Suffra nman

SUPPLEMENT

MAKE IN FACT AS IN NAME, NEBRASKA'S MOTTO: "EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW."



FREEMEN! HO!

READ! READ!! READ!!!

Liberty and Justice ask a Fair Hearing.

Will those who thought so earnestly, worked so constantly and sacrificed so much for negro freedom, give the subject of the freedom of mother, sister, wife and daughter consideration?

Will all others do the same who believe that their mothers, their sisters, their wives, their daughters, are as much entitled to freedom as was the negro?

Read this paper -- read it all through ! If you agree with its sentiments, all right. If you do not, all the more cause why you should read our reasons, and you will if you take counsel of your own heart and manhood. Have your family read it ; don't refuse them this boon and then say "They don't want to vote." Justice to yourself and family will induce you to read and fairly consider of the truths herein con-Read and think with intent to do Right never suffers a wrong to any. Remember that in November you, men, will be called upon to vote upon this question, that our state motto, "EQUAL-ITY BEFORE THE LAW," shall apply to the mother, wife, daughter and sister, as well as to the father, husband, son and brother. We know that many of you who think differently from us, conscientiously believe that it is best for woman and for the race, that she should hold ber present inferior and circumscribed position. But you may conclude differently if you will only READ! READ!! READ!!

The Constitutional Amendment.

A joint resolution was adopted by the egislature of Nebraska in February, 1881, and approved by the governor, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the state, so as to drop the word "male" out of the suffrage qualifications, thereby conferring upon the women of Nebraska the right to vote at all elections. That part of the constitution, if amended, would read:

Section 1. Every person of thegrege of twenty-one years or upwards, belonging to either of the following classes, who shall have resided in this state six months, and in the county, precinct or ward for the term provided by law, shall be an

First. Citizens of the United States. Second. Persons of foreign birth, who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturailzation, at least thirty days prior to an election."

Said proposed amendment will be submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for ratification or rejection, at the general election to be held on the 7th day of November, 1882

OUR CLAIMS.

First. What is suffrage? Webster says: "The formal expression of an opinon; a voice given in deciding a controverted question, or in the choice of a man for an office or trust."

We claim that suffrage is a right, and as inherent in woman as in man; to deny which is to repudiate the principles of the declaration of independence, the national constitution and our bill of rights. "Goveraments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed"-women are governed. "Taxation without representation is tyranny"—women are taxed and are not represented. "Political power inheres in the people"-women are people.

We claim that women are as capable of forming opinions, have as decided opinions, and are as capable of expressing opinions as are men. Therefore, the power to vote -the medium by which an opinion is expressed, a controverted question decided, positions of trust filled-should be conceded women and as freely exercised by them as

REASONS WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

Woman suffrage is essential to the true republic, the basis of which is the natural equality of human beings. Until women are put on an equal footing with men this

"The object of the republic," savs Senstor Hear, "is the aggregate worth of the people. It is personal, not material. You value your neighbor not for his money, not for his physical strength, not sprinkled chloride of lime and burned for his genius, but for the qualities of courage, generosity, love, bonor, truth purifier? If we would deance the bul

Levering, who sat at

and you value your state just so far as it is chamber we should throw the windows an aggregate of persons possessing these wide open, and the sweet summer air and who possesses the faculty of fostering | ence we know." and educating children so largely that it is admitted that it is rarely that a child who loses its mother in early life, grows up possessing them. Will anybody deny that she is equally capable with the husband and father in determining what measures and what policy in the state will result in the increase and promotion of these qualities in the aggregate of families and individuals that go to make up the repub-

The capacity to judge of character is peculiar to woman. Senator Hoar sava: 'How often does it happen that the husband receives his word of wanning from the wife, or a brother from a sister, in regard to the character of a person in whom he is likely to place undue confidence. And, says Rufus Choste, one of the closest observers of our time: "Men talk and think of measures; of creeds in politics; of availability; of strength to carry the vote of this or that state. Through all man himself and she finds it."

"The eternal and ineradicable distinction of sex," says H. B. Blackwell, "is one principal teason why women, in a representative government, should be directly represented, since they constitute one entire half of the body politic. If lawyers alone can not safely be trusted to make laws for mechanics, if merchants alone can not legislate justly for farmers, if white men alone can not do justice to the ne-groes, if every well defined class in society is entitled to its own authoritative expression-surely women, /who are the wives and sisters and mothers of men, should give expression to the domestic interests from the feminine point of view. If mere differences of education, habit, race and interest make class legislation dangerous, how much more partial and imperfect must be the legislation of onehalf the community, where the other half, in addition to such differences, differs organically also."

War is the great scourge that afflicts humanity. It was to prevent private war that government was first instituted. So long as suffrage was exercised only by fighting men, war was the rule and peace vote, the belligerent element will continue to preponderate. Fourteen out of every fifteen dollars of the duties and taxes collected by the general government are spent in defraying past and present war expenses. When men and women vote all citizens will be represented, and the true balance of human nature will be restored. Woman suffrage means permanent peace between individuals and nations.

Intemperance and licentiousness are. next to war, the chief curses of civilized society. But, Bishop Simpson has well said that the vices of our great cities can never be controlled until women vote. Temperance statistics assert that one-half of all men occasionally use intoxicating liquor as a beverage, but that only one woman in forty uses liquor. The worst evils of intemperance fall upon the wives and children of inebriates. The drunkard's wife will not vote with the drunkard. Woman suffrage may not mean prohibition, but it certainly does mean a higher respect for temperance and sobriety.

Women are vitally interested in the permanence and sanctity of marriage. Unless utterly abandoned they recoil from sensuality. The women of St. Louis, after a long and arduous struggle have procured the repeal of the infamous city ordinance enacted by men alone, which licensed houses of prostitution. When women vote these dens of infamy will everywhere be broken up. Woman suffrage means social purity.

Being inferior to men in muscular strength, women find it more difficult to earn money. They are, therefore, necessarily more economical in their expenditures. The low wages of women are the result of unjust legislation, but voting will not wholly do away with this disparity of earnings, or with woman's consequent habit of economy. Therefore woman suffrage means financial retrench ment and a more economical scale of state and national expenditures.

Women are more influenced by moral and religious consideration than are men. In the state prison of Nebraska there are 265 male convicts; no female convicts. Even the comparatively few crimes committed by women are usually such as affect themselves most directly; those committed by men are usually crimes of violence, which most directly affect the lives and property of others. More than twothirds of all the church members of age standard of religion and morals is precisely what is needed in politics.

We are told that politics are filthy and degrading. What are politics? Webster defines as the "science of government; that part of ethics which has to do with the regulation and government of a nation or state, the preservation of its safety. peace and prosperity; the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest; the augmentation of its strength and resources, and the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals," Surely nothing filthy or degrading about all this. On the contrary, what uld be more cleanly and elevating? "If the making and administering of law "If the making and administering of law tions are in many cases badly kept, waste-has become so corrupt," says George Wil- ful and immoral. Had our housekeepers liam Curtis, "as to justify calling politics votes, they would oversee and correct the fithy, may we not wisely remember, as we public housekeeping. fithy, may we not wisely remember, as we begin our work of purification, that polities have been wholly managed by men? How can we purify them? If we sat in a chamber with closed windows until the air became thick and fatid, should we not be fools if we brought in decolorizate—if we sprinkled chloride of lime and hurned

qualities, and just so far as it is the means would sweep all impurity away and fill our to promote and increase them. It is lungs with fresher life. If we would woman on whom we depend to educate purge politics let us turn upon them the and foster the moral qualities of children, great stream of the purest human influ-

Women's presence at the polls and political meetings will greatly tend to preserve order and decorum and to insure a "free ballot and a fair count." Neither bayonets nor deputy sheriffs will be needed where wives and mothers are.

The licentiousness of our cities is largely due to the starvation pay of women dependent upon their own work for bread; or by the death or misfortune of father, brother or husband, are thrown suddenly upon the world without the training needful to earn bread. The ballot means better wages for women; will induce women, in days of prosperity, to fit themselves for some business or profession, thus lessening the social evil.

Aristocratic castes, which have been destroyed by universal suffrage among men, still exist among women. The woman who goes out of some few respected employments is deemed to have destroyed her this woman's eye seeks the moral, pruden- social standing. Young women are made tial, social and mental character of the to feel if they enter domestic service they degrade themselves and lose their chance to wed well. Housekeepers suffer for want of good household help. When women vote honest industry among women will be respected as it is among men.

Divorces are largely due to unloving wedlock into which thousands of women enter yearly from force of circumstances. The enfranchisement of women will bring about a proper social state, and divorces will be seldom known.

Assaults and other crimes against women would be far less frequent and attacks on their reputation more rare if women possessed political power. Disfranchisement breeds contempt and contempt breeds

Wife beating and other cruelties toward women are frequent among men of the brutal sort, which go unpunished. Were women voters a large political influence would be exerted for their protection.

Laws designed for women's protection are oft administered to their suffering and loss. (For examples see Mrs. J. W. Stowe's work on the working of probate courts regarding the property of widows). Had women a voice in choosing the officers the exception. And so long as men alone of the law maladministering of such laws would be scarce.

> Many laws on our statute books are unjust and one-sided towards women. These be corrected if women were voters

The laws of Nebraska give into the hands of the father the entire guardianship of the children. You, mothers, have no legal right to your own babies; you have no legal control, no authority over them, only such delegated power as the father may choose to allow. During the life of the father the law gives their guardianship to him alone and gives him the right to will away your little ones, into the hands of strangers, even the unborn babe he shall never behold. Do you doubt it? Think you such an outrage to all sense of right cannot, surely cannot be so? Read for yourselves what the law has to say: Every father may, by his last will in writing, appoint a quardian for any of his children, whether born at the time of making the will or afterwards, to continue during the minarity of the child, or for any less time, etc."-Statutes of 1881, Chapter 52, Sec. 24.) Inhuman! What a stigma upon our statute books. How long, think you, would it remain there had women a voice in law making?

"Curtesy," the old common law rule which gives the husband a life estate in all his wife's real property and "dower," which gives the wife only the use of one third of the husband's real property, would be amended so as to give both the same interests in the property of the other.

The most unjust distinction in favor of men is made in our divorce laws. There should be no difference.

Laws for women's protection require women's experience and their share in drafting and execution to insure success.

Women, as the weaker sex, need all the means of self-defense and protection they can have. Possession of the ballot is such

Good will of rulers is a very weak guarantee of justice. Possession of power

Women's opportunities will be so widened by enfranchisements that they will have inducements to study far greater than now, and hence will become better educated and more skilled and intelligent.

Republican institutions depend for safety on the political intelligence of the America are women. This higher aver- people. To insure the steady growth of this intelligence the mothers of the state should be well informed and able to instruct their children on public affairs. This enlightenment their possession of the ballot will secure.

Meddling, gossip, slander, scolding, etc. will be much less among certain classes o women, when those women are free to share in and discuss great public topics instead of the small matters whereto their thoughts and talk are mostly confined.

Gossip, when turned to canvassing the merits of public measures and men, will be very useful and enlightening, instead of the plague it now too often is.

Our county poor houses and like institu-

vote if they choose, will bring these grand result.

CAL REPORM.

Extract from an Address by Hon. H. B. Blackwell

All admit that some change in our political system is needed. The growing corruption of public life is admitted and deplored by both parties. Low as is the average standard of private morals, the standard of political ethics is confessedly far lower. Every year matters seem to grow worse. Our laws and our law-makers do not fairly represent the public sen-

Now what shall we do about it? How shall we cope with these stern facts? How shall we redeem the future of the great republic?

Only by enlisting all the virtue, all the intelligence, all the patriotism of the nation in a struggle with the vice, and ignorance and selfishness of the nation. In short, only by enlisting the interests of the whole American people in political questions to a greater extent than ever beore. We must somehow arouse the community to habitual thought and action on political topics. Fortunately it is the permanent interest of most people to have good laws, economical administration, and onest public servants. When office holders steal, their constituents have to foot the bills. To secure a just verdict we must first secure an impartial jury. Such a jury, only an extended suffrage can supply. And the greatest of all political problems is how best to enlist public interest in the intelligent criticism of public affairs.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." While absorbed in a struggle with southern slavery we have become ourselves insensibly enslaved. To-day our government is republican only in form. In every ward, in every town, we are governed by cliques of trading politicians through the machinery of parties. The nominations are made by less than the primary meetings.

these primaries? Go and see. fleating population are there; men who meeting is called to order, a ticket, usually distributed on printed slips, is nominated by acclamation. In ten minutes the caucus is adjourned. This ticket was carecians, in a private parlor or saloon, from nominations for 5,000 voters. * *

It may be said that if our present political evils are so largely the result of male ignorance manipulated by cunning, the addition of an equal number of still more ignorant female voters will only make bad matters worse. But in the first place our female population is much more largely native American, and to that extent is more generally educated. To prove this we need only refer to the statistics of immigration, which show a very great and constant preponderance of male immigrants. This preponderance reaches its maximum in the case of the Chinese who ere, almost without exception, males. In the second place the grossly ignorant and vicious class are everywhere in the minority. If, by woman suffrage, we would double the votes of this class, we should also double the votes of the intelligent majority and thereby largely diminish the reiative political power of ignorance, and largely increase the relative political power of intelligence. Thus if 2,000 out of 5,000 voters are ignorant, there is only an intelligent majority of 1,000; but if 4,000 out of 10,000 voters are ignorant, there is an intelligent majority of 2,000, and the danger is reduced one-half. And in the third place our chief danger has been shown to lie not in ignorance but in indifference, and this indifference will be vastly lessened when political ideas and interests are brought into the domestic | And so these twain, upon the skirts of time. circle and made a subject of family consideration.

To call our present system "a govern-ment of the people" is absurd. The only remedy is to attract the attention of the people to the primary meetings in sufficient numbers to check and overawe the "rings." To reform politics we must first reform the caucuses. To-day the men of intellect and character do not, as a rule, attend them. Such men are too busy and too much absorbed in social engagements. They go with their wives and sisters to church meetings, concerts, lectures and social parties. They associate with ladies, at home and abroad. These women expect their society and would feel disappointed at their absence. The presence of such men in political meetings can be secured in only one way, viz: by enlisting the social sympathy and co-operation of women in such meetings. When the woment will take little interest in the practical work of politics so long as women are excluded. Because, society is civilized, while politics are still semi-barbarous. Women are in society; women are the life of our churches and schools, of our charities and reforms; they should be the life of our politics also. "What God has toined let no man put asunder." But antil men and women go together to the primary meetings these meetings will continue small in numbers, sordid in tone poor in character and corrupt in management. Real political reform must begin by a reform in our caucus system. And in order to reform the caucus we must open its doors to men and women. In impartial suffrage irrespective of sex lies the only salvation of American politics.

MANY good, true women seem somehow to have imbibed the idea that it is unwomanly to walk up to an inoffensive little square ballot box and there deposit a sim-ple expression of opinion, yes or no, on questions that may perhaps affect her family of boys and girls through all eternity.

WOMAN SUPPRAGE A POLITI- The Influence of Suffrage Upon Women Themselves.

Men complain of the ignorance, frivolity hands of women. and spathy in the great questions of the day among women, and use the very fact as an objection against giving them suffrage. True, but their position has made them so. What incentive has any woman to interest berself in political subjects, in social econothe criminal's muttered oaths, for at the ence they exert everywhere else ballot box, the only place where thought and reasoning can be crystalized for the nation's good, she is uncounted, unnoticed and politically classed with idiots, lunatics, paupers and criminals.

Equal suffrage will lift her out of this ignorance and frivolity, and instead of it being denied on that ground, that is the preatest argument why it should be given. PLATO: "In the administration of a state, Disfranchisement is the cause of this neither a woman, as a woman, nor a man, ignorance and devotion to dress and fashion, ago men dressed as foolishly, as injuriously the court dress of a hundred years ago. The make a woman a good guardian, for their absurd flowing powdered, false wigs, the wide lace ruffles at the throat and wrists, the gay colored, expensive waist-coats, vests and knee breeches, the silk stockings, and silver buckles at knees and shoes.

The men of those days devoted untold wealth, time and thought to their toilets, fust as women do now. But as the duties, responsibilities and rights of citizenship grew upon them, as intellectual development became more popular, they found as women will find that they had not time for both, and so they abandoned the false hair, the lace ruffles, the gay silk, satin and velvet coats, vests and pants, the silk stock- the home." ings, and the silver buckles, and adopted the sensible costume which is worn to-day. Women will do the same. Even now the five per cent. of the voters, amembled in time is coming when a woman to mingle in good society must be intellectual. She Now who are the men that compose must be able to discuss wisely the questions of the day, and as this demand broadens "managers" are there; men who have and lengthens, as colleges and universities axes to grind. Their followers are there; graduate more and more women, and and lengthens, as colleges and universities men who are "slaves of the ring." The especially as the duties and privileges of citizenship are thrown upon their shoullounge on sidewalks and haunt saloons ders, will they find that either the inteland "drop in" as a pastime. When the lectual life which they are grasping so eagerly, the affairs of our republic which they love so rapturously, or fashion must bound to obtain a like solution. The inbe given up. Does anyone doubt which will be surrendered? They will do as their fully prepared, in advance of the caucus, brothers have done, adopt a costume, easy, by a little, self-constituted clique of politi- convenient and healthful, and give their brain and time to the perfecting and purifying of the individual, the home, the state good order and peace, and in the suppres-Half a dozen men, known only to their immediate followers, have settled the women intense study and interest in all in favor of the right." questions which concern our beloved land, and can anyone doubt that this study and Pagetpent Bascow, or Wisconsin the negro so with them. The very right to duties and privileges once conceded to vote is awakening them out of their sleep woman, in fewer months than the struggle of ignorance and servitude, and developing has already consumed of years, it will be all the qualities of citizenship. The same an astonishment to all that society was results, only in a shorter time and immeas- ever otherwise ordered." urably more beneficial to the republic, will follow woman suffrage. For already they are educated thinkers, and the ballot is the only incentive they need for the concentration of thought upon the great needs of our pudiating the principles upon which the republic. I plead with you my brother, covernment is founded." for the sake of the influences upon women into the grandeur of intellectual equals. secorded her rights." Grant us suffrage in 1882 - MADAME CHARLYON EDBOLM, in Lincoln Journal.

WOMAN'S CAUSE IS MAN'S

No statement could better define this movement than Tennyson's beautiful

The woman's cause is man's; they sink or rise Together, dwarfed or god-like, bond or free. If she be small slight-natured, miserable, How shall man grow? The woman is not undeveloped man, But diverse.

Yet in the long years, liker must they grow ; The man be more of woman, she of man; He gain in sweetness and in moral height— she mental breadth.

Sit side by side. full-summed in all their powers, Self-reverent each, and reverencing each; Distinct in individualities. But like each other, as are those that love.

Then comes the statelier Eden back to man : Then reign the world's great bridals, chaste and calm; Then springs the crowning race of human kind.

WHERE " breathes the man with soul so dead" as to deny this proposition:
"Freedom—freedom intellectual, freedom moral, freedom civil, freedom politicalis as truly the natural possession of woman

as it is of man, and it is as necessary to her highest and best development as it is to WHAT a peculiar thing is humanity! ited sale of cheap liquors shall be allowed, Some of these people especially our Teutonic women would give. I suppose, as intelli-

(riends) who rail out loudest against woman gent a vote as the Irish voters of Boston. suffrage, because participation in equal New York and Philadelphia. As for the political rights is, in their opinion, "out of unsexing and contamination, that only woman's sphere," have no hesitancy in accuses our politics, shows how barbarous taking them out of their home "sphere" to we are that our politics are so crooked. work in the harvest field.

ABBAHAM LINCOLN: "I go for all sharing the privileges of the government Gov. Long, or Massacutserrs: "Be-who assist in bearing its burdens, by no cause suffrage is a right and not a grace, it means excluding women." In 1964: should be extended to women who bear "After this great struggle for the union, their share of the public cost, and who

may, put it aside as a jest if we will, keep of its laws which affect their lives, their it out of congress and political campaigns, property and their happiness." still the woman question is rising in our political horizon larger than the size of a man's hand; and some solution, ere long, man voting at the school elections in New that question must find."

Ex-Vice PRESIDENT WILSON: "All I have done for negro suffrage I will do for woman suffrage."

SALMON P. CHASE, in 1852: "The cause will triumph. It is a question of time, not of fact."

WILLIAM H. SEWARD: "Justice is on the side of woman suffrage."

Bisnor Starson "I believe that the vices in our large cities will never be conpered until the hallot is put into the

REV. JAMES FREEWANCLARES: "1 40 not think our politics will be what they ought to be till women are legislators and

GROBGE WILLIAM CURTIS "Women my, or in the great questions of the day, have quite as much interest in good govwhen the profoundest thought, the most ernment as men, and I have never heard logical reasoning, or the most able methods, or read of any satisfactory reason for exif emanating from a woman's brain, are cluding them from the ballot-box : I have considered no better than the ravings of a no more doubt of their ameliorating influmaniae, or any more to be considered than | ence upon politics than I have of the influ-

> HERRERT SPENCER: "However much the giving of political power to women may disagree with our notions of propriety we conclude that, being required by that first prerequisite to greater happiness, the law of equal freedom, such a concession is unquestionably right and good."

as a man, has any special functions, but the and suffrage will be the cure. A century gifts are equally diffused in both sexus. The same opportunity for self-development as women do now. We are all familiar with which makes a man a good guardian will original nature is the same."

BISHOP GILBERT HAVEN "In view of the terrible corruption of our politics. people ask, can we maintain universal suffrage?' I say no, not without women The only beer garden in our community is the town meeting and the caucus. Why is this? Because these are the only places at which women are not present.

IBID: "It seems to me that every woman who opposes woman suffrage, opposes ber own growth, opposes the best interests of the state, and opposes the perfection of

REV. JOSEPH COOK "Woman's vote will be to the vices depending on intemperance what the lightning is to the oak."

REV. DEWITT TALMAGE: "Give woman the ballot and she will soon settle the Mormon and temperance questions."

PRESIDENT KLLIOTT, OF MISSOURI UNI-VERSITY: "If my testimony in favor of the movement has any weight, I wish to give it all the heartiness of steadily increasing conviction. In my opinion, it is the great question of the day, as emanciterests of the temperance reform, of social purity and of education are all deeply involved in it. Woman has a vital and

thought will be barren of result? As with University: "A full fellowship in civil

U. S. SENATOR HOAR, OF MASSACHUextre: "A man could not argue against women suffrage five minutes without re-

U. S. SENATOR LAPHAM, OF NEW themselves, lifting them out of frivolity up Your: "I hope that woman will yet be

REV. T. W. HIGGINSON: "Woman needs the ballot for self respect and self protection.

JOHN G. WHITTIME "The great social and political reform is slowly, but stendily and surely moving on to its consummation, when woman, without losing any of the true graces of her sex, shall use, develop and enjoy all the faculties which God has given ber."

SCHUYLER COLPAX: "Since "I left public life I have examined both side of the woman suffrage question coully and impartially, and have made up my mind that it must come and ought to come, perhaps by degrees, but surely. It cannot fail to promote all reformatory and humanitarian movements."

WENDRLL PHILLIPS: "Everyone who wishes and works for a purer civilization is on your side. Everyone who longs for the permanence of republican institutions is on your side. Every lover of fair play and equality is with you. The narrow. the timid, those faithless to the principles which underlie our civilization, the ignorant and evil minded are your opponents.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, IN 1862 "On the questions that are important, whether the government shall be in one person, or whether representative, or whether democratic; whether the unlimmade up of things that are not to be spoken, to be understood only by a wink OPINIONS OF EMINENT MEN, and nudge; this man is to be coased and that man to be bought, and that other to be duped."

have the same interest that I have in the JAMES A. GARFIELD: "Laugh to we selection of its officials, and the making

> GOV. CORNELL OF NEW YORK: "Woman voting at the school elections in New schools, and added to their intelligence.

> GOV. ST. JOHN, OF KANSAS: "I hope women will som have the right to vote for those who are to govern them."

GOV. PORTER, OF INDIANA: "I propose to do all I can for the enlargement of woman's rights while I am governor of adiana. His most name their sain accident

terry year same or opening and