

CLUBS.

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Following are the papers read regarding the Denver Biennial at the gathering of club women at the home of Mrs. A. C. Ricketts on Thursday of last week:

Mrs. H. M. Bushnell said:

I have brought back with me many pleasant memories of the Biennial and anything unpleasant is fast fading from my memory. I have always felt that a meeting of this kind was not complete until I had talked it all over with my friends; and I am sure that after this pleasant morning I will think of it with more satisfaction. Of the consequences of going as a visitor or a delegate I had given little thought. En route to Denver, as the ladies were discussing what offices in the federation Nebraska ought to have; what Lincoln could get and what Omaha wanted, and stood no show of getting. I found myself talking a great deal, forgetting that I had no vote in the federation. Then it began to dawn upon me that there might be many things in store for a delegate, from which a visitor was debarred, and since Mrs. Ricketts has asked me for my impressions from the standpoint of a visitor I have wondered if she intended anything by the word "standpoint." For I assure you that when I presented myself at the Broadway theatre without any credentials to entitle me to a seat, my opportunity for making observations from a standpoint were never better and as the crowd increased I began to think I would be in luck if I secured a point on which to stand. Just then the difference between being a delegate and a visitor became very apparent. I do not think any one can appreciate the situation until she has had the experience of standing where she can see an array of talent that would inspire a stone and heard an enthusiastic audience cheer the wit and wisdom of the speakers and not be able to hear a word of it all herself. Yet I would not lose this morning's experience. All at once there was a sudden transition. I could not believe my senses when I heard the angelic voice of Mrs. H. H. Wilson, saying, "There are two vacant seats in the Nebraska delegation, will you and Mrs. Maule come down and take them?" The invitation to come up higher must be a joyful sound, but I never knew how grateful it was to be asked to come down lower and take a seat.

I wondered how long this good fortune was going to last and could not get over a slight uneasiness for a little while fearing some one might come and claim the seat, but I gave myself as much of a "have-come-to-stay" look as possible, removed my big hat, on request, involuntarily put my hand up to see if my hair was all right and received a nod from Mrs. Ricketts, which assured me that it looked as well as it ever did, and then was ready for the program.

After this everything appeared to me in the superlative degree. The wis-

dom of the speakers was most profound. The humor and wit was of the highest order. The chorus seemed all at once to have added a new prima donna. The air was pure, the seats the most comfortable, the decorations artistic, the flags sang a new song of patriotism, the few gentlemen here and there in the audience were of the meekest kind and the motto, "Unity in Diversity," came to me with its fullest meaning. Some one has said, "There are those whose destiny it is never to finish; never to have enough; to leave the feast upon the table; to leave all the edges of life ragged."

I cannot express the exquisite gratitude when this feeling of my uncertainty of a highly prized place was turned into permanency by a real delegate's offer of a press badge, speakers' ticket or delegate badge. I had the honor of being admitted by one of these evidences of eligibility on many occasions. I assure you that no knight decorated with the Order of the Garter appreciated the honor more than I did when some delegate becorated the front of my shirt waist with a badge.

There are many acts of kindness that we may do to strengthen friendship between club women but the delegate who divides her badge with the visitor has secured her greatest affection forever.

The visitor is a kinder critic than the delegate. She sees only the smooth side and does not feel the jars or hear the discords in the business meeting, though I believe the Biennial meetings have been very harmonious. I heard of a lady, who, in her haste to get to the meeting, put on her bonnet wrong side before and when some one said "My dear, I believe your bonnet is on wrong," she said, "I noticed that I was attracting a good deal of attention, but I supposed they were only talking of running me for president of the National Federation."

Some of my impressions briefly stated are that the fourth Biennial cannot fail to impress visitor or delegate with the intellectual progress of the club women. In the past she has lived outside the public interests, but she is now rapidly making up for the apathy of her grandmother. The crowds which were in attendance showed what a wonderful influence the club movement has on the public mind, and that through its influence many quiet homekeepers have claimed the inheritance of the ages. One of the best essayists in this country, two of the best story writers, acknowledged leaders in philanthropy and many distinguished women made the Biennial profitable to all who attended.

Some of my friends have signified their intention of attending the next National Federation of Women's Clubs. Go by all means but surround yourself with as many delegates as possible for while they may not be able to secure your standing in a great intellectual body like this, they at least may help you to secure a sitting.

Mrs. Field spoke of the inspiring au-

dience present at the opening of the federation and the very felicitous address of Governor Adams in welcoming the ladies. It was the first time a man had been asked to occupy a place on the program of a Biennial.

Mrs. Henrotin's reply was charming and she received an ovation from the delegates as she rose to respond to the four addresses of welcome.

In an informal talk of three minutes it was very difficult to select from the program any special features or do justice to the subject at all, there was so much to delight and commend.

Mrs. Field spoke in high terms of the Nebraska women, Mrs. Heller and Mrs. Stoutenborough, who occupied places on the evening programs. Their talks were not only delightful in themselves but they were heard by the audience, praise which could not be bestowed upon a good many papers given before the convention, and the speaker suggested that before the next federation there be a voice or delivery committee whose duty it should be to examine proposed speakers and allow none to appear upon the program who could not make themselves heard.

The department meetings of civic clubs and village improvement associations, presided over by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson of Pennsylvania, and that of education, Miss Margaret Evans of Minnesota, chairman, were mentioned as being especially enjoyable, and also the art meeting, where Miss Kate Stoddart presented the work of placing pictures in the school rooms.

Mrs. Ricketts read a paper on history clubs before the literature department and great interest was shown by the delegates present. Mrs. Ricketts had a number of history outlines with her prepared by university professors, which were given to those especially interested in the subject and many who could not obtain copies gave their names to Mrs. Ricketts and outlines were afterwards mailed them from the university.

At the educational meeting Mrs. Wilson presented the subject of university extension in the club work and spoke of what we hope to do in Nebraska this year along this line.

Two universally enjoyed meetings were those of Thursday and Saturday evenings. Mrs. Barnes of Louisville presided Thursday and the program was made up chiefly of readings by Miss Agnes Ripplier and Ruth McEnery Stuart. Mrs. Philip N. Moore was chairman Saturday night and the program was Folk Songs of America, Miss White and Miss Muldoon illustrating them by short descriptions as well as by singing many of them.

The federation meetings convinced one that all are not fitted to preside but these two meetings owed some of their charm to the grace and ease of their chairmen.

Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago, was as interesting a speaker as any and perhaps the most interesting personality at the federation.

Mrs. Field closed her remarks by referring to the Monday morning meeting when the new officers were chosen and expressed her satisfaction over the result.

Mrs. L. C. Richards reported the excursion to Clear Creek Canyon: Much was said while we were in Denver and more has been said since by reporters in regard to Massachusetts withdrawing her invitation to entertain the next Biennial. The reason first given was that the delegates and friends were disappointed and disgusted over failing to elect Mrs. Breed of Massachusetts as president. Further investigation proved that nothing so petty and small had influenced them, they

were simply discouraged, that was all. After enjoying luncheons, teas, receptions, garden parties, trolley rides and finally as a grand climax the complimentary excursion around the Loop, they felt that they could not follow in the wake of Colorado. Not that Massachusetts could not surpass Colorado if she chose, none questioned that, but a Massachusetts woman explained the situation by saying, "the eastern woman is all right when she works in small groups, but you cannot get large numbers together that will work enthusiastically and as a unit, as do the women of Colorado," and was it any wonder they were discouraged? Why, the Denver women told us that two hundred of them had thought and talked of nothing else for a year and that the last six months had held almost daily committee meetings planning for the entertainment of the congress and that they had made up their minds to give something finer than had ever been given and that it should be on such a grand scale that nothing could surpass it in the future! Although this sounded a little vain when we first heard the boast, not a woman but agreed that it was the solemn truth by the time they had accepted and enjoyed the hospitality so lavishly provided and our sympathy will go out to whatever state has the temerity to undertake to entertain the next Biennial. And so now as to that wonderful trip around the Loop—that so disheartened our eastern friends—those of you who participated and those who have read the glowing descriptions in the last two issues of the Courier, will acknowledge there is little left for me but to recapitulate, but although one has made the trip many times it seems ever new and beautiful. One never tires of the Lord's prayer and it seems to me the same spirit pervades both. On that eventful Saturday morning the more enthusiastic members of our delegation decided to take the earliest train, that we might have a good long day of pleasure, but while waiting for friends whom we had promised to meet, we found that instead of taking the first of seven trains out we would be obliged to take the last. Our remarks of regret were overheard by a gentleman, who looked like an ex-governor, but as we learned later a real estate agent, who was paid for showing off the country, and he assured us we were most fortunate in taking this division as it was to carry the speakers and would be the first dined at Idaho Springs. This proved true and when we went aboard we found many of the lovely people, with whom we had grown familiar during the week. Mrs. Breed and her two Japanese friends, Mrs. Henrotin, Miss Helen M. Winslow, the editor of the Boston Woman's Club paper, and dozens of others, besides many lovely Denver and Idaho Springs men and women who treated us as guests and explained all points of interest on the way. When we reached the Springs we were reminded of what Mrs. Platt had said in her speech of welcome at Denver: "We have sent our children to the country and effaced our husbands that the delegates may have the freedom of the city." And we decided that the women of Idaho Springs may have sent their children to the country for there were none of them in evidence but surely the husbands had not been disposed of for they were at the station in goodly numbers to receive us, escort us to the opera house where lunch was served, wait upon us most graciously at table, accompany us to the park near by and help make the speeches, furnish carryalls for those who wished to see the village and guides for those who wished to visit a silver mill near by. One incident occurred here that has