

**THE OLD TOWN ON THE RIVER**  
FLORA BULLOCK.

In the congress of the United States there is a hush and a bowing of heads, and the wheel of business is stopped for a time. There are kind messages and resolutions sent to the relatives of one who was called another way just as he was about to take his place among the nation's rulers. And in the old town on the river there is mourning everywhere. The world outside will be led to ask now what manner of man he was who came so near the goal, and many tributes of honest praise will be given wherever Mr. Hayward was known. But nowhere, I think, will be heard a more fitting and impressive encomium than that given by a pupil in a schoolroom a day or so after Mr. Hayward's death. The teacher asked the meaning of the word "benevolent." With that blessed instinct so common to children they began to think of some one who represented what the word meant. One boy who is ordinarily silent and can hardly be coaxed to answer questions, said, "I think Mr. Hayward was a benevolent man." The teacher did not need to ask his reason, for he eagerly told of the many poor families who received so much from Mr. Hayward, of his readiness always to help those who were unfortunate. A poor man who died was given a decent burial—"in a coffin, instead of just a box"—and his destitute family was clothed and fed. Another man was given a house and a chance to work to keep it. Other pupils joined in to tell something of the good deeds which are not to be forgotten, and the silent boy spoke more than at any time during the term. The spelling lesson was forgotten, and in their way the small group of restless children in the dingy school room did as much to honor a man of good deeds as those who sit in dignified state in the halls of congress.

An old friend of Mr. Hayward told me another story to show the character which friends knew so well. A farmer once came to Mr. Hayward's office and complained that the hail had destroyed all his wheat and corn. "Oh, I guess you're mistaken; it's just cut up a little bit," Mr. Hayward said gruffly. But the man insisted, and the judge called for his buggy and went out to see for himself. When he came back he told the friend that the crop was utterly ruined. Then the next move he made was to shuffle out from among his papers a note for four hundred dollars which he held against the farmer. "I can't pay it," the man said. "Well, you know what to do with it," the judge replied. He destroyed the note and then supplied the man with funds—and what was such men as this farmer will never forget Judge Hayward; contrary to that oft denied statement of the poet, the good that this man did shall live after him.

As an old inhabitant of Nebraska City, Judge Hayward was one of a group of men who, with their families, have formed a select and happy circle. When one of these has gone on before, the circle is not enlarged to fill the vacant place, but those who are left remember, and the widowed and fatherless are so affectionately cared for that the grief is not unbearable. Judge Hayward has been a strong support, a true father to others in their need, and the vacant place will be felt, I imagine, almost as keenly through all this circle as in his own home. The highest praise of Judge Hayward that I have ever heard was something told me several years ago by a university professor. "Judge Hayward's home life is beautiful." That is the final test. The storm of political campaigns and the unkindness of public life are not unprejudiced witnesses of a man's true worth.

**CLUBS.**

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

**CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA CLUBS.**

December.	
23.	XIX Century c., Painting in the Netherlands, Monroe Doctrine... Seward
23.	Woman's c., Holiday Adjournment... North Bend
23.	Fin de Siecle c., American humorists, and Christmas in Other Lands... Seward
23.	Zetetic c., Growth of Literature from 1850-1890. Pronunciation test... Weeping Water
25.	Woman's c., Art... Lincoln
26.	History and Art c., William and Mary... Albion
26.	Woman's c., Business, music, social... Fairbury
26.	Woman's c., French Conversation... Omaha
26.	Woman's c., Ethics and philosophy... Omaha
26.	Fortnightly c., Vacation... Lincoln
27.	Woman's c., Influence of Imperialism Upon the Life of Nations... Dundee
27.	Friends in Council, Modern English Writers... Tecumseh
27.	Cozy c., A Christmas Afternoon "Oberammergau"... Tecumseh
27.	Woman's c., A Christmas Meeting... Ashland
27.	Woman's c., Oratory... Omaha
28.	Woman's c., Household Economics... Omaha
28.	Woman's c., English Literature... Omaha
28.	Lotos c., Porto Rico... Lincoln
29.	Hall in the Grove, The Renaissance in Italy... Lincoln
29.	Self Culture c., Gladstone... St. Paul
29.	Woman's c., Thirty Years of American History (1820-50)... Plattsmouth
30.	Woman's c., Reception... North Bend
30.	Review and Art c., Michael Angelo... York
30.	Woman's c., New Year's Meeting... Syracuse
30.	Pansy c., Phelps and Thoreau... Tecumseh

**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. Arup, Tecumseh.  
Rec. Sec., Miss Mary Hill, York.  
Treas., Mrs. H. F. Doane, Crete.  
Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.  
Auditor, Mrs. E. J. Halner, Aurora.

The officers of the N. F. W. C. will meet in executive session Wednesday, December 27, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the parlors of the Hotel Lincoln. It is very important that each member be present as there is much and important business before the board. The meeting is set for this time in order that the members of the executive board may attend the session of Women's clubs on the afternoon of the 27th at 2 o'clock, in room No. 106 University Hall. I sincerely hope the Club women throughout the state will take advantage of the low rates in force during the association and accompany the teachers to Lincoln. Thereby extending their sympathy and encouragement, and emphasizing the importance of the relation the teachers bear to the club mothers of our state.

MRS. ANNA L. APPEBSON,  
President N. F. W. C.

The reorganization of the G. F. W. C. is a current question—with the state federations, with the large clubs, with the small clubs, and even where two or three women are gathered together, it is the chief topic of conversation. These discussions are beginning to assume a humorous phase. First we are told that this change is necessary because the biennials are growing so "unwieldy;" next we are told that the new plan will provide for indefinite expansion. Some argue that the running expenses will be very much reduced, and then I try to figure out how this can be done without running both state and general federations into the ground, for "tell it not in Gath nor whisper it in Ascalon." Very few state federations pay even the necessary expenses of their state officers, while it is no secret that the general federation has always labored under financial embarrassments that have made it impossible to do many things. We are told we are in great danger of disintegration, and the wonder grows. Is this fear based upon the last biennial: the largest, the grandest, the most enthusiastic and inspiring of them all.

Will a ruthlessly pruned, strictly logical organization compensate for enthusiastic, loving, direct support? The Worcester club of Massachusetts has placed a stumbling block in the onward march of the G. F. W. C. by the unkind criticism embodied in those resolutions presented to the council at Philadelphia last June. This resolution denominates the biennials "unwieldy, awkward and burdensome before the executive board has discovered such defects. While we would not impugn the motives of our sisters of Worcester, would it not have been in better form had they waited for the general federation to discover its own unwieldiness before, like a pert child, it pointed out a possible clumsiness in the mother? A finance committee working on the plan of the National Educational Association would have been of more benefit to the general association than the present committee on reorganization. Another peculiar feature of the situation, and one open to criticism, is in the fact that the chairman of the reorganization committee has left no one in doubt as to her opinion on this question and has made use of her official position to bring all possible influence to bear in favor of reorganization. There is an unwritten law in regard to such cases, and it forbids the use of position to influence votes. The table of statistics compiled by the Massachusetts club reminds one of the parable of the house built upon the sand. It would be interesting to see the computations from which some of those results were obtained. In the list of delegates proposed by the Massachusetts plan, New York would be entitled to as many delegates in the biennial meetings as the combined number of delegates from Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Washington, Georgia, Delaware, Rhode Island, Vermont, Utah, Florida and North Dakota, Massachusetts following with a delegation nearly as large as New York. Indeed New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois could always hold the balance of power. If the basis of the reorganization is to be democratic, some other plan of representation must be sought. We would enter a plea for the small club, which must surely lose its identity in the proposed arrangement. In a certain sense it is numbers of dimes as opposed to the small club and lack of dimes. In other words a plutocracy as opposed to democracy. We may obtain a very compact organization in this way, but, I fear, at the expense of all sympathy for the smaller or the weaker state for federations and clubs.

The woman's club of Lansing, Mich., which is one of the oldest in that state, recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It is one of the most energetic clubs in Michigan and the general efficacy of its members may be accounted for by its motto, "No drones and no unkind criticisms."

It owns a substantial building erected in 1889 at a cost of six thousand dollars, the result of its own efforts. Setting about this business in the energetic manner characteristic of its literary pursuits, the mysteries of incorporation, stocks and bonds were soon successfully solved. Stock was issued and taken by members, a very few not being purchasers and none holding more than twenty-five shares. Bonds to the amount of twenty-nine hundred dollars, bearing five and six per cents interest, were disposed of, all of which have since been redeemed.

The first floor of the building is leased for business purposes, bringing the club a goodly revenue. The second floor is occupied by the club, the space being divided into assembly, committee and other rooms, and all handsomely decorated and furnished befitting the requirements.

The reports from the librarian and from different clubs presented at the

state federation show that the traveling library is highly appreciated by the clubs of the state. There were thirty-eight consignments made last year, with 241 volumes in circulation. Club women who have access to the public library can scarcely realize what it means to be deprived of such help. Since the burning of the public library at Lincoln the club women of this city have realized more sharply than ever before the library advantages they enjoyed, and feel the importance as never before of maintaining the traveling library. It would be impossible for the clubs in many of the smaller towns to continue their studies unless books were provided. The appreciative words of the delegates at York for the use of books and papers from the reciprocity bureau are a stimulus to the more fortunately situated clubs. So far, the contributions to the traveling library fund have been voluntary, but it is a matter of sufficient importance to the state work to warrant placing it upon a permanent basis with sufficient support from each club in the state. The Omaha woman's club contributed one hundred dollars in organizing it. It has vindicated its usefulness and its importance to the club movement, and has won the right to ask for a definite, stable support from the clubs.

The literary department of the woman's club of Fremont met with Mrs. Gerrard, Friday evening, December 8, at seven o'clock. The following program was carried out:

- Roll call. Current literature.
- Reading and comparing of the poems, "The Man with the Hoe"—Mrs. Gerrard.
- Review of "In His Steps"—Miss Wiggins.
- History, "Feudal France," from chapters 15 to 19.
- Talks on the first four Capets—Mrs. Kramer.
- The Troubadours—Miss McMahon.
- Lanfranc—Mrs. Geitzen.

The Lotos club of Lincoln has enlarged its membership and again resumed work. As the club year is nearly half gone it will not enter upon a regular course of study, but consider some special topic at each meeting. A leader is appointed for each meeting who will decide the topic and arrange the program. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Lewis, where a

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