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### WOMEN SUFFRAGE COLUMN.

EDITED BY ALLIE E. PELKEY.

Intelligent Suffrage Progressive Democracy.

A friend writes us as follows:

Editors Woman's Journal:—I know a man who is an anti suffragist. That may not be peculiar; there are doubtless many men who are the same. But this man is an exception; he has thought about things; he is a representative of the highest type of student and scholar turned out by the best Western coeducational universities. Moreover, he has lived in Boston two years, and has had a chance to gain breadth of view. He is a philosopher, candid, fair, fearless in his ideas, and liberal-minded in nearly every other respect. And yet he does not believe in woman suffrage. And he bases his opposition on this ground: "We do not," he says, "claim to be a democracy, even approximately." He scouts the term, "universal suffrage" (I have heard as acute a man as Prof. A. Lawrence Lowell use the term with naive faith in its applicability.) "We haven't even universal manhood suffrage," he says. "The disfranchisement of the Negroes in the Southern States is right; their enfranchisement in the first place was an erroneous step. It would be better if one-half the present voters, (including a good sprinkling of college professors) were disfranchised. We want individuals to vote who think, who understand conditions, who can build up a government and conduct it on scientific principles. Such an end can never be gained under a system of widely extended suffrage." To the objection that his system would

lead to an oligarchical form of government, this friend of mine blandly replies that that would be the best type.

How is one to argue with such a man? If, with Plato, he believes in the wisdom of a few "guardians" of the State, if he does not see participation in government as a right of those governed, how are you going to reach him? Is it worth while talking politics with a man whose faith in a few superior spirits is so unshakable, and whose distrust of the intellectual powers of the rest of the people is so strong? What is it that causes a man in this way to set himself against the democratic tendencies of the age?

If he grants that his ideals are entirely theoretical and incapable of being reached in practice, human nature being what it is, but says that is no reason for increasing the present evil of an extended suffrage, what is the reply?

In short, how can you change the viewpoint of an educated, keen-witted, aristocratic thinker, like this man, to that of the same sort of a democrat? Is there any prescription by which we can introduce into his system an intuitive recognition of the right of the individual to a hand in the shaping of the conditions in which his individuality must develop?

I fear not, but I would there were. For I feel about this friend, so far as his political ideas are concerned, much as the little girl Mr. Jacob Riss tells of, felt about her kitten accidentally smothered—"Here's a perfectly good cat spoiled!"

J. T.

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 24, 1902.

Probably, the trouble with the thinker in question is not so much one of reason as of temperament. But, admitting his position for the sake of argument, I should like to ask him whether sex, in itself, a disqualification for taking part in government. When he has eliminated all the unfit men who are now voters, may there not be many eminently fit and capable women whose participation is needed? As in a well governed and administered family there is need of both husband and wife, father and mother, breadwinner and housekeeper, will not his ideal State need the cooperation of the best men and the best women to bring out the finest results? Is he quite certain, for instance, that in English politics and society the change from the four Georges to Queen Victoria was a change for the worse, or that the elimination of Queen Victoria and the substitution of King Edward VII. will be a change for the better.

The strongest of all arguments for woman suffrage is based on the eternal and ineradicable differences of sex—a different balance of the human qualities which are common to both, created by nature and emphasized by all the educational influences of after life. We need, in a perfect government, both the masculine and the feminine characteristics. After all, is our friend's theoretical position altogether incompatible with the democratic principle?

Luoy Stone, in 1867, in her address before the New Jersey Legislature, thus defined suffrage: "Suffrage is the authoritative expression of an individual opinion in regard to principles, measures, and men. The essence of suffrage is rational choice." Now, if her definition is correct, no one incapable of making a rational choice is capable of exercising the right of suffrage, and his going through the form of voting is a violation of the principle. Therefore, if some men are incapable, they should be excluded. If all women are incapable, all women should be excluded. If some women, like some men, are capable and others incapable, then some women should be enfranchised and some excluded. And when we disfranchise all women we violate the principle, because we exclude citizens capable of making a rational choice at the ballot box. We interpose as insurmountable barrier which no worth of intellect or character can overcome.

But any theory which is incapable of application in human affairs is purely academic and illusory. Who is to decide the question of individual fitness? Who so wise, so clear-sighted, so free from prejudice, as to be entrusted with the duty of sitting in judgment on the mental and moral qualities of his fellow-men and fellow women? Are the nations that to-day are governed by a limited suffrage, better governed than ourselves? Certainly the immigrants who flock to our shores do not seem to have acquired habits of thought and life superior to our native population. Our North End of Boston is not an altogether model community as a result of its long subjection to autocratic control by a privileged class. But if we are to repeat the old experiment of "elimination," let us not begin by eliminating our own mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. H. B. B.

### SAND VALLEY.

It looks as though all of our neighbors are on the move this spring.

Fine weather for this time of the year. Cattle graze like it was summer.

Miss Judge passed through Sand Valley last Saturday on her way home to the T. L. V. ranch.

We hear that Mr. Hanes has sold his ranch to an eastern party. We are sorry to lose him as he is a good republican.

Jerry Snell starts the 26th inst., for his old home in the eastern part of the state, and George, his oldest son, will take charge of his father's ranch.

Our nursery agent, Mr. A. Pool is doing all he can to get the people in the notion of putting out strawberries. A good plan. We think small fruits will do well here.

Mr. Kurble of Sand valley, and Mr. Miller of Iowa, have purchased two or three car loads of horses in and around Anselmo and Merna. They are still buying and shipping to Iowa.

Miss Edney Kurbee gave the Sand Valley school a visit last Thursday, and then went home with the teacher, Miss Thorpe, and took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Anderson, Miss Thorpe's boarding place.

G. J. Fischer was dipping his cattle last Friday and Saturday for the itch. —Pretty cool weather for bathing. We are told that they have the itch among the cattle on the T. L. V. ranch, if so it is time for all of us to keep a sharp lookout.

### RYNO.

B. F. Empfield has bought a team of mares of Ed. Lichtenberger.

Heavy thunder with rain and hail yesterday, reminding us that spring is coming.

Weather moderate; snow all gone; roads drying up; looks like February will go out lamb-like.

Very little if any small grain will be sown. Farmers are tired of feeding bugs, but arrangements are made for a large average of corn.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Empfield February 26, 1902, a daughter. Dr. R. C. Talbot in attendance. Mother and babe doing well.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Uncle Sam on last week, triplets. Three stalwart sons, consisting of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. I suggest that they chip in and buy the parents a new suit of clothes.

### Emmer Seed For Sale.

I have a limited quantity of Emmer seed for sale at my farm near Kearney Neb. This new grain is especially adapted to semi arid regions as it ripens about the time or before winter wheat. It stands the early spring frosts and should be sowed very early. It is very nutritious and is excellent feed for horses, cattle and hogs. If cut when midding green the straw makes fine feed. The yield is prolific. Last season I raised 900 bushels on 14 acres.

See sample of seed at the Republican office, Broken Bow. Price \$1.00 a bushel at my farm or delivered at the depots in Kearney for 10 cents additional for two bushel

sack. It takes two bushel to the acre if sown broad cast or one and one-half bushels drilled in corn stalks or fall plowing.

EMIL KELLER, 34-37 Kearney, Neb.

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