

THE LAW STUDENT'S HELPER.

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Women at the Bar.

(This series of articles began in the May number, which number contained portraits and sketches of Ella W. Brown, of Holton, Kans.; Myra Bradwell, of Chicago; Kate Kane, of Chicago. The June number contained portraits and sketches of Josephine Moody Luthe, Denver, Col.; Belva A. Lockwood, of Washington, D. C; Dora O. Sandoe, of Columbus, O.; Nettie Cronise Lutes, of Tiffin, O. The July number contained portraits of Mrs. Kate Pier, Harriet H. Pier, Kate H. Pier and Caroline H. Pier, all of Milwaukee, Wis. The August number contained portraits and sketches of Mary Kennedy Brown, of Ithaca, N. Y., Fannie O'Linn, of Chadron, Neb., and Henrietta Pettijohn, of East Las Vegas, New Mexico. The September number, Jessie E. Hutchison of Richland Centre, Wis., Mary Lynde Craig of San Francisco, Cal., and Alice Parker of Boston, Mass. This series will extend throughout many months, and contain the portraits and sketches of nearly, if not quite, all the women admitted to practise in the courts of the several States.)

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CLARA FOLTZ.

Clara Foltz did not study law as a fad, nor enter the practice as a diversion; she made it a business. Her object was twofold : To earn a living in an honorable profession, and to demonstrate by a life, instead of by words, that women may properly fill the highest callings. Hence we find her, unlike many who toiled in the law "for a day only," with a fine suite of offices, in the finest building on the coast, an excellent library, and a full equipment of all the furniture and modern conveniences pertaining to a well kept business office.

Her practice began in 1878, when she was admitted to the bar, and has continued ever since, with three short intervals of a few months each ; twice when health demanded a respite, and once when, for a half a year, she edited and published the San Diego Daily Bee. Close attention to the practice of her chosen profession has made her successful, not only in attaining rank and standing among the members of the bar, but also in winning cases and making money. To-day, after fifteen years of almost constant practice, she stands among the foremost at the bar, and is one of the very few women who rank high as an all round lawyer ; for, whether in the consulting room or at the pleaders' desk, whether arguing a knotty legal point or marshaling the facts before the Court, or conducting either a civil or criminal case before a jury, she is equally at home. Law is her business, and to it

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she devotes her best energies, and the result appears in a large and remunerative practice, and an honorable and dignified position at the bar.

Her path has not been one of roses. Naturally, from the very start she has met formidable obstacles. When she was almost ready for admission to practice, she found the law would not permit it. She appealed to the Legislature to change the law, and, after almost superhuman effort, succeeded by a very narrow vote. Then she wished to attend the Hastings College of the Law, but found the doors closed, not by the law, but by the dean. She sued out a writ of mandate, and the doors were finally opened by law, but not until she was already admitted and was enjoying the benefits of a growing practice. She found a prejudice against the innovation, but it melted in time ; for the masterly manner in which she frequently wrested victory from defeat in seemingly desperate cases, won for her dignity and respect, and her never-failing good humor and sweet temper challenged the good will of all who met her.

Her cases come about equally from men and women, and relate to all manner of subjects, civil and criminal. In person she is a little above medium height, excellently proportioned, being neither slim nor stout. She has a very fair complexion, golden brown hair, a broad full forehead, deep, tiger-hazel eyes, and a rich, clear, mellow voice. She is graceful in carriage, affable in manner, ready in repartee, and possessed of such infinite tact that her friends feel she can ever be relied on to say and to do the right thing at the right time, so that she has, not fought and wrangled her way, even in a belligerent profession, to her present position, but has won for herself a welcome there from the brightest members of the bench and bar.

Clara Foltz was born in Indiana. Her father was the well-known Christian minister, E. W. Shortridge, a man of much power and eloquence, whose sunny disposition and gifted tongue his daughter has largely inherited. While she was yet quite young she removed with her parents to Iowa, where she received a common school education. She married young, removed to Oregon, and thence to California, where she was left a widow with five children to support. Occasional letters written to newspapers, invariably published, taught her she could write ; the lecture field, in which she made a successful tour, followed, and proved her power on the platform, and from that to the bar the step was easy.

In addition to her work at the bar, she has canvassed the State four times in political campaigns, speaking from 20 to 35 times in each canvas. As in the law so here she at once took rank as a first-class political speaker. So marvelous is her skill in public addresses, that even the cold dry subject of the tariff in 1888 was clothed as with new light and life, and her orations, for they can not be called else, awakened the wildest enthusiasm. At Chicago, in August of this year, she delivered two addresses, one before the law department of the Queen Isabella Association on the subject, " Evolution of Law," and the other before the World's Fair Congress of Jurisprudence and Law Reform. At this latter gathering her subject was " Public Defenders," and, if the newspaper reports of the congress are to be credited, she not only easily carried the palm in the congress, but her paper called out the most comment and discussion of any there read. The last named topic suggests a marked phase of her character. She is remarkably quick to feel an abuse, for she feels earnestly, ready to see a remedy, and possessed of a world of energy to press it if it is practicable. But, after all, it is as hostess that Mrs. Foltz is at her best, which is demonstrated to all who call on her at her beautiful home on Van

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Ness avenue, in San Francisco. Here, with her mother and two daughters still at home, she lives, a standing demonstration that a woman may be a lawyer, an orator, may take an active and earnest interest in her country and the welfare of her people, and not for a moment lose the graces, or sweetness, or beauty that crowns and glorifies woman in the home.