

EARLY WOMAN'S RIGHTS DOCUMENTS

THE

1850Massachusetts Worcester, 1853Cleveland, Ohio 1859 Wendell Phillips Lucy Stone before the New Jersey 1867 Legislature Woman's Rights Almanac 1858. Mr. Starton before & New Juk 1854 Segistateur. mis Starton before the Constitutionel Convention of New Jork-Constitution of the american Woman soffage association 1867 1869 Trial of Scesan R. Authorgan a charge of illegal voting Nomen's Vote in hansas 1874 1887

THE

9,

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION,

HELD AT WORCESTER,

OCTOBER 23d & 24th, 1850.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY PRENTISS & SAWYER, No. 11 Devonshire Street.

1851.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NATIONAL

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION,

HELD AT

CLEVELAND, OHIO,

ON

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY, October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1853.

[Phonographically reported by T. C. Leland, of New York City.]

PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMITTEE.

CLEVELAND:

GRAY, BEARDSLEY, SPEAR, & CO., PRINTERS, PLAIN DEALER OFFICE.

1854.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE NINTH

NATIONAL

WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

HELD IN NEW YORK CITY,

Thursday May 12, 1859,

WITH A PHONOGRAPHIC REPORT OF THE

SPEECH OF WENDELL PHILLIPS,

BY J. M. W. YERRINTON.

PUBLISHED FOR THE CONVENTION.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. STEAM PRESS OF A. STRONG & CO., DEMOCRAT & AMERICAN OFFICE. 1859.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

AND THE

HISTORY OF ITS FORMATION.

WITH THE TIMES AND PLACES IN WHICH THE ASSO-CIATION HAS HELD MEETINGS UP TO 1880.

BOSTON:

PRESS OF GEORGE H. ELLIS, 141 FRANKLIN STREET.

1881.

To the Constitutional Conventions of the four new (tates.

The undersigned, officers of the Ameri-The underse and Ameri-Woman Suffrage Association, though of properly entitled to address your connot property of the great interest they for rention, never great interest they feel in account of the status you will get the question of the status you will give to

You, gentlemen, felt keenly the disadrantage you were under when you had only how much greater are the sider how much greater are the disadvantages of a class that is wholly without political rights, you will, we feel sure, pardon our entreaty that in building your new constitution you will secure for women equal political rights with men.

The older States have applied the principle of "the consent of the governed" to one class after another, until now women stand alone, the one class of adult citizens not convicted of crime who are atterly without political rights. The position is one of measureless humiliation and helplessness. Think what it means to have all your interests controlled by others, -your rights of person, your right to your children, your right to buy, and sell, and will, and deed, all held by others; to be without a jury trial of your peers; to have your property taken in taxes, while you have no voice in the amount to be taken or in the use to which it is to be put. There is no man who would not stand aghast with indignation and dread if a political position similar to that imposed upon women were to be thrust upon himself. But the loss and the injury are as great to women as they would be to men in the same case.

Disfranchisement is a stigma. It was imposed upon Jefferson Davis, because he was a traitor, and as the worst punishment that could be inflicted. The unpardoned felon in the State prison has his right to vote taken away as a punishment for arime. If you will consider the matter, we believe you will not be willing to put the law-abiding women of your new State on the same plane politically with the male criminal classes.

The men of the older States inherited their constitutions, with the odious features which the common law imposes upon

lumbia, women have greater political rights than they do here; and everywhere with

Philanthropists like Wm. Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips, statesmen like Charles Sumner and George F. Hoar, clergymen like Phillips Brooks, James Freeman Clarke and Robert Collyer, all favor the enfranchisement of women.

If it is objected that many women do not want to vote, it must also be said that many women, and in constantly increasing numbers, do want to vote, but that no one is compelled to vote.

If it is objected that women do not fight for their country, it must be remembered that while a majority of men are never called on for military service, all mothers must devote many of the best years of their lives to rear the sons who may defend the country. This inevitable and indispensable service of mothers is fully as important to the national welfare as the possible service of the soldier. Moreover, on the battlefield, in camp and hospital, women do their part in nursing the brave but wounded men, while the women at home often do the work the soldier was obliged to leave, and their own work also.

Edward Everett once said, illustrating the effect of small things on character: "The Mississippi and the St. Lawrence Rivers have their rise near each other. A very small difference in the elevation of the land sends one to the ocean amid tropical heat, while the other empties into the frozen waters of the north." So, it may seem a small matter whether you admit or shut out women from an equal share in the government. But if you shut them out, you shut out a class of citizens pre-eminently orderly, law-abiding and peaceful, and especially interested in the welfare of the home and the safety of society. If, at the same time, you admit all classes of men, however worthless, provided'they are out of prison. and if you make them free to stamp their impress upon the government, in the long run you will find the moral tone of the community lowered and cheapened, and your most sacred institutions imperilled by the dangerous classes to whom you entrusted the power which you denied to orderly and good women. In asking you to secure for women equal political rights with men, we are only asking you to apply the admitted and self-evident truth that "just governments derive their power from the consent of the governed"-of the governed women as well as of the governed men. Wendell Phillips once said on this same subject : "A principle which God has made true, He has also made safe."

women. But you are making constitutions. You have the golden opportunity to save your women from all these evils by securing their right to vote in the organic law of the new State. By doing this, over and above the satisfaction which comes from having done a just deed, you will win the gratitude of women for all time, as our fathers won the gratitude of the race when they announced the principle that we ask you to apply. You will also secure the historic credit of being the first men to take the next great step in civilization-a step sure to be taken at no distant day. "The coming events cast their shadow before." Already in fourteen States women have school suffrage; they have municipal suffrage in Kansas, and full suffrage in Wyoming, while in England, Scotland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and British Co-

Earnestly desiring that you may trust this principle, and thus use your great opportunity to lead all the States up to its practical application,

We are yours very respectfully,

LUCY STONE, MARY A. LIVERMORE, JULIA WARD HOWE.

SOME THINGS THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE of 1889 and '90 did for men, who have votes, contrasted with what it did for women, who have no votes.

BOSTON, JUNE 17, 1890.

The Massachusetts Legislature has adjourned. It was remarkable gypsy moth, and appropriated thousands of dollars on its account. saved the scalp of the woodchuck, and left the little beast to devour the and left in summer time and to hibernate in the winter. It left the dogs to go unmuzzled, and the sheep to shift for themselves. It measured the length of a salable lobster, and saved his carcass from being broken in two, so that the purchaser may not be cheated with two halves that do not belong together. It left the little baby trout with his five small inches, to swim till he gets to be six inches long, and then he may be fried, poor thing! It made the feathers fly while it went after the chicken thieves, even venturing into the province of the courts to fix the penalty for the thief who gets away with five dollars' worth of fowls, and for him who steals only one dollar's worth. It trifled with the rights of the courts again in trying to settle the punishment of burglars who enter by day, and of those who enter at night. It spent much time upon butter and lard and oleo, and it pursted the English sparrow, and tried to find the weight of a dozen of eggs.

But the most remarkable action of the Legislature is found in the care it took of the right of men to vote. Hitherto, if a man changed his residence, it involved the possible loss of his right to vote at the next election. But, to save to the human male his right to vote every time, the Legislature guarded him by a law, so that no change of residence can affect his right to vote at any election. Several gentlemen from Lowell and Lawrence and Lynn appealed to the Legislature for protection from a class of gentlemen who have a habit of changing their residence often and of never paying rent. They have the names of a thousand such "deadbeats." The gentlemen who had houses to rent got no protection from these frequent movers. But all the same the "dead-beat" had his right to move and to vote kindly cared for. Then came up the case of men "guilty of infamous crimes," with the question whether, as a punishment for these crimes, the right to vote should be withheld from the criminal for ten years. But the right of the human male to vote was respected, and even with infamous crimes upon him he can still go unquestioned and deposit his. vote. It was proposed that the men who need "assistance to mark their ballots," presumably because they cannot read well enough to distinguish the party names readily, should have the assistance of a member of their own party to help them mark their ballots, but this did not pass. Still, however, there was the poll-tax which a man must pay before he could vote. But the Legislature declared by a majority

vote of both branches that the paltry tax of \$2 must not stand between a man and his right to vote. All this for men, who have votes.

Now, note the different treatment this remarkable Legislature gave to women, who have no votes.

We asked that women may vote who have no need of assistance to mark their ballots, who have not been convicted of crime, and who have been in the country long enough to understand somewhat of its institu-We did not ask for full suffrage, but only that women qualified as above stated might vote for the men who would levy taxes upon their property and have the spending of their money, and that in the cities and towns where they live they might vote on questions of common interest to men and women. But the Legislature, so tender to suffrage for men, turned its heart to stone. and the House of Representatives, by a large majority, denied to all women the smallest shred of suffrage. There was indeed "a saving remnant" who stood for equal rights for women. God bless them ! But, for the others, the historian has set down their shameful action, and the recording angel will not forget it.

Then women asked that a married mother may have the same legal right to her child that its father has, so that neither parent may dispose of the custody of the child without the consent of the other. But their petition was refused.

Then they asked that when a husband or wife borrows money of the other, the obligation to pay may have the same legal validity that it would in other cases of borrowed money. But their petition was refused. Now a husband may borrow the money of his wife and never pay a cent. They asked that a woman whose husband is dead may have more than the forty days the law now allows to a widow to stay in the house without paying rent, while she adjusts herself to her new and hard conditions, with no man to help her. But the petition was refused. Thus this Legislature has distinguished itself. It remains to be seen whether the same men can be returned another year. Meantime we have Bunker Hill, and Concord, and Lexington, and the harbor where the tea went over. We have the memory of noble men who "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" for the defence of the very principle for the application of which women have sought in vain for many years. The heroes of that old time redeemed their pledges with their Surely, somewhere, they must lives. have descendants who believe in representative government, who know that taxation without representation is that taxation less to-day in the case of women than it was in the case of women III. and the colonists a hun-George III. dred years ago. Where are they? LUCY STONE.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE,

FOR THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

BEFORE THE

JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK, IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, JANUARY 23, 1867,

IN BEHALF OF THE

AMERICAN EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

By ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

ALBANY:

WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS. 1867.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN NEW JERSEY.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

LUCY STONE,

AT A HEARING BEFORE THE

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE,

Максн 6th, 1867.

C. H. SIMONDS & Co., PRINTERS, 47 FRANKLIN ST., BOSTON.

ADDRESS

TO THE

Legislature of New-York,

ADOPTED BY THE

STATE WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION,

HELD AT ALBANY,

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 14 & 15, 1854.

PREPARED BY

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON,

Of Seneca Falls, N. Y.

ALBANY: WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY. 1854.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN KANSAS.

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

MENICIPAL ELECTIONS IN KANSAS IN 1887,

AS TOLD BY THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE STATE.

WITH

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN THE STATE, AND STA-TISTICAL TABLES OF THE WOMEN'S VOTES IN 1887-8.

BY

F. G. ADAMS, SECRETARY OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

PROF. W. H. CARRUTH.

TOPEKA, KANSAS: THE GEO. W. CRANE PUBLISHING COMPANY. 1888.

PROCEEDINGS

THE MEETING

OF

OF THE

LOYAL WOMEN OF THE REPUBLIC,

HELD IN

NEW YORK, MAY 14, 1863.

NEW YORK: PHAIR & CO., PRINTERS, No. 11 FRANKFORT ST. 1863.

THE WOMEN'S VOTE IN KANSAS.

BY HON. F. G. ADAMS, Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Igive below a tabulated statement of the rest by women April, 1887, in the rest indelections of Kansas.

manicipal elections of Kansas. There is no return required by law of the vote of our Kansas municipal elections wany officer of the State. Hence the information as to the vote at the elections ast April, in the towns throughout the state, came to the inquiring public in a rery meagre, scattering and unsatisfactory TY. From but few of the two hundred and eighty-one towns voting did the information reach those who sought it. Even from several of the more populous and important towns, only incomplete or contradictory reports were given. Sufficient of the results, to be sure, came to the knowledge of candid inquirers to demonstrate that the election had been a great triumph for equal suffrage and consequent good government; but it was very desirable that the full and authentic facts of the rote throughout the State should be collected and compiled.

Soon after the elections, Mrs. Rastall, President of the Kansas W. C. T. U., requested me to assist her in collecting from the newspapers of the State the statistics of the vote. All the newspapers published in Kansas came into my hands for preservation in the library of the State Historical Society, thus giving me unusual facilities for gathering such information.

In response, I promised to assist in this work, and consulted the newspapers for that object. I found it a task far greater than I supposed it would be. The newspapers only partially gave the vote. The facts were in not a few instances withheld, apparently from policy. Especially was this the case in respect to the withholding of the total vote, for the reason, it would seem, that the statement of it would make a poor showing as to the population and importance of the town. The cities of Kansas are new, most of them, and growing. They are all ambitious, and full of the spirit of rivalry. The vote in many cases was very light, indicating a much smaller population than the town possessed. So the newspapers concealed the vote; often giving that cast by women, but withholding the total vote, rendering Blue Mound, Linn...

useless for comparison what was given. Much information, it is true, was gathered from the newspapers. Beyond this inquiry through the newspapers, Mrs. Rastall and myself, assisted too by Mrs. Johns, the president of our association, sought to obtain the information by correspondence with city clerks, officers of the W. C. T. U., and officers of the local equal suffrage associations. The information has not yet been completely obtained, but it has been so far obtained as to substantially serve the object, and I will now give you a statement of it.

Two hundred and eighty-one cities held elections on the 4th and 5th of April; those of the third class voting on the 4th, and those of the first and second classes on the 5th. Of 237 of these cities we have the vote cast by both men and women; namely, by men, 66,435; by women, 25,880; total, 92,315.

From thirteen towns we have the vote of women only. These are mostly small towns, and in them the whole vote cast by women was 309.

There are twelve towns in most of which, probably, women voted, but from which we have the total vote only.

There are eighteen towns from which we have no returns of any part of the vote, not even an estimate, but in most of which probably women voted.

I give below a list, alphabetically arranged, of 221 cities of which we have the population, and the entire vote of both men and women, as follows:

City and	Popula-	Total	Wom-		
County.	tion.	Vote.	Men.	en.	
Abilene, Dickinson.	. 5,025	1,052	779	273	
Alton, Ósborne		133	95	38	
Americus, Lyon		154	75	79	
Anthony, Harper.		530	371	159	
Arcadia, Crawford.		164	104	60	
Argonia, Sumner		98	78	20	
Arkansas C., Cowley		1,615	1,045	570	

Ashland, Clark..... 1,000 229180 49 Atchison, Atchison...20,000 2,254 1,954 300 275 Attica, Harper..... 1,405 175 100 Augusta, Butler..... 1,773 Baldwin, Douglas.... 1,233 $176 \\ 125$ 22 198 190 65 292 217 75 Baxter Springs, Cher. 1,103 132 90 42 Beattie, Marshall.... 586 223 130 93 Belle Plain, Sumner. 752 Belleville, Republic. 1,190 556 315 241 250 Beloit, Mitchell..... 3,010 460 710 Bennington, Ottawa.. Bird City, Cheyenne.. 188 182 6 462 70 54 16 270 253 99 352724

CONSISTENT DEMOCRACY.

the Elective Franchise for Women.

TWENTY-FIVE TESTIMONIES

OF

PROMINENT MEN,

VIZ:

Ex-Gov. Anthony, of R. I., Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Rev. Wm. H. Channing, Rev. Charles Follen, D. D., O. S. Fowler, Wm. L. Garrison, Horace Greeley, Judge Hay, of N. Y., Judge Hurlbut, of N. Y., Rev. T. W. Higginson, President A. Mahan, Rev. S. J. May,

JOHN NEAL, REV. THEODORE PARKER, REV. JOHN PIERPONT, WENDELL PHILLIPS, JAMES REDPATH, HON. S. E. SEWALL, OF MASS., HON. C. C. SHOLES, OF WIS., GERRIT SMITH, H. H. VAN AMRINGE, HON. AMASA WALKER, OF MASS., HON. T. WALKER, OF OHIO, OHIO SENATE REPORT,

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE REPORT.

WORCESTER:

PRICE 1 CT.; 50 CTS. PER HUNDRED. TO BE OBTAINED OF R. F. WALLCUT, ANTI-SLAVERY OFFICE, 21 CORNHILL, BOSTON; O. JOHNBON, ANTI-SLAVERY OFFICE, 138 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK; MARIUS R. ROBINSON, BUGLE OFFICE, SALEM, O.; SUSAN B. ANTHONY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.; REV. T. W. HIGGINSON, WORCESTER, MASS. 1858.

NOMAN'S RIGHTS

THE

ALMANAC

1858.

FOR

Stanian Leop

Containing Facts, Statistics, Arguments, Records of Progress, and Proofs of the Need of it.

WORCESTER, MASS:

Z. BAKER & CO., 184 MAIN STREET. BOSTON; R. F. WALCUTT, 21 CORNHILL.