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Letter, Amelia Bloomer to Jane Grey Swisshelm [August 28, 1880]

Amelia Bloomer

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Amelia Bloomer to Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm, Aug. 28, 1880

[Mitchell Papers -- A.L.S.]

Council Bluffs Iowa

Aug 28, 1880

Dear Mrs Swisshelm

I have just been reading your "Half a Century," and as I find some mistakes in it have thought to point them out to you that if you see fit you may correct in future editions.

You convey that the first woman's rights convention was held in Salem O. That was the first that you attended, but the first convention was held in July 1848 at Seneca Falls N. Y. and was called by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, and was the outgrowth of their rejection as delegates by the Anti-Slavery convention held in London, Eng, some time previous.

You make Mrs Stanton the originator of the short dress, or so-called "Bloomer Costume." This credit should be given to Elizabeth Smith Miller, daughter of Hon. Gerrett Smith. Mrs Stanton did not adopt the dress until after Mrs Miller visited her in such costume, and then she and I put it on nearly simultaneously. If mentioned at all Mrs Miller should be called the originator, as she was the first, so far as I know, to wear the style for a common dress and in public.

You say The Lily was published At Syracuse, N. Y. This is a mistake. I never lived at Syracuse. Seneca Falls N.Y. was my home, and there I published the Lily for five years before removing with it to Ohio.

You may not think these matters of any importance, but in writing history it is well to be correct as far as our statements

go, especially as there are thousands of readers who already know the facts and will at once detect our mistakes.

Mrs. Stanton, Miss Anthony & Matilda Joslyn Gage, are writing a history of the woman's movement, which I suppose will go to press in a few months. They have taken great pains to gather facts and will have a complete history.

I was much interested in your book and am glad to know that it has met with great success. I have thought until within a few days that I should be in Chicago the last of this week and would try and meet you personally, and call your attention to the little errors I have mentioned. But our plans are somewhat changed. My husband and self expect to start for the east Sept 2, but will take a southern route and leave Chicago till our return, about Nov 1st.

I do not know your address, but suppose you are so well known in Chicago that a letter will reach you. Please drop me a postal if nothing more that I may know if you receive this, and give me your address. I have long wished to meet you and perhaps may call on you on my return.

Sincerely Yours

Amelia Bloomer