

By Kester A. Hasland  
Sunday Chron. Sept. 30, 1894

## MRS. BLINN'S WORK.

### A SUCCESSFUL RECORD ON THE STUMP.

#### Hereafter She Will Devote Her Time and Abilities to the Cause of Her Sex.

In a bright, pretty San Francisco home, helping to preside over a happy family circle and dispensing hospitality to hosts of friends, is a woman whose unassuming life and manners would not lead one to suspect the fact that hers has been a brilliant career, both State and national in its extent. Mrs. Nellie Holbrook Blinn is the woman. Her work in California began soon after her arrival, in 1868, when she became a teacher in the Lincoln Grammar School, and when she also instructed large classes in Virgil and Cicero and in dramatic elocution. For these duties she came well equipped, having been a teacher at 13 years of age, alternately teaching, attending college and studying dramatic art in her native village in Vermont.

After two years in the public school she became instructress of elocution in a fashionable seminary, a position which she held for seven years. In 1870 she became the wife of Charles H. Blinn, a member of the famous First Vermont Cavalry and well known in Grand Army, social and business circles in this city.

Always prominent in charitable and philanthropic work, Mrs. Blinn, shortly after her marriage, gave an entertainment in Platt's Hall for the benefit of the Orphans' Protective and Relief Society. On this occasion, as Pauline in the "Lady of Lyons," Mrs. Blinn made so decided a hit that the manager of the Grand Opera-house urged her to take the position of leading lady, which offer she accepted that season. Domestic duties and the care and education of an only son, who is now a young actor of promise, became paramount, and her stage life closed after three successful seasons, with a repertoire of twenty-five different characters, as leading lady with W. E. Sheridan.

Mrs. Blinn is of the perfect blonde type, her expressive blue eyes and marked features denoting strength, while the remarkable vitality which has enabled her to carry on the important work of later years is characterized by a robust and finely proportioned figure.

In 1876, while she was giving patriotic recitations, Mrs. Blinn was engaged as a political speaker for the Hayes campaign in California. It was then that she was adopted as the "Daughter of the Hayes Invincibles." Upon her return to this city, after a tour of the State during the entire campaign, a testimonial was given Mrs. Blinn which netted \$1200, and at which she was introduced by Tom Fitch as the "Joan of Arc of the Republican party."

Here began Mrs. Blinn's most important work. In 1880 came a flattering offer from Chairman Jewell of the national committee to speak for Garfield in



NELLIE HOLBROOK BLINN.

New York, which she accepted, opening the campaign in Chickering Hall, New York, on September 20th. She spoke nightly in New York and Connecticut with General Kirkpatrick, Emory Storrs, Chauncey Depew, Robert G. Ingersoll and Senator Hawley of Connecticut.

Of her success at this time the Hartford Times said: "No single person has created such enthusiasm as has attended the labors of Miss Nellie Holbrook of California. In her speech of nearly two hours she handled the tariff question in a manner that would do credit to the chairman of the Finance Committee of the lower house of Congress. After her speech the horses were unhitched from her carriage by the Young Men's Club, and she was drawn to her hotel, preceded by the band playing "Seeing Nellie Home."

Returning to California Mrs. Blinn resumed her interest in the affairs of home and society until 1884, when she accepted a call from Indiana and opened the Blaine and Logan campaign with Benjamin Harrison and Governor Porter in Indianapolis, afterwards making fifty-three speeches in company with them and General Paul Vandervoort and Lew Wallace. Many of these speeches were made out of doors to audiences too large to be accommodated in halls and with a voice of such power and resonance as to amaze her hearers and to elicit from Lew Wallace the exclamation: "Where in the world does that voice come from?"

Owing to her liberal education and experience in all matters of a public nature, Mrs. Blinn is naturally a strong champion of equal rights, and has recently been elected president of the California State Woman's Suffrage and Educational Association.

Mrs. Blinn has been asked to again resume the platform for the present political campaign in one of the Western States, but will probably devote herself exclusively to the suffrage cause, and has already begun the work of organizing county boards, and in other ways accomplishing effective results. The women of California are fortunate in securing for a champion and co-worker in any cause in which they may be interested, a woman of such ability as Mrs. Blinn, for she brings to their aid the mature wisdom gained by long experience in active life and crowned by the achievement of unusual successes.

## MEN AND WOMEN.

A woman who loves her husband never can understand how marriage is possible without love. Is this because she knows how hard it is to live with a man under the most propitious circumstances?

It is most unfortunate for woman that she not infrequently continues to love



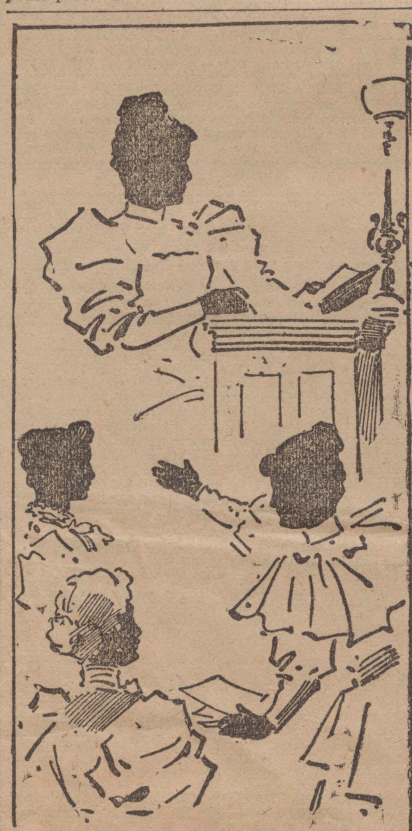
# WORLDLY WORK

something else to do than listen to the same material facts and immaterial facts time and again.

Not only have I found women more grateful than men, but I have found that the poorer they are the more generous they try to be—that is, generous in proportion to their means. I believe a woman magnifies what is done for her. The courts are a mystery to her, and when she wins she seems to believe that almost superhuman efforts have been used on her behalf.

## WOMEN WRONGLY CLASSIFIED.

JUDGE W. W. MORROW—Women as clients do not differ from men as clients, other things being equal. A woman who had no acquaintance with affairs is neither more unreasonable nor more suspicious, nor less ready to pay a lawyer's fees than a man who has had no acquaintance with affairs. The great majority of cases handled by attorneys involve men whose business interests have made them familiar with legal principles. Such men are accustomed to deal-



"RATHER THAN TELL IT ALL TO THE UNSYMPATHETIC EAR OF MEN."

ing with attorneys, and they know the value of time. A minimum of explanation, therefore, suffices to acquaint them with their position before the law, and their business is conducted expeditiously and with the least possible bother to their counsel. I have met many such men whose acquaintance with principles was as full and as accurate as that of the lawyers who represented them before the courts. It ought to be manifest, it seems to me, that it is an injustice to compare such men to women whose scheme of life never takes them into a lawyer's office until marital differences or death drives them there. Take a man similarly situated, who has not been engaged in business, and has had no occasion to interest himself in the workings of the law or the courts; such a man would cause a lawyer as much trouble as the ordinary woman.

My acquaintance with the sex has not led me to the belief that they are innately incapable of meeting the males of their species on a common level. I have a young lady in my mind's eye whose conversation it is a pleasure for me to listen to. She grasps law principles with a readiness that would be creditable to the acutest legal mind, and she draws a conclusion as justly and as readily. If she is an exceptional woman she is so only in the sense that one man is exceptional among his fellows.

No, I am convinced that it is a mistake to classify men and women separately in this respect.

## NO MONEY FOR LAWYER'S FEES.

RABBI VOORSANGER.—Whether clergymen are good or bad clients is a question about which I know nothing. I was never a client in my life, and therefore can have no opinion that would carry much weight. As a rule I don't believe clergymen have much to do with lawyers in a professional capacity. The majority of ministers haven't much money to pay in lawyer's fees, and they have no occasion for doing so were they ever so wealthy.

I can't indorse what Judge Coffey says about women. I believe women to be every bit as reasonable, considerate, confidential and grateful as men. If this be true, I do not see why they should not make as good clients as men. But that is a question about which a lawyer's opinion would be a great deal better than mine.

## THEY CATCH THE DRIFT.

PATRICK REDDY—Women of experience are as bright when it comes to the question of law as are men. It is my experience and observation that women make the best witnesses. I would certainly choose a good average intelligent woman to go on of law, for they are the stand than many shrewd and hard to men that I know. You see, women are shrewd when it comes to turn-

ing over a question, and they make shrewd and discreet replies. They are quick to catch the drift of an examination, and it is hard to make fools of them. They are likely at any time to turn the tables with some unexpected reply. Some lawyers are very nervous when cross-examining lady witnesses, and often they have a good reason to be.

Clients, male and female, are sometimes hard to get along with, but I cannot agree with the learned Judge Coffey when he says they are more unreasonable or more ungrateful than men. So far as clients go, I would as soon have a woman as a man. In no respect is there any disadvantage in having a lady client instead of a man.

## WOMEN WITNESSES BEST.

MRS. HESTER HARLAND—As Secretary of the Board of Lady Managers of the California Exhibitors at the World's Fair I can speak as a business woman. Ladies, as a rule, have much to learn about business. It is natural that they should be timid and somewhat suspicious when suddenly thrown out in the world to do battle for themselves.

I can fancy that Judge Coffey has had very trying times lately, else he would not have spoken as he did in the interview on women as clients.

Yes, I have made observations in court and I know that women like to go there, just as Mrs. Foltz said, to be lifted up by the eloquence of a great lawyer. It is a great sight to see a

gifted barrister straining himself in his mighty effort to out-argue the subtle plea of his antagonist. It attracts men and women both.

At the same time I think that men and women go to the Martin trial and other sensational cases for other purposes. There are both right-minded and wrong-minded people in the world, you know.

If I were a party to a lawsuit and could choose my witnesses I would choose women every time. Lawyers confuse them less than they do men. As a witness a woman has larger perceptive faculties than a man, and that is true in other cases, too.

## MUST NOT ANTAGONIZE MEN.

MRS. NELLIE HOLBROOK BLINN—I have been in courts in Paris, London and also in American cities. I was very courteously treated in every case. It is my belief that ladies are generally well treated. *Nothing is to be by men when they gained by the chip-behave as ladies. I on-the-shoulder attitude have had much to do with men in a business and political*

way, having given 100 lectures in New York State during the Garfield campaign and fifty-three during the Blaine campaign.

I think there are a good many women with chips on their shoulders. It is wrong for them to antagonize men in that way. They lose more than they gain. A man, however, must live so as to gain and keep the respect of women. Upon the fires of folly he must turn the hose of common sense.

Women are more free with money when they have plenty of it than are the men. That has been my observation.

No, we must recognize the fact that men are our helpers, and must not oppose them unduly or unreasonably.

## NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

CHARLES F. HANLON.—I don't know how others have fared, but my experience is that a lawyer is handicapped that goes into a case with a woman conduct. *Gallantry to the sex is productive of discrimination in court, for you cannot treat women as you do men.*

be, gallant to the sex in court as well as out of it. If they ask for postponements, etc., on any kind of an excuse a man doesn't like to refuse them. Neither does the Court. Some way your feelings compel you to treat them differently in court than you do the male members of the bar. Attorneys of your own sex you can hammer and smash and carry on the hardest kind of a battle with so long as it is strictly in the lines of the law. A gown makes all the difference in the world in the way you attack the lawyer on the other side. As the years roll by and the sexes become more familiar with one another in business perhaps this feeling will wear away.

As clients I have always found women as good as men except in one particular. They lack business knowledge; that is, most of them do. Give them that knowledge and I think the ordinary woman client is every bit as good as the ordinary man client. The ignorant in either sex is sometimes rather difficult to get along with. I make it an invariable rule never to take a man or woman who cannot read. I have discovered that clients who cannot read are almost always suspicious and hard to get along with. They will make all sorts of foolish accusations, and no amount of explanations or proof will thoroughly satisfy them.

## TAKE OFF HER TAG.

To the Editor of the Examiner: Seeing discussion about women clients, their liability, etc., is open for all, I cannot refrain from giving my experience, which I am sure is the same as many other. *She must show her women's. About five label of "somebody's years ago circum-darling" as a guarantee placed me for anty of respecta- the first time in my bility and relia- life in direct contact bility.*

with the business world, and being born with the usual amount of credulity that seems to be a ruling trait in women, I at first believed everything any one said, simply because they said it, and I could see no occasion for saying anything untrue. I considered my word once



"MEN LAWYERS MAY HAMMER AND SMASH EACH OTHER."

given or inducement implied as reliable as a written statement or contract, and thought business men were the same. In many instances I trusted to their honor and found it to be a very uncertain quantity, and as many times I went home in indignation and cried over the most cold-blooded, glaring, unjust advantages that men will take of credulous, helpless, defenseless women.

Women may be unreliable, as General Barnes says, "through the result of centuries of oppression," but the enlightened woman, even through the clouds that have enveloped the sex for ages, shines forth a living refutation of the odium endured from the beginning of history made by man, which ranked women among his goods and chattels, his live stock, "and anything that was his."

When women are looked upon as human beings, without being compelled to wear a tag of "somebody's darling" as a guaranty of their respectability and reliability, the result of centuries of oppression will disappear in the incentive to higher education, which now is rendered useless to them by the eternal unfitness and inequality, which to a woman who thinks and has had practical experience, is degrading. There are women and women and women, as well as men and men and men—and for every unreliable woman I'll show you at least one unreliable man.

VERE DE VERE.