

# WOMAN'S ELOQUENCE.

## Makes The Welkin Ring In The House Of Delegates At The Old State House.

### REV. ANNA SHAW BRILLIANT.

#### Women Speakers On "Equal Rights For All" Plead Their Cause Nobly Before Large Audience.

Eloquence as magnetic and profound as it is rare either among men or women in this twentieth century characterized the meeting last evening in the House of Delegates, when the women interested in "Equal Rights for All" spoke in behalf of Woman's Suffrage.

Probably never before have such orators been heard in the "new" House of Delegates as the women who made the welkin ring with their oratory and eloquence last night, and perhaps will not be soon again. The lawmakers who assembled there are not orators as a general thing, and it was a pleasure and a privilege to listen to these eloquent women plead their cause.

The main floor and galleries were crowded with a representative audience, notwithstanding it was church night in all the churches, which kept many away who would otherwise have been present. Mrs. J. William Funk, of Baltimore, president of the State Association, presided, and introduced the speakers, and Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, of Philadelphia, president of the National Association, offered prayer.

The first speaker was the Rev. Olympia Brown, of Wisconsin, who was admitted to the ministry in 1863. Mrs. Brown started out to pick up a few threads from the afternoon's meeting. She said if there is anything wrong against woman's voting it holds good just as much against her voting for school boards as for the Governor. If she can vote for one thing, the Legislature can give her the right to vote for another. What the body of women here yesterday are asking is justice to all—the enfranchisement of women because it is right, because it is just.

Mrs. Brown defined "people," the plain people, the common people, but she said the word "people" is wrongly used. It does not include women. Ex-President Roosevelt does not understand the English language when he talks about the "people." Mrs. Brown said divorce comes of inequality of the marriage relations. The man and woman are not two equals standing side by side. No, it is a political ruler and a political subject. Man is always conscious of his superiority; woman, of her inferiority. This is largely the cause for divorce—inequality. The great educator of the human being is responsibility. Add responsibility and the being rise to the occasion, of their manhood or womanhood. Women to vote will be nobler, better women, better wives.

Miss Belle Kearney, of Miss, was the next speaker. She said this is an argument "If we were to enfranchise white women, we would have to enfranchise negro women." Miss Kearney said there are more white women in the South than white men, colored men and colored women together. She said another argument against the enfranchisement of women is white women would have to go to the poles to vote with colored men and women. This can be easily obviated and there can be separate polling places for the sexes and the races. Miss Kearney told the story of a colored preacher in the South who invited another to preach for him and asked at the close of the sermon that the visiting Brother solicit contributions to fresco the recess at the back of the pulpit. The visiting Brother preached as he had never preached before, and on closing said: "Now, Brethren and Sisters, I want you to give money to fricassee this abscess behind the pulpit." Miss Kearney said that was what the women were asking—to have the men fricassee this abscess commonly known as the race problem. Black women have as much right to vote as black men. Negro men are enfranchised and the negro women have a perfect right to vote. She cited instances in history illustrative of woman's great work in the world. She said in the United States the attendance at church is two-thirds women, and she pays off the church debt. They stand as the pledge of the Master. What women these Christians have! Our Lord Jesus Christ was the great franchiser of women, said Miss Kearney. It was He who began their uplift. In closing she besought the Legislature to raise the death flag, for prejudice must die and woman must enter upon her work.

Perhaps never in the history of the old or new State House has a more eloquent speaker been heard there than Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, who closed the meeting with an address that held men and women spellbound, and from time to time elicited great applause. Although a woman well past middle life Mrs. Shaw's voice, like her mentality, is strong and far reaching. She could be heard distinctly in the remotest part of the hall. She is a woman of rare intellectuality, of brilliant mind, and her vocabulary is inexhaustible. Her words are well chosen and each one fits into the sentences with a nicety. Her argument carries weight. She is not hysterical or emotional, but calm, deliberate, convincing. There were many in the audience who would like to have listened to Mrs. Shaw for hours.

She spoke of the bugaboos that are being brought out to frighten away the enfranchisement of women. One of them is the colored women's votes. She said she had been asked the question "is not political equality, social equality?" She answered it by saying then your white women and black women are socially equal for they are both disfranchised; you men have done more than this, you have made the white woman the subject of the black man. She said we talk a great deal about our great and glorious nation, but as a matter of fact we're not so great and glorious as we think we are. There are lots of other countries better. There isn't a city in Europe as badly governed as Philadelphia

and not a city in the United States as well governed as Berlin not one as clean. Why should we boast so much, if we don't know what we are boasting of," said Mrs. Shaw.

But, we would rather live in the United States than in Europe, where military are patrolling the streets and we feel we are under martial law. The power of free American discipline comes not from military from without, but strength within. The manhood of our country is the self-governing power. Love of law, love of order, love of power, comes from within us, said Mrs. Shaw. If a Republic is of more value than a monarchy, it is because it creates a better government, a better civilization. If self-government makes better manhood, it makes better womanhood. The disfranchisement of any group of people impairs the government.

Speaking of the age qualification to vote, Mrs. Shaw said there are boys of 18 who know more than men of 80, and some at 18 know more than they will at 80. She said lunatics are not permitted to vote, but some escape, and some criminals (in the penitentiary) do not vote, but some are let out in time to vote. God has made some women foolish to match some men. The men are 92 per cent. of the criminals and only 8 per cent. are women. There is only one of two reasons women are disfranchised, either they are dangerous to the government, or the government is dangerous to them.

Mrs. Shaw said a little girl in school asked what is the government, said "us." We are the government and without us there is no government. The character of the government depends upon the electorate. Two-thirds of the grammar school graduates are girls, three-fourths of the church attendance is women, nine-tenths of the law abiding citizens are women, and seven-tenths of public school teachers are women. There are fewer ignorant women than men, and the greater percent. of the illiteracy is among men. Two girls graduate to every one boy in the grammar school, and three to every one boy in the high school. You men are disfranchising the better educated of the sexes.

Another question that is a bugaboo heard on the "other side," said Mrs. Shaw is "won't the vicious women vote?" Thank God there are more good women than bad women. The vicious women will not care to vote first, because they do not have residence long enough in one place, and secondly, because they are under assumed names. Whoever stopped to ask will all bad men vote, or is he good, or scholarly, or does he own property. Then vote because they are human beings. Mrs. Shaw said she was willing to take the ballot on any plane, but she preferred to take it on horizontal, not a perpendicular plane. Make the ballot apply equally to all the people—men and women alike. She said there was so much stuffing the ballot box that we found it necessary to go to Australia where women vote, for the Australian ballot. At one time it was necessary for men to have roosters, eagles, faces, etc., to indicate the ballot, as some men would have intelligence enough to know a rooster from an eagle on the ballot and thereby cast their vote properly.

Mrs. Shaw said in this world everything is built to the height of a man. To illustrate this she spoke of a ballot box in a town where women vote and an Irish woman who had washed for six different families (this was the way her husband supported her) then went home and shoveled the snow off the sidewalk, a policeman passing in the meantime. She later went to cast her ballot, but being a short woman, could not reach the ballot box. The policeman who had seen her shoveling the snow offered to assist her cast the ballot, but she declined, saying if she could do washing for six days every week and shovel off snow, she had enough backbone to put a bit of paper in the ballot box. Mrs. Shaw said the burden of the ballot is the only burden woman is relieved of. A woman doesn't have to vote if she doesn't want to. If the Republic means anything it means the right of development with self-expression. The Republic stands for the right to serve, and the country cannot get along without women any more than men can.

Mrs. Shaw said women are begging now for the right of franchise, but men will come to beg them later on. She said this country had been too much fathered. There were fore-fathers, Pilgrim fathers, Revolutionary fathers and all kinds of fathers, but no mothers for the country. We have been fathered to death and have seen the evils of too much fathering. Mrs. Shaw closed her address amid prolonged applause.

## FOR HOSPITAL BENEFIT.

### George Forbes To Give Illustrated Lecture Tomorrow Night At Colonial Theatre.

Don't forget the day, Friday, February 25, and the place, the Colonial Theatre, when Mr. George Forbes, of Baltimore, will deliver an illustrated lecture for the benefit of the Annapolis Emergency Hospital.

Mr. Forbes' subject will be "Annapolis—Ancient and Modern." The lecture is entirely different from the one delivered here a year ago, with all new views. As a lecturer, Mr. Forbes is a great success. He has a pleasing voice, attractive personality and he talks in a conversational manner that is entertaining and agreeable.

Mr. Forbes' illustrations are beautiful and will please all who see them. He has lectured before large audiences of the most distinguished men of letters, and historic clubs in Maryland. He should be greeted by a large audience, especially as the proceeds of the lecture are for the hospital.

### Need Help.

A white woman, Mrs. Ida Wilson, of South River, was soliciting alms at the State House yesterday morning. She says she has five children, and she and they occupy one room, and she needs help in every way. The attention of the King's Daughters has been called to the matter.