



145  JOSEPHINE WHITE GRIFFING TO ECS

Dec. 27th 1870/Washington

My dear Mrs. Stanton

I have delay'd writing you this word, till I saw what shape the Con. wd. take. Now that is settled, nothing seems wanting, but yr. certain presence.¹ No Con. that we have held, has been so important. We must lay a corner stone, at this mg. Make Congress understand that the women of the country will be heard, during every session of Congress, & that a standing Com. of volunteer women from the East & the W. the North & the S. will represent 15000,000 women. Such women as Mrs. Hooker, Davis, Wilbour, Phelps & other independent women from the

N.W. can, & will do most efficient work—in presenting the Resolutions of State Conventions & Legislatures in favor of a 16th amendmt. & in becoming acquainted with members & senators, & the science (or want of it) of Government. All of wh. will fit our sex to influence Legislatures, & organize from the present disorder, systems, embracing the interests of all classes. O! how I see the want of regulation in national affairs, that can never be accomplished, while Govmt. is administered on the male basis of Representation. If a proper demand is made by the right persons, taxpayers & mothers, I think Congress wd. not dare refuse a room in the Capitol Building for the use of such a Com.² . . . Now you must be here, no one can do work that you do, & that is the most fundamental & influential work to be done. You can see the importance of an advance, & that this is the point not in Kansas or California, to talk to Congress & the world. I heartily appreciate the uses of talk like yrs. & Susan's, everywhere, & the financial advantage also. But dear precious friend, do not fail to come, to our Wash. Con. promise this, & then you may go to Europe, in the interim to our next. This is the Capitol—dont leave it to weak Generals, however “sweet” & pious, they may be. We shall have a grand time, if you come. Failure if not. Susan made a grand impression here, never stood so high; her speech surprised even me.³ It was a concise argument, laid down in strong logic, & so womanly done.— Many sd. it was the best lecture, (excepting yours,) of the season. Lawyers praised it, and it was very creditable, as an extempore performance. I say God bless Susan, as I was proud of her. . . .

What a fizzle was the Cleveland mg. “Let them alone” is my idea of duty toward them.

Now come, promise, write me so. . . . Lovingly

☞ J. S. Griffing

☞ Copy in hand of M. C. Wright, Garrison Papers, MNS-S. Ellipses in Wright's copy.

1. Isabella Hooker had assumed control of the convention, and with the help of women in Washington, she formed the National Woman Suffrage and Educational Committee, “a select Comm. to work privately, every winter, & send for help & speakers &c” whenever Congress was ready to listen. She had not managed, however, to take charge without insulting ECS. When Hooker wrote that she “could do without you, on the platform” at the convention, ECS took up the offer and scheduled work elsewhere. “The Beecher conceit

surpasses all understanding," she wrote to Martha Wright. (I. B. Hooker to ECS, 21, 29 December 1870, ECS to M. C. Wright, 27, 31 December 1870, M. C. Wright to ECS, 29 December 1870, *Film*, 14:1149-51, 1160, 1167-72, 1175-78.)

2. The House Committee on Labor and Education made its room available to the suffragists. (*Independent*, 26 January 1871.)

3. On 8 December 1870.

