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Ex-President Cleveland Profited by Woman's Work

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Ex-President Cleveland Profited by Woman's Work.

Woman's work in Civic Reform seems to be on trial with Ex-President Cleveland on the Bench. There is a scrap of history that Mr. Cleveland would do well to study and digest before he indulges further discussion of women in moral and civic reform.

Two women prominent before the public became engaged in a contest, which from 1877 to 1884 was very much like what Mr. Cleveland deprecates as unseemly between women; but, judging from his political career is altogether proper and even necessary between men in practical politics.

The question at issue was; shall the prohibition partisan movement be absorbed into the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the resultant be The National Home Protection Party of Reform? A Chicago woman, prominent leader of the W.C.T.U. taking the Affirmative, ably marshalled not only the women, but many conservative church people, and skillfully drew a large following of radical prohibitionists.

A Pittsburg woman, also a prominent leader as well as founder in both movements, could not see that this was the right thing to do, no more than Mr. Cleveland at a cer-

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ried in his career could see that the polity desired by

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many of his electors was for the welfare of his country. So this Pittsburg woman, despite the responsibilities to her family and her duties as the wife of an active minister of the Gospel, went to New York and established Headquarters in a brother minister's public office of Eighth avenue and during about seven years planned and worked to advance the temperance reform by keeping the partisan movement active and separate from the W. C. T. U. organization.

The work of the Pittsburg woman began to threaten the Republican majority in New York state. And in the winter of 1879/80 a special agent appeared at the parsonage in Pittsburg. He was seen by the writer. He soon made known his object of call in a statement that at a meeting of the controlling politicians of the state, it had been decided that the Pittsburg woman conducting work for temperance throughout New York and Eastern Pennsylvania was admirably qualified for the position of Superintendent of Public Schools in Penna. The Governor would appoint; salary five thousand and side offices. The husband, if he desired could still abide in the ministry.

Being informed that in a few days the one who should decide upon this matter would be at home, the caller rose; but took occasion to inquire about financial remuneration

and encouragingly remarked; "five thousand a year supplemental to a pastor's never-too-large income would mean fine advantages for the five children," who had not failed to make themselves observed.

When the wife and mother returned the visit was discussed and the visitor, who was still in the city, notified He came, but could not persuade the temperance worker that it would be right in principle, or just for the work and the many ~~workers~~ ^{lecturers} she had in management, to consider the proposition.

The following year October, 1881, the Pittsburg woman called a national Conference of Prohibition and Woman Suffrage advocates and devotees to meet in New York city, which proved to be a large and representative body. In a spirited address she carried the adoption of a paper committing the Conference to partizan temperance reform with a suffrage plank written by Susan B. Anthony.

This action was taken to Chicago by the Pittsburg woman in 1882 and was approved by a very large Conference of prohibitionists. And in 1884 a culmination was reached in the Pittsburg convention by the nomination of Ex-Governor John P. St. John for the Presidency of the United States on a platform distinctively political, leaving to the W.C.T.U. the primary educational and moral and reli-

gious phases of reform, as was purposed in its founding by this same Pittsburg woman.

Where all this touched Mr. Cleveland politically will appear from a few data.

Gen'l Neal Dow, Prohibition candidate for the Presidency in 1880, received in New York state only 2,077 votes. After the New York city Conference in 1881 the Prohibition party increased its vote to over 20,000 in 1882, in that state, and the Republican plurality was wiped out, so that Mr. Cleveland was elected Governor without any such incident as "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion."

Through able management of the campaign by the Pittsburg woman in 1884, the Prohibition party vote in New York state was increased to 25,000 despite the most desperate counter efforts of the Republicans, including the getting possession of and using the temperance mailing lists; and Mr. Grover Cleveland, by a small plurality from New York state was read in, President of the United States. The inference is plain, that Ex-President Cleveland should be the last man to declare against the wisdom and public influence of woman in civic reform; except he shall first admit that his own political advancement was largely the result of abnormal forces.

Moral; The Lord Jesus Christ engages workers now, as in His earth-life, without regard to sex or human criticism.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

W. K. Brown