

did every shade of religious and political thought and opinion, that it seemed unwise to allow the meeting to dissolve without taking measures towards placing it on a permanent basis. Accordingly, there was formed, the National Council of Women of the United States; and also an INTERNATIONAL Council, officered by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, of England; Isabella Baglot, France; Kirstine Frederiksen, Denmark, and Clara Barton, and Rachel Foster Avery, of America.

By the terms of the constitution, meetings of the International Council were to be held quinquennially; but in 1889, in response to an invitation of the progressive women of France, an International Congress of women was convened in Paris, under the auspices of the French Government. Before its adjournment that congress, composed of delegates, representing over one hundred societies, and twenty-six different nationalities, pledged its members to work in each country for the establishment of National Councils and for the dissemination of information concerning the International Council, and its objects. These, as set forth in the preamble are as follows:

"We, women of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of humanity will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organized movement of women will best conserve the highest good of the Family and the State, do hereby band ourselves together in a confederation of workers, committed to the overthrow of all forms of ignorance and injustice, and to the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom, and law."

And its general policy is outlined in Article No. 2 of the Constitution, viz.:

ARTICLE II.—GENERAL POLICY.

"This International Council is organized in the interest of no one propaganda, and has no power over its auxiliaries beyond that of suggestion and

sympathy; therefore, no National Council voting to become auxiliary to the International shall thereby render itself liable to be interfered with in respect to its complete organic unity, independence, or methods of work, or shall be committed to any principle or method of any other Council, or to any utterance or act of this International Council, beyond compliance with the terms of this Constitution."

In May, 1891, there was held in Albaugh's Opera House at Washington, D. C., the meeting of the National Council of the United States, which comprised delegates from twelve different organizations, all of them NATIONAL in their bearing and objects: such as the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, National Suffrage Association, National Free Will Baptist Missionary Society, Sorosis, the pioneer among women's clubs, Women's National Press Association, the National League for the promotion of Social Purity, etc., etc., officered by such women as Frances E. Willard, Mary D. Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Julia Ward Howe, Ella Dietz Clymer and others.

In addition to these no less than forty widely different Women's Associations were represented by fraternal delegates; associations for every purpose, educational, industrial, religious, reformatory, philanthropic, ethical, literary and political. From the Lady Board of Managers of the Columbian Exhibition to the Woman's Health Protective Association of New York City—(which energetic body has set in motion the civic dust-pan and caused the municipal broom to sweep cleaner than ever before)—a chromatic scale of every laudable enterprise ever attempted by true-hearted womanhood.

To these bright intellects, the opportunities to be gained from an International Congress of Women to be held during the Columbian Exhibition, seemed so important that to-day "their sound has," literally, "gone out into