

ry is rife when officers in trust are reckless enough to be induced by knave or bigot, or by their own spite, to molest peaceable people. And when fellow-officers uphold or screen them, it is time the people looked to city rule by day and night as well as to asylums. Officers would have got their lesson ere this if women had refused obedience to sham commands. Clever reformers have been non-resistant to the detriment of progress. The raid is only now commenced on me, and I am glad that I as soon commenced disobeying wrong demands. My help must only be given where justice calls. Unconstitutional statutes rob my earnings in the name of tax like bandits firing at my home: but yielding rights where law has outgrown the slavery, would be harder still. It is marvelous that the mass of intelligent women do this. Let all remember henceforth that even conservative judges declare that there is no law discriminating on our style of costume, and that no charge has held against an arrested dress reformer. It is outrage, it is Comstockism, and will be questioned. Women should enter liberal leagues and earnestly co-operate with men for mutual defence against encroachments in many lines: for in some way will tyrannic compulsion be wrecked, while women nurture depravity by subjection and disease—while men fail to see the basis of our bondage in abnormal lives, and waste reform work on withering twigs, with ignored cancers at the vital root.

I am not pleading that I be defended in a dress of use, only in the light that women must be so defended ere their co-action in numbers guarantees success for the present struggle against oppression. Garrison's cause triumphed when it was the people's. Bennett's conscience gave the lesson to the press of the period when liberals sustained him through prosecution. Woman's is the cause to-day, underlying the financial, governmental, and religious; and her forward action must be sustained, her culture become wholesome, her womanhood be renewed, ere the general demoralization of this nation can be allayed. A revival of physical fitness; its consequent patriotism and nobility of purpose would spring rapidly to view, if a movement for heredity that really means business, could be infused into the soul and body of the liberal leagues, and this, instead of alienating other reforms, would centralize and fraternize. Causes must be reached. Truly,
MARY E. TILLOTSON.

Items of Liberal News.

The New York State Freethinkers' Association met in convention at Hornellsville on the 31st of August. . . . The National Liberal League Congress convened in Hushley's Hall, Chicago, on the 20th of September and the 1st and 2d of October. . . . The International Congress of Freethinkers assembled in London on the 25th of September. Mr. D. M. Bennett and Mrs. E. B. Foote, of New York, were present as delegates. . . . During the past summer we have been called upon by Drs. Barkany and De Paepe, of Brussels, Belgium, both of whom were present at the International Congress as delegates in the last named city last year. Both of these gentlemen are earnest workers in the cause of free thought. . . . In a private letter from Mr. Bennett we are informed that Mr. Bradlaugh is recovering from the injury he received from the hands of the legal mob which prevented him from taking his honestly acquired seat in Parliament. He still has to carry his arm in a sling. Mr. B. thinks he will be admitted at the next session in February. . . . The National Defense Association which adjourned its meetings over the summer, will resume its weekly labors at Science Hall this month.

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