



MRS. REBECCA D. LOWE.
President General Federation of Women's Clubs.

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. I wanted to share with you the minutes of the first meeting in 1895 about the formation of the Atlanta Woman's Club which led to the formation of GFWC Georgia in 1896.

First Woman's Club Organized in Atlanta.

The call issued for all the women in Atlanta interested in the woman's club movement to meet at the residence of Mrs. William Bell Lowe this afternoon promises to result in the formation of an organized body of women which will partake of the nature of the association for the advancement of women, now meeting in Atlanta.

Those interested in the movement wish it understood that the club will not be devoted to woman's suffrage and will only consider that subject in connection with a long list of others which they regard equally important. The purpose of the club, as the name suggests, will be to advance the education and general welfare of women along the broadest and most beneficial lines, and it is hoped that the importance of such definite and purposeful body of united women will be encouraged and immediate arrangements made for its organization. Atlanta is a large city, but as yet its club life and interests are small among women. There is the Georgia Women's Press Club which hails chiefly from Atlanta, the Business Woman's Club, the Chautauque Circle and the History classes, but outside of these there are few feminine organizations worth mentioning, and this is rather strange, considering the great agitation felt on the subject in almost all other cities the size of Atlanta. The present need is for a club backed by earnest, sensible, brainy women, with full purses and broad sympathies requisite. Such a club it is the present purpose of Atlanta Women to organize. "We are not planning for a fashionable body", remarked one of the women most interested in the movement. "It is our desire to establish an association which will consider the serious needs of the southern women in a serious way. We want to take part in the present great movement, and we wish to use our forces on the conservative side. We are opposed to all sensational methods, but we are unwilling for Atlanta to fail to do her part in the work that women all over the world are interested in." "We intend," she continued, "to have our club, to have a democratic organization. We wish to take up the trouble of the working women and look into it, and see what we can do to lighten her labor and increase her pay. We want to study the school teacher's problem and find out why she is not paid as much as the men who do exactly the same work. Final justice is inevitable and if there is wrong why can not we, by considering the situation on both sides, help to bring about an early compromise? Then there is the question of equal education, which is so important, and many others about which the intelligent women of Atlanta cannot afford to remain in ignorance." "This body, as I said before, is not to be a social affair. We want no frivolous minded leaders, but we do want all the women who are willing to regard a situation and a condition in a sensible way. We want every woman interested in the advancement of her sex to join us, from those in society to those who earn their living in the Atlanta factories. We want the bread winners to know that their cause is ours, and their wrongs ours."

With such an object the club to be organized this afternoon cannot fail to appeal to a great number of women, nor will it fail to accomplish a broad and much needed line of work. Most of the brainy and wealthy women of Atlanta are interested in its organization.

Corinne Stocker.