

Petitions Protesting the Election of Apr. 26, 1901. Chicago History Museum. Chicago Woman's Club Records, 1876-1998. Box 50, Folder 7.

We, the undersigned members of the Chicago Woman's Club, protest against the irregular proceedings at the election April 26, 1902. Our protest is based on the following facts:

First: That some voters were instructed to scratch certain names and substitute others, not nominated by departments, for department directors, thus violating a precedent as old as the Club itself.

Second: That tellers instructed some voters to place a cross opposite each director's name, saying that "failure to do so would result in a loss of the ballot," notwithstanding the clause in red ink at the foot of the ballot, viz: that "a cross must be placed in the *square* opposite the name of the candidate to be voted for," and no squares were printed opposite director's names.

As the Section 5 of Article VIII of the By-Laws provides for the Australian system of marking ballots, we hold that above instructions were irregular and the printed ballot misleading, and both of the instructions were unfair and contrary to By-Law, Section 3, Article VIII, which provides for the manner in which department directors are to be elected, viz: "by the departments at their February meeting."

Such election had been held and an attempt to overturn it without due notice to the departments is a violation of department rights and Club ethics. Especially is this so as members relied on the ruling of the Recording Secretary that "department directors were already elected;" such ruling having been made at the request of one of the departments before the annual meeting. In consequence of this a large number of members did not vote, as they felt confidence in the authority of above ruling. The result of this is that two regularly elected directors have been counted out. And we still further contend that aside from its irregular and illegal aspect, the whole proceeding establishes a most dangerous precedent in Club life, as it tends to suppress individual freedom of speech and action.

We therefore appeal to the good sense and inherent spirit of Justice in the Club, to which none has ever appealed in vain, that such action be taken as will correct the irregularities complained of, and restore every one concerned to that status which the By-Laws and the unbroken precedent of the Club have guaranteed.

Let us remember: "*Humani nihil a me alienum puto.*"