the reading of a paper, which was contributed by Mrs. Francis Scott, president of the Massachusetts society opposed to the extension of franchise to women. This paper dealt with

the history of anti-suffragist movement in the eastern states. She argued that franchise carried with it duties which women are incapable of performing if they wish to retain their place in the social economy. She specified these duties as military service, police duty, jury duty, membership of public bodies and congress, and finished by declaring that the acquisition of the ballot was not so much denied by men, as precluded by nature, from whose decision women could not appeal.

There were many manifestations of impatience as these views were developed, and side exclamations of "nonsense," "rubbish" could be heard on every side, but the final sentence excited such indignation that there was a general hissing as the delegate took her seat. A warm discussion followed in which Mrs. Scott's paper found practically no support. If this congress has done nothing else it has again demonstrated woman's ability to organize and carry forward a great parliament. It has further demonstrated the remarkable talent of women for public speaking, and the wide range of their interests under modern conditions of education. Next week's Courier will contain further details of this great parliament.

Miss Mary Bhar, the Hindu delegate, was attired in native costume and was one of the picturesque features of the convention. She is the daughter of a wealthy Hindu, was educated in England, and speaks English well. She said: "My soul was thrilled by discovering that women can unite from all countries in the great work of the advancement of the equality of the sexes. This is the first congress I have attended, but I am cherishing the hope some day of summoning such an assemblage in India to coudemn that terrible blot on our country, the Zenana system, but it takes long to dispel the darkness behind the veil."

Mrs. Flora Anna Steele the novelist, says: "I don't place much confidence in the result of the congress itself. Action by resolution is not the great dynamic force, but the combination should be a good nucleus, as it were, for something definite. We must avoid claiming special advantages for women, I hear it done every day. It is illogical. Women should have no special privileges, as they stultify the definite place she has in the universe. She has a place of her own. Let her abide in it."

The French delegate, Mlle. Bogelot says: "French women are not in the habit of going out doors, but this congress teaches us French delegates the desirability of organization. Once we start we shall make up for lost time. I have that same feeling you experience when you have to hurry to catch a train which is already leaving the platform. The result will not be immediate. We are only eating here. When we return to our homes we will digest what we have heard."

The German delegate, Frau Maria Stritt, who is also president of the first Woman's Legal Defense Union of Dresden, says: "This congress will result in an enormous increase in the solidarity of women. The position of women in Germany is greatly inferior to that of women in America and England, both as regards civil rights and entrance into the professions. In Germany we cannot become doctors, or even obtain degrees in science. But the light is breaking and this congress will help spread it."

The colleges for women this year seem to have a peculiar fondness for Shakespeare's plays. The most elaborate production "The Winter's Tale" was given by Smith College. Mount Holyoke

College also chose scenes from "Midsummer Night's Dream" as its dramatic entertainment for commencement. The Holyoke play was given in the afternoon about 5 o'clock in a grove on the hill back of the college, and as the actors moved in and out among the trees the soft colors of their costumes made a charming contrast against the green branches behind them. The fairies tripped through their pretty dance, Puck wrought his mischievous tangles and the whole picture was pretty and graceful.

The play was only incidental, and was not one of the main features of commencement. The girls had been their own trainers and stage managers, and offered the play only as one more typical entertainment for the great number of guests that flooded the town and college to catch a glimpse of President McKinley: He did not appear during the afternoon of the play. But perhaps from the top of Mount Tom he extended his hand in benison over the actors and sighed that his days were not twenty-four hours long to enable him to visit Smith College, eat his luncheon at Holyoke, climb Mount Tom and experience the novelty of a Mount Holyoke play between the limits of dawn and darkness.

The girls at Wellesley gave for commencement the play of "As You Like It" which they presented a short time ago.

The latest surprise in the college world is the resignation of President Mead of Mount Holyoke College, to take effect in one year. Mrs. Mead has been President of the college since 1890. The last nine years have been a period of growth and change for Holyoke as for Wellesley, and the task of reorganizing the old institution on new lines has been no light one. When Mrs. Mead took charge there were about 300 students. Now there are 450, and last year 150 more could have been received. There are even now 250 applications for next fall. Ten years ago the college possessed almost no endowment, but now, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Pearson of Chicago and also to the indefatigable efforts of the students to raise the sum necessary to secure his gift, the endowment fund of the college is such as to make some of the other women's colleges look upon it with envy.

Mount Holyoke has been a college for about five years only, but even in that time it has done such a high grade of work that it has taken its place among the best women's colleges of the country. The force of professors has been enlarged to meet the greater demands. Two departments have been added and old ones strengthened. The requirements for admission have grown steadily more rigid, and the degree of B. A. has been substituted for B. S. and B. L. The system of college life is now modelled somewhat on that of Smith College. The cottage system in that institution has proved eminently successful, and though the sharing of domestic service among the girls at Mount Holyoke makes it radically different, still the advantage of less wear and tear in the nervous system, where one mingles with forty girls in a house instead of 300 is very plain.

In the department of study the division of the college year into two sections instead of into three sections has been found to work well. Self-government has been introduced and is working so well that new liberties are granted each year. Chairs of Biblical instruction and Semitic languages and of constitutional history have recently been added. Teachers' courses have been planned to meet the need of those who have leave of absence from their schools and who wish to use their time for work along special lines.

Through all this time of change Mrs.

Mead has unvaryingly sought the best interest of the college. She has given the best of herself to her work, and in spite of the regret felt by the students they can understand her desire, now that the college is in good condition, to enjoy leisure.

Apropos of the subject of reorganizing the G. F. W. C. it is not often that a new movement becomes so successful that it has to be abandoned, but such seems to be the case in regard to the National organization. The biennial meetings have grown so large that it is doubtful if another invitation will be extended from any city, and the business men of Milwaukee by whose invitation the coming biennial is to meet in that city, will for once in their lives have enough of a good thing. Yet the resolution to reorganize and have the biennial composed of representatives from the state federations only, thus throwing overboard the individual clubs that have made the G. F. W. C. the pronounced success that it is today, appears to be rank injustice. Another objection will be the increased taxation of the state federations. The financial question is the Chinese puzzle of the Ex. Board of the Nebraska Fed. and will be as long as the dues are only \$2.00 per annum for each club, and year books, badges, and programs continue to cost money. To increase the state taxation to equal the revenue received by the general federation under the present system of representation where the majority of its funds come from the dues paid by individual clubs would result in the withdrawal of many states from the General Federation, and if the State Federation increased the dues of the local clubs in order to meet the increased State tax the consequences would be that many local clubs would sever their connection with the State Federation, so it would be as broad as it is long. The ten cent per capita tax would not furnish the revenue to the General Federation that the present system of assessment does.

The large clubs would undoubtedly feel that the money they would pay out for the honor of belonging to the General Federation when that honor would cost sixty or seventy dollars a year, could be more profitably spent at home and who can dispute that argument? The liberal donation of the Omaha Woman's club started the circulating library of this state that is such a help to country clubs, and its contribution of fifty dollars a year is so necessary to its existence, and it was the generosity of the Lincoln Woman's club that put the Reciprocity Bureau on its feet. The large city clubs are of more benefit to the local clubs throughout the state than is the General Federation. They can exist without the General Federation and never know the difference, but many would find hard work to get along with out those helps that are the results of the philanthropic efforts of the large city clubs. The most just solution of the difficulty that confronts our National Organization would be to keep the present system of taxation and divide the General Federation into districts and these districts conventions elect an equal number of delegates to the Biennial meetings and in this way all sections of the country would be equally represented without the immense number of delegates that bids fair to sink the Biennial ship.

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