

THE WOMAN WHO ATTENDS THE SUFFRAGISTS.

Attends Their Washington Convention, Reports Their Sayings and Doings and Discovers that Dress Reform Ideas Are Popular with the Women Who Want the Ballot.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY PRESIDES AND CRACKS SEVERAL JOSES.

Laws Governing Husband and Wife the Subject of Animated Discourse by the Suffragists, Few of Whom Are Between the Ages of 18 and 25—One Man Spoke and Another Man's Hat Used to Take Up the Collection.

(Special to The World.)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—I pushed in the swinging door, noting as I did that it was covered with yellow cotton fan-tail, and stood within the Church of Our Father.

I had an instant impression of many women, standing in groups and seated in pews; a great mingling of voices in busy conversation and the flutter of yellow. I felt frightened and confused. Then I saw very clearly a sweet, smiling face, a face so untroubled, of such happy repose, that I ceased to fear.

"Will you tell me, please," I began, "where can I sit so I can hear everything?"
"Are you a delegate?" she asked, kindly.
"No, I represent a newspaper," I answered.
"What paper?" she inquired.
"The New York World," I said.

"Oh!" she ejaculated. Then added: "Come with me. There are tables for the newspaper people down front, and I will find a place for you. You can hear and see everything there."

I followed her down the centre aisle of the church, which inclines like a theatre. Before the elevated platform were two plain tables. Two women and two men reporters sat around one. A woman sat alone at the other. My guide touched the solitary woman on the shoulder.

"Mrs. Colby," she said, as the woman turned, "there is a representative of the World."

Mrs. Colby smiled a welcome and pulled out a chair for me to take. My guide, who proved to be Mrs. Jeannette M. Bradley, of Washington, seated and left me.

Feeling quite at ease after this evidence of kindness and consideration, I very leisurely looked about me.

What the Convention Looked Like.
Before me was the platform. On it was a small table, evidently for the President, a little desk for the Secretary and some dozen chairs, mostly back under a projection that formed a sort of an organ. A large flag looking very strongly with only three stars on it was draped across the projection. A small palm at either side of the platform and a vase of lilies and pinks on the Secretary's desk was the extent of the floral decorations.

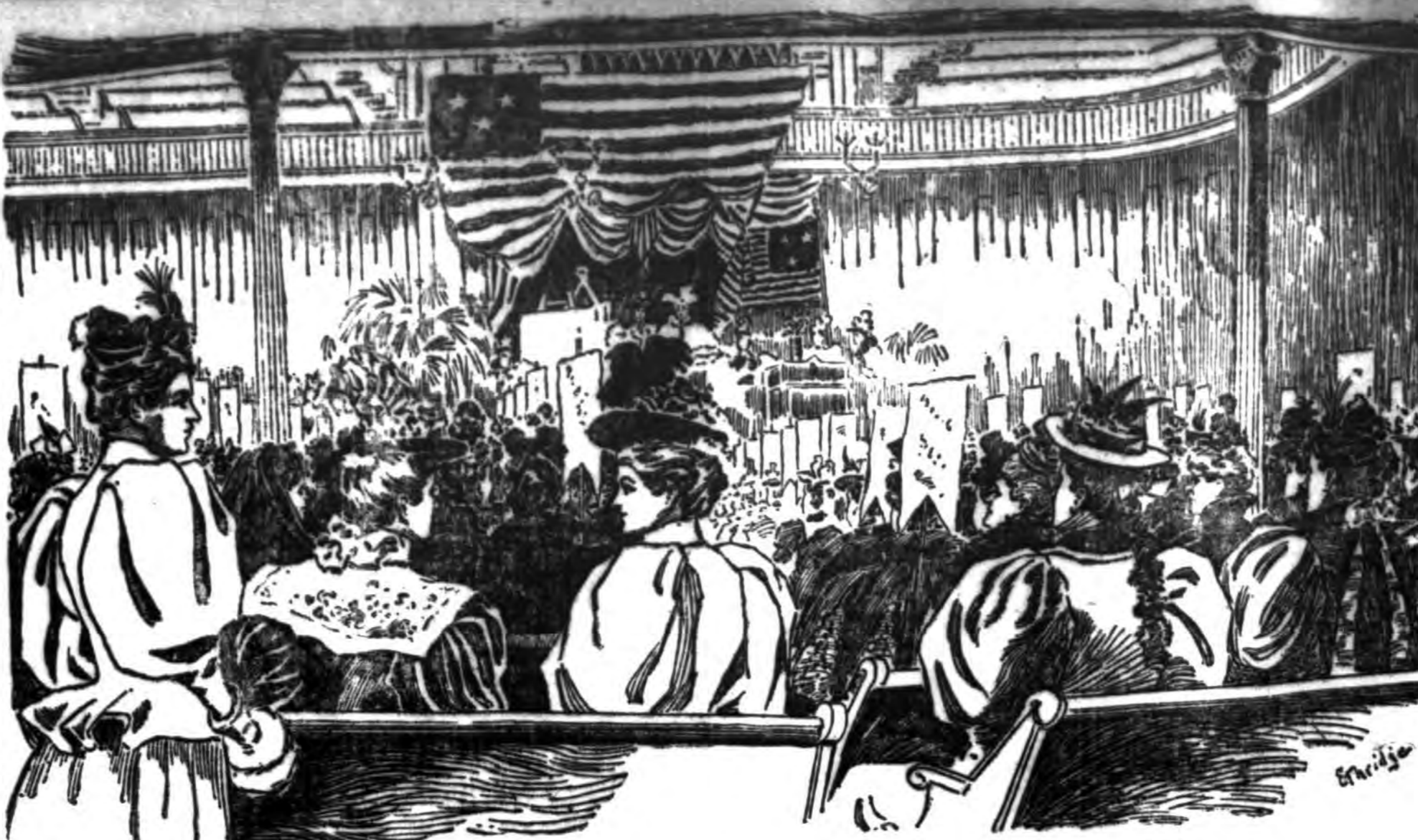
Back of me the church was filled with women. Every pew was crowded, and from the slender rods fastened at the ends of the pews hung, like flags of distress, limp and ragged yellow pennants. The names of the different States were printed on them, and the delegates were expected to sit where their State was indicated.

The first thing I learned was that woman suffragists do not differ in one respect from men of lesser ambition. The hour of the meeting was announced for 10 o'clock, and it was exactly 10:30 when the President, Susan B. Anthony, appeared upon the platform.

She wore a black silk dress and a white knitted shawl around her shoulders. Her head was bare and her gray hair was parted in the middle and combed very smoothly down over her ears. Susan Anthony's face is thin, but it shows strength in its firm chin and strong, square jaw.

From a black cloth bag she laid upon the table a pair of spectacles, and while rubbing them with her handkerchief she stepped forward to the reporters' table.

"Boys, boys," she called, smiling, "I want you to look up here. I got a present this morning. Some one sent me this white shawl, that they might have a good view of it, and seemed quite pleased.



WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON.

is daft on dress reform or some other abomination. She was decidedly wider at the waist than she was below it. We did not need to be told that she was wearing and I saw, petticoated. Her suit was a mud-colored cloth, the waist being low-necked and double-breasted, and the short skirt hung every way but prettily.

With her high-brow and faintly blue, Mrs. Stanton had preached suffrage to all men and won favor for it only dressed becomingly.

In the matter of style, men's convention is the better off.

Suffrage Finances.
Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton read the Treasurer's report. She said that the National Association had paid all its debts and had \$300 to the good.

"That isn't so bad. We're not bankrupt," observed the President aloud.

Mrs. Upton brought a blackboard to the front of the stage, saying it had been black on it and that it belonged to the church, and from it she read the following table, showing which five States had contributed the most money to the association:

1892. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

1893. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

1894. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

1895. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

1896. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

1897. New York, \$10,000; Massachusetts, \$10,000; Ohio, \$10,000; Pennsylvania, \$10,000; Wisconsin, \$10,000.

standing. Her face was grim with displeasure.

"Madame President!" she continued sternly, "do you think a ministerial show stamps us with dignity."

Was it Unladylike?
"If you got the money, that's the main thing," the woman in mourning agreed at last when Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery rose to say she thought ministerial shows dangerous for Woman's Suffrage clubs.

"I should be sorry to see ministerial taken up," said another woman in black. "It hurts our dignity; but my roommate, Dr. Swift, suggested a good idea to get money."

"We had an Australian ballot," explained Dr. Swift in answer to the call. "We cleared over \$400 net and considered we did not lose our dignity, and were instructing people in the way to vote. We voted with tickets that cost five cents a ticket, and we could vote as often as we pleased."

That statement amused everybody, repeated, as if she knew where the purse was, if she only made the break to tell, "I had it here, I sat in this pew right here, and now it's gone."

At the Evening Session.
But the evening was great. Excepting a few dreary spots, it bubbled with freshness.

The meeting was set for 8 o'clock. I got there ten minutes after, and the church was packed to the doors. There were plenty of men present, and they seemed interested, and the women, old and young, homely and pretty, were all attention.

Charlotte Perkins Stetson had just been introduced by the President, who was looking very sweet in a black satin dress. The white silk vest in her bodice made her look like a queen.

She talked well and pleased the audience. I wonder if she can realize how much more would be her power if she dressed as well.

She was telling about California. "There is no more so good a live in," she declared. "You come down in the morning and how your cold fingers and feet are warmed by the sun."

At the Evening Session.
But the evening was great. Excepting a few dreary spots, it bubbled with freshness.

Vantine's.
Where We Buy.
(See shaded lines.)
Where We Sell.
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Antique Hall and Star Rugs, 3 to 3 1/2 feet by 12 to 16 feet long \$24.00.
Antique Kajak Rugs, about 5 1/2 x 7 feet, \$24.00.

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Blue and Red, 8x10 1/2 feet.....35.00
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Cream and Pink, 10x12 1/2 feet.....75.00

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Some of this week's special offerings are:
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Tatsumi Mantel Vase, large size, assorted decorations and shapes, regular \$5.50 value, reduced to \$2.50 to close out.

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SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

