

WOMAN'S BEST FRIEND.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Her Great Life Work.

The Famous Advocate of Female Suffrage and Equal Rights Now Eighty Years of Age—Some Reforms She Has Accomplished.

(Written for This Paper.)

On November 12, 1815, was born to Judge Daniel Cady and Margaret Livingston Cady, at Johnstown, N. Y., a daughter destined to become famous all over the world as a friend of the oppressed, a crusader against legal injustices to women, a leader among true reformers, and the equal in wit, eloquence, learning and real statesmanship of the foremost men of America. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the 80th anniversary of whose birth is about to be celebrated, was a child of marked intellectual ability, and had the benefits of a thorough education. Her attention was early called to the marked differences made by society between the training of boys and girls, manifestly to the detriment of her own sex, and she was quick to perceive that the laws of the land were in direct conflict with the natural rights of women. Being in the habit as a child of spending much time in the law office of her father, she there heard discussions on the injustice of those laws, and in her child-like innocence she wished to cut out of the law books the obnoxious statutes, thinking that this would abolish the legal wrongs.

One of her first disappointments was the refusal of Union college to admit her to its courses because she was a woman, and this led her to think more seriously of the injustice put upon women by custom and prejudice. Taking up the study of law she became thoroughly conversant with that subject, especially with the laws relating to women; knowledge that has been of the greatest usefulness to her in her chosen work. Soon after her marriage in 1840 to Henry Brewster Stanton, the anti-slavery orator, journalist and author, she went to London as a delegate to the anti-slavery convention.

Because she was a woman she was refused a seat in the convention; but there she met Lucretia Mott, the foremost female character in American history. This chance acquaintance pointed out to Mrs. Stanton her

for women she found the condition of married women under the common law almost as degraded as that of the slave on the southern plantation. The Seneca Falls declaration demanded all that the most radical friends of the woman's rights movement have since demanded: Equal rights in the colleges and universities, in the trades and professions, the right to vote, to share in all political offices, honors and emoluments, to complete equality in marriage, to personal freedom, to property, wages and children; to make contracts, to sue and to be sued, and to testify in courts of justice. Foremost in the advocacy of all these things, Mrs. Stanton was one of the first dress reformers of the country, and one of the first women to wear bloomers, more than 40 years ago. Little by little have some of the reforms demanded in 1848 been brought about, though some so gradually that it seems now as though there never was a time when the American married woman had absolutely no rights under the law other than the right not to be murdered.

Mrs. Stanton's public addresses, whether before conventions of women or before state legislatures, are classics. In her address before the New York assembly in 1860 on the bill pending to give woman the right of suffrage, she spoke of the natural rights of woman as inalienable: "We do not ask man to represent us," she said. "It is hard enough in times like these for man to carry a load heavy enough to represent himself. So long as the mass of men spend most of the time on the fence, not knowing which way to jump, they are surely in no position to tell us where we had better stand." One of her first triumphs against legislative prejudice was the passage of the act concerning the rights and liabilities of husband and wife by the New York assembly in March, 1860.

She was an early advocate of healthful exercise and of rational clothing for girls. "The girls must be allowed to romp and play," she said in 1851, "climb, skate and swim; her clothing must be more like that of the boy—strong, loose-fitting garments, thick boots, etc., that she may be out at all times and enter freely into all kinds of sports." The young women who now ride wheels, play tennis, and engage in other healthful exercise without being frowned upon as hoydens by the community, have much for which to be grateful to Mrs. Stanton. Speaking

KATE GARDNER'S CHAT.

Royal Stuffs Demanding Royal Purves Are the Rage.

Velvets Which Are Truly Gorgeous Even Though They May Be in Poor Taste—Blouses Driven Out by Louis XV. Coats.

Special Chicago Letter.

The materials most sought after at the present moment are fine face cloths and velvets that call for fur and jet as their trimmings—royal stuffs demanding plethoric purses.

The face cloths of to-day are in elegance and finish like unto those of yesterday, but yesterday's velvet gave forth



TRIMMED IN THE LATEST STYLE.

no hint of the gorgeous splendor of those now in vogue. Some are printed on white grounds in such gay, not to say striking, colors as to be only fit for opera wear and the most elegant occasions. In sharp contrast to these gaily-colored ones is a pretty leaf pattern in subdued green on grounds of dull red, old blue and silver grey. These latter will be mostly used for waists and the new Louis XV. coat which will be much worn as the season advances. The lovely flower designs on colored and black grounds are intended for sleeves and bodice trimmings, and will also be used for the new panel trimming outlined with jet. Happily these printed velvets are held at such a figure that they can never become common, and the same may be written of the dainty chintz-flowered silks which are their companions in beauty and price.

Many of the handsomest reception and evening gowns are made of plain colored or black velvet; and when one is cut "a la princesse" by a master hand, and given luxurious trimmings of sable, it makes a regal garment and one any woman would be happy to count among her most cherished possessions.

A gown fashioned in this way was in a lovely pale shade of green, trimmed with narrow bands of sable round the hem and square-cut neck, while the short puffed sleeves were of transparent jeweled muslin finished by a band of the fur fastened by small emerald clasps. I might remark in passing that the princess dress has been restored to its old-time popularity, which will be pleasing news to many women. It is a gown easy to get into and is generally becoming, provided one is not too scraggy nor on the other hand too plump.

Chinchilla fur is the idol of the hour and promises to become almost priceless, should the furor for using it con-



LOUIS XV. COAT.

tinue any length of time. It trims many of the most stylish gowns and outer garments imported for midwinter wear and has even invaded the domain of millinery—a velvet toque trimmed on the left side with three stiff chinchilla tails being quite the proper caper. It really makes an ideal trimming on dark cloth or velvet, and despite its delicate color does not readily show soil, and is also easily cleaned.

Next in popular favor is the soft, band erasante which is much used for band trimming and can be bought in any of the fashionable widths. In the more expensive bands the edges are covered with white satin upon which are stitched rows and rows of the narrowest black silk braid, giving a lovely silver-like effect, as pleasing as it is uncommon.

A chic, up-to-date fancy is, when the skirt is given a trimming of caracule, to have the dress the same, with a jew-

eled belt worn round the waist. It makes an exceedingly swell costume, but can only be successfully worn by the tall, slender woman. A gown I saw in State street yesterday had this idea very prettily carried out. The bodice and hem of the skirt were of caracule, the former boasting the long shoulder seam outlined with jet, while the skirt and sleeves were of tan-colored face cloth. At the neck was a high choker collar with six turned-over tabs—just what all well-regulated collars should have, the simple, undraped ones of last season being absolutely unknown to the fashions of the moment.

There is so much liberty allowed in both gowns and hats this season that a woman can dress herself according to her own sweet will, can wear what is becoming and still be in the fashion. The only thing she must have is a very full skirt. The bodice can take care of itself.

The latest skirts are made enormously full without godets, and absolutely without stiffening. They are much plaited in the back, have three small plaits on each hip and fall in long, graceful folds all around. I should like to emphasize what I said before, that there are no godets and no stiffening. For street and daytime wear skirts remain severely plain, excepting when fur bands are used; but for evening dresses the best modistes use a garniture of ribbon and lace or bands of dark fur, and sometimes all three in combination. The skirt garniture in the picture is one much used on gowns intended for small evening affairs.

Among recent importations one sees very few separate blouses to be worn with any skirt. The little Louis XV. coats have replaced them, except for evening wear. These coats, while exceedingly pretty in themselves, have the added charm of novelty and are bound to take immensely. They can be made as elaborate as one's fancy and purse will permit, or, on the other hand, in severe simplicity. In the latter case their only ornamentation are handsome buttons in some unique design. The prettiest ones, however, are made to open over a vest of either jeweled muslin, lace or dark fur with broad, sharply-pointed revers which end at the waist under two large painted porcelain buttons. An exceedingly picturesque model in dark green brocaded satin had a wide collar of white cloth embroidered in shaded greens



AN UP-TO-DATE CAPE.

silk and edged with silver fox, while the rest, also of silver-fox, opened over an inner one of the white embroidered cloth. Another extremely stylish design is the one shown in the picture made of black velvet and worn with a skirt of dark blue chintz flowered silk. The pointed opening over the checked silk plastron is something entirely different from the usual mode and allows some latitude in the matter of garniture. In this instance the trimming consists of square tabs made of canary-colored, striped ribbon with dainty jeweled buttons placed near the shoulders and at the waist.

I have seen some lovely things in the way of theater bodices made of white chiffon with an applique of fine black lace. Sometimes by way of variety the lace is traced with silver sequins and the bodice finished with a narrow belt of jewels on gold galloons.

Others I saw were of printed velvet, very elegant and rich-looking, but I cannot recommend this material unless one can afford a good dressmaker. No ill-made bodice ever looks in the least degree like a well-made one, and it requires the hand of an expert to contrive a collar band and properly put in a sleeve, when made of heavy velvet.

Capes will be the wrap most worn this season, as they are best adapted to the toilettes now in vogue. The new shapes are not long enough to conceal the figure, and yet of sufficient length to cover the arm and afford some warmth. Of course, a cape of fine fur is the most desirable of all possessions just now, but it is quite beyond the reach of many, so an excellent substitute has been provided in the shape of handsome capes of velours d' nord. The one in the illustration is made of this ideal material, and one cannot make a mistake in copying it. The epaulettes are of jet fixed into rosettes on the shoulder and the wide collar is f. x. The back is cut so as to fall in two loose plaits, which add much to the charm and elegance of the garment.

A very Frenchified and chic cape is made of blue and black plaid velvet with trimmings of white cloth and an infinitesimal edging of gold braid. A cloth cape not the least bit "dowdy" had cloth applique work, elaborately jetted, placed round the edge and front with a broad, comfortable-looking collar of Astrakhan bordered with black martin. This garment should recommend itself to the elderly matron who is ever deploring fashion's inattentions to her needs.

KATE GARDNER.

Typewriter for the Blind. A typewriter for the use of the blind has just been invented. It works like an ordinary typewriter in impressing the print of letters, but also makes a raised cut on the other side by which the blind can read.

SENATORIAL LEADERS.

Calvin Brice, of Ohio, is a Man of Great Strength.

The Early Struggles of Senator Perkins, of California—David Bennett Hill Highly Esteemed at Washington—Other Brainy Men.

Special Washington Letter.

Senator Calvin S. Brice, of Ohio, is one of the ablest men in public life today. It is true, he is accused of being a very rich man, but his oldest friends know that he has a right to be rich, for he accumulated his own fortune. He was a very poor boy, very homely and without any indications of genius that anybody could see. He was jolly and good-natured, even if he was poor; so he made friends and worked his way up until he secured a good education. He is eminently a self-made man, and his history is worthy of emulation by any young man in the land. He is just 50 years of age, but he looks much younger. His bushy hair is dark brown and his thick beard is almost red. He looks somewhat like a Hebrew, but is of straight Anglo-Saxon stock. His father was a Presbyterian minister, and



SENATOR CALVIN S. BRICE, OHIO.

Brice is a religious man, although not active in church work. When the Presbyterian general assembly was held here two years ago, Senator Brice was called on for a little contribution to help defray the expenses of the local churches, and he gave \$500, greatly to the surprise of the clergyman, who never dreamed of getting more than \$20 from any one man. When only 16 years old young Brice enlisted in the 8th Ohio infantry. He came out of the war a captain, in July, 1865, before he was quite 20 years old. He then studied law, practiced, and finally became engaged in business enterprises which have made him wealthy. He has been an active working democrat for many years, and has served his party with great distinction. He is one of the most genial, likeable men in the senate, and is an important factor in all legislation.

Senator George C. Perkins, of California, is 56 years of age, having been born in 1839 in Kennelbunkport, Me. He is regarded as one of the rich men of the senate, and he also is entitled to enjoy his accumulations, for he was a very poor boy and made his own way in the world. He was reared on a farm, but, when only 12 years old, he shipped as a cabin boy, and spent several years at sea in that humble capacity. He then shipped before the mast as a common sailor and went all the way to California in that capacity. It was a rough experience for a boy only 16 years old, but he was hearty, healthy, ambitious and strong, so he did not mind the hardships. When he reached California he went to Oroville; where he engaged in business and rapidly prospered. He then engaged in banking, mining, milling and steamship business. During the past 23 years he has been building, buying and operating steamships in the Pacific ocean, from Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia clear up to Alaska. He was elected governor of California in 1879, and was appointed to the senate in 1893 to succeed Senator Stanford, who died while a member of the senate. His term



SENATOR GEORGE C. PERKINS, CALIFORNIA.

of service will expire March 4, 1897, but he will probably be reelected to succeed himself for a full term of six years. Senator Perkins is one of the most unpretentious men I have ever met with in public life. He has no coldness or diffidence in private conversation; but on the contrary is as entertaining as any man in private life could be, and in his presence no one can feel embarrassed because of his high position. As a matter of fact, the poor boys who have made their own fortunes and become prominent never assume the "airs" that are put on by some who are born rich. Senator Perkins is an orator of great ability, and when he addresses the senate receives the respectful attention of a large audience.

Senator David Bennett Hill, of New York, is a man worthy of his great reputation. When only 21 years old he was admitted to the bar, began the practice of law, and was appointed city attorney of Elmira. He has been in public life, almost constantly, and has acquitted himself creditably on all occasions. When he was first elected to the senate, his critics said that he would sink out of sight in that august assemblage. He did not sink. He is not a slinker. He quietly attended to his senatorial duties until the silver fight of 1882, when he participated in debate

and gave utterance to strong opinions. When the tariff debate of 1894 occupied the attention of the senate, he spoke a number of times, and then received recognition for his true worth. He had been called "nothing but a politician," but then he showed himself to be a constitutional lawyer and statesman equal to the best men who had ever held positions upon the senate floor. He refused to vote for a tariff bill which included the income tax clause, and concluded his speech by saying: "Sink or swim, survive or perish, I cannot and will not vote for this bill." He was the only democrat who voted against the measure. Since that time the supreme court has sustained Senator Hill, by declaring the income tax unconstitutional. He is a great man, but like many other great men is not appreciated for his real worth by his own generation. We do not always elect our greatest men to the presidential office. Blaine, Thurman, Clay, Webster and others of like renown could not reach the white house. No greater men of their generations achieved the honor. So it seems will be the case with the great senator from New York, who has aspired to the highest honor in the gift of the people. His party, as a whole, does not seem to have appreciated him at his true worth.

Senator Orville H. Platt, of Connecticut, has been a senator for 18 years, and will probably be elected to succeed himself for a fourth term. The sensible people of the New England states and of the southern states are accustomed to retaining their good men in public life until they become strong and influential in national affairs. But the people of the middle states and of the western states have not all of them yet learned the value of experience in public affairs, and they change their public servants all too often. Senator Platt was for many years chairman of the committee on territories. It was during his chairmanship that the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming were admitted to the union. He has served his state and the nation with distinction, and his labors have been diligent, continuous and painstaking. He is a member of the important and exacting committees on the judiciary, patents, Indian affairs and revision of the laws. It takes time, strength and superior ability to fulfill the functions of membership of those committees of the senate. He is a modest, quiet, unpretentious senator, but his standing in the senate is of an enviable character. He is a forceful public speaker, and his



SENATOR WILLIAM F. VILAS, WISCONSIN.

remarks are weighty, because of his high rank and splendid reputation. Nobody ever questions the correctness of his statements, no matter how partisan the debates may become. He is one of the great men and one of the good men of this age.

Senator William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin, is a man of great ability. He is 53 years of age, but still in the vigor of virile and aggressive strength. His life has been a busy one, and he is never happy unless he is busy. I had the good fortune to serve him as a subordinate for a short time when he was postmaster-general and learned to appreciate his qualities of heart as well as of brain. He was a soldier during the civil war, then studied law and has practiced ever since. While he was postmaster-general and secretary of the interior he performed more work than any other two members of the cabinet. He is a great orator, and it was largely due to his personal efforts that the state of Wisconsin was carried by the democrats in 1890, with the result that he was elected to the senate to succeed Senator Spooner, who, by the way, was a magnificent senator and a superior man. When I first met Senator Vilas, in 1885, he was one of the handsomest young men I have ever known. His hair was black, and there was not a trace of gray in his well-trimmed beard. His eyes are large and expressive and his manner is gentle and mild. But he is a forceful man, and of tireless energy.

Senator John H. Gordon, of Georgia, is now 63 years of age, but as erect, stalwart, soldierly in appearance as when he gallantly led the confederate soldiers in many a hard-fought battle. He has long been the most popular man in his state, and has the hearts of the young men of Georgia close pressed to his own heart, for they almost worship him. He was a brave soldier and was eight times wounded in battle. Gen. Lee regarded him as one of the ablest generals, and he commanded a wing of Lee's army when that great confederate soldier surrendered his army to Gen. Grant. Immediately thereafter Gen. Gordon returned to private life and took part in political affairs. When the democrats carried Georgia in 1872 Gen. Gordon was elected to the senate. He served two terms, but resigned his seat and entered upon private business. He was elected governor of Georgia, and again elected to the senate in 1890. He can stay in the senate as long as he lives, for his people delight to honor him; and he confers honor upon his state by his distinguished services. He is a magnetic orator, and as a lecturer has won renown.

SMITH D. FRY. A Word to the Suitor. A hearty laugh contains the oil. To grasp the hinge made stiff by toll. -Rural New Yorker.



MRS. ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

own field of work, into which she entered with all the zeal of an enthusiast. The American women determined that when they returned to America they would have a woman's convention, but this was not held until 1848, at Seneca Falls, N. Y., where Mr. and Mrs. Stanton were then living. Mrs. Stanton was the chief agent in calling the convention, and wrote the resolutions and declaration of the aims of the convention. One of the resolutions was the first declaration in favor of woman's suffrage, and read as follows:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise.

Old Judge Cady thought his distinguished daughter must have lost her mind when he read this resolution, went to see her, and tried to reason her out of her position, but without success, for she was made of as stern stuff as he when it came to maintaining what she believed to be right. In this matter she was in advance of some of the most noted reformers of her own sex, notably Lucretia Mott, who tried to dissuade Mrs. Stanton from pressing the franchise clause in the Seneca Falls convention, but five years later, at the Cleveland convention, proposed to have it adopted in honor of Mrs. Stanton. Her hard and earnest work as a crusader against the unjust laws relating to married women may be said to have begun in 1854, when she addressed the New York legislature on the rights of married women, at which time she demonstrated her unusual ability as an orator and jurist. About this time also she began her advocacy of laws allowing divorce for drunkenness on the part of the husband, and addressed the New York legislature on that subject in 1860. Again in 1867 she was before the legislature and the constitutional convention of New York, maintaining that during revision of the constitution the state was resolved into its original elements, and that therefore citizens of both sexes had the right to vote for members of the convention.

From 1855 to 1865 Mrs. Stanton was president of the national committee of the suffrage party. In 1863 she was president of the Woman's Loyal League, and until 1890 was the president of the National Woman's Suffrage association. When Mrs. Stanton began her work

of dress in 1855 she said: "A true marriage relation has far more to do with the elevation of woman than the style and cut of her dress."

Nothing ever discouraged her in her work except the listlessness and apathy of the women themselves, many of whom claimed, in answer to every appeal, that they had all the rights they wanted. To Lucy Stone she wrote in 1856: "We may continue to hold conventions, we may talk of our right to vote, to legislate, to hold property, but until we can arouse in woman a proper self-respect she will hold in contempt the demands we now make for our sex." A hard worker for coeducation and for equal rights in education, she has seen the barriers to those rights torn away from the doors of many of the great institutions of the country; and has seen state after state enact laws giving to married women the right to control their own property, to vote at school elections, as well as other rights long denied.

Some of the fruits of her great work may be seen in state constitutions, such as that of Colorado and Texas, from which the word "male" has been omitted; while in Wyoming and Utah woman has full suffrage. When she began her work the bare proposition that women could hold public office satisfactorily was looked upon as evidence of insanity or worse; but now in several states women are eligible as school superintendents, and many women have held the office of postmaster. She has taught the world, as much by her noble example and character as by her writings and addresses, that character, even womanly character, does not and cannot suffer from too much breadth of thought, nor from too active a sympathy in and too large an acquaintance with human interests and affairs, but must become more and more enriched by larger ideas, larger experience and greater activities.

Quoted, ridiculed and abused into fame, the world will before long come to recognize Elizabeth Cady Stanton as one of its truly great women and one of the great characters of America. She has fulfilled the prophecy of the good old friend of her childhood, Rev. Simon Rosack, who taught her Greek and said: "Dear child, it is your mission to help mold the world anew."