

POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE.

Mrs. Mary E. Craigie Talks of
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
and Her Work.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE HER THEME.

It Will Be Appreciated Later Better
Than Now—Prejudice the Chief
Thing to Combat.

An interesting meeting of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Political Equality League of the Eastern District was held at the home of Mrs. Orion White last evening. There was a fairly good attendance. In the absence of the president who is in the West, Miss Ida Craft was appointed to the chair. Mrs. Augustus Merritt was made secretary pro tem. Mrs. White was appointed a delegate to the Civil and Political Equality League convention to be held in Manhattan Wednesday.

The chairman in the course of a few opening remarks said that the Eastern District was the child of the Bedford District League and that the league was ready to start branches where people were who were willing to give their homes as meeting places. Changing the subject she reminded the audience that a few years ago there had been a movement started in Brooklyn for the establishment of free libraries. The originator of that movement and consequently the founder of the free libraries in the borough was Mrs. Mary E. Craigie who would address them. Mrs. Craigie proceeded to speak on Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her work. The speaker said in part:

"Mrs. Stanton will be appreciated more a century hence than now. The glory of the club movement belongs to her and Miss Anthony. At the anti-slavery convention held in London in 1840 there were eight women delegates from America. Mrs. Anthony was one of them. She was then on her bridal trip—a time when most people are wrapped up in their own interests—but turning to her sympathy for the slave. The American delegates being women the convention did not know what to do with them. The question was put to a vote and the vote was against the women. It was agreed that they should sit in the gallery and behind a curtain. But there were two men with the American delegation, William Lloyd Garrison and Anthony P. Rogers, who said that if the women of their country were to be kept out they would go with them to the gallery and behind the curtain, which they did.

"This movement is for the advancement of women along educational and industrial lines and for the development of that personality which is given to every one of us for the good of this world and the Kingdom of God. I was married for years before I had any ideas on the subject of suffrage. I never met an ant and out suffragist until I met Mrs. Stanton ten years ago at Brighton Beach. In two hours conversation with her I received impressions on the subject that have never left me. There is a great future before you in this vicinity. You will have seen by the Sunday papers the number of women enrolled in the general federation, the state federation and other organizations. There are now thousands upon thousands of women enrolled in our country clubs, who are claimed in that little movement in the London convention so many years ago. The first women's club convention was held at Seneca Falls in 1848.

"Continuing the speaker defended Mrs. Stanton's translation of the Bible, mentioning that there had been another valued translation made by an Alexandrian noblewoman named Thekla over two thousand years ago and now in the British Museum. In advocating the maintenance of the equal suffrage movement Mrs. Craigie said:

"The hardest thing you will have to combat is prejudice. We claim only what is just and right and what is bound to come. We do not want any other argument. In commerce and in every other line of work women are subject to the same condition as men. Then why should not women have a voice in the making of laws relating to commerce, trade, education and charity the same as men have. I have never yet heard of a fair minded woman teacher who did not like women on the Board of Education. Yet, after all, and after a petition was carried up to the recent constitutional convention signed by thousands and thousands of women all over the state requesting the ballot, we did not get it."

The Rev. Dr. James Henry Darlington, who was down to speak, arrived one or two minutes after Mrs. Craigie had finished. In a brief address he said that the question seemed to him one sided, and the only proof that the suffrage should be limited lay with the person who denied that right to another, not on those who were applying for the right. There were many things, too, the speaker proceeded, that were unanswerable of proof and had to be taken for granted, as, for instance, the mother's love for the child or the child's for the mother. An argument for political equality to some women was the fact they taught school, often boys who were about to become voters, political economy being, in many cases, one of the subjects. Dr. Darlington concluded by expressing the opinion and giving instances in college experience to prove that the male mind was inventive in grasping problems, while the female was receptive. He added that he saw no reason why the faculty of reflection which many women possessed should not be exercised at the polls.

In reply to a question by Mrs. Craigie, Dr. Darlington said that he believed women would receive the suffrage as soon as they asked for it. Some women he knew were bitterly opposed to it, while the great majority had so far taken no position at all.

Mrs. Craigie then asked why the request for suffrage made by many thousands of women at the constitutional convention has not been granted. Dr. Darlington replied that it was because Mrs. Lyman Abbott and other prominent women were opposed to it. There was further discussion, after which the meeting terminated.