

FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

Celebrated American Authoress's Scathing Exposure of the Erroneous Ideas as to Woman's "Natural Inferiority."

By LADY COOK, nee TENNESSEE CLAFLIN.

[Reproduced from the American Register, London.]

The question of the franchise for women is one which must be decided in her favor sooner or later, and the sooner the better. For it is no longer a matter of sentiment, but of justice. The fact that more than one-half of the inhabitants of this country are disfranchised, and politically ranked with lunatics, idiots, criminals and infants, solely because of their sex, is an anomaly so glaring and inequitable that it must not and cannot continue. Among the onerous duties which will fall upon the next Parliament, the rectification of this wrong should take an important place.

LEGAL LOGIC.

Since 1867, when an act was passed by which, as Lord Beaconsfield—then Mr. Disraeli—said, it was intended by the House to give the franchise to every household rated for the relief of the poor, the question has undergone many new phases which strengthen the demand for duly qualified women to have the right of voting at Parliamentary elections. No one now would agree with Mr. Justice Probyn when he said a few years ago, "Infants can not vote, and women are perpetual infants." The most obstinate and most prejudiced opponent of woman's claims to the franchise would disavow such legal logic as that. Yet it was by dicta such as this from the bench and by worse from revising barristers, that the act of '67 was not permitted to include women householders as well as men. One revising barrister impudently stated to a woman who pleaded her claim in his court that he declined to recognize suckling as a qualification for the suffrage. And in the Court of Queen's Bench, on a question of appeal by 1600 women ratepayers, Mr. Justice Byles denied humanity to the sex: "I will not," he said, "allow that women can be men, unless in a zoological treatise, or until she is reduced to fossil remains."

If we go back a little, we find that the same sort of arguments that were leveled against woman's franchise did duty for many degrading disabilities. It was considered ridiculous for her to ac-

quire learning; to know was a man's business, not a woman's. When Francoise de Saintonges tried to establish girls' schools in France she was hooted in the streets, and her own father doubted her sanity. Niebuhr thought that a girl if well educated would know too much. Dr. Channing spoke of "women forgetting the tenderness of their sex" when they argue on theology. The late Dr. Maginn pleasantly said: "We like to hear a few words of sense from a woman, as we do from a parrot, because they are so unexpected." Voltaire stated that "ideas are like beards; women and young men have none," and the greatest praise the Abbe Choisi could give a great lady, the Duchess de Fontanges, was that she was "beautiful as an angel and as silly as a goose."

ERRONEOUS IDEAS.

All these erroneous ideas as to woman's natural inferiority, which have so long retarded her mental and social emancipation, are, however, things of the past. If there are a few still so antiquated as to entertain them they do so secretly and dare not avow them.

Women have abundantly proved that their capacity to acquire sound knowledge, to reason clearly and judge accurately, is equal to that of men, or, if this should be denied that it is at least equal to a right use of the franchise. In every branch of learning and in every occupation and duty thrown open to them they have acquitted themselves with credit, and falsified the predictions of their opponents. In their public functions as poor law guardians, factory and school inspectors, and other civil offices, they have exercised an intelligence, discretion and ability not surpassed by their male coadjutors. On what grounds, then, are qualified women—even those of rank, property and education—denied the exercise of that privilege, which has been freely bestowed upon multitudes of impecunious and illiterate men? There can be only one answer, though it be in itself as absurd as the old story of the Goodwin Sands and

Tenterden Steeple—it is because they are women.

A GRAVE INJUSTICE.

In the ages of government by physical force, when every man was a warrior, there might have been good reason for excluding women from political functions. Now, however, the citizens of this country hire others to fight for them, and soldiers and sailors are paid through the taxes which are imposed (without representation, against which every Englishman feels justified in taking up arms the world over) upon women still. How long is this grave injustice to continue? Must women also arm for constitutional privileges before they will be conceded? John Stuart Mill once said: "It is my belief that, in all those parts of the business of life which depend on the vigilant superintendence and accurate estimation of details, women, when they have the necessary special knowledge, are better administrators than men. And I am now speaking, not of women as they might be—not as some improved mode of education would make them—but of women as they now are, and of the capacities which they have already displayed." Having instanced the Sanitary Commission in the great American war, he added: "From the beginning and through it was women's work. It was planned, organized and worked by women. The Government was jealous of them at first, but the hopeless inferiority of its own arrangements made it soon glad to make over the first place to them. Not only had such work never been so well done, but nobody had ever supposed it possible that it could be done so well."

EXPLODED OBJECTIONS.

It would be interesting to know what are the real arguments now advanced by those who oppose Woman Suffrage. The old objections have been exploded. On what new circumstances do they rely? Instead of anything solid and specific we hear a few muttered platitudes about "woman's sphere" and "domestic duties." We have never learnt that the possession of the franchise interferes with the ordinary duties or occupations of men, so that there can be no reason to suppose it would have an injurious effect upon those of women. "Before and after being a mother," says Jean Paul Richter, "a woman is a human being, and neither maternal nor conjugal relation can supersede the human responsibility, but must become its means and instrument." For men to desire that the active sympathies and aspirations of an intelligent woman should be circumscribed solely within the domestic area is to wish her to be a domestic serf, a slave of the hearth. How could such an one in these times possibly become the mother of men of broad views and generous impulses? How many noble women have been mentally and morally asphyxiated by the narrowness of their daily lives and the cruel denial of an outlet for their abilities! We cordially agree with John Quincy Adams when he said: "Women are not only justified, but exhibit the most exalted virtue, when they do depart from the domestic circle and enter on the concerns of their country, of humanity, and of their God."

PLEA FOR JUSTICE.

A large proportion of women have independent means and no occupation; others have no domestic circle to engage their affections; while many possess talents which, if freely exercised, would go far to enrich our national life. The existing law compels a mon-

FAITHFULNESS

And Honesty Needed in the Performance of Public Obligations.

The anniversary of the birth of George Washington was observed by the University of Pennsylvania as "University Day," the feature of which was the address of Gov. Hughes, of New York, the orator of the occasion, who was honored with the degree of doctor of laws. In his address Governor Hughes said:

"The problem of America today is to secure honest and faithful performance of public obligation. The demands of administration grow, but human capacities and frailties remain unchanged. In our villages, cities and States, and in the nation, the burdens of governmental duties increase, and the opportunities for the neglect and betrayal of the interests of the people multiply. Important questions constantly claim our attention, and it is easy, in the zeal of political controversy and in the debates of policy, largely to lose sight of the simple requirements of fidelity in administration."

"But we cannot afford to forget that whatever the merit of legislative proposals, the final test must ever be found in the character and purpose of public servants. We have been sickened with the corruption that rots public enterprise, and with the spectacle of legislative halls and administrative offices turned into market places, where the exercise of governmental powers is made the subject of barter and sale."

"We have representative government; but how shall we improve the quality of representation. The value of criticism is not to be ignored; but can we trust the critics with the offices? How shall we be sure, not only of the arraignment of evil, but the substitution of good; how may we not merely condemn, but also improve?"

"How indeed, save by infusing the young men of the country with the spirit of Washington and thus assuring constant and cordial response to the imperatives of honor? How, save by developing that sense of obligation and that invincible loyalty to trust which made Washington not simply a military hero and a popular and trusted leader in a critical period of history, but beyond that the incarnation of public virtue and the type forever, in this nation, and all others, of the true public servant—the ideal representative of the people?"

Accidents will happen but the best regulated families keep Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for such emergencies. It subdues the pain and heals the hurts.

Kentucky legislators may prohibit the use of guns which cannot be "toted" in the hip pocket.

Harsh physics renet, weaken the bowels, cause chronic constipation. Doan's Regulets operate easily, tone the stomach, cure constipation. 25c. Ask your druggist for them.

Always Up - to - Date

OUR STOCK IS EXTENSIVE, LATEST IN STYLE AND GREATEST IN VARIETY. IN

Fancy Dress Goods

We cannot be surpassed

OUR HOSIERY, LINEN AND NOVELTY LINES ARE COMPLETE. OUR CARPETS ARE BEAUTIFUL

Hazelrigg & Son

T. J. BIGSTAFF

Elected President of State Farmers' Institute.

The election of officers for the State Farmers' Institute and members of the State Board of Agriculture brought on a lively fight at the annual meeting of the institute at Frankfort, Ky., last Wednesday night, between the factions controlled by Hubert Vreeland, former Commissioner of Agriculture, and Secretary J. W. Newman, of the Kentucky State Fair.

The Vreeland forces had an easy victory over the Newman forces in the election of members for the State Board of Agriculture. New officers for the State Farmers' Institute and three new members of the Board of Agriculture, Forestry and Immigration were elected at the State Institute.

T. J. Bigstaff, of Mt. Sterling, Ky., was elected President, succeeding H. M. Froman, who has been President for five years. A Secretary for the State Fair will be elected by the new board, on the call of the Chairman. The new members of the Board of Agriculture are:

Second District—E. G. Dent, succeeding C. M. Barnett.

Fourth District—L. L. Dorsey, succeeding himself.

Fifth District—H. M. Froman, succeeding Desha Breckinridge.

OTHER OFFICERS ELECTED.

The following officers were elected besides Mr. Bigstaff: C. M. Barnett, Hartford, First Vice-President; W. A. Clements, Springfield, Second Vice-President; Perry M. Sly, Frankfort, Secretary; J. S. Cassidy, Inez, Treasurer.

Resolutions were adopted endorsing the good roads movement, appropriations for the State Fair and complimenting the work of the Experiment Station and the Commissioner of Agriculture's office.

"Suffered day and night the torment of itching piles. Nothing helped me until I used Doan's Ointment. It cured me permanently."—Hon. John R. Garrett, Mayor Girard, Ala.

Strong Proof.

"Sued for a breach of promise, eh?"

"Yep."

"Any defense?"

"Temporary insanity, and I expect to prove it by the love letters I wrote."—Washington Herald.

"IN A BAD WAY."

Many a Mt. Sterling Reader Will Feel Grateful For This Information.

When your back gives out; Becomes lame, weak or aching; When urinary troubles set in, Your kidneys are "in a bad way" Doan's Kidney Pills will cure you.

Here's total evidence to prove it: H. C. Greenwade, 25 Queen St., Mt. Sterling, Ky., says: "I attribute my kidney trouble to the nature of my work. While I was never so bad off that I was unable to work, I was always in misery. I had severe attacks of lumbago which sometimes lasted for weeks and made my life a burden. I am pleased to say that Doan's Kidney Pills, procured at F. C. Diersen's drug store gave me prompt relief from the last attack. Since using them I have had no recurrence of the trouble. I am pleased to recommend this remedy to other sufferers from kidney complaint."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Abandons Scheme of "Gift Day."

The Louisville branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union has abandoned the idea of observing March 21 as "Gift day" on which tags would be sold to the citizens to raise funds.

W. L. DOUGLAS

\$2.50 to \$4.50 SHOES
BOYS SHOES



THE LARGEST MAKER AND RETAILER OF MEN'S FINE SHOES IN THE WORLD.

"SUPERIOR TO OTHER MAKES." "I have worn W. L. Douglas shoes for the past six years, and always find they are far superior to all other high grade shoes in style, comfort and durability."—W. G. JONES, 119 Howard Ave., Utica, N. Y.

If I could take you into my large factories at Brockton, Mass., and show you how carefully W. L. Douglas shoes are made, you would realize why they hold their shape, fit better, wear longer, and are of greater value than any other make. CAUTION—see that W. L. Douglas name and price is stamped on the bottom. Take No Substitute. If you order catalog if you wish W. L. Douglas shoes, write for Mail Order Catalog, W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.

FOR SALE BY
WALSH BROS.

Adds Heathful Qualities to the Food Economizes Flour, Butter and Eggs

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar

No Alum—No Lime Phosphates