

Verily, Say *AYE!*
for Febb King Ensminger Burn (1873-1946)

★ ★ 1 vote majority stuns the Tennessee legislature. impassioned Representative Harry T. Burn wears that red rose,
★ ★ raises his voice, blurts *AYE!* it blasts across an august afternoon, booms through the chamber, brings the
★ ★ 9 teenth Amendment to life with his *AYE!* these mind-changing words in a letter to Harry, his mama's counsel:
★ ★ "hurrah and vote for Suffrage and don't keep them in doubt." when her advice comes gently
★ ★ on wings of mama's love, her young Harry rises, shines and can agree.
★ ★ T he day of victory arrives and becomes nevermore a distant dream—'tis *AYE!* all freed,
★ ★ freed from political slavery by one vote *AYE!* suffragists with
★ ★ H igh expectations for a political landscape transformed,
★ ★ the law of the land changes with young Harry's *AYE!*
★ ★ failure indeed is impossible.

★ ★ A t the final moment, the 48-48 tie breaks with one *AYE!*
★ ★ 'tis a tally-changer for ratification. opposition is daresay defied.
★ ★ M oiling courthouse, inside the final vote announced—the *AYES!* have it!
★ ★ the gallery spins and waves its purply banners, showers of yellow roses
★ ★ cascading petals across the House floor below—hugging, dancing, sweetest monumental moment of
★ ★ E xaltation! *AYE!* how we suffragists perturbed, provoked, prevailed.
★ ★ *AYE!* how we shifted focus and false belief that we'd be so. simply. silent. those
★ ★ N aysayers quipping we'd argue politics,
★ ★ undermining men's authorities. our
★ ★ D omestic duties going undone, our dalliances decidedly disruptive.
★ ★ *AYE!* despite distinct opposition, we undogged, determined
★ ★ M odern women persuade modern men.
★ ★ *AYE!* driven by dreams deferred the vote 'tis now ours, this ever-hopeful, hard-won
★ ★ E ntitlement to vote. equal suffrage ends the war of the roses and its frontline reds, its yellows.
★ ★ *AYE!* our collective, determined, brave efforts wins a victory *AYE!* enduring, withstanding and
★ ★ N ever giving-up. picket signs, hunger strikes, protests, jailhouse force-feedings, 'twas all for *AYE!*
★ ★ *AYE!* fighting against heavy-handed crackdowns. *AYE!* fighting our whole lives for the vote.
★ ★ T ake our suffrage for granted—never! birthright newly born of this boisterous, bold, beauteous day.
★ ★ *AYE!*—there is victory! verily, with hearts uplifted—at long last, there is *AYE!*