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SAR 589

# METHODISTS FAVOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE

## Church Adopts Strong Statement Drawn by Prominent Members Favoring Suffrage

The Methodist Episcopal Church was committed to woman suffrage on May 23, 1916, at its national convention in Saratoga, N. Y., through the acceptance of a resolution introduced by Judge Henry Wade Rogers, of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The resolution is as follows:

### Political Franchise for Women

WHEREAS, In the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church women have always been loyal and faithful workers, and

WHEREAS, We recognize that Christian wives and mothers should be given an opportunity to assist in the great work of introducing into politics more of the true spirit of practical Christianity, and

WHEREAS, The Methodist Episcopal Church has always stood for justice and righteousness in social and political life,

*Resolved*, Therefore, that we, the delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, assert our belief in the justice and righteousness of granting to women the political franchise.

HENRY WADE ROGERS, L.L.D., Judge, U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, New Haven, Conn.

ALBERT J. WALLACE, Ex-Lieutenant-Governor of California, Pasadena, California.

A. W. HARRIS, L.L.D., President of Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

SAMUEL DICKIE, L.L.D., President of Albion College, Albion, Mich.

ROLLO V. WATT, Insurance man, San Francisco, California.

J. FRANK HANLY, Ex-Governor of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana.

ALEX. SIMPSON, Jr., Lawyer, Philadelphia, Pa.

H. T. AMES, Lawyer, Williamsport, Pa.

GEORGE M. SHURLOCK, Lawyer, York, Nebraska.

JOHN MARSHALL, Justice, Supreme Court of Kansas, Topeka, Kansas.

JAMES R. DAY, L.L.D., Chancellor of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

SAMUEL PLANTZ, L.L.D., President of Lawrence University, Lawrence, Wisconsin.

ELMER A. DENT, D.D., District Superintendent, New Haven, Conn.

J. I. BARTHOLOMEW, D.D., District Superintendent, New Bedford, Mass.

L. J. BIRNEY, D.D., Dean of Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Mass.

I. GARLAND PENN, D.D., Secretary of Freedman's Aid Society, Cincinnati, Ohio.

DAVID G. DOWNEY, D.D., Book Editor of Methodist Book Concern, New York City.

GEORGE ELLIOTT, D.D., Minister, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Judge Henry Wade Rogers, of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in advocating the adoption of the resolutions, remarked that the act proposed was, in his opinion, an act of justice. He did not propose to take time to make an argument, for no argument was needed. He appealed to a General Conference that represents a Church that, through quadrennium after quadrennium and through generation after generation, had filed its indictment against human slavery, and had piled anathema upon anathema in its denunciation of the liquor traffic. He offered the resolution because he believed that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and not from the consent of half of the governed ; because he believed in government for the people and by the people, and not by half of the people ; because in his judgment women need the ballot for the same reasons that men need it ; because women are entitled to have a share in the making of the laws that regulate their lives, and the lives of their children, laws that impose taxes upon their property, and laws under which they and their children may be sentenced to death.

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