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WOMEN ENTITLED TO THE BALLOT

San Francisco Examiner Says Women Should Not be Classed With Indians, Idiots or Degenerates—Are Entitled to Enfranchisement.

The women of this country will have the right to vote—as they have in California—and they will have that right soon.

The politicians who have laughed at women suffrage and those that would not even mention the subject for fear of seeming ridiculous are suddenly interested in women and their opinions.

A good many of them are hypocrites in their protestations of belief in woman's intelligence. But hypocrites, going in one direction, do the work as well as sincere men—when the hypocrites are numerous enough.

Every candidate running for President in the United States today has declared himself in favor of votes for women, either at once or "by and by."

Never before in the history of the country has a serious candidate for the Presidency in one of the old parties declared flatly in favor of woman suffrage.

THAT IS PROGRESS, AT LEAST. Readers of this newspaper have done as much as any agency, as any body of citizens in the country, to create public opinion in favor of woman suffrage.

Every intelligent reader should make it his business or her business to continue the agitation, demanding on all occasions the right to which women are entitled, until the disgrace of classing women with "children, Indians and idiots" shall be wiped out in every State in the United States.

It is a good thing, in your argument, to explain the ballot and its meaning—the character of those that advocate woman suffrage.

It is important also to explain the opposition to women suffrage and the character of those who oppose it.

The ballot is the weapon that men use in defending their rights. It is the vote with which men express their opinions, their wishes, as to law, in the more settled civilizations where the ballot is the recognized power.

Little by little the mass of the people—that is to say, the men—have got the ballot. Originally there was no ballot. Savage tribes held disorganized meetings and shouted their opinions. The loudest shouters won, and the man who could hit the hardest led the others.

Little by little the big man formed his own opinion and was confined to one or to a few leaders, gathered under a chief; or, where religion ruled, opinion was controlled by the priests in the old temples making up their minds what would be good FOR THEM and forcing their will on ignorant people.

For many centuries the kings, the nobles and the priests ruled—and the people had nothing to say. **MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE WERE WITHOUT THE VOTE.**

Little by little men got the vote, and now, in civilized countries, universal suffrage is the rule. **AS REGARDS MEN.**

The women are shut out because men always have had the idea that voting was in some way connected with fighting. Their thoughts went back to the old savage mob shouting its determination to attack and kill—leaving the women at home. And the ignoring of women persists, although little by little the voting power has been used, not to make war, **BUT TO PREVENT WAR.**

In England the Commons, representing the voters, used votes to prevent the King from fighting by refusing to give him money.

Now in every country calling itself civilized the chief use of the ballot is to express ideas of peace—justice. The ballot that was once the expression of man's fighting quality is now the expression of his **BETTER NATURE, AND FOR THAT REASON IT IS TIME TO GIVE THAT BALLOT TO THE BETTER HALF OF THE HUMAN RACE—TO THE WOMEN THAT HAVE CIVILIZED IT.**

The weapon of power, the right to decide WHAT?

Now the majority of men having taken power into their own hands, education and civilization gradually replacing brutality, power is used not for oppression, but for justice, enlightenment and for the general good.

It is time therefore to permit women, representing justice, morality and every good element in human nature, to play their part in the making of laws and to share equally with man the right to say what disposition shall be made of the children that women give to the world and of the property that these children produce.

Supporters of woman suffrage are, and for many years have been, the

best men in the country.

Men that are unselfish, just, scorning ridicule and proud to vindicate the rights of their own mothers and sisters, have long demanded votes for women.

The women that have worked and fought for the suffrage have been, beyond all comparison, the best women of this and other countries.

Humorist: used to talk of "short-haired women and long-haired men" as the advocates of woman suffrage.

That is a foolish and false decision. The women with good foreheads, earnest, gentle and dignified faces, have been the advocates of votes for women.

The women with low foreheads, plastered with hair, the women with their faces painted, the women with a hundred thoughts for dress and no thought for anything else, have been the opponents of woman suffrage.

And the men, brutal, conceited, looking upon woman as a piece of property created for man's pleasure or his service, have been **The Men That Opposed Suffrage.**

Luckily the day of ridicule, slander and sneering has gone by.

Wherever women have voted they have **bettered conditions.**

In Colorado, where the men had acquiesced in a plan to defeat a just judge, the women elected him.

In New Zealand, where women long have voted, there is not a man so foolish as to suggest a change to the old and unjust system.

True, there are some good women that oppose woman suffrage.

And there were some good, well-meaning slaves that disliked Abraham Lincoln for his proclamation of freedom. They wanted to stay slaves and still depend on "Good Ol' Massa."

There are some nice, dull, unimaginative, ignorant, well-meaning and good women that wish to remain slaves and depend upon "Good Ol' Massa," the man.

But for one good gent's and well-meaning woman who attacks woman suffrage there are a dozen whose only thought is for the admiration of men, and a hundred whose lives are made up of vanity, flirtation and folly. These last, especially when they have passed fifty years of age, are striving in every ridiculous way to attract men's attention—usually in vain. One of their favorite methods of attracting attention is to profess their own weakness and express horror at the thought that they should ever vote or escape from the protecting coat-tails of man.

Another class opposed to woman suffrage is the most dangerous class of all.

That is the class that would keep in ignorance women, and men, too, **if it could.**

Those that prey upon the ignorance and superstition of women are anxious that women shall know as little as possible. They do not want the women to vote, for **voting means thinking, and thinking means freedom.**

But women will vote, and the vote will come to them soon.

In many States of this country women vote already. The other States will follow, for this coming election, with hundreds of thousands of women voting, will convince even the dullest that woman, who has borne the heavy burden of life and its struggles through the ages, possesses the power of think and to decide every question of importance to herself and to her children.

It will not always be said that the woman who scrubs, washes, cooks, mends and goes without sleep to take care of her family is deprived of a voice in the community while the vile drunkard, whose vote is for sale for money or for whiskey, may vote to maintain the conditions that suit him, live upon her earnings and look down upon her as his inferior, classed with the idiots, the Indians and the children.

Women will vote, and you who read this newspaper should work to bring about an end of the present unjust system.

SHALL BE DONE, is the weapon that the ballot box gives to the people.

This weapon, at first in the hands of a few, was used to decide questions of battle and to devise methods of taxing the poor and weak for the benefit of the rich and the strong—San Francisco Examiner.

♦♦♦♦♦

WILL SERVE DINNER.

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