

too emotional for the ballot. When Mr. Bryan put Wilson in nomination at Baltimore the demonstration lasted for nearly an hour before any one could be heard, and the tramping and marching and shouting resembled that of a lunatic asylum. When Roosevelt was put in nomination at Chicago this record was more than surpassed. I might mention many other instances. I am not condemning the enthusiasm of the men on these occasions. But I wish to say that the women never equaled such emotional displays as those.

Third. It has been said seriously that if women are allowed to vote they will vote for the handsomest man. I now understand why some politicians are opposed to women voting.

Fourth. It is urged that the vote is not necessary for women, because they vote through their husbands. But do husbands always vote the views of their wives? If they did, we would have a cleaner government and cleaner towns everywhere. We would have had prohibition long ago—and have had it enforced. We would have seen other evils disappear which are now tolerated, though forbidden by law. Who casts the vote that expresses the views of the drunkard's wife? Then there are in the United States 8,000,000 of adult women who have not chosen to marry. What man casts the ballot expressing the views of those 8,000,000? Then there are several millions of men who have no wives. What woman's views do they vote?

Fifth. It is said that ballots are a substitute for muskets, and therefore women have no right to vote. More than one-half of the men who have a right to vote would be rejected by any recruiting office in the world. And, on the other hand, one-half of the men who fight are under 21 and have no right to vote. So those who carry muskets and those who vote are by no means the same element. Besides, if the women do not bear arms, they raise the soldiers who do carry the muskets, and should have a voice in saying whether there should be war or not. If the women vote, they will soon abolish war and its villainies as they are abolishing liquor and child labor and other iniquities.

Sixth. It is said that woman's sphere is her home, and that she can not leave th children to vote. It will not take on an average more than a half hour once in two years for a woman to cast her ballot, and if she is so overwhelmed by her duties that she can not get that much leisure, she certainly needs the ballot badly. We might as well say that a man's sphere is his store, his office, his workshop, and following the plow, and that he can not neglect these things to cast a ballot. That was the argument in old times, and the class with leisure and wealth assumed the control of the government and opposed manhood suffrage upon the identical ground now urged against woman's suffrage—that the masses had to make a living and were not competent to aid in governing.

Seventh. It is said that women have no experience in politics. Their brothers when they become 21 have had no experience, but they are at once admitted to the ballot. Girls when they become 21 are in exactly the same state of preparation for taking a part in the government which is to tax them and their property and to pass laws governing their conduct.

Eighth. It is said that there is too much filth and mire in politics, and women should not be exposed to it. If there is filth and mire in politics, the men put it here, for they alone have been running the business. And it is high time we gave the women a chance at housecleaning. This is ex-

actly what has happened in suffrage states. The women have caused the polling places to be removed from the barrooms and placed in decent surroundings, and then they have proceeded to remove the barrooms themselves out of the community.

Ninth. A very popular opposition argument at one time in the south was that to permit the women to vote would be to allow the negro women to vote. As the grandfather clause would apply to negro women equally with negro men, there is no reason to believe that the "chivalry" will be less able to keep the negro cooks from the polls than they have been in keeping the husbands of the negro cooks from voting. They can not be chivalrous if they can do less for their wives and daughters than they have done for themselves. Besides, they are only some 125,000 adult negro women in North Carolina, and 275,000 adult white women. The votes of the white women, therefore will be 25,000 more than those of the negro women and of the negro men combined, if the latter should be readmitted to the suffrage by a decision of the United States supreme court under the grandfather clause. Indeed, if the latter event should happen, the votes of the white women will be necessary to maintain white supremacy. I do not say that all the white women will vote the democratic ticket. Equal suffrage has never proceeded along party lines, and the women would scorn the suffrage if they were not free to vote for what measure and parties they saw fit. But I do say that the vote of the white women will be solid as one woman in maintenance of the integrity of the white race and of the right of their children to control this country.

Tenth. It is said that if the women vote some bad women will vote. Men have never been disfranchised because there are some bad men who will vote. And the proportion of bad men is very far greater than that of bad women. The records of your courts and jails will demonstrate that.

Eleventh. There are those who say that women do not want to vote. The best proof of this is that they have already achieved the ballot in so many states and countries and have made such wonderful progress as I have told you, in the last thirty days. In the states and countries where they vote about the same percentage of men and women vote. In some states equal suffrage was carried on the first trial at the ballot box. In some states it was voted on twice before they got it. In others three times, and in Oregon it was only carried when it was submitted to the ballot box for the sixth time, for you will remember that only the men vote on the matter. Wherever the measure has been beaten, the next morning the women have reorganized their lines and started a new campaign. After the recent defeat of the measure in Ohio at the last election a New York newspaper said that the measure had been overwhelmingly defeated in Ohio. The editor of the Springfield Republican in Massachusetts, with more experience, said that that was impossible, because if an earthquake had shaken Ohio up so that no more ground was left than the size of a cart-wheel the women would be organizing on it the next morning for equal suffrage. When a man volunteers to say that the women do not want the suffrage it reminds me of an instance that took place down here in Pamlico at a wedding. When the preacher got to that part where he asked the woman "Will you take this man to be your wedded husband?" etc., the response came in a deep masculine voice, "I will." Thinking that there was some mistake, he repeated the question, and there was the same

response in bass. Thereupon a little fellow in front, seeing the embarrassment, shouted to the preacher, "Parson, she is deaf, and I am answering for her." These men seem to think that the women are deaf and deficient.

Twelfth. It is said that politics will degrade women. It has not had that effect in any state, county or town that has ever tried it. If it had, the movement would not continue to grow. Suffrage has not degraded the men, but it has elevated and broadened them. It will have exactly the same effect on the women—with this addition, that the women will broaden and elevate politics.

SOME REASONS WHY

Only a few words now as to why suffrage for women is just and is needed.

1. We fought the revolutionary war upon the principle that there should be no taxation without representation. Our government is founded upon that proposition. The women in North Carolina own probably one-third of its property. Whatever share they own be it little or more, is taxed; yet they are denied the right of any voice in saying how much should be taken from them for taxes and for what purposes it should be spent. Mr. Jefferson said that it was "incomprehensible that government should refuse the ballot to the most intelligent women while giving

it to the most besotted and ignorant men."

2. The women bear the burdens of government even more than the men. If there is lack of sanitation, their children suffer and die. If public morals are not guarded, the evils fall upon their sons. If war consume the youth of the land, they suffer more than the fathers. They have even more interest in good government and in preventing bad government than the men. They are as intelligent and as patriotic as the men. It will add to the stability of the government to give them a share in its control.

3. Mr. Lincoln in his celebrated Gettysburg speech said that this is a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The United States supreme court has solemnly decided that women are people. We knew it before the court told us so. Yet we have a government of all the people, for all the people, but by half the people. No wonder Mr. Lincoln said that it was unjust to exclude the women from the suffrage.

4. There are those who are afraid that the women will seek office and thereby crowd out the men. But that has not been the experience where equal suffrage obtains. As a rule, they do not seek office. They have more sense than men in this regard, as well as in some others. Their interest is more in obtaining good gov-



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