

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADJOURNED
MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
CONGRESS ON UNIFORM DIVORCE
LAWS, HELD AT PHILADELPHIA,
PA., NOVEMBER 13, 1906**

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Proceedings of the Adjourned Meeting of the National Congress on Uniform Divorce Laws,
Held at Philadelphia, Pa., November 13, 1906 by Various

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Philadelphia, Pa., November 13, 1906.

The National Congress on Uniform Divorce Laws, pursuant to adjournment, and in response to the call of the President, re-convened at Hotel Bellevue-Stratford at 10 o'clock, A. M., President SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: The Congress will now come to order. The proceedings will be opened with prayer by the Rev. William L. Worcester, D. D.

PRAYER BY DR. WORCESTER:

O God, our Heavenly Father, the author of our being, in whom exist in their essence and divine perfection all laws of useful and happy life, be with us, we pray, and bless our proceedings. Enlighten us by Thy Holy Spirit. Enlighten us to perceive that all wise and beneficent human law is but the application of the Divine law to the needs and conditions of men. Guide, we beseech Thee, the deliberations of this body, and grant that they may bear fruit in the blessing of many homes. Amen.

The PRESIDENT: The Mayor of the city, who was to have been with us and make an address of welcome on behalf of the city of Philadelphia, is unfortunately confined to his home by illness; but he has sent here to represent him Dr. Coplin, the head of the Department of Public Health and Charities, who will make that address in his behalf.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY DR. W. M. L. COPLIN:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of this Congress: The number of delegates representing this great country of ours should be welcomed by some one better fitted than a delegate from our Mayor. I come to you, however, from the sick room, bearing the warmest greeting to you all, and the assurance of the Mayor's sincere regret at his inability to be with you. A welcome to the city of Philadelphia must, at all times and on all occasions, be little more than superfluous. Our history is the history of the greatest republic that the world has ever known. Within our walls, which are God's open air, there was born all that we know of the elements of human freedom exemplified in this great country of ours. Our traditions are dear to every American heart, and the Philadelphian who does not feel proud of his city were worse off than the Roman who ignored the glory of his country. Now, to that city, that city of homes, which you gentlemen propose to guard, propose to formulate laws for the proper protection of, that city having a larger number of homes than any other city on God's footstool, I offer you, not simply on the part of the administration of the city, not simply on the part of the Department of Health and Charities, of which I have the honor to be the head, but on the part of all the people of the great city looking to your deliberations, looking to the results of the thought of leading men of the country for a proper solution of this most intricate problem—from one and all of these I bring you a most hearty welcome.

The city is now in a part of its beauty. A little earlier you would have seen the Park, you would have seen something of the public squares, probably brighter than they are now. But melancholy autumn has decked our woods with garlands of wondrous colors. Independence Hall stands as a treasure, beautiful as she will always be. Our buildings, our great University, our schools, our eleemosynary institutions, all of them creditable, I think, are all of them open to your investigation, for your study. If my Department or

any other Department of the city may aid anything, may co-operate in any way, you have but to call upon us.

In this city, in this staid, dignified, quiet, reserved Philadelphia, we have always welcomed conventions, conferences, legislative bodies, considering the great sociological problems of our race. If you may accomplish something for the good of the race in proportion to that of preceding Congresses—the Congress of the United States which met in this city, the congresses of medicine that have met in this city, the great congresses of the other learned professions, medicine and law, if from this room, from this meeting, you, gentlemen, can send forth helpful words and helpful action to the people who are looking to you, not only from our city but from our country, you will leave behind something to enhance the greatness of Philadelphia, and something to endear you to the city.

And now, gentlemen, again, on the part of his Honor, the Mayor, on the part of the city of Philadelphia, I offer you its freedom. I offer you its welcome, always sincere and always heartfelt, and I bid you God speed in the noble work that you are doing.

The PRESIDENT: Ladies and Gentlemen: The pleasing address which has just been made by Dr. Coplin leaves very little for me to do in this direction, and I need detain you but a few minutes. It is a great pleasure to me, as the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth, on its behalf to give you greeting, and to welcome you to its chief city. You have come from all over the United States to the classic ground of America; and I hope that in addition to the important duties which you will perform you will have a pleasant and agreeable relaxation. While you are here you want to go to Independence Hall. That, I have no doubt, some of you have already done. In addition to going to Independence Hall, if you have the time, you ought to make a visit to Valley Forge, which is within easy reach of the city, and to see there the Park which has been established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where it has purchased some four hundred acres, including the intrenchments; and when you have done these two things you will depart with a proper idea of the surroundings which you can meet here.

You have assembled to perform a most important duty. Those who look upon the subject of divorce from the point of view alone of its effect upon the parties that have been so divorced take a very narrow view of what it means. The effect is upon the whole community. Every man and woman who enters into the relation of marriage, when he or she sees the facility with which divorces are obtained, while the promise is made to live together richer or poorer, for better or for worse, nevertheless knows in his or her mind that if the husband becomes poorer or the wife becomes worse, here is

an easy opportunity afforded for escape. And we all know that when the mind is turned in a certain direction, it is so easy for the steps to follow in that pathway. You have approached the subject not in any narrow way, but with a prompt and with a liberal spirit. You have not undertaken the impossible. What you have endeavored to do is to establish over the United States, in so far as you may be able to do it, a uniformity of treatment of the subject; and if you can accomplish it, you will have done a work of the utmost utility and benefit to mankind. In your labors and deliberations at Washington you met the general approval of the community. Much more than that, you come here to-day with a certain assurance from your presence and from the approval with which you have met, of the final success of your efforts. In that Congress, after having deliberated over the subject and reached your conclusions, you appointed a Committee to put into definite shape your thought. That Committee is now ready to report, and their conclusions you will have before you for your consideration. I need do nothing more therefore than to present the subject to you and go ahead with the proceedings of the Congress.

The Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary thereupon called the roll, and the following delegates responded:

(For the purpose of convenience, the names of all the delegates who attended this meeting are here given, whether they responded to this roll call, or arrived later):

Colorado:

Hon. James D. Husted.

Connecticut:

Hon. Talcott H. Russell.

Hon. Walter E. Coe.

Delaware:

Hon. Benjamin H. Nields.

Hon. Robert H. Richards.

Hon. Preston Lea, Governor.

District of Columbia:

Hon. Aldis B. Browne.

Illinois:

Hon. John C. Richberg.

Maine:

Hon. Charles F. Libby.
Hon. Hannibal E. Hamlin.

Massachusetts:

Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Dike.
Dean James Barr Ames.

Michigan:

Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane.
Hon. Adolph Stoman.

Minnesota:

Rev. A. J. D. Haupt.

Missouri:

Hon. Seneca N. Taylor.
Hon. Percy Werner.

New Jersey:

Rev. Dr. Henry Collin Minton.
Vice-Chancellor John R. Emery.

New Mexico:

Hon. Francis Tracy Tobin.

New York:

Hon. Charles Thaddeus Terry.

North Carolina:

Hon. F. H. Busbee.

North Dakota:

Bishop John Shanley.

Ohio:

Hon. Frank H. Kerr.

Pennsylvania:

Hon. C. La Rue Munson.
Hon. Walter George Smith.
Hon. William H. Staake.
Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, Governor.

Rhode Island:

Hon. Amasa M. Eaton.

South Dakota:

H. K. Warren, M. D.

Utah:

Mrs. Rachel Siegel.

Wisconsin:

Hon. Ernest Merton.

The PRESIDENT: The Secretary has certain announcements to make.

JUDGE WILLIAM H. STAAKE, Secretary: From the responses I have had, I think there will be 28 States represented at this meeting of the Congress.

I desire to make several announcements; first of all, on behalf of the members of the New Century Club, I have the following invitation:

"November 9, 1906.

"Hon. W. H. Staake, Secy.:

"The New Century Club extends to the Women Delegates and to the wives and daughters of Delegates to the Divorce Congress the privileges of this Club House, 124 South 12th Street, during their stay in the City, and also a special invitation to be present at a Club meeting on Wednesday afternoon, November 14th, at three o'clock, when Professor S. H. Clark, of the University of Chicago, will give an address on the "Spirit of Literature." Tea will be served from four to five.

EMMA BLAKISTON,
President."

I also have an invitation to the members of the Congress from the Law Association of Philadelphia, as follows:

"Philadelphia, Oct. 15th, 1906.

"Hon. William H. Staake, Court of Common Pleas No. 5, City Hall,
Philadelphia:

"My Dear Sir: At a meeting of the Library Committee of the Law Association held on Saturday last, the following resolution was passed, of which I was directed by the Committee to send you a copy: