November 26, 1912

Dear Ada,

Cheer up, Honey, the worst is yet to come. Two years from now men of Wisconsin will be echoing the November number of life; "This innovation is now getting pretty near home and with no appropriate reduction in the cost of passage to Europe." But aren't you glad that I am a person now, ah, by transmigration and immigration.

I had my money on Wisconsin, too, and in Wisconsin too and Oregon I shot was farther in the distance. But never mind, bigger men than I am, built hopes on this election. Mother writes rather curiously of my elevated status and I write dolefully of the heathens (not feminine by any means) that can congregate on 640,400 square miles of territory. Or is that the area of Wisconsin? I've most forgotten.

But now, down to business. Did you go to New York and to Philadelphia and were the thrills old ones or new ones entirely? I did want to go and so did Bruce but we have a vocation as well as an avocation and the time was valuable.
to say nothing of other expenses. We watched every day Associated Press reports to see Wisconsin right herself but the majority she turned against it exonerated us from all share in their welfares. I know there weren't 92 men in Wisconsin who were unconvinced and goodness knows we were too young to "begin their education with their grandparents" as we are told to do.

You did splendid work—the whole force worked with the regularity and preciseness and genius of generals, but human force couldn't have won if this year with all the counter currents that were tangling themselves with our cause. But what a splendid organization to work another campaign upon. Skill in leadership, diplomacy, knowledge of the state and all that.

We worked in this county. There hadn't been anything done until we organized and then our work had to be by circulation through the mails. We held one big mass meeting and Bruce and I went over to Boise and secured Judge Richards for the evening. He made a splendid address telling of the change in Idaho since suffrage was adopted. If I can find an old paper telling of it, I'll send it. We came out pricketly against the liquor question. We
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Treated it so, too, because in that issue the women have done notably in Idaho. We couldn't use diplomacy with it here, or ignore it—it was too paramount an issue itself and liquor in this country rings a man's knell quicker and louder than it does back there. They violated the Corrupt Practices Act by circulating unsigned leaflets and the Act has many women back of them who have influence. True wealth and position, but think the fine men and the less complex situations in the state, we did win and Mrs. Dunway says her hope realized at last.

Ada, who is the woman in Mrs. to write to regarding the Minimum Wage issue and Consumers League work? We have a bill in this state coming up before the next legislature and I want to investigate thoroughly. Do Mrs. Gunderman get our offices? Do she at Oak Brook yet? And are you planning to do any work along that line before you get the ballot?

Bruce says to send you a ballot so you may see what you are coming to. We have popular government in Oregon but if you read the text of some of the proposed laws you will see that the voters don't dare sleep at their posts.
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Do you correspond with the Oregon suffrage League? I have been in touch with them since we began work here, and tho' I haven't been able to attend the rallies and banquets and report on the campaign here in this county, they have seemed near. Here is one of their letter heads containing officers that you may like to see. And, now I shall end this epistle. Do write Ada, so you know you haven't written since I came west and I haven't been able to get my Woman's Journal either. I wrote Miss Ryan enclosing the year subscription and asking her to send our here and to that or a card of inquiry I haven't received an answer. Have they discontinued?

Am going to write to the girls next, now that Election is over and Thanksgiving so soon I shall have time to write. Doesn't it seem good to be at home? Very lovingly yours,

Mabel Kester

[Some note: have begun to study law (Election News)]