

themselves equal to the task of managing the farm, rearing the children and providing for their schools. Revolutions never go backward, and woman will soon demonstrate herself more than the equal of the tyrant man.

FEMALE COMPOSITORS.

THERE are at present in this city over five hundred female compositors. This is but a small per cent of the whole number of persons employed in the different printing establishments of New York; yet, considering that these five hundred belong to what the "lords of creation" are pleased to term the "softer sex," and that only a few years ago the door of the compositors' room was shut against all such, we must claim that the number is large.

But a short time since there were only three avenues of employment open to woman, teaching, going out to service, and sewing. To prepare for teaching requires what so few of our working women are able to give, time and money; nevertheless hundreds, yes, thousands, have spent the best portion of their lives in studying nights and laboring days to prepare themselves for this business, and when prepared, have often done twice the work of a man and received half his pay!

Going out to service requires a person of a strong constitution. Few persons have this; besides, nobody wishes to be a servant. Yet woman must take one of the above employments, or that of sewing on "band and gusset and seam," putting her life's blood into every garment made, or starve; it matters not much which.

When that fearful war came, taking fathers, husbands and brothers, closing stores, silencing the press, and making laborers hard to be found: when all this came to pass, then woman stepped forward to the work. She placed her shoulder to the car and it rolled on firmly and steadily, never stopping in its course, till, when those spared returned to their labor, and it was found impossible to keep the machinery going unless woman was there as engineer. That is how she found her way into the printing-office.

Boston is the place where woman was first engaged to any extent as a compositor. All praise to that city. In course of time she found her way to New York. Some time since in a large printing establishment there was working a large number of persons, nearly all males. Now printers as a class are extremely temperate (?), and as a result of this temperance and frugality the employees of said establishment found their wages insufficient and made a strike. Strange to say, employers always like to rule their own business; and here was no exception to the rule.

These worthy gentlemen had discovered that woman "could set type," and that if man would not work, woman would; therefore, thinking themselves, we have no doubt, great philanthropists, they engaged female compositors, at first paying them wages equal to what they had paid the men in their employ before the strike. They did this for the very good reason that they could not do otherwise. Few women understood the business, and these few commanded their own price. This might have continued had it not been for one thing.

All the time there were hundreds of poor girls in this city out of work, and hundreds of those who are employed become so heart-sick over their monotonous, soul-grinding business, that, like the Athenians of old, they run after every strange god. It was so in this case. Immediately after it became known that females were employed as compositors, the printing-offices were crowded with applicants, and every available place was soon taken by those desiring to learn the business. As a consequence wages began to decline, and whereas formerly they were paid from forty to fifty cents per thousand ems, they are now paid from twenty-five to forty-five, the average price being thirty-five cents. Man, of course, gets his original wages. Why is this?

It may, perhaps, be said that five or ten cents difference is not much; granted—it is not much on the work of an hour, but it is a great deal on the work of a week. A person sets up from five to ten thousand ems per day, sometimes more, sometimes less, according to the style of type and the dexterity of the workman. Now, with ten thousand per day at ten cents difference, the girl is robbed of one dollar, and in six days of six dollars, enough to board a working woman one week, besides paying her wash bill. In a year the difference amounts to over \$300. In this just?

It is conceded that woman is as good a compositor as man, even better, as far as dexterity goes. Her fingers are more nimble; she can, therefore, set type faster and better than the opposite sex. Yet here, as in all other places, she is limited to one or two things. While man is

allowed to learn everything connected with the printing business, woman must be content with setting a few different kinds of type; and all because "it would not be ladylike to do otherwise!" In the name of common sense, which is the most unladylike, for her to sit "humped" over her desk and composing stick ten or twelve hours, till every bone in her body aches, or to sit about, take hold of the printing business, and make something of herself besides a mere machine? Let her go to work and "learn the trade," and you will see what she can do. She has shown herself competent to set type, now let her see if she can print.

When we ask why woman does not get as high wages as man, the answer is, first, she cannot do as many kinds of work; second, the latter is supposed to be laying up money for the support of a family. To the first we say once more, let her learn the different kinds of work and she will do them; to the second we ask, how many printers support families with this surplus money? Not one in twenty! It is a well known fact that printers, as a class, are dissipated; they will, as they say, "go on a spree," and when they do this, are quite apt to use all the interest, and dive pretty deeply into the principal of their bank account, if they have any. Probably not one girl or woman out of twenty who sets type drinks or is dissipated; and we know that at least two-thirds of the number employed in the various printing establishments of this city either entirely support an aged father or mother, a brother or sister, or help to support a family; some of them doing more towards this than their brothers. Besides this, many of these same girls come to the city alone, poor and friendless, and must save something against a rainy day. If not able to work at any time, the Father in heaven only knows what will become of them. They must starve, or do worse! God pity them, for man won't!

For the sake of common humanity, as long as there are so few things which a woman can or is permitted to do, pay her; don't rob her!

Talking of strikes; we heard a "male" compositor say the other day that "it was mean for woman to step in and take work at the old price, when men had struck for higher wages; besides, it was degrading." "Mean," is it? well, we're agreed. We only wish to tell you one thing. Just as often as possible we shall step into new places, and then—get us out if you can. If you won't let us enter in any other way, we must enter in this; and, as to its being degrading, we beg leave to differ with you there. Woman is not degraded, but man is. Every time that a strike is made, and woman in consequence enters some new branch of business, she is elevated and man degraded. We think it will not be long ere the social scale will be balanced a little more evenly. Woman expects to be sneered at and scoffed at if she steps aside from the beaten track. If she edits a paper, man holds up his hands in holy horror. If she takes the speaker's chair he would blush, if he could. Does she write—she is a *bliss*. Does she take any prominent position—she is bold and masculine. If to be masculine is to be smart, do let her try; or, are you afraid, if she has the chance, that a few of your laurels will droop?

Our female compositors have taken one step in the right direction in entering the compositors' room; now let them take one more and learn the business, not half, but wholly; be printers and work for pay. It is not degrading.

Ah! how many have crawled along the path of life weary, heart-sick, burdened with care and sorrow, their feet bleeding from the sharp stones in their pathway, their hearts lacerated by the thorns bending o'er them, and their very souls crying help, help, or we perish; when, had they raised their eyes a little higher they would have seen a road broad and smooth into which they could have entered and walked erect! The path is rough till the broad road is gained, but then we have the prize!

Sisters, let us be up and doing. We have "waited;" now let us "labor." M. C. B.

A CRY FROM CALIFORNIA.

SEND me "THE REVOLUTION." We need an infusion of oxygen into the moral atmosphere of this little God-forsaken town of California, where men gamble, drink and swear away the night, and the women dance and dress as the chief end and aim of existence; where secession doctrines, under the name of democracy, are poisoning the social element, and "Woman's Rights" ideas are invested in one individual; where the African goes by the name of "nigger," and some of our "fast ladies" dip snuff and say "you 'uns" and "we 'uns;" and where the children are developing into just what such examples will make of them. Pleasant place to

live in, is it not? But "business," that great American cormorant which swallows so many lives annually, has cast us in this drift, and while we "pan out" our destiny in dollars and cents, I want something to stir the brain and quicken into activity the old leaven of "strong-mindedness," whose germs were fostered in me by dear Lucretia Mott, when I followed her lead, and that of others in the old anti-slavery ranks.

I hope and trust your paper, "THE REVOLUTION," will be a success. I see Tilton has described it as being edited by "Hope and Despair." Don't let such a word as the last belong to woman's vocabulary. The "good time" must come; we have been silent under the shadow of man's vices too long, and I am sometimes strangely struck with the belief that I have a work to do in writing a novel on the question of the "social evil." Somebody must attack this gigantic fester and probe it, but with delicate instruments, and tender hand, and God-fearing strength, to the core.

Shocking! said a cultivated and fastidious Southern gentlemen the other day, when I was arguing what is generally called the "woman question." Shocking! Why, would you have women hold offices? Why, I should not be surprised next to hear of your advocating their patrolling the streets as night policemen in our great cities!!

And how many of our poor, fallen, degraded sisters do you suppose patrol the streets now, under cover of night, for the worst purposes? I replied—luring your sons and mine into the by-ways and dark alleys of crime, pollution and misery? Yes! I would employ women for the protection rather than for the destruction of society.

KANSAS.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

DEAR MISS ANTHONY: Mrs. Starrett has entered the field as a lecturer, and been very successful thus far. A lady said yesterday to a friend: "What is Lawrence coming to? The wife of the O. S. Presbyterian preacher lecturing!" Mrs. Starrett said to me the other day if I ever achieve a name in this field—and many say I will—I shall owe it to Miss Anthony, for the thought of such a thing never entered my mind until her sojourn with us. I send you a notice of the lecture at Topeka, and to-night she received an invitation to repeat it here, signed by seventy of our most prominent citizens. She has also received invitations from Leavenworth and other places. She will lecture all through this month. She never felt more composed nor more at home than on the platform with her first address. You may form some idea of the drift of it from the summing up of the first part.

1. There is an agitation among women, and upon the subject of "Aims and occupations for women" that demands the attention of every thoughtful mind.

2. Men seem to be at an utter loss to know how to decide the matter, and consequently women must decide for themselves.

3. It is utterly impossible to dispose of them by marriage.

4. If they could be disposed of in this way in the present state of the domestic relations, it would be a most undesirable disposition except so far as women were blessed with the most noble and worthy husbands.

Mr. Starrett says "THE REVOLUTION" is the best paper out. He opens it before the *Independent*.

IMPORTANT HINTS TO WOMEN.

MY DEAR MISS ANTHONY: Will you allow me space in your columns to give your lady readers three short rules for a health dress? First, dress without ligature. Second, with equal warmth. Third, let the weight of the clothing be from the shoulders. Nature plainly indicates that the bony structure should protect the vital organs, and when the weight and pressure of our clothing come below the ribs, the nerves proceeding from the spine at that point become compressed and life is almost cut off, and partial paralysis is the consequence. Then the liver, kidneys, spleen and stomach are injured by the enormous gathers, plaits and waist belts, strings, etc., by their over warmth, tightness and weight. The venous blood, in its returning current to the heart, is obstructed and thrown back, causing congestions, inflammations, and pain, also vascoose veins and deranged action of the heart. Then, too, as the abdominal viscera, by continual weight and pressure becomes fallen, the diaphragm and lungs follow, and the result is, sunken, ill-shaped neck and bust and artificial padding. The 600,000,000 air cells are never half inflated, and imper-

fact oxygenation of the blood is the result, ending perhaps in quick consumption. We hope, as women become physicians among our own sex, these physiological facts, and many others of equal value, will be freely discussed, and the human family, instead of dosing and drugging to relieve pain, will know how to avoid the causes.

C. S. LOZIER, M. D.

P. S.—The commencement exercises of our Women's College occur on Monday evening, March 23d, at Steiway Hall, where we shall be most happy to meet all friends of medical education.

C. S. L.

LETTER FROM MRS. BRINKERHOFF.

MACON CITY, Mo., March 4, 1868.

DEAR MISS ANTHONY: Inclosed is a money order for five subscribers for "THE REVOLUTION" and the names. I have spoken in many towns on the railroad, and some off from it. I always give two lectures in each place. Crowded houses everywhere, and we never fail to awaken a deep interest in the question. The people everywhere are anxious to hear, and after hearing, the unanimous testimony is, "all the people want is educating to convince them that it is not only right, but absolutely necessary; that there is no other hope for the country but the education and enfranchisement of her women. * * *

One of the most intelligent citizens of this place arose in our meeting last night and spoke in highest terms of your paper; said it was keen and just in its political criticism, could not fail to educate any family in which it was taken.

MRS. E. A. KINGSBURY IN IOWA.

A FRIEND writes, although editors in this section are generally opposed to the movement, and maintain a dignified silence, yet Mrs. K. gets much appreciation expressed orally and by writing. One notice of her says:

"We take pleasure in recommending her as a clear, logical, and eloquent speaker, and a lady of rare mental culture."

Another:

"She treats her subject in a clear, forcible, and eloquent manner, pleading for simple justice for her sex in a manner that commands the attention of all on this great question. We consider her eminently the right person in the right place."

The editors of "THE REVOLUTION" have much pleasure in endorsing the above, and sincerely hope she may be facilitated in her labors wherever she may go.

MARY WOLSTONCRAFT.

ALLEGHENY CITY, Feb. 24, 1868.

MRS. E. C. STANTON—Dear Madam: Will you pardon a far-off worker in the good cause for offering to you a suggestion? I was reading to-day for the second time Mary Wolstoncraft's Vindication of the Rights of Women. The copy I have is an old one printed in Dublin in 1783. I do not know certainly, but I think that the book is not very common, although I think there never was any work written on the subject to be compared with it. As I read, I feel that the condition of woman socially is no better now than it was then; although within the last twenty years married women have had some concessions in their favor. But the old chains are still upon us; we are still in the midst of a false system of education, gathered from the books written by men, who, considering females rather as women than human creatures, have been more anxious to make them alluring mistresses than rational wives; and the understanding of the sex has been so bubbled by this specious homage, that the civilized women of the present century, with a few exceptions, are only anxious to inspire love, when they ought to cherish a nobler ambition, and by their abilities and virtues exact respect. How would it do to reprint her book piecemeal in "THE REVOLUTION," a short extract every week? Her arguments are incontrovertible, and her polished sentences are inspired by truth. Please think of it.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM VERMONT, ILL.—"THE REVOLUTION" is what we have wanted a long while, and I am rejoiced that it has fallen into the hands of Parker Pillsbury and E. C. Stanton. I have known them during all their labors in the reformatory world.

Respectfully, H. S. THOMAS.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN WISCONSIN.

EXTRACT OF LETTER.

THE proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution giving the right of suffrage to women was killed in the Assembly a few days ago. The resolution submitting it to a vote at the election in 1868 was lost. Yeas, 30; nays, 41.—N. Y. Express.

Perhaps it would be well to mention at this time, that the question of Female Suffrage will not be voted upon by the people of Wisconsin next fall.

The proposition to obliterate the distinctions of sex from the suffrage clause, which so triumphantly passed our legislature a year ago, was to become, when completed, a part of our State constitution, and required the sanction of the present legislature, before being submitted to the people. The present legislature refused to ratify,—solely for want of one soul earnestly favoring the cause, willing to cut loose from the schemes of party policy and personal aggrandizement, and boldly present its claims. That person would have been forthcoming, from outside of the legislature, had not professed friends therein, making large pretensions, continued to promise, playing the dog-in-the-manger, until the day set for final adjournment.

Many of the members had returned home, and the debate cut down to five minute speeches, when the vote upon the question was taken. Of course, the measure was not ratified. The vote in the Assembly stood 30 ayes to 41 noes. We did not ask this question to be submitted to the people of the State until 1870, believing that to be as soon as we could carry the question at the polls. As it is, we shall see that the question is properly before the people at that time, though in a different form. So let there be no time lost in preparing the people for that great event. Wisconsin shall yet be among the first States to extend the right of suffrage to women. All progress is gradual, and although we have sent our advance guards over the walls, into the trenches of the enemy, and shall continue to reconnoitre and plan for a general engagement; we shall not make the grand onslaught until there is a probability of gaining a victory. There will, however, be no cessation of hostilities to the slime and filth of that political expediency and bigoted prejudice that would sacrifice every noble principle for the love of plunder and popularity, though it be obtained through a system of usurpation. We look to "THE REVOLUTION" to accomplish a wonderful mission. With its aid the grand army in favor of universal equality before the law will present a bold imposing front.

J. T. D.

SPIRITUALISM—A REQUEST.

BRIDGEPORT, Ct., Feb. 25, 1868.

DEAR MISS ANTHONY: I have no doubt that any words of commendation I may offer in regard to "THE REVOLUTION" may seem like repetition, so many are the letters of this nature that you are constantly receiving. Yet I must say that its fearless bravery and outspoken truths in an unpopular cause, cheer and encourage me to believe that ere long a better day will come for those who on account of their sex are crushed in spirit, and limited in their aspirations.

Ever since the first movement was made on behalf of the "Rights of Women," I have with others watched and waited for the time to come when the agitation would result in something practical.

That time we can now foresee; and because I have so much faith in the justice of your work, and in the justice of your principles generally, I am impelled to ask your attention briefly, and that of Mr. Train through you, on behalf of another unpopular cause.

From the frequent notices that have appeared in your paper concerning the movements of Spiritual Lecturers,

I judge that you must be aware that, of the ten or eleven million of Spiritualists in the country, and their fifty thousand mediums, the majority sympathize with and work for the advancement of the cause of "Female Suffrage."

Mr. Train, in his reservation of lands in the future cities along the line of the Pacific Railroad (as mentioned in the advertisement of the Credit Foncier of America), has failed to notice this, but has given a building lot to each of the different Christian societies who have done far less for your noble work than the proscribed Spiritualists. It seems to me that, in consideration of all this, the gospel according to "THE REVOLUTION" teaches that "justice, not favor," requires that a building lot be donated to, or reserved for those believers in modern Spiritualism who may at some future day become residents of the above named future cities.

I do not know or care what your religious belief may be, but I do know that your radicalism would never allow you to trammel the conscience of any one.

I enclose one dollar for an extra copy of "THE REVOLUTION" for six months, which I intend for gratuitous distribution, and you shall have the benefit of all the subscribers I can get.

Yours very truly,
ANNA M. MIDDLEBROOK.

THE POLLS NO PLACE FOR WOMAN.

How often are the advocates of Woman Suffrage met with the objection that the polls are "not a fit place" for women! As our elections are at present conducted, the polls are not a fit place for women.

The air is filled with tobacco smoke, poisoning the blood of the non-smokers as well as the smokers, and so polluting the very garments of all present that days are required to cleanse them; and oaths and obscenity frequently abound; quarrelling among blatant demagogues is common, rowdiness prevails in many instances, and, take it all in all, the polls are neither a fit place for women nor for decent men. For this reason too, many of the best men either stay away entirely or merely remain long enough to deposit their votes, giving up the control of politics and government largely into the hands of the vicious and unprincipled, the low and the base.

If these things are necessary, the fact would argue strongly against having elections at all; for surely men ought not to be contaminated by such scenes. But how shall we know that the introduction of the feminine element at the caucus and the polls will not revolutionize these places, until we try the experiment? It is well known that the admission of female students into our colleges, as far as it has been tried, has tended greatly to civilize the rougher sex; and why should not Female Suffrage do for our politics what female education has done for colleges, where both sexes meet in the recitation room on equal terms? It is not colleges open to women that have to bear the disgrace attached to such barbarisms as have recently attracted the attention of the community in connection with "having" operations. And there are thousands of respectable, cleanly men, who are anxiously waiting for the advent of women at the polls, that they, the men, may be protected from the common nuisances which seem to be inseparable—as things now are—from elections.

When husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, go to the polls together, profanity, obscenity and tobacco smoke will beat an inglorious retreat, both from the caucus and the polls, and both places become respectable.

Peterboro, N. Y.

C. A. H.

ONWARD AND UPWARD.

"EDEN HOME," Chalfaut, Ohio, Feb. 29, 1868.

MRS. STANTON: Let us ignore formalities and parade, and on with the battle against ignorance, error, and wrong. We have passed the severe discipline of drill and drum. Now to the open conflict, call the roll. Where are Grooley and Phillips? "Showing the white feather." They fought well for a season, but could not endure unto the end. "THE REVOLUTION" was born to fight. Will it dare to falter? Then let it use every weapon and every strategy. Unmask and fight with a bold, fearless front—for humanity. Show up the rottenness and corruption in high places. Burst the republican party into a thousand atoms, rather than allow it to exist without principles. "Party," "policy" and "expediency" have driven all soul-life from the republicans.

The fires of gain, lust, and ambition consumed them. Out of their ashes has arisen the Revolution—