

WOMAN DISFRANCHISED.

Why and when was woman disfranchised? Mr. W. Deeds of Louisville, Ky., undertakes to answer this perplexing question in this manner. Before ancient Rome came into power, woman had the right of franchise, and of appearing as advocates before the forum, or bar, and history has preserved the names of three eminent female lawyers, Amelita Sentia, Elisabeth Hortensia and Catherine de Medici. On account of Catherine's violent temper she was deprived of her right to plead before the court. This prohibition was extended against all female lawyers, forbidding them to represent other women before courts, expressly stating it was because of Catherine's bad temper. This was origin of the prohibition, and woman's unequal privileges in law, and other inequalities followed as they were not allowed to defend themselves. Where is justice in this? Had men also been treated in this manner it would only have been fair; as men honored with highest positions disgrace themselves in personal encounter. And, are they ever disfranchised therefor? The act was a purely physical and unchristian one. Gen. I. M. shall rule over the woman, is meant only in physical strength. Eve having taught Adam knowledge of good and evil, woman, therefore, was the beginning of knowledge, and man of strength. Man was to leave his parents and cling to woman. Not so now. We are blinded and perverted in our laws, and cling to the Roman view.

A resolution presented to French legislature a century ago, which had considerable backing, was unheeded by a writer in "La Fronde" recently. It reads:

"Whereas, Maternal love, marriage, filial piety and gratitude are the inventions of the alphabet and writing, and have existed and can exist without book learning;

"Whereas, It is the intention of all wise nature that woman should be occupied entirely by the duties of her household;

"Whereas, a woman who cannot read is retiring and modest, timid and shrinking in manner; on the other hand one who can read and write is prone to conceit, and holds in contempt those who know less than herself.

"Whereas, Nature herself in giving to woman a prodigious aptitude for speech, seems to have wished to save her the trouble of reading.

"Whereas, the conjugation of the verb 'to love' has caused endless trouble;

"Whereas, A woman usually loses her morals as she gains in knowledge;

"Whereas, Women who know the most are not those who love the best, and had Catherine de Medici not known how to read France would never have seen St. Bartholomew's Day.

"Whereas, Since women who can read and write have entered the professions, the nurse neglects her nursing, the cook her cooking, the housemaid begins working later and stops earlier, the absentminded hair-dresser lets her ladies' hair burn, and young girls have become argumentative and treat their mothers as imbeciles and their fathers with no respect;

"Whereas, Since preventing women from reading books would also arrest the multiplication of books, thereby rendering salutary reform to latter day literature, it is resolved

First—That neither maid, wife nor widow shall put hand to pen;

Second—That the sword and pen should be left to man, the needle and distaff to woman;

Third—That to the man should be left the production of works of genius, to woman the sentiments of the heart;

Fourth—That each sex has its appointed place, and should keep in it.

What would woman know about sentiments of the heart without knowledge? We can be thankful that it was not God that disfranchised woman. Romans 21:32 refers to this same class of people, and what they did. The woman had no opportunity. To prove that woman was equal to man, go back to Abraham's time. Sarah asked Abraham to cast out the bondwoman and her son Ishmael; because they mocked and disregarded God's commands. The Lord told Abraham to obey the voice of his wife. A direct command of God. His wife had as much power, and equal

rights in ruling the government of Israel, as her husband; God shows this. Rebecca was also given the directing of the birthright. So with Sarah when God revealed to her and Isaac before Esau and Jacob was born that the younger should rule the eldest. Women are not going to be deprived of their rights always.

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