

and history, judging from some of its resolutions. For instance, the first declares:

That while many events at the North and a large share of the action of Congress may well encourage us, the same, mainly independence and self-respect of the colored people of the South, with their courageous assertion and use of their political rights and singularly clear comprehension of the nation's need and situation, give us good ground to hope that the real foundations for permanent peace and enduring nationality are securely laid.

Probably none doubt the determination of the party in power to make General Grant the next President, of whom another resolution justly declares, as follows:

Resolved, That we have no evidence that Gen. Grant sympathizes with the radical statement of the Republican party, and we regard as utter treason to the nation's peace the hoodlum, unreasoning and mad idolatry which would give him the Presidency; while no man is able or authorized to tell what are his views on the great national issues.

What kind of foundation for permanent peace and enduring nationality is there in a Presidential prospect like this? Woman's disfranchisement, the only real slavery now left, the society refuses to recognize even by resolution.

The newspaper reports tell of "only two or three hundred present" at the meeting. This was perhaps true of only the opening session.

OUR YOUNG GIRLS.

From the mass of women, with their shrivelled bodies and brains, we have little to hope in the regeneration of the race. Philosophers, physicians, and principals of girl's schools alike testify to the degeneracy of American women. It is a fact not to be winked out of sight. We ask our readers to look through their whole circle of friends and see if they can find one mother of a family healthy, vigorous, happy, high-toned in mind and body. With varied occupation and a rigid observance of the laws of health, their condition might be improved, their pains and sorrows ameliorated, and life made comparatively happy to the end. But for a Revolution in the whole life of the race, for a new and higher type of womanhood, we must look to the young girls of our day.

If we would change our homes from what they now are, mere hospitals for the diseased and dissatisfied, to retreats of joy and rest; our wives from fretful invalids to vigorous companions in the world of thought and work; our children from whining skeletons to loving, happy angels at our firesides, we must lay the foundation now in the physical education of our girls. The first step in this work is to make all women understand that suffering is not in harmony with God's will. That every pain, sorrow and wrong is in violation of his law. We have been taught that woman is the special object of God's wrath and curse; that the fact of motherhood, so far from being her highest glory and exaltation, is her deepest sorrow and humiliation. One can hardly measure the depressing effect of this one false idea forever pressed on woman's soul; out of this ignorance of the science of life come all these absurd theories of the natural weakness and disabilities of woman. Now, how can you give our girls a sense of guilt when they are sick, or stimulate them to work for health and happiness, if you teach them that suffering is theirs by the direct fiat of heaven, instead of the result of violated law through generations? Let our girls know that they have God on their side; that He holds no special malice towards the daughters of Eve; that, by the same law that they have cursed the

race in their weakness, they shall redeem it in their strength. Teach them if they obey these laws, they too, will be as free and happy, as full of health and vigor in their future lives, as the boys by their side. Take down your fences everywhere for sex, throw your time-worn theories to the winds, and let your daughters feel that they too have a right to the universe; that their home is the world and their duties wherever they find food for thought or work to do.

Having given the girl the same sense of dignity, of self-respect, of freedom that the boy has, remove every trammel of dress and custom that impedes her pursuit of him in every department of life. Nature intended that boys and girls should be together in the home, in the school, in the world of work. The difference in sex being a difference in mind as well as body, is a healthy stimulus to every faculty. It is the isolation of the sexes that breeds all this sickly sentimentality, these romantic reveries, these morbid appetites, the listlessness and lassitude of our girls. They need the companionship of boys to stimulate them to more active exercise and vigorous thought. But, cries some one, Nature intended boys and girls for different spheres and we must educate them differently. Nature needs none of our help to keep any of her creatures in their spheres. Our business is to develop every faculty and power that human beings possess! If God had intended that women should dress and move round like churms on castors, he would have made them without legs. If he had intended that in walking they should make no use of arms, but have them pinioned to their sides with their hands in muffs, like chickens skewered to roast, he would have made them without arms like heathen idols.

If he had intended that they should bring their waists to a circumference of twelve inches, he would kindly have dispensed with a double set of vital organs. In providing woman with brains, vital organs, legs and arms like man, it is evident that Nature intended to fit her for similar emergencies in the journey of life. Another important step in securing the health of our girls is an entire change in dress. If boys were dressed as girls of twenty are, you would soon see them losing all pleasure for outdoor games and sports, and moving about in the same languid manner as girls now do. Some years ago the cadets at West Point made the experiment of dressing without suspenders and tightening the pantaloons around the waist. After a time they were all affected with an epidemic, for which the physician could not account. After much examination and thought, it was decided to be the result of the new mode of dress. They returned to the use of suspenders, and the disease was removed. Shall the horrid tragedy that has just occurred in our city, a young girl, dropping dead in the street from tight lacing, call forth nothing but a passing comment in our journals?

We conjure you, fathers, husbands, brothers, to give this question of woman's dress your serious consideration. Your ridicule is more powerful to set women right than reasoning on this subject, than all the sufferings they endure. No woman, though she puff like a porpoise going up-stairs, will admit her clothes are tight. You may ask your daughter, with her wasp-like waist, a dozen times a day, if her dress is not tight, and she will tell you no; and her mother will tell you that "Julia's waist always tapered just so." Do not believe a word of it. Nature never sent forth such "journey work." No girl was ever born into the world with her ribs

lapped, and her vital organs all crowded together. If to propitiate some evil genius, we must cramp and trammel one sex, let the boys be the victims hereafter; it would not be half as detrimental to the race as is our system to-day.

We know it is hard to remedy any existing evil, but something must be done in this matter, for it is not only a question of fashion, but involves public health and morals. "Of all the tyrants that ever ruled the world," says Milton, "none so cruel, so unrelenting as Custom."

It is nonsense to talk of the minds and morals of our daughters until their bodies are made whole. "You cannot make a soldier out of a sick man," said Napoleon. Neither can you make a saint, a scholar, or a happy, healthy mother out of a woman whose vital organs are all out of place.

If for no higher motive than the improvement of the men of our nation, let public thought be given to the consideration of the physical education of our girls, to everything that can exalt, dignify and inspire woman. Make the women of the nation what they should be, and we shall have done with crotchety Presidents, dawdling Congressmen, drunken generals, servile editors, and sickly poets. Remember the stream rises no higher than its source.

E. C. S.

INFANTICIDE.

The remarkable mortality among natural or illegitimate children is a topic agitating the Press very largely just now in America, England and France. The system of boarding them out for slow murder (that is about what it comes to) is alarmingly on the increase among the well-to-do in this country and England, as is evidenced by the cases that now and then rise to the surface, and are soon; while the advertisements of those willing to take "infants to board" tell a sad tale of the demand they propose to supply. In the late debate of the Corps Legislatif on the Emperor's new Army bill, M. Jules Favre made a tremendous point against the enforced celibacy of so large a proportion of young Frenchmen, declaring that it must result in an increase of illegitimate births. And the sad condition of such children in France is shown by the fact that in the Department of the Loire Inferieure the mortality among them is 90 per cent; and in the Eure-et-Loire 95 per cent. It is impossible for us to shut our eyes to these facts. They tell a common story—that of extravagance, celibacy, vice, and consequent degeneration. Where lies the remedy? —N. P. Times.

In the independence of woman. "Give a man a right over my substance," says Alexander Hamilton, "and he has a right over my whole moral being." When the world of work is open to woman, and it becomes as respectable as it is necessary to happiness for women of the higher classes, as well as others, to have some regular and profitable employment, then will woman take her true position as dictator in the social world.

The common excuse that young men give, in our higher circles, for not being married is, that they cannot afford to support a wife. Our idea is, that every woman of sound mind and body, with brains and two hands, is more noble, virtuous and happy in supporting herself. So long as woman is dependent on man, her relation to him will be a false one, either in marriage or out of it; she will despise herself and hate him whose desires she gratifies for the necessities of life; the children of such unions must needs be unloved and deserted. When women have their own property and business, they will choose and not be chosen; they will marry the men they love, or not at all; and where there is love between the parents, children will ever find care and protection. The strongest feeling of a true woman's nature is her love for her child; and