

Suffrage Memorandum - Conversation with
Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

Nov. 24th, 1908.

She tells me that she was in Colorado at the time that suffrage was obtained. She speaks particularly of the debate, and said that it was purely farcial. One argument, which she remembers against it, was that of a man who said that he never, never would consent, because it meant that women would have to tell their age; that his opponent rose and said that he would support suffrage for that very reason rather than to suppose that the women were so silly that they would object to telling their age. She says that this is a fair sample of the kind of argument on both sides. At that time the male voter was obliged to answer a very complete set of questions in registering. The women were so indifferent that Mrs. Van Rensselaer claims that a house to house canvass was made to get them to register, and that they were exempt from answering many of the questions usually put to the men. Men were required to have been in the state, but so few women registered, that visitors like herself who had been there only a few weeks were allowed to enroll themselves. It thus happened that she voted at the first election in Colorado, although only six weeks a resident of the state. *

Mrs. VanRensselaer says that Horace Scudder, who had at one time was a supporter of woman's suffrage, said that he had dropped his agitation, because he had taken it up in the first place, supposing that it was necessary in order to secure for women proper education and their civil rights, but that he found that both these things were granted without suffrage..

*dated her residence from time she
arrived of arriving!*