

THE PHŒBE COUZINS CASE.

The decision of the United States District Court in the Phœbe Couzins case was adverse to the complainant. Judge Blodgett holds that the case all turned on the power of the executive committee of the board of lady managers to make a removal from the office of secretary of the committee, and that the board did have that power. The actual merits of the case were not under consideration. To the judge of the court of original jurisdiction the issue joined was purely legal, the interpretation of an act of Congress, and of proceedings thereunder. The executive board was clothed with all the power of the full board when the board itself was not in session, including the right to dismiss one secretary and install in her place another. Whether this is good law or not is a question for a higher court, in case of appeal, to decide, and nothing could be gained by newspaper discussion of it.

It is to be remembered that Miss Couzins is still a member of the board, one of the two representatives of the state of Missouri. In taking an appeal to the courts, instead of making the matter a bone of contention in the board and the occasion of a general squabble, she is to be commended. If she sees fit to prosecute her claim in the higher courts that is her privilege. She has no right to allow it to interfere with the progress of the work for which the board of managers was created and she herself made a member of it. Judging from her general record nothing of the kind is to be apprehended. Miss Phœbe Couzins has done much to reflect credit upon American womanhood, and it is deeply to be regretted that any break came in her relations to this executive committee. Her record as United States Marshal in St. Louis is a worthy companion piece to that made by Miss Sweet and Mrs. Mulligan in Chicago, and should have great weight in softening the asperities of this unfortunate episode.

There is a disposition in some quarters to make use of this Couzins case as evidence of woman's unfitness for public trusts. "See how they quarrel among themselves," say these carpers. But the truth is that in this respect the women have a far more creditable record than the men. A good many controversies with more or less bitterness have arisen on the male side of the management, but this is the only unpleasantness that has arisen from first to last on the female side. The lady managers are to be congratulated on their record in this respect. If they hold out as well to the end they will deserve special thanks from the women of the country for the demonstration of woman's fitness for public trusts.

From Chicago Evening Journal.

What the Phœbe Birds Say.

Just about six months ago,
When the skies were murky.
When appeared a hint of snow
And Thanksgiving turkey,
When the last songs of the year
Little birds had sung us
And the outer view was drear,
Phœbe came among us.

Dared from warmer place to roam,
Dared the breezes nippy,
Came from her Missouri home
On the Mississippi;
Brought her views of duty grand
And progressive, very.
Brought anticipations and
Was made Secretary.

Now it's spring. Already heard,
Honey-bees are humming,
'Tis the time for every bird:
Phœbe birds are coming.
"Phœbe! Phœbe!" Hear them call,
Sweetly and demurely,
Shall we disappoint them all?
'Twere a pity, surely!

What disaster has occurred?
Must what's got to be be?
Shall each little phœbe bird
Miss her cousin Phœbe?
Phœbe birds all know a heap,
Are of pretty feather
And good purpose. Let us keep
All of them together.

ARGUMENT OF JUDGE WAITE IN THE PHŒBE COUZINS CASE.

BEFORE JUDGE BLODGETT IN THE UNITED STATES COURT.

Judge Waite, in his opening argument in the Couzin's case, on Monday, June 27, on the hearing of Miss Couzin's application for an injunction, took the following positions.

1. The difference in the remedies, *quo warranto*, *mandamus* and injunction, was explained, and it was shown that injunction was the proper remedy in a case like this where expulsion from office was attempted; but the act was yet incomplete. Authorities for this position were given.

2. He claimed that the attempts to transform the commission into a smaller body, the board of reference and control,, and to transform the board of lady managers into a smaller body, the executive committee, were all illegal. Boards like these, consisting of public affairs, could not delegate their most important powers.

In all matters naturally requiring deliberation and consultation, the public who were interested had a right to expect and require that the body itself meet, deliberate and act.

Authorities cited.

3. The relations between the woman's board and Mrs. Palmer's executive committee were examined, and it was shown that the committee was illegally constituted, there being no representation of the standing committees on the executive committee, as the by-laws required.

Also that Mrs. Palmer had disregarded the resolution of the woman's board, which instructed or requested her to appoint the standing committees immediately, so that they could be represented on the executive committee.

4. The powers of the board of reference and control were examined, and it was shown from the by-laws of the commission that it was not intended to give to this new board any jurisdiction over the board of lady managers.

The powers of this board were specifically enumerated in the various by-laws. In the by-law concerning the standing committees the Board of Control is mentioned twenty times. In the 11th by-law, concerning the Board of Lady Managers, it was not mentioned once, though the Executive Committee was mentioned four times, and was given jurisdiction.

It is plain, also, from the wording of the 17th by-law, establishing the Board of Reference and Control, that the Commission did not intend to give it any authority over the Board of Lady Managers.

* * * * *

For Briefs of Judge C. B. Waite, Capt. Wm. C. Black and Robert Rae, able members of the Chicago bar, in behalf of Phœbe Couzins, send ten cents in stamps to Catharine Waugh McCullough, Atty., 1167 the Rookery, Chicago, Ill.

These arguments, written for the Secretary of the Treasury, sustain the independent position of the Board of Lady Managers granted by the Act of Congress.

Resolutions Adopted at a Called Meeting of the Professional and Business Women of the City of Chicago.

WHEREAS, the board of lady managers of the world's Columbian commission was created in the industrial interests of women, and:

WHEREAS, without the co-operation of the professional and business women of this and other countries, woman's part in the world's Columbian exposition cannot be a success: and

WHEREAS, the secretary of the board of lady managers represents the professional and business women of the country:

RESOLVED, That we view with much solicitude the differences which have arisen between the executive committee of the board acting under the authority of the board of control, and the secretary of the woman's board; a solicitude based not merely upon our desires for harmony in the board of lady managers or even exclusively upon our desire for the success of the fair itself, but upon our fear that such proceedings will result very unfavorably to woman's interests generally throughout the world.

RESOLVED, That we do not understand how the board of control can have any right or authority to change the by-laws of the woman's board, much less to authorize any committee or sub-committee to change them without the authority or consent of the board of lady managers.

RESOLVED, That the effect of this entire proceeding on the part of a portion of the national commission, if continued, will destroy the woman's board as a national organization.

RESOLVED, That we condemn most emphatically the ruling of the board of control, which transfers the correspondence of the woman's board from the secretary to the president, as a most unprecedented and unjustifiable proceeding.

RESOLVED, That we have viewed with amazement the unbusiness-like and unjust methods employed in attempting the removal from office of the secretary of the board of lady managers, and that we extend to Miss Couzins, as a representative of the professional and business women of the country, our hearty sympathy and promise her our co-operation and support.

RESOLVED, further, that we call upon her to stand firm in her position as secretary of the board of lady managers.

We the undersigned heartily endorse the above resolution passed at a mass meeting of the professional and business women of Chicago, assembled April 16th, 1891, in the Sherman House club room, and recommend that they be forwarded to the proper authorities for their serious consideration.

All but two signed.

A QUESTION OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS.

IS IT INTENDED TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER MEETING OF SAID BOARD?

In the answer filed by the members of the board of reference and control and by Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Cooke; to the bill of Miss Phœbe W. Couzins, in the Circuit Court of the United States, the following appears:

"Nor is it probable, by reason of the failure of Congress to make suitable appropriation to meet the expenses of such meetings of said board, that a full meeting thereof will be held for many months to come, and that therefore all the powers of said board of lady managers must be exercised by said committee (the executive committees of the board of lady managers under the authority conferred upon such committee by the said commission, at its April meeting, 1891.)"

The inference from this statement in the answer is, that the members of the board of reference and control, as well as Mrs. Palmer, the president of the board of lady managers, are now proceeding upon the theory that the so-called executive committee of the board of lady managers, the committee of twenty-five appointed by Mrs. Palmer, derives all its powers "under the authority conferred upon such committee by the said commission (the national commission) at its April meeting, 1891," instead of assuming that the executive committee of the board of lady managers derives its powers from said board of lady managers, said last named board finding its source of power in the Federal legislation under the act of April 25th 1890.

Upon the matter of the future meeting, or rather, non-meeting of the board of lady managers, following out the suggestion above quoted from the answer, upon his argument before Judge Blodgett, on the motion to remand Miss Couzins' case to the State court, Mr. Walker, who appeared for the board of reference and control and for Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Cooke, spoke as follows, May 11th, 1891:

"This matter has been before Congress, and there has been sharp and severe criticism upon the Federal commission for the expenditures and extravagance of the Federal commission, and especially that they had gone beyond the spirit of the act in appointing so large a board of lady managers, and authorizing annual or semi-annual sessions of that board at the expense of the Government, the expenses to be deducted or to be paid out of the appropriation made by Congress. It then became thoroughly established, at least to the satisfaction of the Federal commissioners and the board of lady managers, that they would not be permitted to hold either semi-annual or even annual meetings of this board of lady managers; and at the meeting last April of the Federal commission, a resolution which is recited or referred to in the answer, and which your honor will find in the printed copy of the proceedings, which is filed this morning by Judge Waite was adopted by the Federal commission, reciting that provisions had not been made for the meeting of the board of lady managers, and that it would be impracticable to call the board together, and certain enlarged powers were given to the executive committee. *Remember that there is no assurance, no certainty, not even a probability that the board of lady managers will ever convene again; that the entire work must be done here by the executive committee of the board or by correspondence with the women who are not members of that committee at their various residences in the several states. That is the theory upon which the work is now being prosecuted.*"

To this suggestion of Mr. Walker, on the occasion referred to, Mr. Black, speaking in behalf of Miss Couzins, replied as follows:

"My brother Walker asks us to assume that in the light of the later legislation of Congress there is manifested an intention that this board of lady managers shall be

in effect eliminated from existence, that there shall be no more meetings of this board of lady managers held; that a body of women, the peer of any body of women that has ever been assembled in the world, probably, shall be voted into *innocuous desuetude*; that the powers which by act of Congress were to be conferred upon them, and the duties which were to be prescribed to them, are instead to be performed and exercised by a little junto of ladies, which under the by-laws adopted by these ladies as is contended, has been appointed not by the commission, not by Congress, but by Mrs. Potter Palmer of the city of Chicago; for the question of dispute, which lies under all this trouble which is here before us, lies in the contention made in behalf of Mrs Palmer and practically espoused, as we claim, by the defendant in this case, that the executive committee of twenty-five of the board of lady managers is to be named absolutely by Mrs. Potter Palmer without the slightest control, and so it follows, if we are to trace out the theory suggested by my brother Walker, that Mrs. Potter Palmer and a special committee designated by her are to exercise all of the functions, duties and powers, of the board of lady managers for its entire term. I do not believe, if your Honor please, that Congress intends anything of that sort. I do not believe that your Honor is justified in assuming that the board of lady managers has held its first and last session. I do not believe that there is anything in this record or before your Honor to justify the conclusion that this board of lady managers, having met and organized, has passed simply and finally into history by that act. On the contrary your Honor is bound to conclude under the terms of the act, it seems to me, that this board will, from time to time, be called together again. They can come together, appropriation or no appropriation. there can be no doubt about that."

NOTE—I do not know with whom the following interviews were held. F. D.

From the Chicago Daily News.

THEY HAVE BEEN IDLE.

COMPLAINT OF LADY MANAGERS.

No Showing of Woman's Work Arranged for the World's Fair.

Complaints are being made by some of the lady managers about the unsatisfactory progress of their world's fair work. The local nine are disposed to object to the small part allowed them in the management. They argue that under the act of congress they were to be the executive board of the management. They assert that the methods recently adopted by the executive committee of the board of lady managers are not conducive to concentrated effort. They criticise the delay in appointing committees to push the work. The work, they claim, is in a state of lethargy, and that no one knows what to do.

"Months have passed since the board was organized, but so far practically no advance has been made," said one of the local lady managers yesterday. "The committees of the national commission were appointed long ago. The directory appointed its committees early in the work, but, except the executive body, no working committee has been named by the board of lady managers. Plans were formulated by the executive committee at their recent long meeting for working up interest in the fair, for starting classes in American history, for providing cheap boarding houses and kindred subjects, but practically no attention was paid to the matter of what would be exhibited in the woman's building, yet the funds for the building were provided by the directory months ago. According to the chief of construction that building will be under way within a month, but no provision is yet made for filling it.

NOTHING TO EXHIBIT.

"At this critical time in the work of preparing for the fair, when appropriations are pending in many states, when the Illinois legislature is struggling with one in which the board is anxious to share, when organization in every department is being hastened by the men's side of the management, everything is stopped in the line of providing exhibits or securing appropriations for the woman's department. Mrs. Potter Palmer, president of the board of lady managers, went to Europe last week for three months. Her trip is not made in the interests of the fair, although she will spend much of the time in Paris, getting information about the Paris exposition, but is merely her summer vacation in Europe.

"The office of the president is in charge of Mrs. Susan Gale Cooke, of Tennessee, who was elected secretary by the executive committee after the removal of Miss Phoebe Couzens from that office.

"I must confess that I am unable to see that anything has been accomplished to advance the prospects for a great woman's exhibit at the exposition."

TOO MUCH MATERNALISM.

Furnishing cheap boarding places for women who attend the fair, was one thing that received much attention. I believe that women who come to the fair, can be trusted to look out for themselves, with what aid they might receive from any ordinary bureau of public information. Forming classes for the study of American history is doubtless a very laudable enterprise, but I fail to see the necessity of an act of congress to provide funds for plans like that. I can study history whenever I choose. Organizing world's fair clubs in every small town to enable women to come to the exposition, is all very well, but it does not need the help of the board of lady managers of the fair. They should rather devote their entire time to the securing of a great exhibit, attractive enough to draw the attention of women and bring them to the fair. Instead of hunting for plans to educate women before the fair, they should provide an exhibit that would educate women while they are here, and will let them go home instructed and benefited and supplied with ideas that will be a constant help to them. The trouble with the ladies who are in charge of the workings of the executive committee, can be stated in one point. Their instincts are to help women by being charitable to them instead of by giving them opportunities to work for what they want. Women who are wealthy society leaders, naturally incline that way. Women of the industrial or professional class would rather incline to furnish a grand display of the work and success of women that would help all who came to see it. Schemes for cheap boarding houses and world's-fair-trip-for-a-prize clubs would never occur to them.

"The time is now getting so short that I am afraid the building will be finished long before any work has been done toward filling it. However, the committee may have some plans so grand and far-reaching that I cannot grasp them. If so, it is doubtful if they can be carried out in time.

SHOW WHAT WOMEN CAN DO.

"My own idea would have them to make a particularly fine exhibit of actual operations. For instance, in the industries of silk-raising and pottery-making women are very largely interested. I would have a complete exhibit of the silk industry, from the cocoon to the finished goods, every operation in actual performance by women. I would have women from all countries where fine lace is made, dressed in their home costume, engaged in that process. There should be a display of every operation of making pottery, from the designing to the burning, all done by women. When men walked down long lines of silk goods, they would appreciate the part that women had in them, from seeing the work done in the woman's building. There is no possible use in illustrating kindergarten methods, for that ground will be entirely covered in the educational department. In the woman's building should be an audience-room where noted women of the world, believers in every -ism under the sun, could make half-hour talks. Women could spend a half hour in that way in resting intervals, and more practical good would be done than by the congresses. I have no faith in them.

The Woman's Christian Temperance union can always get a great convention, and it does not need the help of a world's fair. In fact that would draw attention from the Woman's Christian Temperance union and the meeting would not be as successful as if held at another time.

"This idea of Mrs. Palmer's to have a working committee of three to serve three or four weeks and then another to succeed them, and so on until all the lady managers have had a turn, is one of the strangest things I ever heard of. The result would be a regular piece of patchwork. Who can believe that by the time the work had passed through the hands of thirty or forty committees, each with different ideas, it would have any resemblance to the original? It would be ridiculous. There should be some chief with executive ability. I suppose that it was the intention that Mrs. Palmer should fill that position."

ANOTHER MANAGER TALKS.

Another lady manager, who is thoroughly posted on the subject, said: "At the first meeting of the executive committee the principal topic of discussion was how to provide cheap boarding houses. All their attention has been devoted to such things as that. Time is passing very rapidly and prospects for the woman's exhibit get worse every day. Many members of the board of lady managers are seriously considering the necessity of radical measures of relief. No practical work is being done, and there is no executive ability in charge.

"Mrs. Palmer has not even secured one of the eight vice-presidents to take her place in the president's office during her absence in Europe. Mrs. Susan Gale Cooke, whose tenure of office is extremely uncertain, being now dependent on the courts, is left in charge, with the assistance of the clerks. It is only solicitude for the real good of the fair that has caused these members of the board to make their fears public."

From Chicago Times, Wednesday, May 13, 1891.

THE PHOEBE COUZINS CASE.

Mr. Springer claimed the floor and said he had something to bring up, although he did not care to have it disposed of just then. He referred to letters he had been receiving from ladies in this and neighboring states and expressed the fear that the ill feeling arising from the treatment of Miss Couzins might affect the enterprise, and especially the lady managers. To avoid this, therefore, he had prepared and offered the following:

Whereas, Miss Phoebe Couzins of Missouri has been deposed from the position of secretary of the board of lady managers of the world's fair by the president of said board; and

Whereas, A serious doubt exists as to the power of the president of said board to depose the secretary, elected to her position by the full board of lady managers at the same time and in the same manner as the president thereof was elected; therefore, be it

Resolved by the World's Fair Committee of the House of Representatives, that it would be to the best interests of the fair and in the interest of harmony that Miss Couzins should be reinstated as secretary of said board until legally deposed by vote of the entire board of lady managers.

IT BROKE THEM ALL UP.

Decorum was an unknown quantity when this had been read. A dozen members were gesticulating and indulging themselves in alternately asking recognition and poking fun at Mr. Springer. Mr. May moved to table the resolution, but Mr. Springer called the attention of the chair to the fact that he had not relinquished the floor and wished to speak further. He said he did not know Miss Couzins, whereupon there were derisive shouts, necessitating the use of a paper-weight by Capt. Farrell with renewed vigor. This warmed Mr. Springer up and he scored the committee for ridiculing his utterances, which were made in good faith. He was simply acting in response to communications he had received urging him to do what he had. He maintained that the resolution was introduced not for action, and consequently the committee could not exercise jurisdiction over it until he moved its disposition.

"It is not in the hands of the committee yet," reasoned Mr. Merritt. "The clerk has received no copy yet."

"It has been passed over on the table," retorted Mr. Paddock.

"I simply passed it over to the clerk of my own committee," explained Mr. Springer.

"There is nothing before the committee," insisted Mr. Merritt. "The committee can do nothing with the resolution until the member introducing it moves its disposition."

"Well, if there is nothing before the committee what is all this argument about?" queried Mr. Reed of Gallatin.

When Dorsey Patton, in the interest of harmony, sagely remarked that the resolution should be treated seriously and proper respect be shown Miss Couzins.

"We don't want to hear anything about Miss Couzins," interjected Capt. Farrell. "I do not think the gentleman should bring up anything here regarding Miss Couzins."

"A motion to adjourn is in order."

"An't I in order, Mr. Chairman?" petulantly inquired Mr. May.

"There is nothing before the committee," was Chairman Farrell's decision, and he declared the committee adjourned.

From the Woman's Tribune.

Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury by Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, April 13, 1891.

To the Secretary of the Treasury.

DEAR SIR:—Will you do me the personal favor to read the accompanying letter and answer the following questions. 1. To whom will the \$37,000 given by Congress for the use of the Board of Lady Managers be paid and for what purposes?

2. As Chairman of the Committee of Finance have I any duties present or prospective in relation to this appropriation?

Permit me to add that I was chairman of the committee on permanent organization and do know that with entire unanimity our Board decided that the President should appoint twelve standing committees on classification to correspond with those of the Commission and that the member selected by each committee for that purpose should become a member of the Executive committee and the other twelve members of the Executive Committee should be appointed by the President, who was to be chairman of the committee and the Secretary to be a member of it in order to record its proceedings but without a vote.

Mrs. Palmer wished time to select the members of these standing committees and asked ladies to study the schedule and send her the committees on which they would wish to serve and we separated with the understanding that we should be notified of her selection in due time. But no appointments have been made (except that Mrs. Palmer at the last moment made me chairman of a committee on finance and in February summoned me to Washington in that capacity) and it was with surprise and regret that I learned through the newspapers that under the influence of the Board of Control she had appointed the whole Executive Committee and summoned them to meet in Chicago on the 8th of April.

Meeting Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Trautman in New York on April 9th on my way home from a three weeks' absence they told me that they had protested with earnestness against this usurpation of authority by the Board of Control and urged me to do the same—whereupon I wrote in great haste the accompanying letter to "members of the Board of Lady Managers now assembled in Chicago." I sent it to Mrs. French of Boston and asked her to read it to the ladies.

It would be a great relief to many of us if we could be assured of a meeting of the whole Board the first week in May, and it is in the hope that you can bring this about that I trouble you with this letter. I am with great respect truly yours.

Isabella Beecher Hooker.

Letter from Isabella Beecher Hooker to the Member of the Board of Lady Managers now assembled in Chicago.

GRAND UNION HOTEL, NEW YORK, April 9th, 1891.

To the Members of the Board of Lady Managers Now Assembled in Chicago:

Dear Friends:—As chairman of the Finance Committee I had hoped to be invited to attend the first meeting of the Executive Committee whenever it should be duly appointed, in order to assure the ladies of the cordial attitude of both Houses of Congress toward our board, and especially of their desire that we should convene in April or May for the purpose of completing our organization and laying out plans of work. This was made manifest to me chiefly through Senator Hawley who had charge of our bill before the Senate, and who as President of the Centennial of 1876 is much relied on in all matters pertaining to the present Exposition. On first approaching him in reference to an early meeting of our whole board, he was inclined to think this unnecessary and advised leaving all business for the coming year in the hands of an Executive Committee when duly appointed. I asked him to read the enclosed paper and after doing so he said, "I will take you to Mr. Allison, chairman of the Senate Committee on appropriations—he is hardly accessible now; it is the last day of his committee and they are handling millions of money, but he will give you a few minutes at my request, if it is possible. In the course of the morn-

ing Mr. Allison came to me in company with Mr. Hawley and on my explaining briefly that Congress in cutting down the appropriation to the commissioners had made it impossible for our Board to meet this Spring, yet this was absolutely necessary, since we had as yet no standing committees appointed, nor Executive Committee nor definite plan of work either State or National:—he replied very briefly, "Congress has no intention to cripple your Board in this way. The Commission will be able to call you together and ought to do so." When I suggested that it was hardly in human nature that gentlemen should put their hands in their own pockets for any such purpose he replied, "Madam, what I have to say to you is that when President Thomas Palmer shall have called a meeting of your Board next month the money will be forth-coming to pay all legitimate expenses." I said, "May I pledge you to this and write President Palmer accordingly?" "You may Madam—good morning." And Senator Hawley witnessing and assenting I left the Senate with a light heart and in a few days I wrote President Palmer a full account of the interview. I asked him to call a meeting in May rather than April. He replied by his secretary that he was ill and just going to Florida but would write me again on his return. Not hearing I supposed that he felt there was ample time for conference with Senators Hawley and Allison, and seeing by the newspapers that Congress had set apart \$36,000 for our use during the coming fiscal year I felt no uneasiness, since this sum would be ample for an early meeting of the board and for all possible expenses of committee meetings afterward.

Just now I have received a copy of the minutes of the board of control and on page twenty-three I observe a resolution thanking the committee on finance of which I was made chairman by Mrs. Palmer in November last, "for their successful effort in procuring from the Congress of the United States the appropriation for the coming fiscal year etc." Yet I have never made any report to the board of control, nor been asked to do so, nor indeed knew of the existence of such a body. It was sufficient to me that Congress was induced to make this generous appropriation partly through my personal effort, and when our board should next meet I intended to present to it my official report of the informal gathering of our committee in Washington.

I will only add, dear friends, that article 5, page 18 of the board of control not only assumes without cause that Congress would disapprove of a meeting of our board this spring but proceeds to put all power and authority into the hands of an executive committee which has never yet been appointed by our president in accordance with our constitution and by-laws.

As there is plainly a misunderstanding somewhere and as I am deeply interested not only in the exposition but in the *morale* of our board and of the commission through whom we were called into being, I pray you dear friends in council assembled to refrain from legislative action, and permit me to counsel you, as the oldest member of our dearly beloved board and chairman of the only committee duly appointed (so far as I know) to use your influence with the board of control to call an early meeting of our whole board, that all things may be done decently and in order. I am faithfully and affectionately yours for our whole beloved country.

Isabella Beecher Hooker

Reply of Secretary Foster to Mrs. Hooker.

After repeating the questions Secretary Foster said:

"In reply I have to advise you that the clause making appropriations for the World's Columbian Exposition reads as follows:

"For the World's Columbian commission \$95,000, of which \$36,000 shall be used for the board of lady managers."

"I am of the opinion that the \$36,000 named can only be expended by authority of the World's Columbian commission, and that said commission must determine in what manner the said sum shall be expended. In reply to your second question I have to state that this office has no control whatever over and is not required by law to supervise in any manner the duties of any member of any committee of the board of lady managers. Article 2 of the by-laws of the commission provides the method by which the board of lady managers shall be under the control and determined by the executive committee of the board. Yours respectfully, *Charles Foster*"

From the Inter Ocean, May 14, 1891.

A WOMAN'S COLUMBIAD.

World's Fair Lady Manager Wise, of Virginia, Explodes an Epistolary Bomb.

She Declares Mrs. B. M. H. Palmer Has Canceled Everything but Her Own Election.

VIRGINIA LADY MANAGERS OUTSPOKEN.

The following open letter from Mrs. Eva Douglass Wise, Columbian Lady Manager from the Old Dominion, is addressed to Mrs. B. M. H. Palmer, president of the board of lady managers. Its tone is as unmistakable as calm, a single sentence toward the close concisely summing up the whole indictment: "You have been put in the attitude of ignoring and undoing everything done by the board except your own election." Mrs. Wise, a member of one of "Virginia's first families," has the courage of her convictions, and in a supplementary communication has threatened to resign if justice is not done to the lady managers' board, whose own self-respect she declares has been outraged even more than the feelings and rights of Miss Couzins by the attempted deposition of the secretary of the board of lady managers:

NEW YORK, May 11.—Dear Mrs. Palmer: General Groner informs me that you did not receive my first letter to you, dated March 31, 1891, written immediately after your appointment of your executive committee. I send you a copy of that letter. It was written a week before my letter to Miss Couzins. I never before understood why you did not answer my inquiries.

I left Chicago distinctly understanding that of the executive committee of the board of lady managers twelve members were to be designated from the twelve standing committees. I was attentive to all the proceedings of the board, and thought I understood this clearly. Soon after my return Miss Couzins inquired as to my recollections of the proceedings. My memory was distinct, and I fortified it by reference to the printed minutes of Nov. 21. The fourth paragraph of the report on permanent organization, as amended and adopted, corroborated me fully. I did not then know of any conflict between paragraph 4 of the report of the committee on permanent organization and article 5 of the by-laws subsequently adopted.

The minutes of Nov. 21 were promulgated under your supervision. Referring to them you will perceive that they represent you as having read the whole of paragraph 4 of the report on permanent organization, and as stating same as amended and adopted. The report thus published and the minutes were not corrected, although we remained in session a week after their appearance. I brought home with me my minutes and I have them still.

I next saw the announcement that you had appointed the entire executive committee. Knowing the standing committees had not been announced, whence at least twelve of the executive committee were to come, and being at a loss to understand your action, I wrote to you at once asking an explanation but never received any reply. The letter was the one of which I send you a copy. Not hearing from you I wrote to Miss Couzins, our secretary, making inquiries. Some days later Miss Couzins wrote to me, and from her letters and inclosures I inferred that you derived your authority to appoint our executive committee from the action of the board of control of the executive committee of the commission.

I was aware that the law creating the board of lady managers gave us only such "powers and duties" as the executive committee of the commission should prescribe; but I doubted then and still doubt the right of the executive committee of the commission to delegate its delegated powers over us, to a sub-committee of its own creation. But even overlooking that I was surprised that either the executive committee of the commission or its sub-committee, the board of control, should, after permitting us to adopt a plan of permanent organization, etc., proceed to undo our whole work as soon as we had dispersed.

You had been located by us and were, as I thought, limited by us to certain modes of action. I was unable to comprehend how you could ignore all the limitations imposed on you by us, and submit altogether to the new authority of the board of control.

These views I frankly expressed to Miss Couzins after waiting a week and receiving no reply from you.

It appears from the circular recently distributed by your executive committee that you claim power of appointment of the executive committee as derived not so much from authority of the board of control of the executive committee of the commission as from

article 5 of the by-laws of the board of lady managers, adopted some days after the adoption of article 4 of the plan of permanent organization. I did not have in my possession a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the board of lady managers on the day the by-laws were adopted. I, however, found a copy of the minutes of that day's proceedings, as originally printed, in possession of Mrs. Verdenal. There is a plain conflict between article 4 of the plan of organization as adopted and article 5 of the by-laws as adopted. The plan of permanent organization is just as I thought it to be. The by-laws of article 5 are different, but even as adopted the article forces the conclusion that you were to appoint the twelve standing committees before you designated an executive committee.

If the plan of organization meant anything it meant that it was to be the organic chart and guide thenceforth of our action. If inconsistent with the law of our creation it was void, but in so far as it conformed to the law of our creation that plan became engrafted upon and a part of the law of our being. And after the adoption by the full board of lady managers of this plan of permanent organization any action subsequently had must of necessity conform to it, whether such action was by resolution, by-laws or otherwise. Before such conflicting action could be lawful it was necessary to amend the plan of permanent organization. If such conflict arose without amendment of the plan of permanent organization, the plan of permanent organization should stand, and the inconsistent action should fall. The theory that such conflicting action would repeal by implication the existing plan of organization would make the plan of organization nothing, for where not infringed upon it would not be called in question, and where infringed upon it would be repealed by implication.

I am still, therefore, of opinion that article 4 of the plan of organization is binding on you, and that article 5 of the by-laws, so far as in conflict with article 4 of the plan of organization, is null and void, and of no effect: and even if it be valid you were still bound by its terms to designate your twelve standing committees and appoint from them twelve members, one from each of the twelve standing committees. And according to the spirit and intention of all that was done at the full meeting of the board of lady managers, I am equally satisfied that the twelve standing committees were to present to you for appointment those twelve members.

As you have now appointed the executive committee, if twelve of its members hereafter become members of the twelve standing committees because they are already members of the executive committee, and not members of the executive committee because they were members of the standing committees. This is an exact reversal of what was intended, and deprives those standing committees of the right of presentation to you from their respective bodies, of persons of their own preference, for membership on the executive committee. But the fact that there is such a by-law puts your action in a new light, and relieves you from the criticism of submitting to other authority than that which made you president.

There can be no pretense of altering these minutes as to by-laws, for Mrs. Verdenal had them as published at the time, and if any one thought them incorrect they should have moved to correct them while our board was in session. So the advocates of both theories as to what action our board took about appointing the executive committee are in default in this, that with proceedings published inconsistent with either theory, neither sought to have them corrected. The discovery of these minutes in possession of Mrs. Verdenal has left me in utter confusion of mind. They not only contain matter as to which I was ignorant, but they omit motions as to which I was fully advised. I presume in this state of affairs no one can decide what the board actually did until it meets again and decides for itself.

Meanwhile let me say to you, that you greatly mistake my animus if you fancy I am the personal partisan of Miss Couzins or in any sense your adversary, save as an honest and respectful difference of opinion may make such. For you personally I have the highest regard, and fully appreciate at what sacrifice of time and comfort you fill your position.

I do, however, regret on your account the method selected for announcing the executive committee and that resorted to for displacing Miss Couzins. You have been put in the attitude of ignoring and undoing everything done by the board except your own election. This has cast a decided damper upon the enthusiasm of all the lady members except the twenty-five selected by you as executive committee; and their circular address to their ninety-five neglected sisters is not calculated to revive their interest or reassure them on doubtful points. You are mistaken if you think I have been "mystified" about these matters. I have seen everything very calmly, because I have no ambitions to gratify, and could not spare the time for the duties of any important position. I know that the board of lady managers can best do good by harmony and enthusiasm diffusing itself throughout the land, and regret that neither the one nor the other has so far been accomplished. I regret it more on your account than my own, for I wish you personally every success. With best wishes I am sincerely yours,

EVA DOUGLAS WISE.

An open letter to President Thos. W. Palmer from Isabella Beecher Hooker.

HON. THOMAS W. PALMER,

President of the World's Columbian Commission.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to ask that in furtherance of an amicable adjustment of differences which have arisen in the prosecution of the work of the board of lady managers, in consequence of the rulings of the board of control, you will call an early meeting of our whole board and provide a suitable hall for their deliberations, which shall be wholly under their supervision and control.

My reason for this is, that our much trusted and well beloved president, Mrs. Bertha Honore Palmer, has under advice from yourself made, as I think, two grievous mistakes, which are the chief cause of the present painful controversy. The first mistake was in not appointing the twelve classification committees immediately after our adjournment, as she fully intended to do. In her admirable report to the executive committee of the board of lady managers, she says, "President Thomas W. Palmer advised that the committees be not named until our status had been settled by Congress." In my judgment nothing could establish our status with Congress so much as the appointment of the twelve committees on classification, composed of nine members each, 108 in all, who were expected to educate themselves during the coming year for the very important duties of serving on the committees of 1892, who should, in the words of the Act of Congress, "Award prizes for exhibits which may be produced in whole or in part by female labor." It seemed to me in proposing these committees, that it was of no consequence whether there were women among us already qualified for accurate judgments on the various "departments of classification," which are these, Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Wild Animals, Fishes, Fish Products and Apparatus, Mines and Mining, Machinery, Transportation, Manufactures, Electricity, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Progress of Labor and Invention,—because I knew that we were all ready and eager to study anything and everything that would make us the peers of the gentlemen of the commission who would serve on these committees, and with a whole year to work in I had faith to believe we could hold our own in the business management of the great Exposition. There seemed to me to be only two of these committees on which it might be found difficult to secure the service of competent women; these were Electricity and the Fisheries:—but lately I have discovered that we have a member of our board who might be called an expert in electricity, having been for years intimately associated with that master magician, Edison, and become familiar with some of his most intricate work.

And as to the fisheries and fish apparatus, I do now offer to make myself competent to act as chairman of that committee and thereby to add something to the general stock of knowledge on this subject. I had preferred to serve on the committee of Fine Arts and was not without the hope that I might be selected by my fellow members of that committee for appointment on the executive committee, so that eventually I might have some voice in the selection and hanging of pictures in the Art gallery of the exposition. But this would be of small consequence to me provided the general intelligence of our board might be brought to bear upon every department of the exposition.

Your second mistake (if you will pardon my presumption in assuming that you could be liable to mistakes) was in advising our President thus:—"In forming the executive committee," she says, "I have followed the advice of President Palmer and others of experience, who recommend that I pay not so much attention to geographical divisions as to securing an able and harmonious committee; that our executive committee should above all things be harmonious, since so large a committee without harmony would be unable to accomplish any good work." In my opinion the executive committee should above all things be representatives of the States and Territories which *constitute the board of lady managers*. It is *Sovereign States* to which we are to appeal for funds to carry on State work, not to a harmonious executive committee, and when the six great states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi find that they have not a single representative on the executive committee, it will be small consolation to them, I fear, to learn that the executive committee were "harmonious" in excluding them; especially as they have each (in common with all the states) but two lady managers,

while the state of Illinois has eleven, and three of these are on the executive committee. It is to be considered, also, that the small states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and the District of Columbia have each a representative on the committee, while but a single Territory is represented. Surely a harmonious board is of more importance than a harmonious executive committee, whose duty it is to become harmonious by courteous conference among its members and obedience to the laws of justice and fair dealing.

And just here permit me to call your attention to the recent remarkable action of the executive committee of the board of lady managers in appointing "several women" to go abroad and gather exhibits of woman's work in Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chili, the Argentine Republic and Central America. In other words, thousands of dollars of our scanty store are to be spent in collecting exhibits from foreign women, while eighty-one members of the board of lady managers are denied an opportunity during the coming fiscal year, not only of meeting each other for conference and comparison of views, but are robbed of the opportunity to make the acquaintance of the resident members of the commission proper, and of the officers of the World's Columbian Commission who have in charge the conduct of the whole Exposition. And this, too, when it is manifest that our brothers of the Commission will have foreign agents everywhere on good salaries, with whom our President could communicate in her own admirable manner, and who would not fail, at her request, to prosecute the work for exhibits from women at the same time with those of men.

In view of these facts I am driven to the conclusion that the board of control has failed to comprehend the great purposes for which the board of lady managers was created by Congress, and which has been better expressed by yourself than by any other person, in these words concerning the "Candler Congressional Report:"

"In regard to the 115 lady managers, the appointment of whom I am told the Congressional committee condemns, I would state that this is a matter of opinion, and that opinion would be largely controlled by the individual's estimate of woman's status, woman's work and woman's influence at this time in the United States. So far as the practical part of the work is concerned, I believe their efforts will benefit the fair financially as much as the commission itself. They have outlined a policy, unsuggested by the commission, whereby the fair will receive an amount of aid and advertising without money which could not be obtained by the expenditure of a very large sum. As to begrudging the women of the country \$12,000 or \$15,000 a year for their annual meeting, the people of the country can judge each for himself. My individual opinion is, that bringing the best women of the country together, from the north and south, once or twice a year on a national mission, where each one is interested and actively employed in promoting a great national work, will, aside from the utility of such connections, have an immense effect in promoting the unification of the people of the different sections, and this alone is worth more than the million and a half which Congress has appropriated for all expenses. As to the point the committee made that the work is not sufficiently advanced for women to deal with it, my opinion is that we want their aid from start to finish in this work, and I believe the committee would so decide if they knew what the women were doing and what they promise to do."

My appeal then is to the commission itself, whose executive committee gave us in November, at our last memorable interview with them, the following *Carte blanche*: "Resolved, that the methods and agencies adopted by the board of lady managers in carrying forward the duties imposed upon them by the Act of Congress, shall be devised and executed by said board, without any direction or control of this committee, but subject to the approval of this committee."

We read in the good book that no man can serve two masters, but the board of control has decided that the women of the board of lady managers shall serve three masters—namely, Congress, the Commission and the Board of Control; and have constituted themselves sole interpreters of the meaning and intent of the various Acts of Congress and of the commission in our behalf. For myself I repudiate this action and appeal through you to our sole master, *The Commission*, to whom we are profoundly grateful for kind consideration in the past and who cannot in honor turn us over to a new authority without our consent.

I am dear Sir with great respect,

Fraternally yours,

ISABELLA BEECHER HOOKER.