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Advertisements.

Advertisements for insertion should be addressed to the Manager, WOMAN'S SPHERE, Melbourne, and written clearly on one side only of the paper. The printer and publisher are the better the chance of their appearance. Any notice of interest to Australian women will be welcome topics. Questions on any points of public interest to women will be answered in the Correspondence Column or sent to their readers to answer. Items of news as to the movement of women in any part of the world, but especially in the Australian Commonwealth, will be given prominence. Suggestions will be received with patience, even if impracticable.

Editorial.

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You are Requested to Read the Above Carefully.

"WOMAN'S SPHERE."

Every letter must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1900.

By Way of Introduction.

The origin of this journal will be unknown to many who will see its first issue. All interested in the local movement for advancing the highest interests of women have long

wished for the existence of an organ of communication amongst us, at one time few, but now many, though still scattered, supporters of the cause. They owe gratitude to many newspapers which have given much space to the discussion of subjects particularly affecting women, but no general paper could afford to do what is wanted. When, therefore, a very generous offer was made to me, to found a monthly periodical, of which I should be registered proprietor, with full editorial control, I could not refuse a position of such tempting possibilities, although it entailed embarrassing responsibility. One condition only was attached to the offer—viz., that definite proof should be given that a number of Victorian women wanted such a paper controlled, as I am told all publications to have any chance of success, must be, by one individual. That condition has been fulfilled, for here I am in the editorial chair, with in my hands that Archimedean lever which moves the world—if only it is wisely worked.

For many weeks, while the project achieved to-day has been slowly—how slowly!—forming, I have been tempted to dream of what it would be possible to do if this paper obtained the friendship of even a small percentage of my country-women who love their land and know it can never prosper until their half of humanity has its rights—and performs its duties. Every time I have awakened to remember that every editor before me has had the same chance to achieve more than financial success and that most of them have failed and thrown the blame on their readers. Those readers, of course, seldom have opportunity to speak their mind of the editors of dead papers. If they did, they would probably say the journals tried to do too much or too little. Is there a middle way? Shall we find it?

I say "we," but I don't mean the editorial "we," who, I fear, is a bit of a humbug. I don't feel at all hopeful of finding it, unless you will help me, and so I say "we." I shall try, whether I get much help, or not, and I shall always find time to read helpful criticism, however plain-spoken. I don't want this to be a dull paper, though it must contain a good deal of serious reading, for it will have to deal with very serious things, and it is a small paper—to begin with. The matters that press must be attended to. The others will come in their time. I have already found that the editor of the woman who leaves out things.

It is no use my making any other promise than that I will do my best. I am sure that there are plenty of people who are interested in this venture. I only want them to support it so long as they find it interesting. It has to be, in great measure, a "business" matter. I want no one to buy it or advertise in it for any reasons other than that they think they are getting full value for their money. If it does not give that, it will in the long run fail, and do very little good to anyone while it exists. I shall try not to blame anyone but myself, if you, ladies and gentlemen, do not find my paper worth your penny, and a little esteem and possibly affection.

VIDA GOLDSTEIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

August 22nd, 1900.

THIS PRELIMINARY ISSUE

will be sent, in varying quantities, to a number of friends of the objects advocated by the WOMAN'S SPHERE. They are requested to send them in their several localities, and to remit to this office as soon as possible payment for the copies sold at the rate of 9d. for each 12 copies, and prepayment at the same rate for any more copies that may be required. Each purchaser should be asked to become a regular subscriber, and should be requested to fill in the subscription form at the end of this number. Our friends will greatly assist us by following these instructions, and collecting and forwarding the subscription order forms and stamps.

ONE OF OUR SENATORS.

Before Mr. T. C. Harwood was elected last year for the South-Western Province, the Secretary of the United Council wrote asking him if he would support the Women's Suffrage Bill when it came before the Legislative Council. Mr. Harwood replied as follows:—

Geelong, July 9th, 1899.

I wrote the Hon. Sec. of your committee some days ago, in answer to a previous application to yours of the 17th inst., which I presume cannot have been received. The tenor of it was that I did not think I ought to pledge myself definitely on the question until I had heard it debated, but that my sympathies were in favour of the movement, though I doubted its advisability while only a very small minority of women desired it.

On September 6th, 1899, Mr. Harwood spoke strongly against woman suffrage. In fact, not only did he show most conclusively that his sympathies were not in favour of the movement, but he even denied the right of women to the municipal vote. For instance, he said:—"It is time that that vote was done away with. My own firm belief is that, if the municipalities themselves could be tested, their decision would be that the female vote is not a good thing, even in municipal life."

Mr. Edmund Barton, the New South Wales Federal delegate to London, contributed an article on "Australian Federation and its Basis" to the "North American Review" for June, the following extract from which refers to the necessity that all the federated states should possess a uniform franchise:—"Until a franchise, to operate uniformly throughout the Commonwealth, is made by the Federal Parliament, the suffrage will be in each state that which exists in elections to its lower chamber, which, in most of these colonies, is called the Legislative Assembly. The Federal Parliament, however, has no power to make a restrictive suffrage for Federal elections. It cannot by any law prevent any adult person who has or acquires a right to vote at elections for the Legislative Assembly of a state, from voting at elections for either House of the Federal Parliament. Now there is the colony—viz., South Australia—which already gives the suffrage to women as well as to men. It will follow that the Federal franchise law must, in order to be uniform, extend the suffrage for the Australian Parliament to women in all States." Of course we all know that Western Australia, which has woman suffrage, will now be in the Commonwealth, and this makes Mr. Barton's argument all the stronger.



(A member of the ...)

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The question "Woman Suffrage" It is quite possible to answer it going on some still working in its part in its increase and ill repute association, that rivalled by other fact, but more a or religious ch though it tended ment, deprived it to divided coexistence comparative follow... the history of others of a similar great fluctuation apathy and at of sympathizers, cooperation and ir have allowed co all interested in

A few years patience and the Crawford, its firm was formed the "Suffrage," which natives of all the tions which had one of their un franchisement of this United Coun ing bodies throu

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