

# **Bridget's Sisters**

**A Play**

**BY**

**Catharine Waugh McCulloch**

1987.35

BRIDGET'S SISTERS

OR

The Legal Status of Illinois Women in 1868

BY

CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

An incident very similar to the one shown in this play occurred in the life of Mrs. Myra Bradwell about the year 1868. She was garnisheed by a saloonkeeper to pay a debt due him by a drunkard whose wife had left with Mrs. Bradwell for safe keeping some of her hard-earned wages. When Mrs. Bradwell was forced by law to pay these savings to the saloonkeeper she and other public-spirited women secured the passage of a law making a wife's wages her own property and no longer the property of her husband. These same people were active in the organizing of the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association and the two matters are here linked together.

The Mrs. Bradley of the play is in no way like Mrs. Bradwell, for Mrs. Bradwell's legal education would have made it unnecessary for her to ask so many legal questions as did Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Bradwell and her husband, too, had long been suffragists. Mrs. Bradley represents the home-loving type of woman.

The other women in the play represent the different types of women, who, with a common sisterly spirit, saw their own duty toward their helpless women neighbors. The men of the play are average men, no one of whom desires any harm to women in general. A discussion of the legal situation, however, arouses some of them to action. The legal condition of women before this time and the gradual changes which followed are briefly shown in a note at the close of the play.

C. W. McC.

# Bridget's Sisters

(A Play in Two Acts)

TIME—NOVEMBER, 1868

PLACE—CHICAGO, ILL.

## PERSONS

MARY BRADLEY	...	...	A Home-loving Woman
JOHN BRADLEY	...	...	Husband of Mary
BRIDGET O'FLANNIGAN	...		A Washerwoman
PATRICK O'FLANNIGAN			A Drunkard, Husband of Bridget
MR. SUMMONS	...	...	A Constable
MR. COMMON LAW	...	...	A Justice of the Peace, Talkative But Accurate
MR. VULTURE	...	...	A Saloon Keeper
MR. SHARP	...	...	His Attorney, Only Insisting on His Client's Legal Rights
MRS. PIOUS	}	...	Various Employers of Bridget
MRS. ADOREMEN			
MRS. TAKERIGHTS			
MRS. EQUITY			
MRS. BITTER			

## ACT I.

SCENE: *In late afternoon in November. Front hall in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley. A large clock is in the hall. Mrs. Bradley enters talking with Bridget, who, with her shawl over her head, is ready to go home.*

MRS. BRADLEY: You have had a hard day's work at washing, Bridget and I will pay you more than your regular price of one dollar. I will make you a little present of fifty cents more.

BRIDGET: (*Taking the money*) May all the Saints bless your swate soul! You are always so generous to a poor body, and I thank you kindly. (*She courtesies, then takes the money to the clock and puts it in an envelope there*)

MRS. BRADLEY: (*Smilingly*) Well, Bridget, how much is there now in this bank of yours?

BRIDGET: This makes \$15.00 here in the clock and I can soon get every one of my darlints some warrum shoes and woolen underclothes. I must buy yarn so I can knit some stockings for their father, too. Sure mum, I can not save much from my wages. I use every cent other people pay me for food to eat and for rent, and sometimes Pat gets away my pay when he is raging drunk, and that's pretty hard.

MRS. BRADLEY: Your husband will never get that \$15.00. The old clock tells no stories and you know you can trust me never to tell anyone.

BRIDGET: Yes, I know you are the truest friend I have, and I laugh inside every time I think about how old Pat is fooled.

MRS. BRADLEY: (*A sound of the baby crying a little startles her*) Oh, there is baby, not quiet yet. Excuse me, Bridget. Let yourself out by the front door. It locks itself. I must have baby fast asleep before his papa comes to dinner. Goodbye. (*She hurries out and is heard humming to the baby while Bridget talks*)

BRIDGET: 'Tis a rich woman I am with \$15; more than I have seen for many a day. Perhaps I might buy little Pat some shoes to-night on my way home. How cunning the little darlint would look. It might soften up the heart of old Pat himself. Mostly he has been a good husband and niver lays on me the weight of a finger or gives me a cross worrud when he is sober. But he is hardly ever sober. I have begged that old saloon keeper, Mr. Vulture, not to sell him another drop, but the tears of a poor woman don't count. (*Wipes her eyes*) I could stand Pat's batings all right, for he says the law is, that a husband can bate his wife if he uses a stick no thicker than his thumb, and tho Pat has a thick thumb I must obey the law. But what I can't endure, and it's worse than the batings is to see the blessed children hungry or cold. Well, well, I ought to stop thinking about my troubles and remember my blessings. It is good I am strong and can work for the five children. Bless their bright eyes! How lucky I am to have

five of them to love me. Yes, I will get those shoes for little Pat. (*She rattles some money out of the envelope into her hand and puts the envelope back into the clock. She goes out*) (*Mrs. Bradley is humming more softly, then stops. Mr. Bradley enters a moment later. Mrs. Bradley runs in to meet her husband*)

MR. BRADLEY: Good evening, Mary. Has this been a blue Monday for you? Or is washday one glorious carnival of rest? (*He takes off his outer clothes, combs his hair and brushes his clothing while talking*)

MRS. BRADLEY: Well, not exactly a day of idleness, John, but a happy day. Baby is in bed and dinner is ready and I am at peace with the world. We can have a lovely evening with our music and that new book. You can read to me while I wash up the dishes. Washday is never a hard day for me, because Bridget is so competent, and so very grateful, too, for all I try to do to help her. Poor Bridget! I am so comfortably situated here, looking after this pretty little home, with a chance to enjoy the baby every day, and all day long, and knowing that you are coming home at night, cheerful, ready to help me if I am tired. When I compare my lot with poor Bridget's, who works away from home day after day, to earn enough to feed and clothe her family and yet can not be with them to enjoy their cunning ways, I think I am the most fortunate of women, and through the gratuity of my generous and loyal husband. (*At the last of this sentence she takes him by his coat lapels and gazes fondly at him*)

MR. BRADLEY: But, Mary, you legally deserve all you get. (*Laughing*) The law only provides that I furnish you with clothing, shelter and food, and that is about all you do get. You put in all your time, bring up the baby, and make this home so delightful, that you do not really receive any gratuity. You only receive what the law would really force me to give you. (*He puts on his slippers*)

MRS. BRADLEY: It is lovely of you to say that; but poor Bridget deserves it just as much as I. It's a pity that the law don't bring her the things you say the law brings me. I believe you

put in a lot of extras that no law would mention. Bridget's case, of course, is an exception. Most of us women are taken care of tenderly by devoted husbands and we need never bother our minds about law or rights. I have all the rights I want, with my dear baby, my chivalrous husband and my comfortable home. Other women are also contented.

MR. BRADLEY: Oh, Mary, I have my doubts about that. What about those suffrage women in New York and Massachusetts. Have they not been discontented for the past twenty years? There must be some trouble somewhere.

MRS. BRADLEY: I have read about some women who are talking about their rights all the time, just like men. Yes, some are even so foolish as to want to vote. I can not imagine how any woman with a loving husband like mine could ever have any use for the ballot.

MR. BRADLEY: I am afraid you will make me egotistical if you keep praising me for the few little things I do. (*Patting her on the shoulder*)

(*A knock is heard at the door. Mrs. Bradley goes to the door, a hum of voices is heard and she comes in followed by Constable Summons*)

MRS. BRADLEY: (*Distressed*) Oh, John, dear! This man is a constable. He says that he has some papers to serve on me. I am being sued somewhere, and I tell you I don't owe anybody a cent. My books are in perfect order and I always pay cash.

CONSTABLE: Excuse me, ma'am; you don't quite understand. You are merely garnisheed in a case where Mr. Vulture has sued Bridget O'Flannigan's husband.

MRS. BRADLEY: But what in the world have I got to do with a saloon keeper, Mr. Vulture? I never drank a drop of intoxicating liquors. You know I didn't, John. Tell him, John, that I never touch the stuff.

MR. BRADLEY: Why, Mr. Summons, of course my wife never drinks. What is this all about anyhow?

CONSTABLE: Why, I think I heard the Justice say when he issued this summons that O'Flannigan owed Vulture \$50.00 for drinks,

and that there is some money due him from Mrs. Bradley.

MRS. BRADLEY: Indeed there is not, for Patrick O'Flannigan never did a stroke of work for me. If he was like his hard-working, industrious wife he might be of some value to somebody; but he is so good-for-nothing I do not believe anybody ever owed him a cent.

CONSTABLE: This was something about Mrs. O'Flannigan, I think. You have some of her wages here.

MRS. BRADLEY: But this is not his. He will never touch a cent of Bridget's wages. I have given her my word of honor, and he will never have her money as long as I live. Will he, John?

MR. BRADLEY: Certainly not.

CONSTABLE: Well, I can't say how the case will come out, Ma'am, but you will have to come to court and explain things to the Justice. Sorry to trouble you. Good evening. (*Constable goes out*)

MRS. BRADLEY: Did you ever hear of such an outrageous, wicked constable! The idea of thinking he could threaten me into paying over Bridget's money! That money is saved in the clock and will stay saved. Must we have a lawyer?

MR. BRADLEY: No, I think not. My poor little wife, I will go down with you to court and see what there is to this. I know the Justice. He is a kind hearted man and wants to do the fair thing. We need no lawyer to see the legal rights of the question. It is plain enough that Bridget's money is her's and not Pat's.

MRS. BRADLEY: Of course. There cannot be any legal right for Mr. O'Flannigan and Mr. Vulture to take the money that Bridget earned here. It would be wicked. I am perfectly disgusted with that justice and the constable and the saloon keeper, and, of course, with Patrick O'Flannigan. It is terrible. Only a minute ago we were so happy together, looking forward to our lovely quiet evening by ourselves, and now this trouble comes. Why is it that innocent people get mixed up with other people's troubles? If we behave ourselves that ought to keep us free from outside suffering. But come on out to dinner and you can think up something, I know. You are so clever. You can argue with the judge and explain what is right. You can save that \$15.00 for Bridget and her children.

SCENE II.

*Court room of Mr. Common Law, a Justice of the Peace. The Justice sits behind a table which has a half dozen large calf bound law books. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are near one end of the table, and at the other end are Mr. Vulture, the saloonkeeper, and Mr. Sharp. Woman patrons of Bridget sit behind the Bradleys, Mrs. Adoremen, daintily dressed in the height of style for 1868, Mrs. Pious in Quaker clothing, Mrs. Equity, sensibly dressed, Mrs. Bitter, plainly dressed, and Mrs. Takerights, plump, handsome and richly dressed. Bridget is seated near them, knitting a stocking, and throughout the proceedings seems peacefully unconcerned. The people come in one by one and the constable hunts up chairs for them)*

JUSTICE COMMON LAW: Case No. 1209, Vulture vs. O'Flannigan. Mary Bradley, garnishee. Are the parties present?

*(Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Vulture rise)*

BOTH: Yes, your honor.

JUSTICE: Well, put on your case. Who are your witnesses, Mr. Sharp.

SHARP: My only witnesses are Mr. Vulture and Mrs. Bradley.

JUSTICE: You may rise and be sworn. Lift up your right hands. *(Repeats rapidly)* You do solemnly promise by the ever living God, that the testimony you shall give in the cause now on trial shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the whole truth, so help you God.

*(They both bow the head and sit down)*

MR. SHARP: I offer in evidence the record of the judgment in favor of Mr. Vulture against Patrick O'Flannigan, case No. 1167 on your Honor's docket and the execution which was issued thereon, with the constable's return upon said execution showing no property found and no part satisfied. Now, Mr. Vulture, you may take the stand and tell the court about this case.

VULTURE: Well, your honor, Mr. O'Flannigan has been buying drinks for a long while at my saloon and the bill ran up to

\$50.00 and I sued him, your honor remembers, and got a judgment.

MR. SHARP: That's all right, but tell now about the garnisheeing of Mrs. Bradley.

MR. VULTURE: Well, I heard one of the O'Flannigan children say on the street one day: "My mother is going to buy us all some new shoes when she gets her money from Mrs Bradley," and so I says to the youngster, "How much money has Mrs. Bradley got of your mother's?" and she said, "Oh, lots—maybe a million dollars. Enough to buy shoes, anyhow." So I guess she may have enough to pay this bill.

SHARP: That is all Mr. Vulture.

*(Just then the door opens and Patrick O'Flannigan stalks in. He is sober but mad)*

PATRICK: And what is a respectable woman like Bridget O'Flannigan doing here.

JUSTICE: Order, please; your wife is interested in this law suit and you must not disturb the proceedings.

PATRICK: *(with a reverential bow)* Excuse me, your honor but cannot some one tell me what a court has to do with Bridget.

JUSTICE: Yes. This is a suit to secure some of Bridget's wages to pay a liquor bill due Mr. Vulture.

PATRICK: Is that ould sneak after Bridget's wages?

JUSTICE: Yes, that is what it means.

PATRICK: Well, he isn't her husband I guess and he will find I am the only one who owns Bridget and her wages. He's an old varmint.

JUSTICE: You must not talk that way or I shall fine you for contempt of court. Sit down and be quiet. *(Pat sits meekly down across the room away from Bridget)* Do you wish to cross-examine the witness, Mr. Bradley or Mrs. Bradley?

MR. BRADLEY: Did Mrs. O'Flannigan ever buy any thing to drink in your saloon?

MR. VULTURE: No.



MR. BRADLEY: Has not Mrs. O'Flannigan been to you frequently and asked you to refuse to sell any liquor to Mr. O'Flannigan?

MR. VULTURE: Well, yes, I suppose she has, but he is the head of the family and is the best judge whether he wants to drink. How could we ever make money if we stopped for crying women?

MR. SHARP: That is all; you may step down. Now, Mrs. Bradley, you may take the witness stand.

*(Mrs. Bradley goes to the witness chair vacated by Mr. Vulture)*

MR. SHARP: Do you know Patrick O'Flannigan and his wife Bridget?

MRS. BRADLEY: I know Bridget O'Flannigan; I never have such acquaintances as Patrick O'Flannigan. *(Very stiffly)*

MR. SHARP: You know that he is her husband?

MRS. BRADLEY: Yes, she has told me so.

MR. SHARP: Does Mrs. Flannigan wash for you on Mondays?

MRS. BRADLEY: Yes.

MR. SHARP: Have you paid her all you owe her?

MRS. BRADLEY: Well, in a way, yes. *(Evasively)*

MR. SHARP: Explain what you mean. Have you not in your possession money belonging to her?

MRS. BRADLEY: Well, not exactly in my possession.

SHARP: Is there not some in your house?

MRS. BRADLEY: Well perhaps there may be some in our house belonging to her, but I would not attempt to have any control over it. I have never touched it or counted it so I really do not *know* anything about it.

MR. SHARP: Do you know where it is?

MRS. BRADLEY: Well, I suppose I do.

MR. SHARP: How much is it and where is it?

MRS. BRADLEY: *(To the Justice)* Judge, do I need to tell all these things to this man?

THE JUSTICE: Yes, you will have to answer and tell the truth.

MRS. BRADLEY: But, Judge, that money was earned by Bridget belongs to her, and these people have no right to it. She has worked so hard to keep the children fed. Her husband does almost nothing for them, and she needs this money for the children's clothes. All these other women give washing to Bridget. *(The other women stand as though eager to testify)* They are ready to testify how industrious and honest she is.

JUSTICE: Bridget's character has nothing to do with the case. You must answer the question, Madam.

MRS. BRADLEY: *(Tearfully)* Well, then what was the question?

MR. SHARP: How much of Bridget O'Flannigan's wages is now in your house and where is it?

MRS. BRADLEY: *(Faintly)* I suppose about \$15.00 and it is in the clock.

MR. SHARP: Louder, please.

MRS. BRADLEY: Fifteen dollars, I suppose, and in the clock.

MR. SHARP: That is all, Mrs. Bradley. Thank you. That is our case, your honor.

JUSTICE: That is all, Mrs. Bradley. You may step down. Have you any witnesses, Mr. Bradley?

MR. BRADLEY: No, your honor, but I wish to discuss the question of justice and law and protest against this attempted outrage.

JUSTICE: Very well. You shall have an opportunity in due time. Now, Mr. Sharp, do you wish to make an argument?

MR. SHARP: *(Rising)* Your honor, I have proved that O'Flannigan owes us \$50.00, that we have a judgment for that amount and that the execution issued thereon has been returned no part satisfied. We have also proved that Mrs. Bradley has \$15.00 of Mrs. O'Flannigan's wages now in her control and in her house. *(Bridget motions Pat to come over where she is. She whispers something to him at which Pat slaps his leg and bursts out laughing)*

JUSTICE: Order there, Mr. O'Flannigan.

MR. SHARP: *(Continuing)* The good old common law, which was the protection of our fore-fathers still protects the rights of credit-

ors in Illinois. A man cannot purchase drinks, refuse to pay and then cheat an honest merchant when he has sources of income like this. Mr. Vulture is only doing what any business man would. He is trying to make his customers pay their bills.

MRS. BRADLEY: How can you say this when Bridget was never a customer? She never bought a thing there!

MR. SHARP: You do not understand, Madam, the glorious principle of the unity of the married pair. When they go to the marriage altar they are made one. If Patrick is a customer Bridget practically is also, for she must pay the bill. They are one now in the eyes of the law. In this marriage between Bridget and Patrick they are one. Bridget's wages are Patrick's.

MRS. EQUITY: (*Calmly*) Are Patrick's wages also Bridget's?

MR. SHARP: Well hardly, madam.

MRS. EQUITY: Why not when they are one?

MR. SHARP: Because Bridget is not that one. Patrick is it. So your honor as this \$15.00 of wages earned by Bridget belongs to Patrick. I ask that it be turned over by Mrs. Bradley towards the payment of a part of this judgment. We can garnishee others later for the rest of it.

JUSTICE: Mrs. Bradley, have you anything further to say?

MRS. BRADLEY: (*In tears*) My husband will speak for me.

MR. BRADLEY: (*Stepping forward to the Judge*) Your honor, this is a case which must appeal to the heart of the Court. One of the greatest attainments of a Judge is to know when not to be too severe. This hard working devoted mother is trying single-handed to save some money for her children's winter necessities and even for her husband's stockings. With no help from her husband, she is trying to keep the wolf from the door. Every cent she earns from these other patrons of hers, she must spend daily for food and fuel and rent. She has only this little ahead for the cold winter. I have read about a wife's separate estate being hers and surely Bridget's wages ought to be her separate estate. The law of 1861 helped things, some, I have heard.

JUSTICE: You mistake the meaning of separate estate. This term does not apply to a case of wages. The law of 1861 only made some changes in the so-called separate estate which a father might put into a trustee's hands for the benefit of the daughter before the daughter's marriage. Other states are trying the same experiment but it amounts to little except as to the saving of the principal. All the income a wife will use anyway in her home. That law of 1861 did not even change the old rule that the produce of a wife's lands belonged to the husband. You know the law of curtesy gave to the husband the use of his wife's lands during his life, if a living child was born. So when the husband can still control the wife's products and income from land, he must continue the ownership of the more personal and intimate produce of her toil, her wages.

MR. BRADLEY: But Judge, look at it from another point of view. This \$15.00, earned by many days of hard work, is a trust fund which my wife has held sacred for the use of this noble, self-respecting woman. You would put my wife in a very uncomfortable position and force her to be untrue to her trust. Decide this case solely with the thought of doing righteousness. Let this poor woman have her \$15.00, and your decision will be approved in the highest court of morals. (*Mr. Bradley sits down*)

JUSTICE: Have you, Mr. Sharp, anything to say in closing?

MR. SHARP: (*Rising*) Your Honor, this is not a court of morals. This is a court of Law. Your honor needs no reminder that we must not be swept away by emotional appeals. You understand better than these kind-hearted but misguided people, that even a justice-court must be run according to legal principles, like a court of law and not like a soup kitchen. There is no precedent in law for the forcing of a charitable contribution from my client out of money legally belonging to him. (*He sits down*)

THE JUSTICE: I must say that this is a very difficult question to decide. I wholly agree with Mr. Bradley that as a question of righteousness and morals the wages earned by this hard-working woman ought to continue to be hers, to be used by her for whatever cause, or whatever necessity she has, but I am reminded by the plaintiff in this case that I cannot allow my de-

cisions to be governed by sentiment. I must decide this question according to law. At this time of the century, 1868, there is scarcely a state in this union where the judge would not hold as I am about to hold, that a wife's wages absolutely belong to her husband. The wife's wages belonged to the husband from the time of the old English common law. There is no method except by changing that law, whereby we could prevent these wages from coming into the hands of the husband's creditors.

MRS. BRADLEY: May I interrupt, Judge? Not all of the \$15.00 is really wages, what I agreed to pay her, but some of it is presents. Sometimes I made her a gift out of my pin-money and that was not wages. Surely this part you can save her away from the saloon keeper.

JUSTICE: I am very sorry to hurt the feelings of gentle and tender-hearted ladies like Mrs. Bradley, and I shrink from giving over to Mr. Vulture the money Mrs. O'Flannigan planned to use for winter clothes. It is edifying to see the motherly affection bestowed on offspring, even in the lowest walks of society. But, Mrs. Bradley, even if the whole of the \$15.00 had been a gift from you to Bridget, my ruling must be the same. I must administer the law as it is, and not as it ought to be. All the wife's personal property, her clothing, even her wedding gifts, everything of this sort, whether coming to her by gift or bequest or her own personal labor, belongs to the husband. In return for this the husband, of course, is expected to support the family. In this very case the law presumes that Patrick is supporting the family, a very violent presumption, I see, and one evidently incapable of legal enforcement. Even the children are absolutely his in all our States and in most of them he can will the guardianship of children away from the mother to strangers. The father is legally the sole parent when it comes to the question of rights. The mother is only allowed duties in connection with her children.

MRS. BITTER: Judge, do you not think these are very wicked laws?

JUSTICE: As a man and a human being, I might agree with you but as a justice, I am not called on for opinions of what ought to be. I must enforce law as I find it. This matter about Bridget's wages I cannot evade. I must enforce this law as it

stands. The Legislature is the only power to change laws. Women cannot control their own property until the Legislature removes some of their legal disabilities.

MRS. EQUITY: How can we get the Legislature to change those wicked, immoral laws?

JUSTICE: Well, that's a conundrum. When I have been obliged to enforce these unjust laws, I have often wondered why the wronged women did not resort to riot and bloodshed as men have often done to avenge their wrongs. Perhaps it is because the blow comes to each woman singly and she is ignorant that she has companions in misery. Then, too, ages of masculine domination has broken the spirit of most women, and, with due respect to you generous women, many women are too selfish and narrow to care for sister women's sufferings.

MRS. BRADLEY: We never imagined before that any law could be so cruel or any man mean enough to take advantage of it.

MRS. ADOREMEN: No, indeed, all the men I ever knew were so chivalrous. They would pick up your handkerchief, open doors, give you compliments, stand up when you entered the room, kiss your hand, and always show such delicate attention.

MRS. BITTER: I wager that when Bridget begged Mr. Vulture not to sell whiskey to Pat, Mr. Vulture never kissed Bridget's hand.

MRS. ADOREMEN: Well, perhaps not. Of course God made different orders of society and we should not all expect the same treatment. Some women don't have tact. They don't know how to handle men. You must not ask men to do things which interfere with business or pleasure. If you don't antagonize men I have always thought men were so nice.

MRS. PIOUS: Perhaps some men were foreordained to be nice, but I am positive some of them elected to be otherwise. Now, Judge, the thing for us Christian women to ask in this situation is: What ought we to do to help Bridget in this and future calamities? We must help other women as well, for many others will be in similar trouble.

JUSTICE: These laws ought to be changed and I do not quite see how you women can make changes now. If you had

a vote, the Legislature would be quick to listen to the petitions of women constituents. Then they would hurry to make necessary changes in the old common law to please women voters. You really need the ballot if you are in earnest. If you only want to play at philanthropy, never mind about voting, for without the ballot you can play at it longer.

MRS. ADOREMEN: But Judge, I have always felt that the men know best what we women needed, and that we would show lack of faith in our own husbands if we insisted on controlling our own property. (*Sentimentally*) I felt perfectly willing to trust my husband to control my property when I had already given myself to him.

MRS. BITTER: (*Aside*) She had nothing when she married.

JUSTICE: Very touching, I am sure, Madam, but Bridget's husband seems hardly worthy of such confidence and devotion. Great masses of women voters could not fail to inspire more Legislative respect for women than any one woman, however beautiful and charming, could gain through chivalry. Chivalry is good for poetry and during courting days, but alas, it is poured out most freely on those who need it least. In the eyes of her Creator, Bridget needs not only justice and rights, but chivalry also, and yet—well, Mrs. Bitter explained it pretty well when she said Mr. Vulture did not kiss Bridget's hand. Those honest hands, roughened with heavy work, deserve the greatest honor, but do not get it. Those who receive no favors need the ballot to secure for them the barest rights.

MRS. EQUITY: I suppose Abigail Adams had some such thoughts when she asked her husband, John Adams, to secure the rights of women in the new United States government. A class politically disfranchised must be legally, socially, and industrially helpless.

JUSTICE: To protect the negroes, the ballot will soon be given them by a fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution. Naturalized foreigners too are seeking the ballot for the same reason. When women are voters, I shall not be obliged to enforce such unjust laws, for the great mass of women will be so true to their sex that some of these iniquities will be changed. (*Bridget and Pat whisper and motion to Mr. Brad-*

*ley and then tell him something while Mr. Bradley and the Judge continue to talk*)

MRS. BRADLEY: (*Hopefully*) Judge, you see the right so clearly you surely will not make me give this money over?

JUSTICE: (*Sadly*) I must be true to my oath of office and administer the law as I find it, though I am sorry to grieve these kind women. I must decide against you. Even should Mr. Vulture garnishee the rest of Bridget's employers for her daily pittance I should be forced to decide the same. You must give Mr. Vulture the \$15.00.

MR. BRADLEY: Your Honor, I should like to call Bridget O'Flannigan as a witness as she has some important evidence which might change your opinion as to the practicability of such a decision.

JUSTICE: Well, this court is always ready to change opinions if the law and evidence justify a change. We will hear from Bridget.

SHARP: I object, your Honor. Bridget has not been sworn and besides the case is closed.

JUSTICE: Well, Sharp, you are a stickler for the fine points of the law. I did not say the case was closed. If, before I enter judgment, I hear of other evidence, on my own motion, I will call the witness. Bridget, you may be sworn. Hold up your right hand.

SHARP: I object, your Honor, to receiving the testimony of this witness. She is admittedly the wife of the defendant in the original proceeding and she is legally incompetent.

MRS. ADOREMEN: (*In amazement*) Why, Mr. Sharp! Are you not a little inconsistent? A moment ago you did not want the Judge to believe Bridget because she had not been sworn and now you won't let her be sworn.

MR. SHARP: I am only standing on my legal rights to protect my client's interests. Your Honor knows the benefit of this good old common-law rule that wives should not be allowed to testify in suits where their husbands are parties. The sacredness of marital confidences must be respected.

MR. BRADLEY: But this evidence was in the possession of Bridget

alone. Patrick never told her. There is no marital confidence about this.

MR. SHARP: Your Honor knows that I am merely stating the rule of law, well established in hundreds and thousands of cases. The wife cannot testify in such a case, can she?

JUSTICE: Well, Sharp, you have the law with you and I cannot let Bridget testify.

BRIDGET: It's all the same to me, your Honor. *(Mr. Bradley whispers to the constable and gives him a large key. Constable goes out)*

JUSTICE: I can see no other way out of this, Mrs. Bradley. You will be obliged to pay that money. *(Mrs. Bradley sobs and turns to Mrs. Adoremen and Mrs. Pious who weep also. Mrs. Bitter and Mrs. Takerights whisper vigorously as though angry. Bridget remains placid. A knock at the door is answered by Mr. Vulture. He returns)*

MR. VULTURE: Your Honor, a man wants to speak to you a moment in the next room.

JUSTICE: Excuse me, I will just step to the door a moment. I will enter judgment when I return. *(As the Justice leaves Vulture and Sharp follow and the women are much excited)*

MRS. BITTER: That's the way men always stand up for men. The Judge's soft words are nothing but bosh. He is against us. For ages men have humiliated and domineered over women legally or illegally. They all defend each other in being cruel and selfish to women. When I think of the wrongs women suffer I almost feel as Caligula did when he wished his subjects had one neck, so he could enjoy wringing it at one time. I feel like revenging myself on the whole sex.

MRS. PIOUS: Dear sister, do not be uncharitable. Remember that unlimited power in the hands of anyone is liable to abuse. If women had unlimited power over men, they, too, might have become equally unjust. Remember, too, that our martyred Lincoln said he favored those sharing in the government's privileges who assisted in bearing its burdens, and he included women. He said, too, the nation could not be half slave and

half free. He was a prophet of God and a man, and he believed in women suffrage. So do not hate all men. Pray for your enemies.

MRS. BITTER: My whole life has been a struggle to forgive my personal enemies, but I feel no call of conscience to forgive the enemies of my whole sex.

MRS. TAKERIGHTS: How would the ballot help us? Don't you think women themselves are to blame for not taking what they want instead of humbly begging?

MRS. BITTER: A lot you know about it, with that jolly husband of yours. You lead him around by the nose. Most of us are worms of the dust, ground down under man's heel, with not enough spirit left to do more than wish we were serpents with fangs. You know how hard I work and my husband is in comfortable circumstances, partly through my hard work on the farm and yet I cannot get the clothes I should have. Why, I take things, too but it makes me feel mighty mean. I can hardly ever have my own butter and egg money, and I absolutely must pick my husband's pockets of a quarter every night to get money for new baby clothes.

MRS. TAKERIGHTS: I did not mean taking our rights that way. If I needed money out of my husband's pockets, I would help myself in broad day-light, right under his nose. I go to the same cash-box he does without any timidity and I never hear a grumble from my husband.

MRS. PIOUS: Sister. God has certainly given you a good husband but is he quite normal? How did you ever learn to manage him?

MRS. TAKERIGHTS: I never would manage him, but I gave him to clearly understand in our first year of married life that I was a real partner and would expect the rights of a partner. Father trained me in the economical use of money and talked over his business with me. So when I married his young partner I expected just as much respect, and I got it.

MRS. BITTER: Well, your ownership of your father's two-thirds of the place doubtless raised the market value of your opinions. Those who have, receive more, and those who don't have, get

their crumbs stolen away just as Bridget's scanty savings must go to Vulture. And to think that whenever the rest of us hire Bridget, we shall see the constable on our door steps with his hand outstretched for that day's wages. We can all take our turns at being garnisheed. (*Scornfully*)

MRS. ADOREMEN: (*Sweetly*) What was it that kind old Justice said about our voting? If some of the men believe in it, I should not feel so timid about it. Men see so clearly. They have such logical minds. Sometimes they like to talk with women of good sense better than with butterflies.

MRS. EQUITY: He said the suffrage was what we needed to protect the moral rights of women which were as yet unrecognized by law. The question of money, wages, share in family income which we are discussing, is, to my mind, only one phase of the whole question. That brilliant Myra Bradwell never had trouble with her noble husband and his expenditures, but I am told that our Illinois Supreme Court will refuse her admission to the bar. Miss Doctor has just been refused entrance to the medical school and there is not a college in the State which will admit women. I sent my girl to Oberlin College in Ohio. The equal rights of women in every department has long appealed to me, and I believe woman suffrage will help us.

MRS. PIOUS: You are right about there being other wrongs to women. Our women's church society tried to help Mrs. Mater get her two little children. She was the one whose husband took the children and deserted her to live with that bad woman in the next town. This Justice told our committee the father was the sole guardian of the children, could choose the family home and had a legal right to do this cruel thing. He said if she did not want to be parted from the children she must tag along, and if she did not, her husband could get a divorce on the ground of her desertion. But the husband had the children.

MRS. BITTER: I know another thing worse. You remember little Maggie Mueller whose parents died of cholera two years ago. Well, she is ten years old and for these two years has been out at the poor house. I knew her mother and go out about every six months to take her something. This time I found she had

been wronged by the poor-master and the child does not know enough to appreciate her condition, nor had she ever complained to any one. She is so young. I went to old Judge Precedent for whom Maggie's father had worked. If Maggie had a father or a brother, that poor-master would have been shot, and as Maggie was the ward of the State, the State should do a father's part. I wanted that poor-master legally hung. The old Judge was polite enough and sorry, but he said that Maggie was past the age of consent, which was ten years and as I had no proof that she had protested or complained, the law presumed that ten-year old Maggie consented to her own ruin. So there could be no punishment for the man who wronged her. The old Judge has a heart, though, for he went out to the store with me and bought a handsome fifty-cent doll for me to give her. This was as bad as asking bread and getting a stone. I asked justice and got a doll.

MRS. EQUITY: We women should raise that age of consent. We cannot save Maggie, but we can save other girls.

MRS. BRADLEY: That is the very worst thing I ever heard. Yes, we women ought to vote to help the women and children. I am ashamed to say I have criticised Miss Anthony, Lucy Stone, and the other women who went around lecturing and organizing women suffrage societies. I feel now that we must all be Bridget's sisters and help her.

MRS. PIOUS: We ought to follow the example of Miss Anthony and Lucy Stone. My time has been so limited to religious work I have neglected God's suffering ones here, but I have learned how to work in an organized way. Tho my parents were Quakers, I have been in the regular woman's mission work of this church here and have there learned the strength which can come from organized womanhood. Let us now and here organize ourselves to get the ballot for Illinois women. We can pay \$1.00 a year dues just as we do in our foreign missionary society. The foreign heathen are not much worse off than poor Mrs. Mater and Maggie and Bridget. We should have an Illinois Equal Suffrage Association. The Legislature will meet in January next, 1869, and we must have changes made.

MRS. EQUITY: That's right, and we will all join if you will be presi-

dent. Here is my dollar.

MRS. PIOUS: All right, just to get a preliminary organization started. We must call a meeting for a permanent organization next February in Library Hall and have some of these brilliant women of the east help us. Here is my dollar.

MRS. BITTER: I want to join this too, and here is my dollar. Don't ask me how I got it. I am afraid my husband won't like it, but I shall have to endure that. You tenderly sheltered women, who have kind husbands, good education, money or experience in other organizations, you are for the most part the only ones who will dare to belong to this Equal Suffrage Association. Mrs. Bradley, you helped Mrs. Livermore in starting the Sanitary Commission here in Chicago. You be the treasurer. Stop crying, now is the time for work.

MRS. BRADLEY: Well, if you insist, but I am not worthy to be a treasurer of anything. To think of me being obliged to go to that clock and hand over Bridget's \$15.00 to that Vulture! Oh, Bridget, will you ever forgive me?

BRIDGET: (*Cheerfully*) Oh, yes, indeed, there is no trouble between you and me.

MRS. BRADLEY: (*Still tearfully*) How can you keep so self-controlled. I am wondering what you will do for your poor children.

BRIDGET: The Lord will provide, mum.

MRS. TAKERIGHTS: Well, she is religious. Here, Bridget, is a little money the Lord probably provided me to give you. Here is my dollar, Mrs. Bradley for the new society. I believe after all I ought to help the other women who haven't my nerve. My father's training and money has helped me and I'll pass on the help to others. No one beats me and I wonder now why I never used my own freedom for anyone but my ownself. It's nothing but ignorance of such possibilities which keeps us women quiet.

MRS. AOREMEN: Let me be a member for the humblest work. I never before realized that we women must stand together like sisters. I thought each one of us as individuals could ogle out of men anything we wanted. I did that with poor dear papa when

he lived and when my husband did not please me, I wept sweetly. That brought him around. I could tell how long to keep it up by peeking around the corner of my handkerchief. But now when I hear you brave women talk about our duties to other women, I am ashamed of having selfishly played the baby-act. I must try from this day to be a grown-up woman, and be of some real use. Bridget must be the sister of all of us. Poor Mrs. Mater and poor Maggie are also sisters. They could not cajole men as I have.

MR. BRADLEY: May I join, too?

CHORUS: Yes, indeed! A man's dollar is as good as a woman's. We will take every man we can get. We call it equal suffrage.

MRS. EQUITY: You men already have political influence and so you will be the most valuable members to help change laws.

PATRICK: Then I'll join, for I think the law and this court is beneath contempt. It's bad enough the way I treat Bridget, but I am her husband and have some rights, but I'll be bumped before I have every saloon keeper in town jumping onto Bridget's wages. I'll help stop it by joining. I can help stop Bridget's suffering by joining the equal "sufferin" people myself.

MRS. BRADLEY: But you cannot afford to pay your \$1.00 dues, Patrick.

PATRICK: The lawyer said I had resources in an industrious wife and she will help out on the dues, I know.

BRIDGET: Indade, Patrick darling, I will, and here's a dollar I earned from Mrs. Equity yesterday. Here, Mrs. Bradley is Patrick's dues. Just as soon as I can afford it I shall join too.

PATRICK: Bridget, I will get to work and the first dollar I earn I will pay back, and as far as one man can help, I will help to make things better. I will settle that Vulture bill myself and then keep out. Yes, we will both be members, Mrs. Bradley.

MRS. BRADLEY: Poor Bridget, you cannot afford it with the loss of the \$15.00 too. How brave you are, Bridget. That awful lawyer Sharp will keep on getting your wages and that \$15.00 is gone. (*She weeps*)

BRIDGET: Don't cry another drop out of your swate eyes. (*The*

*Judge comes on and stands looking at the group silently) (The women's backs are turned)*

MRS. BRADLEY: But do you not understand? You are a great loser by the Judge's decision. He is coming back in a minute to enter judgment, and that means Vulture will get your money. You are very brave.

BRIDGET: Them's brave who are in no danger. Vulture will never get that money.

MRS. BRADLEY: But the Judge said he would.

BRIDGET: The Judge don't know what he is talking about. I defy the Judge or Vulture to ever get it.

JUSTICE: (*Going on the bench*) Here, my poor woman, you must not talk that way in a court room against the judge. I am forced to decide against you.

BRIDGET: I was not talking against the Judge, but only saying Vulture would never get that money.

JUSTICE: But he must have it, for I am going to write down in this big book, my docket, that Mrs. Bradley must pay that \$15.00 over to him. We have spent a good deal of time on this little case.

MRS. EQUITY: Yes, Judge, but the time has been well spent. While you were out we talked over what you said and made a preliminary organization of the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association.

MRS. PIOUS: Yes Judge, you showed us our duty as Christian women and had it not been for the peril which threatened Bridget and which will threaten her every time she washes for anyone of us until that \$50.00 liquor bill is paid, if it had not been for you we would not now be bound together like sisters to have these laws changed. We want the ballot given to women so we can with our ballots help protect our helpless sisters. You are the one who has influenced us to be bound to each other for this great task, and we thank you.

JUSTICE: I appreciate, Madam your kind words. I must unofficially congratulate your new organization and ask to be a charter member. But officially I must enter judgment ordering Mrs.

Bradley to pay over the money. Vulture is legally entitled to it.  
BRIDGET: How does your honor think he will get it?

JUSTICE: Just as easy as can be. He will walk along to the Bradley home, Mrs. Bradley will go to the clock and get the money.

BRIDGET: Begging your Honors pardon. You are mistaken. Mrs. Bradley will not get any money out of the clock. She can't find any. Won't that be a joke on Vulture?

MRS. BRADLEY: What do you mean?  
(*Mr. Bradley and his wife whisper and she smiles*)

JUSTICE: Where then has Mrs. Bradley kept your money?

BRIDGET: She hasn't it anywhere.

JUSTICE: Stop your nonsense and tell me plainly who has your money and what does this all mean?

BRIDGET: It's no nonsense, but the truth. Well, that night before the constable came I took out the money to get little Pat new shoes and when I got to the store I decided to spend it all. Clothes and shoes are a safer investment than money. Lucky I did.

PATRICK: Good for Bridget.

JUSTICE: Where are those clothes?

BRIDGET: On the bodies of the youngsters, your honor. With the yarn I bought I am knitting socks for Pat.

JUSTICE: Why did you not say this long before?

BRIDGET: Well, first Mr. Sharp wouldn't let me and then I wanted to enjoy a little Irish joke on Vulture and him a stealing the information from my children. I did not want to be talking much before learned men.

JUSTICE: (*Dryly*) You do not seem much abashed now. Well Mr. Sharp, this puts a different face on the whole matter.

SHARP: I cannot see that it alters the legal situation. We have no evidence but what the money is still in the clock.

MRS. BRADLEY: But Bridget says it is not there and that she took it.  
(*The constable enters and gives Bradley the key*)

CONSTABLE: I can tell your Honor. I ran to Bradley's home just



now to look and the envelope with Bridget's name on it is empty.

WOMEN: Oh, thank you, Mr. Summons.

SHARP: Still we have no evidence.

JUSTICE: Constable, you be sworn. You cannot object to him Sharp.

SHARP: (*Angrily*) Oh, I don't care. (*He and Vulture go out slamming the door violently*)

JUSTICE: You solemnly promise by the ever living God that the testimony you shall give in the cause now on trial shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

CONSTABLE: I do.

JUSTICE: Tell what you found.

CONSTABLE: I searched carefully in the hall clock and found no money. I found this envelope with Bridget's name, but it was empty.

MRS. BRADLEY: So, Judge, you can't make me pay over the money can you, when I havn't it?

JUSTICE: No Mrs. Bradley, I can legally discharge you now and make all of Bridget's friends happy. Altho' this case, by reason of the peculiar circumstances is decided in your favor, I should have been obliged to decide otherwise if Mrs. Bradley had had the money in her possession. Of course, your new association will help change the laws, but until it does everything stands as I have previously stated. It's a pity tho we have wasted so much time on this suit.

BRIDGET: Oh your Honor, it was not really wasted. You showed these comfortable richer women how we poorer ones needed the help. The grand ladies that they are, they have been just like sisters to poor old Bridget. Then your Honor, I never get much fun in life and I enjoyed the whole trial beyond words. For once we got ahead of old Vulture.

PATRICK: I'll help you better after this, Bidy darling. A good wife and mother deserves the best any man can do for her. You shall have a little pin money for your own. When you want

independent money all your own to spend just as you please for me and the children, why you shall have it. I shall make you a grand present. No matter what the law says, after this, I will make you a present of your own wages.

CHORUS OF WOMEN: Generous Patrick.

JUSTICE: Court is adjourned. Now on to the State House.



## CHRONOLOGY

Of the

# Woman's Rights Movement in Illinois

The old English common law relating to woman's rights was practically unchanged in Illinois during the first half of the nineteenth century. Under it, married women had no right to their children, to their earnings, to their personal property, to the income from their real estate, or to their own personal liberty. Husbands had full control. Women were not admitted to the professions nor to higher schools of learning. They did not vote or hold office. Not only were these rights of women denied by law, but what was worse, many wrongs against women were not recognized nor redressed. The age of consent was ten years. No holier crusade ever enlisted nobler heroes than this which sought to gain the denied rights of women and to redress their wrongs. Many exhausted workers have died in the ranks but their places have been filled by younger women of unflinching courage and the cause moved on. Although the early progress was heartbreakingly slow, notice, that there have been no backward steps. No law giving women greater liberty has been repealed. Illinois men believe that Illinois women deserve all they have received up to date.

- 1855** First local suffrage Association in Illinois organized at Earlville. Moline, our oldest living club, was not organized until 1877.
- 1860** Dr. Hannah Tracy Cutler and Mrs. Frances D. Gage campaigned Illinois asking for suffrage and equal property rights.
- 1861** Mr. Pickets of Rock Island introduced in the Legislature the property rights bill. A petition about woman's rights resulted in an indecent report from a committee of the Legislature. Dr. Cutler asked the Legislature to make mothers joint guardians.

For several years the abolition of slavery engrossed the attention of many woman's rights workers. They were promised their freedom if they would help free the slaves. The Sanitary Commission also absorbed much time and money. Double agricultural, industrial and financial burdens were borne by women whose husbands, sons and brothers went to war. The negroes were finally freed, but Illinois women were left in the same legal position they were before the war. Their improved abilities, their sharpened wits, their successful achievements made their desire for liberty greater.

- 1868** In the fall, preliminary state organization effected.
- 1869** February in the Library Hall, Chicago, The Illinois Equal Suffrage Association was organized with Mary A. Livermore, President. Myra Bradwell was refused admission to the Illinois bar. She appealed to U. S. Supreme Court. A wife's wages were secured to her own use by Illinois law.
- 1870** Although the Constitutional convention refused to submit a woman's suffrage proposition, Judge J. B. Bradwell and Judge C. B. Waite secured the omission of a clause forbidding women to hold office. Ada H. Kepley of Union College of Law, Chicago, now the Law Department of Northwestern University, was the first woman in the world to be graduated from a law college.

- 1872** Catherine V. Waite filed a petition for mandamus to compel election officers to allow her to vote, but she was refused. Fathers and mothers were made equal in inheritance from a deceased child. As Myra Bradwell was held by U. S. Supreme Court to be ineligible to practice law, she and Alta M. Hulett then secured the passage of the law admitting women to all occupations and professions.
- 1873** The statute was passed recognizing women's eligibility to hold school offices.
- 1874** Ten women were elected County Superintendents of schools. "Curtesy" was abolished. Spouses' interests in each other's real estate were made a dower right for each.
- 1875** Women were allowed to be Notaries Public. Myra Bradwell secured the word "persons" in the law concerning notaries.
- 1876** Elizabeth Boynton Harbert was elected President of Illinois Equal Suffrage Association; re-elected until 1884, and then later, twice, one year each. Mrs. Harbert's idea for a "Sane Fourth" carried out at Evanston was the forerunner of the present Sane Fourth reform. Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson was the first woman admitted to American Medical Association.
- 1877** Woman's Kingdom in Inter Ocean with Mrs. Harbert editor for seven years, helped woman's cause. Mary H. Krout later was editor.
- 1879** The mammoth petition for suffrage for women was signed by 180,000 persons, but it was kicked about scornfully in the Legislature. This made Frances E. Willard more zealous for suffrage. The W. C. T. U. had many suffrage workers. Ten small Illinois cities allowed women a straw vote on the license question, but the men who elected the aldermen controlled. Helen Schuhardt was held by the lower court ineligible to be Master in Chancery, but the Supreme Court later reversed this decision; a Master's position was appointive.
- 1884** Mary E. Holmes was elected President of Illinois Equal Suffrage Association for five years and again for seven years, 1890 to 1897.
- 1887** Age of consent was raised from 10 to 14 years. Catherine V. Waite the Superintendent of Legislative work, sent her resolution for suffrage amendment to Speaker Elijah M. Haines. She was Superintendent until the election of Mrs. McCulloch in 1890.
- 1888** Large suffrage conventions were held in the northern half of Illinois by Senator M. B. Castle, for twenty years Chairman of Executive Committee, Mary E. Holmes, Julia Mills Dunn, Helen M. Gouger, and Judge C. B. Waite. Many organizations were effected in this year and during the rest of Mrs. Holmes's presidency.
- 1891** Senator Charles Bogardus fathered a measure for full suffrage in the Senate. Hon. G. W. Curtis, of Lena, in the House, secured 54 votes, a

- majority of those voting, but not enough. Mrs. Zerelda G. Wallace, Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. McCulloch held six weeks of conventions in southern Illinois, even to Cairo. Senator Thomas C. MacMillan secured 29 votes in the Senate for the School Suffrage Bill and Dr. H. M. Moore got 83 votes in the House. It passed. Four times the Supreme Court has decided what are its various constitutional limitations.
- 1893** The Child Labor Law passed. Senator Charles Bogardus made an excellent report to the Senate on the petitions, saying that there were more for woman suffrage than for all other subjects put together. Twelve anti-suffragists signed a petition. Mrs. Altgeld, the wife of the Governor, came on to the floor of the Senate and personally thanked the Senators who on second reading had voted for our bill. Senator R. W. Coon secured the necessary 26 votes in Senate for the passage of the township suffrage bill.
- 1894** Dr. Julia Holmes Smith was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Trustees of State University, the first woman. Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, who had been elected before, took her seat second. Mrs. Florence Kelley was appointed Chief Factory Inspector. No other State has thus honored women. Governor Altgeld appointed several women to important positions.
- 1895** First big suffrage hearing with twenty women speakers. Senator R. W. Coon secured 23 votes for the township suffrage bill.
- 1897** Senator George W. Munroe labored faithfully to pass our bills.
- 1898** At special session about taxation Senator Munroe introduced bill to exempt women's property from taxation until they could vote.
- 1899** Governor Tanner appointed Mary M. Bartelme Public Guardian of Cook County. She was reappointed by Governors Yates and Deneen. Senator Isaac M. Hamilton forced two of our bills to a vote. Suffrage petitions from 25,000 labor union men of Chicago were well received.
- 1901** Joint Guardianship Bill passed Senate with 34 votes and House with 119. Senator Niels Juul and Rev. John Hughes fathered the bill. Rev. Kate Hughes worked for it constantly. Supreme Court decided tax cases in favor of Teachers' Federation.
- At this session and the many following sessions suffrage amendments, township suffrage bills and larger suffrage bills were introduced every session by different Senators, among them being Senators D. A. Campbell, O. T. Berry, E. C. Curtis, John McKenzie, and James Gibson. Petitions were presented, literature mailed, letters poured in from constituents, eloquent speeches were made and the tone of Illinois newspapers grew more friendly. At one hearing Iva G. Wooden had pasted the petitions on muslin a yard wide and draped 75 yards of them from the galleries and through the aisles of the House.
- 1902** Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs endorsed a tax-paying woman's suffrage bill.
- 1903** At an Executive Mansion reception, Mrs. Yates, the wife of Governor

Yates, asked two of the suffrage officers to stand by her in the receiving line. Since then Governor Deneen's wife has often invited the suffrage officers and speakers to her receptions following the suffrage hearings.

- 1904** Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs endorse municipal suffrage bill.
- 1905** Age of consent raised to 16 years. Ella S. Stewart was elected President of the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association.
- 1906** Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs endorsed woman suffrage in the proposed Chicago charter.
- 1907** Ellen M. Henrotin, chairman of delegates from women's organizations aggregating a membership of 100,000 women urged municipal woman suffrage in the Chicago charter. It was defeated in convention by only one majority. Though this charter passed the Legislature no woman worked for its approval and it was defeated by the voters.
- 1909** Jane Addams was chairman of the committee which went before the charter makers the second time. They agreed to submit a separate woman suffrage measure which in the Legislature received more votes than most of the separate measures. Senator Charles Billings secured twenty-five votes for the full state wide municipal suffrage bill. Ten hour law, law against pandering and law as to providing seats for women employees passed both houses.
- 1910** Ella Flagg Young elected Chicago Superintendent of Schools and later President of National Educational Association. At special legislative session Senator Martin Bailey and Representative R. P. Hagen introduced bills to allow women to vote at primary elections and under a commission form of government. Summer suffrage auto tours covered seven-eighths of Illinois counties. Jane Addams was elected President of National Conference of Charities and Corrections.
- 1911** Municipal Suffrage bill passed the Senate with a vote of 31 to 10; thanks to Senator Wm. M. Brown and other friends. Representative Homer Tice secured two roll calls in the House, on the first of which we had 74 friends and on the last 67. We needed 77 there to pass the bill. This is the first time in many years that the House has gone on record. Ten hour law for women extended to more occupations. Automobile tours in the counties not touched in 1910 find similar enthusiasm.
- 1913** What will be done by this Legislature? Will it do as well as did five other State Legislatures in 1911? Wisconsin, Kansas, California, Oregon and Nevada submitted the question to the voters. Six states already have fully enfranchised their women: Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California. Illinois will continue her progress when the voters demand it insistently.

CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH

