

Why Women Want the Vote ?

BECAUSE we live under a system of government which requires that our legislature should be chosen, not by half the people, but by all. Because woman, man's inferior in some respects, his superior in others, is absolutely his equal as an individual member of the commonwealth, and must therefore have equal rights. Because, like man, she is forced to obey the laws, and therefore like him ought to be able to help in choosing the men who frame them. Those outside the legislative pale must suffer from legislative neglect, as proved by the condition of our working women, which now needs special legislation.

Because it is not only expedient, but highly necessary, that women should be able to express an opinion on all matters, and especially on those relating to women and children.

Because our girls, who now grow up with little to interest their minds beyond the petty trivialities of everyday life, will benefit by having something to think of, more important than the latest fashion and the newest novel.

Because every subject of social importance will receive more careful consideration when it may be discussed in the quiet of home.

Because, finally, when a good woman knows she has a duty, she wishes to do it.

If the voice of the people is the voice of God, then the voice of God can never be heard so long as woman's voice is silenced. A slave mother bears a slave progeny; woman is a slave to just the extent that she is denied the privilege of working out her own thoughts and convictions of right as God gives her to see the right. The reform for which we plead is not against man—it is pre-eminently for the benefit of man. That politics are too dirty for women to mingle in, is no argument against woman suffrage; it is one against male suffrage. Men have always had control of politics; if they have allowed them to become dirty it is time women came to the rescue and cleaned things up. If politics are not fit for my girls they are not fit for my boys."—ZERREDA WALLACE.

"Women are doing far less to-day than men towards their enfranchisement. Every right restored to us has been placed in our hands by the stronger hands of generous brothers. They had the world outside of home to themselves, and they grew divinely lonely in it. I mean their noblest and fittest survivals did, because in the nature of the case such natures must. Public opinion can only be gathered up, condensed and brought to bear through the electric battery of the ballot box along the surcharged wires of the law."—FRANCIS WILLIARD.

ALICE BLACKWELL wants the vote "because it is the quietest, easiest, most dignified and least conspicuous way of influencing public affairs.

"Because it would elevate and broaden women's minds to take part of the spare time which they now spend on fancy-work, wax flowers, crazy quilts, and gossip, and devote it to the study of public questions. It would make them more intelligent companions for their husbands, and broader-minded mothers for their children. If women understood politics a man would not be obliged to leave his wife and go down to the store on an evening in order to find some one with whom to talk over the questions in which he is most interested.

"Because, in the laws now upon our statute books, the reasonable wishes of women are not adequately represented. Witness the laws which license the sale of intoxicating liquor; the laws in relation to the age of consent, which regard a little girl as mature enough to consent to her own ruin at ten or 12 years of age—in Delaware as seven; the law by which a married mother has no right to her own children as long as she lives with her husband; the law by which the husband can, by will, bequeath the custody and guardianship of the children away from their mother; the law of Massachusetts which provides a heavier penalty for stealing a fine cow than by ruining a virtuous woman by fraud and deceit. These laws were not enacted because men usant to be unjust or unkind to women, but because they looked at things simply from their own point of view. That is human nature. If women alone had made the laws, no doubt the laws would have been just as one-sided as they are now, only in the opposite direction. As we need two eyes to get a correct perspective, so we need to have both the masculine and the feminine points of view represented in legislation in order to reach a just result."

"The 'human question' lies at the foundation of the 'woman question.' The uplifting of the race is the divine problem for whose solution Christ gave the Golden Rule. Any restriction upon the development of woman breaks that rule, and hinders the progress of the race. Mankind cannot rise above the mothers of mankind. Any measure, therefore, which liberates and develops the powers of woman, is of universal value. Suffrage is a lever. It lifted the enfranchised slave to the dignity of citizenship. It conferred upon him rights and corresponding duties, and started him in the great school of responsibilities and trusts. To interfere with the negro vote is justly considered a crime. And the negro can not suffer wrong without reflex injury upon the white. The moral tone of a race or nation is lowered by an unworthy policy toward any part of it."—ELLA IVES.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union: Headquarters, Barrack Street, Perth.

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