

**Mrs. Haslett.**—Mrs. Haslett of Michigan, arrived in the city last evening, and delivered her lecture on "Us Men," at the Opera House. Having heard much of the fame of this young and comparatively new advocate of Woman Suffrage, it was but natural that our citizens should feel quite curious to see and hear for themselves the woman who could in the smallest degree compete with Anna Dickinson as a lecturer. The audience was all that could be desired—composed of that highly appreciative, intelligent and attentive class, which a lecturer, always wants to see. And those who braved the cold and chilling blast for the sake of the "cause" felt well paid, after hearing the noble and eloquent appeals of this deservedly popular advocate of the movement. She is a most convincing speaker, and impresses it on the mind of the most bitter opponent that what she says deserves more than a passing thought. She is terribly in earnest in her remarks, and holds her audience spell-bound by her flights of eloquence, being listened to with the most rapt attention throughout. She is truly the Anna Dickinson of the West. In many respects she is her equal, and in others, we think, her superior, as she indulges in no bitter denunciations against the men, much to their satisfaction. Her delivery will compare with that of Miss Dickinson—having a strong, clear voice, and speaking every word distinctly. Her arguments on the justice of giving women the ballot, taken altogether, by far surpass anything we have ever heard. Her manner of presenting the question is entirely different from the common run of woman suffrage advocates. Go and hear her—you who have not had that pleasure.

**Afternoon Session of the Woman Suffrage Association—The Opera House Full—Speeches by Mr. Grover, of Earlville, Mrs. Dr. Ferguson, of Bloomington, and Miss Susan B. Anthony, of New York—A Harmonious Meeting.**

The Convention was called to order by the President and prayer was offered by Rev. E. R. Sanborn, of this city.

The Opera House was two-thirds full, and the ladies and gentlemen continued to come until nearly all the seats on the floor were occupied. This large attendance astonished quite a good many who did not expect to see more than two dozen present at the outside. It was a large audience, made up of thinking men and women.

The following additional resolutions were offered by the committee appointed for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That the admission of woman to equal participation with men in civil affairs would be as beneficial as it would be just, as beneficial to man as to woman, as ennobling and purifying to politics as her influence has been helpful in the church and an incalculable blessing to the entire body politic.

6th. That as the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution of the United States have established the right of women to the elective franchise, we demand of the present Congress a declaratory act which shall secure us at once in the exercise of this right.

As the recognition of woman suffrage involves immediate political action, and as numbers as well as principles control parties, *resolved*, that the movement for the enfranchisement of women is the movement of universal humanity; that the great questions now looming up on the political horizon can only find their peaceful solution by the infusion of the feminine element in the councils of the nation. Man, representing force, would continue in the future as in the past, in the New World as in the Old, to settle all questions by war; but woman, representing affection, would, in her true development, harmonize intellect and action, and weld together all the interests of the human family—in other words, help to organize the science of social, religious and political life.

7th. That our thanks are due to Gov. Campbell, of Wyoming, for his veto, and to the Republican members of the Legislature of Wyoming, for their votes against the bill disfranchising the women of that Territory.

Mr. Grover, of Earlville, was then introduced, and made a very able argument in favor of the legal enfranchisement of women. He was particularly severe on the part that is usually assigned to women on public occasions, especially on Independence Day.

At the conclusion of his address, a letter was read from Mrs. E. T. Stuart, of Ohio, usually known as Mether Stuart, assigning as the reason for her absence that she was called to attend a similar convention at Columbus in her own State. The letter was full of good hearty cheer, and produced a good effect upon the convention.

Mrs. Dr. Ellen Ferguson next addressed the Convention. Nothing short of a full report of it would do the speaker or the address justice. She spoke with deliberation, reasoned closely and logically. She made no crusade against the "tyrant man" but presented the claims of woman to equal privileges under the law so plainly and forcibly that every one present recognized it as unanswerable. She alluded to the objection that woman was physically man's inferior, and therefore not entitled to the ballot. If this precedent she thought it would not be long before John Morrissey, and other men of similar characters would be dictating who should be President by the rules of the prize ring instead of by ballot. But they were mentally disqualified and would be liable to become so fuddled that they would not know a Democratic from a Republican ticket. But this mental incapacity is no obstacle in the way of man's voting, why, then, should it be urged against woman's voting?

But they had recently been told that it was every woman's duty to be a wife and mother. Then certainly it was every man's duty to become a husband and father, and the responsibilities and obligations should be shared equally. The old marriage ceremony was, that the wife endowed the husband with all she had, and then undertook to take care of his clothes, to look after the children and to keep him well fed. This has been the custom for several centuries. But now some of the women had an idea of caring for themselves. Harriet Hosmer preferred to be a sculptor, Miss Mitchel an astronomer, Mrs. Sigourney a poet—many of them had become physicians, Anna Dickinson

and others had taken to the rostrum, and preferred to lecture men instead of giving them all they had. She was not one to prate about her rights, but taking hold of what was to do and doing it so as to compel respect and assert the right.

She argued that women whose property is taxed should be permitted to speak in regard to its expenditure; that they should have an equal care of the children. If it was right for woman to have the ballot it should be granted to them regardless of the use they made of it. Like others let them be held responsible for the use of the power put into their hands. But voting will degrade women. Will dropping a ballot in the box do her more harm than putting a letter in the box at the Postoffice? But if voting and politics are degrading, may not woman bear her share of it?

But we cannot follow this discourse further. In conclusion Mrs. Ferguson demanded the ballot that women might use it, and assist in bringing about many good works, and help eradicate many vices and bad practices. During her speech she was greeted with frequent outbursts of applause and all the time had the close attention of the audience.

Susan B. Anthony, of New York, was next introduced. It is useless to attempt to report, or even give a synopsis of her speech. She speaks like lightning and cuts and slashes in every direction. She spent an hour in telling what Victoria Woodhull did at Washington last winter before the Judiciary Committee, and how it brought her into notoriety. This we all read at the time, and it would be useless to repeat it again. After she had done besmearing Mrs. Woodhull with praise, she proceeded to discuss woman's legal right to the ballot. This she did with coherency and very great ability. She dissected constitutions and the Declaration of Independence, and quoted laws and Supreme Court decisions as glibly as if she had been Chitty or Kent himself, and ever and anon she would spout some legal tyro and expose the shallowness of his sophistry if not of his hide. She evidently regards those who refuse the truth through her spectacles as monstrous sluners, and feels herself commissioned "to go for the heathen Chinee." Before one sore place quite hurting, she draws a blister on the very spot you thought invulnerable, and thus she keeps her opponents dodging and dancing juber until they feel there is nothing left of them, and to save their shadows they cry "enough," pay over their dollars, join the Association and forevermore swear by Susan B. Anthony. [We call for Prof. Hewett's deposition in proof of what we say].

After the announcements for the evening, the Association adjourned to meet at half past 7 o'clock, to hear Mrs. Hazlett, and others, address the meeting.

**Evening Session of the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association--Addresses by Mrs. M. Adelle Hazlett and Miss Anthony.**

We confess to some surprise at finding anybody at the Opera House last night. The weather was fearfully cold and the wind blew a perfect gale so that pedestrians were almost held at bay. Notwithstanding, the Opera House was quite well filled with a large and, if we may so speak, an enthusiastic audience. The exercises were introduced by the singing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," the audience joining in the chorus.

Mrs. M. Adelle Hazlett, of Hillsdale, Michigan, was then introduced to the audience. We shall attempt no report of her speech. To get the soul of it you must hear her voice and see the speaker. Surely there is nothing remarkable about her personage. Medium height, rather slender, with expressive, open countenance, not beautiful but good-looking; dressed plainly, but neatly. You have but to look into her face to see her soul in her eyes. When she commences speaking you at once see that she is a bundle of nerves, strung to the most delicate touch. Wendell Phillips is not more at ease on the platform, Anna Dickinson not more impassioned or brilliant; the well rounded periods of Cady Stanton and her piercing logic find a rival in the little Wolverine, while argument, wit, the demands of truth and justice, the direct appeal to the noble in human nature, flow from her lips as naturally, as smoothly as flows the brook in the valley. She captivates her audience with her first sentence, "Has woman the right to vote? does the country need her vote?" For an hour she held the audience in breathless attention, except when applauded, and it seemed that everybody present felt her arguments were unanswerable.

Of this we are sure, Mrs. Hazlett will never lack for an audience in Bloomington.

Kersey H. Fell, Esq., Mr. Grover, of Earlville, Mrs. Van Winkle, of Chicago, and Miss Baldwin, of Peoria, were appointed a committee to report the names of persons for officers of the Association for the ensuing year. Miss Anthony resumed the discussion of the suffrage question by quoting Alexander Hamilton's memorable saying that "he who holds control over his subsistence held the key to everything which controlled his life." She reviewed at length the statistics of the social evil and its relation to Mr. Hamilton's proposition, and claims that if the ballot were given to women it would be one means of her gaining independence and escaping the degradation and damnation which the lack of remunerative wages are sure to bring to women—and she

might have added more.

She also devoted quite a while to the defense of Mrs. Woodhull which seemed the more remarkable, as nobody had attacked her—not even so much as referred to her—her name not having been mentioned in the Convention, excepting by herself. In speaking of her she said many good and commendable things as to how the erring should be treated, and the duty of all friends of Suffrage uniting on the one platform, irrespective of other differences.

She said some things about General Sheridan, the President, and Fort Scott, which of course she did not expect any one to believe. She stirred the slimy pool of politics and cuffed the Democrats and Republicans right and left.

At a late hour, the convention adjourned to meet to-day at 10 o'clock.

Before the adjournment, the following committee was appointed to suggest the plan of a Home organization: Mrs. Wm. Bone, Mrs. Phoenix, Mrs. K. H. Fell, Mrs. Horace Smith, Mrs. Trotter, Miss Marble, Mrs. Dr. Sewall, Mrs. M. D. Seward, and Rev. D. L. Leonard.

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