

Court does not feel called upon to make a change until such a change is required by statute, or a more extended practice in the highest courts of the State." With all due respect for this opinion, we beg leave to quote the rule for admission to the bar of that court as laid down in the Rule Book :

" RULE No. 2.—*Attorneys.*

"It shall be requisite to the admission of attorneys or counsellors, to practice in this court, that they shall have been such for three years past in the Supreme Courts of the States to which they respectively belong, and that their private and professional character shall appear to be fair."

There is nothing in this rule, or in the oath which follows it, either express or implied, which confines the membership of the Bar of the U. S. Supreme Court to the male sex. Had any such term been included therein it would virtually be nullified by the 1st paragraph of the United States Revised Statutes, ratified by the 43rd Congress, December 1, 1873, in which occur the following words: "In determining the meaning of the Revised Statutes, or of any act or resolution of Congress passed subsequent to February 25. 1871, words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things; words importing the masculine gender may be applied to *females*," etc., etc.

Now as to "immemorial usage in England." The Executive branch of that government has been vested in an honored and honourable woman for the past 40 years. Now is it to be supposed that if this distinguished lady, or any one of her accomplished daughters, should ask to be heard at the Bar of the Court of the Queen's Bench, that Court, the practice of which the United States Supreme Court has set up as its model, that she would be refused?

Blackstone recounts that Ann, Countess of Pembroke, held the office of Sheriff of Westmoreland, and exercised its duties in person. At the assizes at Appleby she sat with the judges on the bench. See Coke on Lit., p. 326. The Scotch sheriff is properly a judge, and by the statute 20 Geo II., c. 43, he must be a lawyer of three years' standing.

Eleanor, Queen of Henry Third of England, in the year 1253, was appointed Lady Keeper of the Great Seal, or the Supreme Chancellor

of England, and sat in the Aula Regia or King's Court. She in turn appointed Kilkenny, Archdeacon of Coventry, as the sealer of writs and common law instruments, but the more important matters she executed in person.

Queen Elizabeth held the Great Seal at three several times during her remarkable reign. After the death of Lord Keeper Bacon she presided for two months in the Aula Regia.

It is claimed that "admission to the bar constitutes an office." Every woman post mistress, pension agent, and notary public throughout the land is a bonded officer of the Government. The Western States have appointed women as school superintendents, enrolling and engrossing clerks for their several Legislatures and State Librarians.

Of what use are our seminaries and colleges for women if after they have passed through the curriculum of the schools there is for them no preferment, and no emolument; no application of the knowledge of the arts and sciences acquired, and no recognition of the excellence attained.

But this country, now in the second year of the second century of her history, is no longer in her leading strings, that she should look to Mother England for a precedent to do justice to the daughters of the land. She had to make a precedent when the first male lawyer was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court.

Ah! this country is one that has not hesitated when the necessity has arisen to make precedents and write them in blood. There was no precedent for this free Republican Government and the war of the Revolution; no precedent for the war of the Rebellion; no precedent for the emancipation of the slave; no precedent for the labor strikers of last summer. The more extended practice, and the more extended public opinion referred to by the learned Chancellor has already been accomplished. Ah! that very opinion telegraphed throughout the land by the "associated press" brought back the response of the people as on the wings of the wind by that same press, asking you for that special act now so nearly consummated, which shall open this door of labor to women.

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