

sion of the man with the fuzzy voice whose accompaniment was spoiling her effects and irritating her audience. The prompter is probably an historical and immovable fact in Italy, for none of the Italians paid the slightest attention to his abhorred interruption. His reading made the opera sound like an everlasting fugue.

Another inexplicable feature of Italian opera by Italians (What do they call that kind of opera in Italy?) is their lack of respect for their own music. Unless all the performers soloists and chorus were on the stage the wings were filled with hoarse laughter and talk which spoiled the effect of the best songs. Between the officious prompter in front and her fellow countrymen in the wings even Collamarini's pure, soaring, swelling notes were curiously anchored to earth.

The fire and truth of Collamarini's acting and singing, her graceful responsive body and hands are an epitome of the Italian woman. It is only a pity that she does not know the part she plays with so much dramatic force. It is incomprehensible if she be not letter perfect in her part how she can play it with so much certainty.

CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETS.]

CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA CLUBS.

- November
- 1. Child study dept., Growth of use of Muscles, Fairy tales as an element in children's reading.....Lincoln
 - 11. Fin de Siecle c., Abraham Lincoln, Adeline.
 - 11. Patti.....Seward
 - 11. History and Art c., Influence of the Romans in Germany.....Seward
 - 11. XIX Cen. c., Painting in the Netherlands, Seward
 - 11. Musical dept., Music Among the Ancients Lincoln
 - 11. Hall in the Grove, Italian Cities.....Lincoln
 - 12. Child Study dept., Growth and Use of Muscles.....Lincoln
 - 13. Household economies dept., Marketing Lincoln
 - 13. Woman's c. Has the progress of the nineteenth century increased the burden of women?.....Central City
 - 13. Woman's c., Philip IV and Sons, Women of Capetian Dynasty.....Minden
 - 13. Mat. Mus., Hungarian Melodies and Dances Lincoln
 - 13. Sorosis, Reconstruction.....Stanton
 - 14. Fin de Siecle, Benjamin Franklin, Michael Angelo.....Seward
 - 14. Parliamentary dept., Mass Meetings, Duties of Officers.....Lincoln
 - 14. Fortnightly c., Siberia and the Prison System Lincoln.
 - 15. Mary Barnes Literary c., Colonization, Fullerton.
 - 15. Woman's c., Lecture.....Ashland
 - 15. Woman's c., Rise of Papal Power Mohammed.....Dundee
 - 15. Cozy c., The Holy Roman Empire, Tecumseh
 - 15. New Book Review c., Richard Carvel, Lincoln
 - 15. Friends in Council, Famous Madonnas, Tecumseh
 - 16. Self Culture c., One Hundred Year's War, 1337-1453.....St. Paul
 - 17. Self Culture c., Olla Podrida.....St. Paul
 - 17. W. R. P. C., c. France.....Lincoln
 - 17. Round Table, Browning--Luria, Victor Hugo--Les Miserables.....Crete
 - 18. Woman's c., The Restoration 1690-1699 Syracuse

- 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. Arnup, 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.

The following address was delivered by Mrs. S. C. Largworthy, president of the N. F. W. C. at its fifth annual convention held at York the second week of October 1899.

To the members of the Nebraska Federation of Woman's clubs:

Ladies:—It gives me pleasure to emphasize the earnest and sincere thanks which have just been spoken in response to the welcome which has been so cordially extended to the members of the state federation by the ladies of York.

I will remember of having read years

ago, the report of a Chatauqua circle of York, in which it was stated that nothing save a Nebraska blizzard or a cyclone ever prevented the attendance of its members, and this is an apt illustration of the undaunted courage and perseverance which is so characteristic of our club sisters of this enterprising city. Then too this delightful meeting of congenial friends in a measure compensates for having assumed the duties and responsibilities devolving upon an office, which I was not ambitious to accept.

I then remembered the old proverb which says "He who builds by the way side, has many masters" and expected criticism and possibly censure, but these smiles of welcome and handclasp of friendship have banished all thought save that of kindly feeling, and I now desire to thank you for the honor which you have conferred upon me. A brief review of the work accomplished during the past year reveals the fact that the time has not been spent in pleasant idleness, but that greater earnestness and a deepening of purpose has characterized all club work. It has developed a spirit of helpfulness in community life and a broader love and charity for each other, thus showing that the growth of intellectual activity among women is not a mere sentimentalism, but rather an intensely practical realism. We will accord to the chairmen of the various committees, the pleasure of telling you of their progress. In response to a circular letter issued to clubs and asking for data of club work we find that the greatest liberality has been shown in support of public libraries, city improvements, lecture courses, etc., and I trust that this data will be fully given by every club delegate as it will be of interest to all members of the federation. We have welcomed the twin departments of music and art, the one to delight us with the divine symphony of sweet sounds, the other with the symphony of color, for the "soul of art is the Divinity of humanity" and in whatever way the divine spark within may be kindled let us foster, cherish and keep alive the sacred flame.

Today as we stand upon the threshold, and are about to enter the open portals of another club year, we cannot refrain from taking a retrospective view of the past. Seven new clubs have been admitted to membership of which the "Wild Rose club" is the youngest in the federation.

The scenes of one year ago come laden with pleasant memories as we recall the friendly greetings extended to the women of Nebraska by the Chief Executive of our nation. And also the bright and talented women who graced by their presence and eloquence the platform of our state federation. When we think of the earnestness and enthusiasm of Mrs. Rebecca D. Lowe and her coterie of faithful followers, who are laboring unceasingly to extend the usefulness and influence of women, we feel like singing with the gentle Lucy Larcom "Thank God for the work He lets us do, I am glad that we live in the world with you." Thus encouraged by the cheering words and inspiring thoughts of these noble women and the assurance of your kind helpfulness we have gathered up the threads, which were dropped by the weary hands of one whom we all love and revere, and have continued the work, feeling confident that the rich fruitage would be partially garnered at this Autumn meeting.

Here we shall gather "golden apples" of thought, mellowed by the sweetness of music, and tinted with the brilliant hues of art. Here heart will speak to heart, and the experience of one will be the encouragement of another.

Thus the reciprocal idea which underlies our vast federated structure

becomes to all, a strength and an inspiration.

We are nearing the close of a dying century—a century of unique progress in Art, Science and intellectual attainments. A century of commingled forces which are helping the world onward, and though these forces may vary in strength and intensity, yet as the sea is disturbed by the pebble, whose influence is felt to the farthest shore—so the great ocean of thought is agitated and purified by the influx of thoughts and ideas. These thought waves are constantly changing the tenor of long established customs and beliefs and the ripples and eddies of doubt and dissension are soon blended in the deep current of intelligent thought, or are engulfed in the maelstrom of forgetfulness.

Thus the true and the false must part company for no compromise can exist between the two. Today the sweet messages of faith, hope, love and charity which have been wafted down the flight of centuries are exerting a peaceful and benign influence upon the human race, and creating a sympathetic relation among all people.

This spirit is manifest in all the great issues of the day, hence it is that women have at last come to be a recognized factor in all educational and social reforms. This has been the result of those irresistible tendencies which are rapidly extending the advance of civilization by the subjugation and suppression of barbarism.

It has been by unity of action and well directed efforts that the influence of woman has been felt wherever wrong existed, and wherever the crying need of humanity has been heard.

It is indeed a woman's century and the work she has accomplished will leave its impress upon future generations.

The home has heretofore been her only field of action, but growing conditions now demand a corresponding growth and development of mental force and activity.

It is thought by some to be unfortunate that so many of our capable and deserving women have entered the professions and service which takes them beyond the limits of home, but when we recall the fact that four millions of women in the United States, are earning their living can it be doubted that women of the 19th century are workers.

It is however well that club women realize the importance of centering their efforts upon the higher education and culture of the mothers of our land for it is true that the broadest training and greatest preparation are necessary to fit women for presiding over the home, just as in the commercial world men have submitted themselves for centuries to the careful training in science, art and literature, for the great responsibilities which rest upon them. The master spirit which held the nations of Europe in abeyance, until the battle of Waterloo said that "All that France needed was 'good mothers'." It is no less true today, and her unstable government at the present time is due to the laxity of her home conditions." If a French peasant is asked if he has any children, he replies: "Alas! I have no children, I have only daughters," thus placing the lowest possible estimate upon those who are to rear the men who should guide and control a nation.

The mothers of a country hold in their hands a power that shall rival the rule of all the potentates of earth, for by making home the brightest spot, children are drawn or charmed into the paths of virtue and rectitude, and the warp and woof of a child's future life is woven by the mother as she holds the silken threads of love within her firm and gentle grasp.

The home then should be as it is, the

most important subject for thoughtful consideration by all club women, for it is the "duties and affections of home that produce the full rich manhood and the complete womanhood" and it is from this union that we find the ideal home, which is the fairest flower of our civilization.

Now after the study and discussion which has been given to this subject by clubs during the past year, are we not justified in the assertion that club women make the most attractive homes, and the best of mothers and wives? Otherwise our club movement is a failure.

Although the club movement has been the target for merciless critics, who have failed to realize that it is one of the most potent forces for good of the 19th century, yet its growth has been marvelous, and its humanizing influence is felt in nearly every city, town and village of our land.

It has descended like a benediction to bless and to brighten the lives of thousands by bringing them into closer sympathy and in touch with the intellectual aims and attainments which create new impulses and give greater force and efficiency to life and endeavor. It has become the happy medium for concerted action, and when several hundred thousand American women join hands for a purpose, there are no barriers that can withstand them.

All questions pertaining to the domestic, social and educational advancement of women, make up the curriculum of club study. But as progress "is the watchword of the day" we must exert our ingenuity and energy to devise and develop new methods, that will give greater emphasis and stability to the work for which we have pledged our time and our best endeavors.

It is gratifying to know that we have gained one point after another, from the individual to the development of the club, and from the local club to the state federation, until the climax seems to have been reached in the general federation of Woman's clubs. The work thus far has surpassed our most sanguine expectations and as we look over this audience of intelligent, refined and noble women, we cannot but feel that the evolution of good depends largely upon the elevating influence which you as women must aid in wielding.

An early colonial historian said "We owe all that we are pleased to call distinctly American to the genius, the activity and the character of woman"

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