

# FROM MANY NATIONS:

Women Representing the World's  
Thought Assemble.

## THE CONGRESS OPEN.

Thousands of Ladies Crowd the  
New Art Palace.

### ADDRESS BY C. C. BONNEY.

Mrs. Palmer Welcomes the Dis-  
tinguished Gathering.

Speeches by Mrs. Charles Henrotin,  
the Countess of Aberdeen,  
and Others.

In 1492 a woman sent Columbus to discover a new world; the opening of the woman's congress in this new continent, 400 years later, is evidence that woman has since discovered herself. Mighty strides have led her onward and upward in the long march between the smiting of a tent nail into the temples of Sisera by Jael, the wife of Iseher, and the driving of the last nail of the woman's building by Mrs. Potter Palmer.

When the representative women of the world met yesterday morning in the Memorial Art Palace, on the Lake Front, at the opening session of their congress, which is to continue one week under the auspices of the World Congress Auxiliary, there were a few men of sublimated character in the gathering who doubtless felt that the soul's armor is never well set to the heart unless a woman's hand has braced it. And it is only when she braces it loosely that the honor of manhood falls.

Here one might see a modern Griselda—type of patience and virtue—sitting beside Minerva; Phyllis beside a white-haired Abigail; Amaryllis from the lily's of Theocritus; flesh and blood women of the nineteenth century, not the incarnate ideals of the Italian painters of the renaissance.

At this first session there were perhaps 4,000 women of more or less representative character, the actual delegates standing for a dozen different countries. This fact in itself was enough to make the gathering one of unusual interest to the onlooker. Every one laughed and talked with a volubility peculiar to those idealists who are about to reform the world and usher in the millennium. But in the set speeches there was an earnestness that equaled some of the distinguished men to shudder: each felt the danger of losing his individuality after this great congress, and becoming known to the world hereafter merely as some woman's husband.

Flags and arms of various nations, together with a lavish display of bunting, decorated the rafters, the walls, and the gallery parapet of the temporary assembly hall, named in honor of Columbus.

#### Seen on the Platform.

Shortly after 10 o'clock President Bonney, of the World's Congress Auxiliary; Mrs. Charles Henrotin, vice president of the woman's branch of the auxiliary, and numerous other distinguished men and women came in and took seats on the platform. Among these were professor Swing, who offered the opening invocation; Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Bishop Samuel Fallows, Rev. L. P. Meyer, Thomas B. Bryan, Judge James B. Bradwell, Marquis de Barboles, brother to the Duke of Veragua; Dr. Anton von Palitschek, commissioner general for Austria; Dr. Alexander Poporic, assistant commissioner for Austria; Baron Georges Pilar von Pilichan, commissioner for Russia; L. de Dierscha, educational delegate from St. Petersburg university; Gustav Niederlein, commissioner for Argentine Republic; Chamberlain P. Gloukhoskey, commissioner general for Russia; Carlos R. Gallardo, president of the Argentine commission; Dr. Stephan Waetzoldt, of the University of Berlin, representative of the Prussian educational exhibit; B. Theodoroff, Russian imperial commissioner; Mrs. M. B. Carse, Mrs. John Harvie, Toronto, Canada; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Tilley, London, Canada; Isabelle Bogebot, Paris, France; Callirhoe Parren, Athens, Greece; Mrs. L. Weiner, Cape of Good Hope; Mrs. S. A. Carron, Toronto, Canada; Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, Canada; Miss Josephine L. de Pledge, Chelsea, England; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, president of the nursery section British royal commission; Mrs. Jane Cobden Unwin, England; Mrs. J. W. Seales, Toronto, Canada; Mrs. Mary McDowell, Canada; Mrs. Margaret E. Parker, first president and founder of the British Woman's Temperance Association, Dundee, Scotland; Mrs. Laura Ormiston Chant, England; Countess of Aberdeen, Scotland; Mrs. Albert Barker, London; Madame Smutehker, Russia.

#### Opening of the Congress.

President Bonney plunged into his address almost as soon as the last word of Professor Swing's short prayer had been wafted upward. Mr. Bonney was liberally applauded when he expressed this sentiment: "Wherever, in any part of the world, a friend of man follows the path of duty, we would have him feel that he has the sympathy of those who in other lands follow the same pursuit."

Mr. Bonney supplemented his speech with a statement as to woman's part in his scheme, and then introduced Mrs. Palmer, saying, "You all know and honor her name." After Mrs. Palmer's brief but cordial address of welcome, Mrs. Henrotin delivered an able speech on the work of the woman's branch. There were rousing cheers whenever she had occasion to mention the names of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, both of whom were present. Mrs. Henrotin said that women to-day do not want to rear sons to be shot at by cannon. She spoke for the era of peace.

Eloquent addresses were also made by May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, and the Countess of Aberdeen, both of whom elaborated on the exaltation of womanhood. Pointing to the woman from the Cape of Good Hope Mrs. Sewall said: "Is that not the cape from which we all set sail to-day?"

Clara Barton, of the Red Cross society, was escorted to the platform and given an ovation. Frances E. W. Harper, an eminent colored woman of Philadelphia, was fitly honored with a seat on the platform at this congress. Mrs. Barker, of London, recited Edna Dean Proctor's "Columbia's