September 11, 1913.

NOTE

All of the materials for an issue for those who enjoy prosecuting a cause by pugnacious methods came up recently in the Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

It seems that Radcliffe College had asked the Society for a charter. Among those who endorsed this request was the Chapter at Harvard. Now, Radcliffe is supposed to be under the direction of Harvard. It has practically the same course of studies; its faculty are members of the Harvard faculty; the members of the Board of Control must be approved by the President and Fellows of Harvard before they can act; the degrees that it grants are signed by the President of Harvard.

When the Council of Phi Beta Kappa received a request for a Chapter from Radcliffe it immediately said that Harvard should grant it and cited the case of Barnard and Columbia, and Brown and the Woman's College in Providence, but Harvard refused. The matter assumed the character of a struggle over the woman question. Harvard has never been sympathetic to the woman's cause. She has always refused many of her advantages to women. She has never been particularly cordial to Radcliffe, and she recently has announced the policy of not allowing women to speak before the students.

The fighting friends of women in the Phi Beta Kappa Council were stirred to say that she must do this; they could not sanction any such narrowness. The Council was quite ready to do this when a gentleman, who had looked thoroughly into the matter, came out with documents announcing as a matter of fact that Harvard disclaimed any of the control over Radcliffe commonly credited to it, and at the same time that Radcliffe disclained any such tutelage. Moreover, that

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Radcliffe said that she no more wanted a Chapter from Harvard than Harvard wanted to give it to her. The gentleman very aptly described it as a case of a man and a woman who wanted each to go his own way but whose friends were determined that they should walk together. The upshot of the matter was that immediately on the presentation of the fact the Council granted the charter, which it had been inclined to force Harvard to give.

The incident is a very good illustration of the way many difficulties in the woman question are being handled at present. The privileges, or whatever you may call them, that a batch of women wants, they ask for and take; that is, they have ceased to attempt to compel certain bodies to men to give them these things.

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