## THE COURIER.



One of the most interesting features of English politics at the present time is the part that women take in the canvass before an election. The calmness of Mrs. Randolph Churchhill or of Mrs. Gladstone in the midst ment of the nation." of a howling egg-throwing mob reverses the accepted opinions about the wife's presence on the platform is as much a matter of course as that of the candidate's and her sangfroid when the howls of a mob of politicians drown her husband's voice, is complete.

The English voter is visited on his farm and in his shop, or countingroom by the candidate's sister or wife. She talks with him about the candidate's views, and explains his liking for that particular section of country. Woman's importance in practical politics in England is undisputed. Whether the influence she exercises is legitimate and beneficial is another question. The basis of the influence she exerts is her femininity and because it can have nothing to do with the questions to be settled by the election of this or that candidate it is of doubtful expediency. When women enter politics in this country let it be through the front door as an individaul and a candidate.

Wives of American politicians are following the English in appearing on the platform with their husbands at all political meetings, though they have not yet formed the habit of making a personal appeal to those who possess the suffrage.

In our own state Mrs. Thurston set ventions and mass meetings of the last Mr. Thurston has been a prominent feature, Mrs. Thurston has been by his side.

her husband in his campaigns. She has gone with him to New York and when he goes out to speak in the many states of the union, she will go with him. After the announcement celebration is over they will go to Bath, Me., to visit Mr. and Mrs. Sewell. Mcs. Bryan stimulates those who come in that she helps her husband with his speeches. The Review of Reviews from a sound sleep. says: "Mrs. Bryan has been almost as deep a student of public questions as springs along in this number, but the her husband. While his chief inter- end does not seem any nearer. The est lay in the practice of the law she studied law and aided him in his the end recedes. The hero is a very office. When, following the natural brave man, but almost incredibly inclination of his mind, he turned to stupid. In the last chapter of the politics and state craft, she, too, took present number he lets Mouraki Pasha up the questions of the day and in- -an unspeakable Turk, lead him into vestigated them intelligently and ex- a cottage surrounded by the Pasha's haustively. Mr. Bryan frankly con- soldiery and both of them are in love fesses the aid she has given him in with the same girl and Mouraki is preparing his addresses-for like most fifty years old and has never been good speakers, he seldom goes before conquered by a woman yet. The Engan audience on an occasion of import- lishman, Lord Wheatley, knows that ance without careful preparation. Dur- Mouraki sentences men to hideous ing his term in the house of represen- deaths as a butcher orders a steer tatives she never failed to be in the knocked on the head, yet because he gallery when he was to speak, and her is an Englishman he does not suspect presence stimulated as her aid before him of any designs upon himself. It had prepared him. At the Chicago may be that Lord Wheatley will have convention she sat prominently on the to marry Phroso or see her carried off platform throughout the sessions, by the Turk. Wheatley loves her and noting with a mind trained to grasp Phroso loves him, but before he came public affairs, the varying moods of away from England, his relations and the great gathering. She saw the hoc relations engaged him to a girl. wonderful outburst of enthusiasm that It was purely "une affaire de confollowed his speech and sat through venance." Since coming to the island the four ballots which ended in his the bonds wherewith he is bound cut nomination. Since the convention she deeply into his flesh, though he never has been constantly at his side, trav- thinks of snapping them. Considereiling with him and sitting on the plat- ing the strength of his sense of honor, forms from which he makes his Anthony H. will have to get him speeches. In the event of his election into the most complicated circumshe may be expected to be more than stance in order to marry him to Phromerely mistress of the White House. so. He must be threatened with the Her impress already upon his public loss of what is more precious than utterances is apparent to those who life (in poetry and fiction) and so must

know her, and should her husband be called to the first position in the republic, American womankind might feel more than ever before that their sex had a positive part in the govern-

McClure's for August conhysterical timidity of the sex. The tains an article on Gladstone by the friend of Chicago-Mr. W. T. Stead. Speaking of wives, he says Mrs. Gladstone was not his equal in intellect, nor ever aspired to be more than a sympathetic listener to his political discourses. She was a capital house mother, faithful and attentive; an admirable nurse, who studied her husband as a doctor studied his patient; for all his physical and social needs, she was all that could be desired, but it ended there. The illustrations show him in his fifty-fifth and in his eightysixth year. In the former he looks like a man of forty. At eighty-six he looks seventy. His taste for literature and his love of religion in addition to his placid adoring wife have kept him about fifteen years younger than his years in vigor physical and mental. No one has yet been able to broach a subject upon which Mr. Gladstone could not talk with mastery of the detail of it. Mr. Stead says: "There is not indirectly as a sister or a wife of a tradition to the effect that on one occasion when Monsieur Chevaller, the eminent French economist, was invited to Downing street to breakfast, he came away sadly disappointed, for Mc. Gladstone and Mr. Bright happened to raise the subject of corns. discussing chiropody in all its branches, with a wonderful array of personal experience and literary refthe fashion. In the nominating con- erence which bewildered the Frenchman, who, at first, was under the lldecade of Nebraska politics, in which lusion that the prime minister and the great free trader were engaged in the discussion of the corn laws.

This faculty of absorption in other So far Mrs. Bryan has accompanied affairs besides those of state has kept Mr. Gladstone chipper and blythe when other people thought it their duty to worry and grow aged over the degeneracy of humanity and the future of the nation. His power of concentration was so absolute that even when he was making up a cabinet he could put his mind on to the contact with her. It is well known Iliad with such singleness that to get his attention was like waking a person

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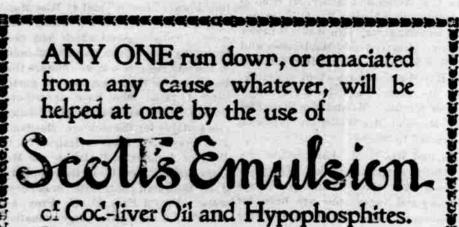
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