

WHY SHOULD WOMEN VOTE?

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF LEADING FARMERS.

Why should women vote? That is the question that is ringing from ocean to ocean and reverberating from the Canadian boundary to the Mexican border. It is the mission of a newspaper to give the news and the action of the Texas Farmers' Union in opposing woman's suffrage when that question was recently before the Texas legislature is significant as representing the attitude of the organized plowmen. We reproduce in part the argument presented by Hon. W. D. Lewis, president of the Texas Farmers' Union, in opposing the bill:

"It is gratifying to note that it is not the farmer's wife who is clamoring for the ballot. She is too busy trying to make happier homes, molding the minds of future citizens and sharing with her husband the cares of life to indulge in political gossip. The ballot will give her no relief from drudgery, give no assistance in clothing the children or bring to the home additional comforts, conveniences or opportunities in life. It is, as a rule, the city woman promoted to idleness by prosperity, who is leading the suffragette movement.

"From many standpoints, perhaps a woman has as much right to vote as a man. So has she as much right to plow as a man; she has as much right to work in a factory as a man; she has as much right to shoulder a musket as a man, but we would rather she would not do so from choice and we regret that necessity oftentimes compels her to earn a living by engaging in gainful occupations. We do not consider misfortune a qualification for suffrage or a business accident a reason for granting franchise. We are opposed to woman at the ballot box the same as we are opposed to woman in the field, in the factory or in the army and for the self-same reasons. We had rather see her plant flowers than sow wheat; rather bouquets than pick cotton and rear children than raise political issues, although she may have as much right to do one as the other.

Opposed to Unsexing Humanity.

"Sex qualification for suffrage may have its apparent inconsistencies. No general rule adjusts itself perfectly to all conditions. It is a favorite argument advanced by the proponents of woman's suffrage that many cultivated and noble women are far more capable of intelligently exercising sovereignty than a worthless negro, but the South never was anxious for negro suffrage, and while culture and refinement, and even morality, are desirable virtues, they are not the only qualifications for franchise.

"The primary, inherent and inseparable fitness for suffrage is supporting a family. The plow handle, the forge and the struggle for bread afford experience necessary to properly mark the ballot. Government is a great big business and civilization from the very beginning assigned woman the home and man the business affairs of life.

"There has been much freakish legislation enacted during the past decade that no doubt appeals to woman's love for the ridiculous, but to undertake to unsex the human race by law is the height of legislative folly and a tragedy to mankind.

"We are opposed to the equal rights of woman—we want her to ever remain our superior. We consider woman's desire to seek man's level the yellow peril of Twentieth Century civilization.

"Woman is the medium through which angels whisper their messages to mankind; it is her hand that plants thoughts in the intellectual vineyard; it is through her heart that hope, love and sympathy overflow and bless mankind. Christ—the liberator of woman-kind—was satisfied to teach the lessons of life and He was a man. He chose to rule over human hearts and refused worldly power and men followed after Him, women washed His feet, little children climbed upon His knees and the Ruler of the universe said that in Him He was well pleased. Can woman find a higher calling?"

THEMISTOCLES

When Themistocles was asked by his host at a dinner party to entertain the guests by playing the lute, he replied that he could not play the lute, but that he could make a small town a great city. We have in this nation many politicians who are good "luthiers," but they cannot make a small town a great city. We are over-

run with orators who can play upon the passions of the people, but they can't put brick and mortar together. We need builders.

Let those who hunger and thirst for power understand that the highest glory of a statesman is to construct, and that it is better for a man that he should build a public highway than that he should become Governor of a state, and that he start a plow than that he become the author of a law. The true test of statesmanship is the plow and the hammer, so let those who would govern, first build.

THE HUMBLE BARNACLE.

It is One of the Most Curious Forms of Marine Life.

Barnacles, which constitute a most curious form of marine life, do not, so far as known, perform any important function in the economy of nature, either constructive or destructive.

Curiously enough, naturalists assign barnacles to that great subdivision of the animal world which includes insects—i. e., arthropoda ("joint footed"). Barnacles pertain to that class of crustaceans which includes lobsters and crabs and constitutes the order of cirripedia, a term that means "curled feet."

Barnacles are hatched from eggs. The young in no respect resemble adults. When the newly born barnacle emerges from its egg it shows itself as a free swimming little creature with one eye, six legs and one shell. It undergoes the operation of molting several times and finally appears with two eyes, twelve legs and two shells. When it has attained this stage of development it roves no longer, but attaches itself to some convenient object by means of its antennae, secreting a sort of cement whereby it gives itself quite fast. It is then that it undergoes a metamorphosis that completely changes its appearance. It loses its bivalve shell and its eyes and acquires its characteristic feathery legs. Furthermore, it takes on an entirely new shell.

Three orders of barnacles are listed. Members of one order are attached by the shell directly to rocks, timbers or other convenient objects. Those of another order are attached to floating objects by means of a long stalk. The barnacles of the third order are parasitic upon crabs and other marine creatures. When extended from the shell the curled, feathery appendages are in constant motion, serving to create currents in the water which convey to the curious little creatures their food, consisting of many species of minute forms of life.

"Sea acorns" are nothing more than barnacles of the genus Balanus. There are a number of varieties of these, having shells of white, greenish white, pink or purplish color. These barnacles attach themselves to rocks, shellfish, the piling of piers and sometimes even to whales. The base of the shell is glued fast to the supporting object, there being no stem.

Ship barnacles are true wanderers of the deep, since the same species are frequently upon the hulls of vessels proceeding from the most remote and widely separated regions. They present an odd appearance, for the shell is attached to the end of a flexible stalk, which varies in length from an inch in some species to twelve inches in others. Generally speaking, the shell of the ship barnacle is of a white or bluish white hue, and the stalk is brown or slate colored.—Chicago Herald.

The Japanese Fan.

Fans are put to all sorts of curious uses in Japan. At wrestling and fencing matches the umpire always uses a large fan, and the various motions of this fan constitute a language which the contestants understand perfectly and to which they pay prompt attention. The servant girl has a flat fan made of rough paper to blow the charcoal fires with or use as a dustpan. The farmer has a stout fan to winnow his grain. Another variety is made of waterproof paper, which can be dipped in water, and creates great coolness by evaporation.

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