WHY SHOULD WOMEN VOTE?

This booklet contains all the OBJECTIONS to woman suffrage, their ANSWERS, and the CREAM of all that has been said or written on this subject from Moses and Plato down to Saint Paul and the year of our Lord 1915.

The map that's more than half woman suffrage already—what's the matter with making it ALL woman suffrage?

Illinois, 1913
Alaska, 1913

In the LIGHT States women enjoy full suffrage. In the SHADED States women have taxation, bond, or school suffrage. In Illinois women have Presidential, partial county and State, and municipal suffrage. In the DARK States women have NO vote at all.

AN APPEAL TO GALLANT MEN
Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
Eating Political Pie oo o
He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum
And said What a Big Boy am I oo o
Poor little Mary (not really contrary)
Had a good right to look glum oo o
Why should Jack Horner on pies have a corner
And poor little Mary have none ! oo o
Woman sees the Dawn of Reason
This curious animal is called the Antysuffrygyst or Prejudiceidon. It has the smallest brain capacity of any living creature. Its sight is so imperfect that it can't see to the end of its nose, but its nose has a wonderful capacity for discovering the stupefying plant called "Humbugwort" on which this creature feeds voraciously. It is closely allied to the Lunaticidon, and it is a fierce enemy of the Justiceidon. Only a few specimens are in existence yet, and it is destined soon to become extinct.

"I have been absolute monarch of the world since government began. I will not share my sovereignty."
If a woman owns bank stock, railroad stock, or stock in manufacturing or other profit sharing establishments, she votes on the same conditions as her partners for presidents, superintendents, and directors of mammoth corporations. But in thirty-six out of forty-eight states the civil law regards her as not capable of voting for a tax collector or a dog assessor. In nearly all churches women vote for preachers, elders, Sunday School superintendents and teachers to take care of deeply religious and lofty educational interests, but in thirty-six out of forty-eight states she cannot vote for a constable to take care of the unruly and criminal classes.

The real opponents to woman suffrage are comparatively few. The great majority of men and women have never given the subject any study or consideration. The justice of suffrage for women is as plain as the sun in the sky; no fair-minded man can vote against it.

In Genesis 1: 27, 28, we read: “Male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it.”

You see He created them equal and set them both at the same kind of work, namely, dominating and subduing the earth, not each other.

A half century ago conventions of women were laughed at far and wide as “hen conventions.”

When Mrs. Lucy Stone wanted to hold her first meeting in Malden, Mass., the pastor of the Orthodox Congregational Church, being asked to announce the meeting, held the notice up before his face and drawled out: “I am requested to say that a hen will undertake to crow like a cock in the Town Hall this afternoon at five o’clock. Anybody who wants to hear that kind of music will, of course, attend.”

There were about 50 at that time who wanted to hear that kind of music, and there are about 50,000,000 in 1915 who want to hear the rhythmic music of a full (not half) republican form of government.

The best home, the best church, the best State, is the one in which all men and women enjoy equal rights and privileges, and share equal duties and responsibilities. Boys and girls, men and women, should have equal opportunities for doing something and becoming somebody. If girls and boys were given equal chances in the battle of life, fewer girls would be driven to unhappy marriages solely for supposed support.
"IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE WHO SAYS IT.

Suffragette—"Taxation without representation is tyranny."

Voter—"You unwomanly creature!"

Reasons Why Women Want to Vote

Bright, thoughtful, intelligent, progressive women can put two and two together and know that they make four. They know from the pages of history that the disfranchised have always been the slaves of the enfranchised. What fair-minded gentleman can blame the women for breathing the spirit of the Revolutionary fathers of our Republic? "Taxation without representation is tyranny" in 1915 as in 1776. Directly or indirectly our women are all tax-payers. But Sambo, the colored man, who cannot read his own vote, can go to the polls and help to dispose of the money of his mistress while she has no voice in the matter. What servitude more humiliating can be imagined?

"Equal pay for equal work" will never be the rule while women are disfranchised. If women travel, they must pay the same as men; rent costs the same for the woman as for the man; a woman pays no less than a man for a bushel of wheat, a pound of beef, a bushel of potatoes or a quart of milk; a woman's clothing costs as much as a man's; but if a woman does a man's work in school, office, store, or factory, she gets only one-half to two-thirds of the pay a man gets for the same kind of service. Is that fair?

Women have homes and children, both passionately loved. "The mother that rocks the cradle rules the world" is true only poetically; it cannot be politically or practically true until the ballot is in her hands. "The hand that holds the ballot rules the world."

"LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"

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The dive keeper, the child labor exploiter, the saloon keeper, the white slaver, and the crooked politician are all for tearing up equal suffrage.

The one who votes

courtesy of LIFE, New York, N.Y.
If a Neero or an Indian is twenty-one years old, owns a dog, and pays taxes on it, he may vote in any State, but no matter how intelligent or wealthy a woman may be, she cannot vote in thirty-six States.

He: "You get too much!" If the woman could vote, she would get her fair share of the profits of an hour's work.

"A woman coming in!"

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Napoleon fully realized the value of women to the State when he said: "The great need of France is mothers." If women do not fight in war, they give to the State all its soldiers. A woman who gives up her health, her beauty, her means of improvement, her social pleasures, to go down into the valley of the shadow of death every few years that she may furnish soldiers for the State, certainly does much more for the State than the man who buys bread, shelter and clothing for the children. Woman is called the queen of the home, and the home is called woman's kingdom. But without the ballot in her hand she is an uncrowned queen in a menaced kingdom.

Sambo has the say, and woman has to pay.

Of about 30,000 ministers of all denominations in the United States before the Civil War, not one out of a hundred ever raised his voice against the enslavement of millions of Negroes; none lifted a finger to protect one who escaped from bondage. About ninety-nine hundredths of the ministers were subjugated to the will and behest of the slave-holding oligarchy.” So writes Samuel J. May in his "Recollections of the Anti-Slavery Conflict." Shall the will and behest of the rum-selling and slum-making oligarchy of today subjugate 150,000 preachers of the gospel to apathy or antipathy for woman suffrage?

It is not an inspiring comment on the civilization of Moses that when the Ten Commandments were given a wife was classed with property that might be coveted just like a house or an ass.
DOMESTIC CROAKERS.

And when the pie is opened!
They all begin to croak!
Now isn't that a healthy dish?
To serve to thinking folk?

Woman suffrage will not bring in the millennium. Women are fallible in their judgment the same as men, but not more so. Women will make mistakes in politics the same as men, but not more so. Women will not all vote with the Prohibition Party. Women will array themselves in different parties the same as men. But wherever woman suffrage has been established it is undeniably true that women's votes are generally on the side of good government, good morals, and good officials. Character goes further with women than graft with men.

In a political system in which men only vote, it is generally sufficient to win the nomination and election if a candidate has a barrel of money and a barrel or whiskey. Wherever women vote, a candidate must have ability and character to win.

A man, Simeon, was the first to talk about the new born Savior, but it was a woman, Anna, who first preached Him to others. Certainly some importance can be attached to a woman being the first preacher of the Savior to others. And yet about as large a proportion of clergymen fight the preaching of women as liquor men fight the voting of women.

Dr. Lyman Abbott some years ago published in The Outlook a statement that there are disreputable resorts in Cheyenne, as an illustration of "how woman suffrage works in Wyoming." It is just as fair to point to disreputable resorts in Brooklyn as an illustration of how Plymouth Church works in Greater New York.

No one supposes that woman suffrage will abolish everything bad. There is as much and as clear evidence that woman suffrage has done good wherever it exists as there is that Dr. Abbott's church has done good in Brooklyn.

This is the verbatim utterance of a big political "boss": "The purification of politics is an iridescent dream. Government is force; politics is a battle for supremacy. The parties are the armies. The Decalogue and the Golden Rule have no place in a political campaign. The object is success. To defeat the antagonist and expel the party in power is the purpose. In war it is lawful to deceive the adversary, to hire Hessians, to purchase mercenaries, to mutilate, to kill, to destroy."

Thus men run politics. When women help, it will be different.

If the woman could be trusted for her vote when the man "popped the question," WHY can her vote not be trusted in the election of a constable or dog assessor?
In the United States, according to the latest census reports, 409,000 little girls sixteen years old and under, 950,000 women between sixteen and forty-five years old, and 155,000 women of advanced age from forty-five years old and up—a total of 1,514,000—work in the fields, many of them bare-footed, for less than fifty cents a day.

Their daily schedule is the rising sun and the evening stars; after the day's work is done at night they milk the cows, slop the hogs, and rock the baby to sleep.

The great majority of these poor women live in the South where conservative gentlemen go about declaiming that their women do not need the ballot because they are amply protected by Southern chivalry!

In Wyoming a man of immoral character was elected to an office. His party thought he should have a second term and renominated him. But one woman declared that he would not be re-elected. When her husband asked why, she simply replied, "Well, he'll not be re-elected. That's all." She put on her bonnet and talked over the fence to her neighbor. Her neighbor did likewise. The next neighbor did the same, and so on. The women held no caucuses or indignation meetings, but when the election was over the candidate couldn't tell whether the mule kicked him once with both feet or twice with one foot. Women vote for character.

An average of fifteen thousand men tramps from day to day go from door to door begging their living from thrifty housewives. There are no women tramps. If a woman cannot get a dollar a day, she works for fifty cents a day, and if she cannot get fifty cents, she works for twenty-five cents a day, rather than beg for her bread.

Is a woman unwomanly in protecting her children, or a hen unhenly in protecting her chicks? Isn't a rooster rather unroostery in neglecting his progeny and the man unmanly in ruining his offspring?

Where is the consistency in allowing a woman to own property and take care of men's children while refusing her the power of protecting either of them with her vote? Is it right to prevent a woman from doing the most womanly thing in the world?

"All men are created equal" declares the Declaration of Independence. Let women vote the same as men, and thus let the American eagle fly with BOTH wings!

Not a single argument against woman suffrage can stand up without a whale-bone between its ribs. There is some satisfaction in striking at an obstacle that has some strength of resistance, but the opposition against woman suffrage is like a bag of feathers hanging in the air; you may pound it all day, yet at night it is still a bag of feathers, neither ruffled nor moved.

The anti-woman man is an Oriental heathen who treats woman like a beast. The Occidental gentleman treats woman like his equal, as God intended when He created her.
The woman supports the world and protects her children, while the men waste property and kill each other. Woman suffrage will end such criminal foolishness. Only world suffrage means world peace.
What caused the downfall of ancient Tyre and Sidon, of cultured Greece and mighty Rome? Not their virtues, their thrift, their temperance, their culture, but their vices, their idleness, their intemperance, their dissipation. America will go down with them, unless the redeeming influence of woman's vote is brought to bear in our political life.

A woman's vote can't be blamed for a mistake made in electing Judas Iscariot as one of "the Twelve." But when his successor was chosen, it can very reasonably be inferred from the Bible narrative that women participated in the election. "They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women;--And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias." Acts 1: 14, 26.

The Highbrow—"If you are my mental equal why have you no medals?"

If Western men in twelve Western States can trust their women with the ballot, why cannot gentlemen in thirty-six Eastern and Southern States trust their women with the ballot? "Taxation without representation is tyranny" declared the founders of our Republic, and hesitated not to lay down their lives to hold up this principle.

Is it right for any State to practice the very same tyranny against which the Fathers of our Government rose up in revolution?
There are forty times more good women than good men in any town, city, county, or state; anyway, statistics show forty men to one woman in the jails and penitentiaries of the United States.

They say: "Women have no time to vote." It requires less time to vote for good government than to take care of the results of bad government.
THE BARRED DOOR—SUFFRAGE
WILL OPEN IT.

A Washington, D. C., correspondent writes to his paper:
"I am in favor of electing at least one dozen women as members of the House of Representatives—woman suffrage or no woman suffrage. The place is so foul that to sit for two hours in its bad-smelling atmosphere completely prostrates one. What the place needs is a regular housecleaning. If there were a dozen women members, they would not be in the House a week before they would have the bad-smelling old place made fit to live in. It is not fit to live in now."

The women will drive out not only tobacco smoke and whiskey smell from the Halls of State, but they will also drive out graft and extravagance from politics.

Why ask a woman to obey laws in the making of which she has no voice? Would a man submit to such tyranny in the United States? Why is a woman not a citizen under the XVth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which reads:
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
Is a negro a citizen while your mother, your wife, your sister, your daughter is not a citizen when it comes to voting for a tax collector? Was a negro a citizen more than a woman before the XVth Amendment was added to the Constitution?
The Right to Vote Is an Inherent Right

The right to own property, the right to get married, and the right to vote, are all rights of the same kind, that is, they are inherent rights. Law may regulate their exercise, but law cannot confer them, nor justly deny them.

Neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution of the United States conferred the right to vote on anybody, male or female, bond or free, white or black; the signers of these instruments had an inherent right to vote for or against these documents before they existed.

His spectacles of prejudice see bracelets in shackles! If he were looking through spectacles of common sense, he could see better.

“Take off your shackles! Why, my dear, they are most becoming bracelets.”

A professor of botany in a college one day explained the cause of the great variety of flowers in the world. He claimed that the greater the number of old maids, the greater the variety of flowers. Bumble bees carry the pollen—the fecundating dust of flowers—from one plant to another and in this way the varieties are created. Field mice eat bumble bees, cats eat field mice, and old maids protect cats. Therefore, the more old maids, the more cats to destroy field mice; the fewer field mice, the more bumble bees to carry pollen to create more varieties! Quod erat demonstrandum.

A class member in toothpick shoes and baggy trousers turned up at the shoe tops, high collar, flashy necktie, his brains mostly behind his ears, with cane and kodak in one hand, and his one-eyed glass in the other, placing it upon his nose and stretching out his neck like a giraffe hunting huckleberries, asked, “Professah,—ah,—ah, what is the cause of old maids?”

“I don’t know, sir,” confessed the professor. “Perhaps Miss Jones could answer?” And Miss Jones quickly replied, “Dudes!”

If dudes are the cause of old maids, what is the cause of dudes?

If man’s father was a monkey, who was the monkey’s father?

Not one of the terrible results predicted by the opponents of woman suffrage has ever happened where it is practiced. In Wyoming there is standing for many years a public challenge to find two men who will assert above their own names and addresses that woman suffrage has had any bad results. The response has thus far failed.
Right will not triumph over might until women share an equal partnership with men in the governments of the world.

War kills the best young men—the choicest flower of humanity; destroys human property; and places women under the yoke of slavery.

A better day is coming on when woman suffrage will bind the ruthless hands of War with iron fetters of justice, and sentence him to millennial imprisonment.

We cannot get the saloon out of our politics as long as we get our politics out of the saloon. As long as caucuses and elections are held in saloons, none but saloonatics will attend them. Provide decent places for caucuses and elections, and decent people will attend them.
The General Federation of Women's Clubs is the largest organization of women in the United States working for improved legislation. In Chicago, at their last Biennial Convention of over 10,000 women, 2094 delegates endorsed woman suffrage. These delegates represented 1907 bodies having a membership of 1,700,000 women. There were fewer than a half dozen opposing votes out of the 2094.

The Illinois Supreme Court upheld the Illinois Suffrage Law. Four of the Judges—Justices Dunn, Cartwright, Vickers and Carter (all Republicans) supported the Woman Suffrage Law, while Justices Cook, Craig and Farmer (all Democrats) voted against the law.

Women vote as members of Sunday Schools, Christian Endavor Societies and churches. They vote as stockholders and directors in many thousands of corporations. A woman votes every time the question is popped. If a woman's vote can be amply trusted in all these spheres, her vote can be trusted in civil government.

The Golden Rule enjoins: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Would man want women to deny him of his vote? Should man do to woman what he would not have his done to him?

The Duty of Women to Vote

It is as much the duty of a woman to vote as it is a man's duty. It is her government as much as his; it is her country as well as his; the same laws control her that control him, and under a free government it is her duty as well as his to enact just laws; her children as well as his must live under these laws. To make it as hard as possible for others to do wrong, and as easy as possible to do right, is as much a woman's duty as it is a man's; if there is any difference of duty, it is rather more the duty of the woman to provide good laws than the man's, because on her falls principally the care, training and education of the children. To secure good government in a pure, safe, free and happy land is certainly as much the duty of the woman as of the man.

Some opponents of woman suffrage try to hide behind St. Paul, but his instructions about women were in accordance and in harmony with Eastern customs and surroundings, and are not binding on women of other nations with other customs and surroundings. St. Paul said a number of things that are ignored in the Occident. He said: "Seek not a wife." How many men follow Paul in this injunction? He said also: "Suffer not a woman to teach." If we would run common schools, Sunday Schools and churches by adhering to this command?
Agents Wanted Everywhere!

N. J. Women's Political Union
Branch, 456 St. George Ave., Rahway, N. J.
Which Side Will Get YOUR Vote?

The anti-suffragette cuts a small figure in her gang. The vote of enlightened public opinion escorts the suffragette to victory.

Horace Greeley was once angered by Democrats in a public meeting, and said: "I do not say that every Democrat is a horse thief, but I do say that every horse thief is a Democrat." We do not say that every opponent of woman suffrage is a scoundrel, but we do say that every scoundrel is an opponent of woman suffrage.

Chief Justice Green of Washington said: "The opponents of woman suffrage in Washington find themselves allied with a solid phalanx of gamblers, pimps, prostitutes, drunkards and drunkard-makers."

When respectable people find themselves in alliance with scoundrelism, is it not worth while to stop and consider whether they have not taken their stand in the wrong company?

WAITING IN AMBUSH.

Courtesy of Maryland Suffrage News