

ARGUMENT

Of Mrs. Stanton before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Gentlemen of the Judiciary Committee.

We appear before you at this time to call your attention to our moral asking for a "declaratory act" that shall protect women in the exercise of the right of suffrage.

The Woodhull memorial, and the able arguments sustaining it made by Mr. Butler, and the letter and the exhaustive minority of Messrs. Butler and Longridge, have been before the nation for one year, and yet remain unanswered.

Gentlemen hold seats in Congress today by the votes of women. The legality of the election of Mr. Garfield of Washington Territory, and Mr. Jones of Wyoming, involves the question whether or not their constituents are legal voters.

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Now, who is their target? Woman. They ridicule alike—the strong-minded for their principles, the weak-minded for their passions.

How long, think you, the New York Tribune would maintain its present scurrilous tone if the votes of women could make Horace Greeley Governor of New York?

Without some act of Congress regulating suffrage for women as well as black men, women citizens of the United States who, in Washington, Utah, and Wyoming territories, are voters and jurors, and who, in the State of Kansas, vote on school and license questions, would be denied the exercise of their right to vote in all the States of the Union.

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point by able lawyers and judges. The *femine sole* voted in person; when married, her husband represented her property, and she was a ward.

The true rule of interpretation, says Charles Sumner, under the National Constitution, especially since its additional amendments, is that anything for human rights is constitutional.

The objections to Mr. Butler's bill, extending the provision of the citizenship act to women, are summed up, are these: 1st. This is too short a cut to liberate the nation by taking the nation by storm.

This question has been up for discussion in this country over thirty years; it split the first anti-slavery party in two, and divided in the world's convention, and has been a disturbing element in temperance, educational, and constitutional conventions ever since.

The simple opinion of a chief justice, a century ago, without any change in legislation, settled in one hour as great a question of human rights as we now submit to the human rights of a Garfield, a Mansfield, presiding in the Court of Queen's bench, listening to the arguments in the famous Somerset case.

When by some moral revolution men are cut loose from all their old moorings, and get beyond the right to demand that once bound them, with no immediate selfish interest to subserve—as, for instance, our fathers in leaving England, or the French Communists in the late war; then any attempt to curb their constitution or new legislation, is by the decision of her chief justice.

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This clause does advance them to full citizenship, and clothes them with the capacity to become voters.

It is so much as been done, we have already gone beyond the "intention" of the framers of the amendments, if as some say they did not intend to touch the status of woman at all.

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