

Diss      Disillusionment of Women.

Miss Keyes was a member of the Committee charged with selecting a new president for Holyoke College. She had talked with me by her own request as to whether it should be a man or a woman. I had said "a woman if they could find one entirely satisfactory, if not a man." I think I also told her that my impression when I was at Holyoke was that a man was needed there. I am not sure of this - that is telling her so.

Miss Keyes has a summer home at Newtown and wrote in August asking if she could call. We had a good visit and I finally said "I would like your impression of the way that the centennial was conducted. I confessed to being shocked and disgusted by the moving out of the new president, Dr. Ham. She said, "I thought it one of the most ungracious and wrong things." And told me how it came about. Miss Wooly was so angry that a man was elected that she told the trustees that she would not appear at the centennial. This was, of course, was not be allowed and the President of the Board told her that she must be present. She said, "I'll come if you will see that Dr. Ham is not there." He, Ham, seems to have been a wise person for he arranged not to be able to accept and did not appear.

Miss Keyes told me that Miss Wooly led in a campaign against the Board of Trustees; at the opening of the centennial a broadside was put on each seat of the Assembly Hall just before the gathering. It charged the Trustees with mismanagement of certain funds, declaring that they had been handled contrary to ~~the~~ rules. These were discovered and the Trustees got them out before ~~they~~ ~~and~~ the Press got them, one paper accepted. The President of the Board went to this paper and told him if they published they would sue and gave him proof that the statement was wrong.

He then went to Miss Wooly, gave her proofs of the misstatement, told her that she must make a public apology, exonerate the Board with documents. She said, "I won't do this unless you ask Ham to resign. Verify this statement with Miss Keyes - I am not sure I am quite correct.

At all events it was attempted blackmail. Miss Keyes said that he could not believe that Mary Wooly would do anything of the kind. I told her that I proposed to say in an article I have on hand the conduct of that anniversary, the dropping out of Ham was the poorest sportsmanship that I have ever run across in my observations of academic women. I also told her that I could quite believe it in Mary Wooly, that from the first I had a profoundest trust.

Eda M. Tarbell

P.S.

Miss K told me that they canvassed the country thoroughly for a woman, failed to find one that was satisfactory, that in the beginning they had asked Miss Wooly who her candidates were. She had given them two names. When they found no one better they asked both of these women and each refused. I do not remember the name of the first, the second was Carter Glass' sister at the head of Briarcliff.