

Woman's Suffrage in
America

Hook

AL/1744

My dear Children, Washington. 12 May 1876.

It seems impossible to get as much time as I should like for writing to you because for one thing in a private house, as we are now, we cannot so well be by ourselves as if we alone in a hotel.

Well, I think I told you we got here last Thursday. There are in this house Mr. Winslow, formerly a builder, now in the Mechanical department of the Treasury. He is perhaps 60 or a little less. Mrs. Caroline B. Winslow M.D. is his wife, of course. She is just ten years older than I am. People come to see her here, & she goes out to a few of her patients. Miss Grace Roberts came to her many years ago when she was very weak & ill, to board & be cured, & she has stopped ever since. She is studying medicine now, part of her time, & part seems to act as housekeeper. Mr. Edgar Macpherson is a nephew of the Winslows

who lives with them, & has a "homeopathic
pharmacy" a couple of streets off; he is
23 I suppose but has a very young look.
Ellen, the servant, is a very good useful
black woman who does all the house-work,
a pleasant intelligent body. Upstairs

On the ~~Friday~~ a room or two are
let off to Mr. Darious Lyman, one of
the superior clerks in the Treasury,
but he goes for all his meals to a
Restaurant. We are in a sort of quiet
private street, out of a main thoroughfare,
there is a nice garden & beautiful green
trees right opposite, belonging to such
a lovely wooden house with deep
verandahs. All the street is full of
government clerks & officials; & in hot
days they sit out on the steps & porticoes.
We can hear the train car bells close
by, & are within 5 minutes of the post office.
On the Friday after our arrival we

had a consultation with several people
here, well a score say. One of them was
an excitable lady Mrs. Spencer who had
come without being asked, & who was
very angry because we would not
go & appear & speak on Woman Suffrage
to a Committee of Congress the next day.
It fell to my lot to make it very
plain to her that we would not
obtrude ourselves in any such way, &
we got golden opinions for our frankness
& firmness with her. But I said I hoped
to be present, & if the Committee asked me
any questions I should answer them, straight.

So I went with Mrs. Winslow on the
Saturday, - a number of ladies were
present, Mrs. Spencer was reading a
speech she had already got printed.
Some of it was true, & some was not
in a good spirit at all. Two other ladies
spoke, & then the Members of Congress asked

mother's letter of 25th April, only reached me 11th May.
have to her, but no note. Open office for father & Mrs. Wilson.

me some questions about Women Suffrage
in England, & I told them about our
Municipal & School Board Elections which
seemed new to them. In reply to other
questions I told them about the relation
of W.S. to the agitation of C.D.A. Repeal.
They were more light & familiar than
our M.P.s. would be, so when the chairman
tried to make a fool of me by asking if
it was intended women should go into
the Army, I said I had not heard that
proposed yet, but that most of those
who desired W.S. had sense enough to
wish for the least possible amount of
Army, — then his colleagues & the ladies
laughed at him, & one of the ladies said
"Elegant", as they do when anything
pleases them. That is about all.

My time is nearly gone too.
Mr. Gladstone's letters always seem to come
before mine. I expect they are posted
late; by one neglects them?