

To the Hon Genl Hanks

Dear Sir I have that faith in
humanity that when all social
powers fail me to look higher
believing that every man has his
master, and therefore I address
you and send my Dead and Be-
crees of of court that have made
me a pauper, and ask you to lay
them before a committee of the
country members of the Legislature
to have them examined in the
intent that daylight may be let
in on the doings of the lawyers
and judges of our higher courts
(believing that if while you have
your hand in with our ^{Chicago} justices)
if you see the necessity for it
you will pass some law to pro-
tect woman in the right of this
liberty and the right of property
in Chicago & Cook County
Surely when my papers are examined
you will say there is need of such
law to protect us, if ever there
was need needed law to protect
the negro before he had the fran-
chise to protect him. I think the re-
val of the whipping post in Chicago
is a good thing but before the end

2. of the session ^{I fear} it will be revised
and amended by the Chicago Men-
bers so that it may be used to apply
it to turbulent, rebellious wives who
refuse to sign their iron clad
marriages, or that will not be cleared
out of their property by fraudulent
decrees of the court; or perhaps it may
be applied to a naughty little boy
who the other day in Judge Gardner's
Court kicked against an unnatural
Decree of Divorce, that separated him
from his mother and little sister,
and ^{who} gave his father the stand off, and
the judge and lawyers a worthy example
of respect to the mother that have he
by defiantly leaning court with his
mother and sisters.

If I use harsh or unreasonably language
it is because my thoughts are heavy
of my agonies, and consider that as
a man you can not understand
my position and what I suffer, to
struggle from the cradle to the grave
with the disabilities of the sex; to
be ruled by the law that I can not
help to make, or help to change, ^{of my present} to be
hunted down as I have been for years,
because I was a temperance woman and
a Crusader, and advocated through the paper
universal Suffrage. Ten six years after
year lawyers who were nothing but tricks
and political hummers at home, sent
to Springfield to make new laws
that deprive woman of all natural rights.

4 and so doctor our state laws that in
Chicago to day any husband can cast
his wife off and there is no law either
civil or criminal that will compell
him to support her. So says our County
Attly, so says the States Attly, So say
the best lawyers of our City, I mean in
a case where there is no fault in the
woman and a man fails to get Divorced
They all tell me that a man can do wh
ever he pleases with his property, and no wa
can get support as the law is now except
a man chooses to support her; as her Dowry
does not commence while the husband
lives, and that she has no rights in his
property while he lives.

Through the law and a Decree of the Court
my husband lives in my property and
excludes me entirely, he presses and staves
me, and the Attorneys tell me there is no
help. He kicks, strikes, and threatens my
life whenever I try to enter my home or
eat at my table; he is put under bonds
his brother (to whom my husband has de
all his property and mine also, and who
has my signature to these papers that I
have never signed) signs my husbands
bonds, then appeals it to the Criminal
Court and gets off his Bonds. The States
Attorney sees no crime in Conspiracy, the
County Attorney sees no crime in it, and the
Civil lawyers see no crime in it, or at least
they are deterred never to have a case
or success; being such a precedent for the
reason that they have all done likewise
I leave my case in your hands, believing that
there are bounds to all human wrongs
and lines drawn by the hand of God.

even Despot may not overstep
In the Hawaiian By Harriet C. Speight
Reverend Hamilton of Springfield
23 1/2 East Huron St
Ill Chicago Ill

I excuse this as I write in great haste as I
am ill with the ague and my chill is coming
on and my husband says he has an offer
to put me out of the house I am in in the
street shelter is all I have and the wall
of this building stands on my feet and I
have been here three years and they cannot
put me out on the decree as it is a fraud
so he has got up some trumped up charge
to have me sacked up while he puts my
things out of the building which he has made
over to his brother
I send the papers by express W. C. Speight

June 16/83
Chicago Ill
W. C. Speight