Hon. Julius Caesar Burrows,

Kalamazoo, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

At a meeting of the "Ladies Literary Club", Grand Rapids, Mich., organized in 1873 and numbering five hundred members, the bill known as the "Territorial Statehood Bill" now before the Senate Committee on Territories was presented for their consideration. The portion of the bill threatening injustice to the pioneer women of the southwest is found in paragraph 5 of sections 3 and 21 and reads as follows:

> "Fifth. That said states shall never enact any law restricting the right of suffrage on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, except on account of illiteracy, minority, conviction of felony, mental condition, or sex."

It was moved and carried that we, the Ladies Literary Club, resent an insult so open and flagrant that, by an Act of Congress, the women of the west shall be so unjustly classed with illiterates, mental incompetents, felons and minors; we protest against the indignity to American citizens of classing women in such a category, and we appeal to you and your honorable committee to recommend to the Senate the omission of the word sex from the Statehood Bill as being abhorrent to American womanhood to be so classed.

Most respectfully submitted

Mrs. Ellenwood Hall, President.

Edith E. Clark, Recording Secy

Nov. 19th '04

PETITION

Of Ladies Literary Club, of Grand Rapids, Michigan,

For amendment of suffrage clause of Statehood Bill.

Petition of Ladies Literary Club of Grand Rapids, 1904; 58th Congress, Petitions and Memorials Which Were Tabled, Woman Suffrage, SEN58A-K2; Records of the U.S. Senate, National Archives