

## **E. W. Hoch to Lilla Day Monroe**

This eloquent letter, which serves as the frontpiece of the July 1908 issue, outlines E. W. Hoch's reasons for supporting women's suffrage. Hoch wrote that "the right to participate in government rests primarily, I think, upon the ability to contribute virtue and intelligence to government and that women possess this fundamental qualification." Above the letter is a formal portrait of Hoch. Lilla Day Monroe, the recipient of the original letter, was editor of *The Club Member* and an active supporter of women's rights.

Creator: *The Club Member*

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## E. W. Hoch to Lilla Day Monroe



MY DEAR MRS. MONROE:—Upon my return from the East yesterday my secretary called attention to your letter of May 25th, and in reply I beg to say that I appointed Mrs. Levi Cooper, of Beloit, as probate judge of Mitchell County to succeed her husband because I thought she was in every way worthy of the honor and entirely competent to perform its important duties. Indeed she had had charge of the office during her husband's sickness and the two candidates who aspired to the place sought to strengthen their own claims by promising to retain Mrs. Cooper as deputy in the office. I thought if she was worthy to be deputy she was equally or more worthy to be the chief. She is perhaps the only woman who has ever held this position and I am sure she will honor herself and honor all womanhood in the manner in which she will discharge the duties of the office.

You ask also for an expression from me concerning woman suffrage, and I gladly comply with your request. The right to participate in government rests primarily, I

think, upon the ability to contribute virtue and intelligence to government and that women possess this fundamental qualification must be admitted by every manly man. I have never heard or read a so-called argument against woman suffrage that in my judgment would bear the test of intelligent analysis. When and where did man get the right to pass exclusively upon this question? Why have not women as much right to decide that men shall or shall not vote as that men shall arbitrarily decide that women shall or shall not exercise this inalienable right. The world is growing better. We are gradually emerging from the superstitions and heresies of the past and the time is coming, may it hasten, I say, when the manhood and womanhood of this country will be mutually blended in civil government as they are now beautifully blended in the best type of civil government, the ideal home.

With great respect, I am, cordially,

E. W. HOCH.