

1/29/19

My dear Mrs. Catt:

We are dreadfully sorry to hear of your illness. I do hope that you are much better by now. I am leaving tomorrow for Texas, and needless to say, I hate like every thing to go with things hanging in such an anxious way here. And if there were one single thing to be done here which would be better or more successfully done, I would not go. But there is not and every day that I put off getting back to Texas makes our job there harder to swing, as the very same women who forced us into campaign are now saying that we will not need to raise money or exert ourselves "The men will carry it for us". I do not need to comment on that, do I? (Just here let me say that I know all about that Governor of ours, the man who told Mrs. Shuler about him in Oklahoma was right in everything except that he did not fool us at all. There was no choice. It was elect him or let Ferguson be elected. BUT there will be other elections in Texas. In the meantime, if any thing should happen to Culberson within the near future the man he would appoint is old Col. R.M. Johnson, close friend and political ally of Joseph Weldon Bailey's and a violent Anti-Suffrageist. So nothing must happen to Culberson!

Thank you for all of the good, helpful advice. Please let me have any that may occur to you from time to time. I have already started the machinery in motion to get the volunteer workers for that petition work and I think that that may save us. I will write to Mrs. Shuler for sample petition.

And that brings me to the question of salaries in general and my own in particular. You are very good to be interested in my welfare and I do indeed appreciate it beyond words. Without burdening you at all with my personal troubles, the circumstances are, briefly like this; finding that I absolutely could go no further in Suffrage work on my own means, and because the convention had voted to give me a salary, which I had at the time declined, not realizing that I was coming so abruptly to the end of my own resources, I asked the Board to allow me the salary which had been voted. There were two dissenting votes to this and I did not wish it with even two votes against, and sent in my resignation. This the Board unanimously refused to accept and again voted the salary. It was most embarrassing, but as

I was in the midst of the work for the Primary Suffrage Bill (this was last January), I did take the salary and continue. I do not yet see what else I could have done. But for myself personally I have never committed a more foolish action, tho I, do honestly believe that the work which I have been able to do has offset, for suffrage, the scathing criticism which I have endured. As soon however as I found that there was this feeling of disapproval, I began donating the entire amount of the salary back into the Treasury and so continued to do until I could get a quorum of the Board together to rescind the action granting that salary. May was the last month I think that I accepted it.

It has really been a very cruel situation with the Board and convention refusing repeatedly to release me, and my enemies making the unkindest kind of capital of my accepting a salary, while I have been altogether unable to defend myself without going into my personal affairs. I hope I may never live thro such another nightmare!

You may be very sure that nothing would induce me to again make the same mistake. The question of a salary has already been suggested for me if I would return and while I said that of course I would return and at once, that I would not under any circumstances accept a salary. You have asked that I be perfectly frank with you and I am being just that, because as my Commander in Chief, I think that you have a perfect right to know the things which may affect the work of your army. Therefore, please do not think that I do not appreciate your offer to try to raise a salary for me outside of Texas, when I say please do not do that. I have of my own, about five hundred dollars, and that will see me thro the campaign. I am sure that it could not be spent in a better way than to make it possible for me to go unhampered into the campaign and I am glad to "donate" it.

But, if the campaign loses, I will simply have to come out of the work in Texas regardless of Board's and Conventions, because I really will be "broke":

I am an inarticulate sort of a person, sometimes I feel that I must be the descendant of the one in the Bible who was possessed of a "dumb devil", so little can I express myself about the things that really touch me deeply. And I have said all of this awkwardly enough, but dear Mrs. Catt I will remember for always and always your kindness to me this year. I want you to know that it came to me at a time when I needed it sorely and it has meant more to me than I can ever say.

Faithfully yours,