

SAMUEL BROWN—'MOSSBACK'

The Delegate From Allegany Has An Argument With A Suffragist.

[From THE SUN Bureau.]

Annapolis, Jan. 20. — Maryland suffragists, to judge from the indignant outburst of one of the ubiquitous "flying squadrons" of women that have swooped down on the Maryland Legislature, are disappointed in that body. To quote one of them at random from a running debate with Delegate Samuel Brown, of Allegany, at his desk on the floor of the House, they are "a bunch of mossbacks."

She was an elderly lady, dressed all in black, and she sat down at the desk next to Delegate Brown during a lull in the session. Most of the Delegates run when they see the earmarks of suffrage in a female State House visitor; others adopt jocularly or indifference. For instance, Delegate Howard Bryant, of Baltimore county, kept his hat on and swapped jokes with his would-be Nemesis.

But running and jocularly were not for Delegate Brown. Being a Scotchman and loving an argument, he wheeled around and the debate began. It was mild enough at first. But Delegate Brown wanted to know things, and asked questions that the elderly suffragist thought foolish. Members near by who caught a word now and then moved a bit nearer, and soon Delegate Brown and the suffragist, leaning toward each other and gesticulating in their earnestness, were the centre of a delighted group.

"We came here expecting to find a body of intelligent men," said the suffragist, "but I must say you are a bunch of mossbacks. Now, Mr. Brown, are you a mossback or an intelligent man?"

"I'm a legislator, madam," said Brown, "and I'm down here representing the people in my county."

Just then somebody poked through the crowd and called to Brown:

"Senator Zihlman wants to see you in the hall."

"Tell him I'm busy," said Brown, and then, thinking better of it, he got up to go. The crowd broke into howls.

"Don't quit under fire, Brown!" Stick to 'em!" "Don't run!" Delegate Brown sat down.

"How about the women; are you representing them?" persisted the interviewer.

"I certainly am," answered Brown, "but the women in my county have something else to do besides run around the State like some women I know."

The suffragist became indignant. "I would have you know, Mr. Brown," she said, "that we are the busiest women in the State of Maryland."

"Heaven knows that's true," gasped Brown, "and Heaven help the men you've got! And don't think, madam," he continued, "that you can come down here and bullyrag us into suffrage. That isn't the way to do it."

The suffragist turned to a woman companion.

"Come along, Ella," she said, "there's another mossback in the House."