

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.  
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New York

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.  
Rochester, N.Y. Jan. 11, 1897

My dear cousin;- (Hannah D. Boyles)

Your good letter of the 2nd inst., with its enclosure from Adams, is before me. The number of household articles belonging to the "Old Hive" is just about as large as I anticipated, for I felt quite sure cousin Fannie would say that her mother had inherited everything, and that she, therefore, had the right of possession; and then again, she would feel that according to the old adage, "possession is nine-tenths of the law". I can see no reason why she should take upon herself the matter of going to Mr. Mole or any of the officers of the Historical Society. She certainly had no business in the matter between you and that body, but her grip on the "old Hive" is like the proverbial one of death. I do not see anything that I can say or do in the matter.

I think Rev. A.B. Whipple, Pittsfield, Mass. would be a better man to consult than Mr. Mole, and I liked the look and the voice of the new President, Taylor I think was his name, better than any of them.

From Fannie's account of the old mansion, the winds and storms of this winter will about demolish it, but you have but to read her paper, under the ink and between the lines, to know that it is her anxiety to keep possession of it, that makes it so good for nothing. I have been afraid to write either Mr. Whipple or Mr. Mole since you were here, lest I might say something different from what you had written them.

I too, wish your mint of money or your ship (as grandfather would say) would "heave" in sight. If women had the control of the money they would in many instances spend it very differently from their husbands who do have it. Your idea of fixing up the old place to make it a sort of an asylum for tired out suffrage workers, is just splendid, and cousin Susan would be one of the first to betake herself to it. It is too lovely a spot to be given over to building-lots for the poorest of the poor wage earners of the factories; but it would be such a splendid park with its old trees, and then with you

old trees, and then with walks and seats and grass plots for the tired and weary women and their children to betake themselves to, at the sunset home! It would be a very haven of rest and joy for thousands and thousands in the years that are to come. It does seem to me that you and Albert will be hermitted to bequeath such a legacy to posterity as that old homestead might be made.

About the water-color of the old kitchen which you speak of. Can you not or will you not take it to a photographer and just get a copy of it and send to me? that is what I have had done with the daguerreotype of our old Rochester farmhouse, which was, at least, forty years old, so that I have a very pretty picture of our farmhouse with brothers Dan and Merritt, father and mother all standing in front. I would very much like to have a picture of the old kitchen as it used to be. I am going to put in my book my grandfather's picture with that of my father and mother. So do I beg of you get a photograph of the inside of the old kitchen & send one at once!

Every one of my girls who were with me at Adams asked me, in turn, what those hooks in the ceiling were for in the old keeping room. I had to explain how rings of pumpkin & strings of apples were strung up to dry and how in winter time there were boards put across and pans of milk placed up there for the cream to rise, and not one of them could believe I was telling the real facts of the case!! So I do hope you can send me a photograph of that paint

I hope you will keep that picture to be placed in the Anthony relic room of the "Old Hive" when it gets into splendid shape in the hands of the Berkshire County Historical Society!

Melissa had a very pretty picture of grandfather sitting in his bed-room by the fire. I thought maybe she would get that taken for me. I would not like to take the risk to have the painting sent to me to have it taken here, but you can get it there, with very little expense and much less risk, and I will pay the bill. But keep me posted on what you wish me to say or do in the matter of the old homestead. There is one thing sure, the greatest mercy for cousin Fannie would be to lift her out of that house and get her away entirely from her ducks and chickens!

I wish you had your hearing good so that it would be a pleasure for you to be with us in Washington. I should then urge you to go, come what may, but since you have to take everything in through your eyes, nine-tenths of the pleasure of public meetings is lost, so I cannot feel to urge you to go.

I am glad that cousin Melissa and your Katie are having such good times down in Florida. Thus far the winter has been lovely here in Rochester, only two or three days that might be called cold.

The book is going on pretty well. Mrs. Harper is starting in on her last chapter, 1897, which will take in her description of

our Adams reunion and the photograph of the group of the Anthony family on the door-step, and the picture of all of the company who were there to dinner that day, will go into the book, so you see you and cousin Liss will be there, and it would be nice if I had a picture of the inside of grandfather's bedroom and of the inside of the old kitchen.

We hope to get everything done and ready to go into the hands of the publishers by March 1st, but I have to break out of the work the first of February and shall be gone three if not four weeks, so that will be a great hindrance to the work, but nothing can be allowed to hinder me from going to that meeting and giving the best of myself to it. Of course sister Mary will go when the time comes, and Mrs. Harper also, just for a week. I enclose the Call.

I wish your good husband could see it a pleasure to him to send me \$100.00 toward the establishment of a Press Bureau. Nothing would do so much to help all of us women to stay at home with our brothers, husbands, and sons to make the comfortable, as to have our educational work done more largely thoroughly through the newspapers and magazines throughout the country. I know that he feels that the conditions of society for his daughters are vastly better to-day, because of the agitation and education that has been carried on by our women who have been ostracised for the last fifty years because they demanded a recognition of women's rights, civil and political. Just read him this paragraph and see if he does not say, "Yes, Hannah, I will do it at once."

It was splendid of you to have all of the Chicago members of the family, Charlie's multiplied numbers added, at your Christmas. I enjoyed my dinner at his new home very much and I really believe that the influence of the mother and the children will be good for him. He had been petted and had his own way in every particular, everybody giving up their wills and wishes to please him, and it will be a splendid experience for him to be with those five young people who cannot always stop to think whether they are going to please or displease their new papa. He will have to learn there to be but one in the family with a republican form of government, not the autocrat whose wish is law. Such a position of equality is good for all of us.

It seems good to me to think of you and Mr. Boyles in the home at Riverside with your Charlie, this winter. However delightful the Lake Geneva castle may be in hot weather, it is too far off for you in the cold snowy weather of winter, and it is too lonely for Charlie to be left there at Riverside, so I enjoy the feeling that he has his mother and father with him.

With best love of sister Mary and myself, I am,

Susan B. Anthony

P.S. At dinner - I told Mrs Harper of your old picture of the inside of dear Grandmothers old kitchen - & of Melessa's painting of her inside of Grandfathers bedroom - & she begged me to write earnestly & urgently for you to either express both to me at once

or else get photographs of both & send to me at earliest moment for she wants both to go into the book very much!! Our publishers have nearly all of our pictures in their hands - and are now at work making their half-tones from them - for the book - and yours & Melissas inside Views of the old bedroom & kitchen will complete the lot - will be beautiful reminders of the older days in our grand father & mothers home - so don't fail to let me have them.