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## Woman Suffrage (CONTINUED)

strength of character will be developed a greater capacity for improving public life and morals, and that they will, as the days go by, realize that voting is a duty and not a past-time. Mere voting may not give the needed qualities, but as they more and more take part in public affairs much of objection to the franchise will disappear, and unless human nature in the one sex is different from that in the other, the very effort they make in these several directions will develop day by day a greater ability to do that which is wise, to act with moderation and yet with firmness, and to bring about the better day which we all believe is coming.

More than that, the heart of the sex is against the terrible destructions of war; they will be found a mighty political force in favor of the settlement of international disputes by arbitration, and against the resort to the sword or the musket. Indeed, when universal female suffrage comes, it may be affirmed that the ironclad will be only seen in pictures and known only in history. The sweet song of the angels about the manger at Bethlehem will become the universal song of humanity.

But putting all the arguments pro and con together, whatever may be the abstract right, the real question is a practical one. How does woman's suffrage work when tried? In this nation, four States, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, have granted full suffrage, and in at least the first three of them it has been in existence long enough for substantial results. The conditions of life in them differ, and doubtless that difference may effect the full significance of the results. One thing is true of all: there has been no organized effort to repeal the grant. Whatever may be isolated opinions, the general mass of the voters are satisfied. Indeed, few have expressed antagonistic views. A short time since the papers reported an interview with the late governor of Colorado, in which he declared woman suffrage a failure, but he promptly denied any such interview. If the citizens of these States find nothing objectionable in woman's suffrage, a natural conclusion is that no injury has resulted therefrom. While it may be said that a general belief in the impossibility of revoking the grant may have prevented any organized effort in that direction, yet certainly the men and women in those States are not so timid as to fear giving expression to their views, and we should have heard such expression and the reasons therefor. It is true that this silence may be somewhat in the nature of negative testimony, but it is not without weight. Especially is this true when the declarations of its friends in its favor are many and strong. Doubtless some opposition may come from personal ambition and expectation defeated by the action of the women voters. Thus Judge Lindsay, of the Juvenile Court in Denver, who has attracted much attention by his good work in that Court, after having been denied a renomination by each of the great political parties, came out as an independent candidate and was elected mainly, it is said, by the votes of women who appreciated his labors and determined that the young culprits of that city should not be deprived of the benefit of his judgment and experience. It would be strange if the defeated candidates did not feel and express themselves against woman's suffrage. But their complaint is really testimony to its value.

Wyoming is chiefly an agricultural and stock-raising State, with no large commercial city, and comparatively little manufacturing or mining. Public schools open to both sexes abound and a general intelligence prevails among both. It is not strange therefore that little aggressive spirit is shown by the female voter; that there is a community of thought and purpose between husband and wife, man and woman. Yet it is worthy of notice that there has been little of the commercial element and no scandal in its political life. It is not unreasonable to believe that this is somewhat due to the feminine element, which, though relatively small, would be prompt to antagonize any effort of bad men to secure office or grasp for undue privilege. Certainly, so far as can be seen, female suffrage has worked no harm to and probably been a wholesome restraint upon the political life of the State.

In Utah, the relative proportion of the sexes is much closer than that of Wyoming. The significant feature of its life is the Mormon church. As woman is more religious than her brother, the dominance of church control over her is greater than over him. Indeed, it has often been said that female suffrage was brought about by the rulers of the Mormon church in the belief that thereby its control of politics in Utah would be made more secure. Be that as it may, it is clear that, when suffrage is largely a part of the machinery of a church, it is helpful or hurtful as the interests of that church seem to its leaders to demand. Its results cannot be considered a fair test, such as will be found where her action is free from church control. The fulness of that control is evident from the fact that, after the alleged revelation to Brigham Young, the women freely accepted polygamy. Of Idaho little can be said. So short a time has elapsed since the grant that results cannot well be estimated.

Colorado is the significant State. While males preponderate the preponderation is comparatively small. It has a large commercial city, another a manufacturing center, while

mining is a large industry. It has a large population as compared with the other suffrage States, both actually and relatively to her area. There is to be found in at least two cities the congestion of population, which gives rise to some of the most troublesome questions of the day. It has led quite a turbulent life. More than once has the military been called out to preserve order, and many instances of grievous outrages have been recorded. What under such circumstances has woman suffrage accomplished? This is a question more easily asked than answered. Woman has not forced her way into politics, though she has held some minor offices and discharged their duties acceptably. There is much talk of sending one of their leaders, a cultivated and practical woman, to Congress at the next election. According to the best information I can get, her influence on political life has been mainly in the way of restraint, preventing the nomination of unworthy persons, and demanding, as in the case of Judge Lindsay, of the Juvenile Court in Denver, the election of the best man. She has not hesitated to take her part in school matters, and her insistence has caused many improvements in the administration of city affairs. She has not reformed everything. Intemperance still prevails and the social evil abounds. But large changes like these cannot be accomplished solely by legislation or in a day. If the tendency of her efforts is in the right direction it is all that can be expected. To sum it up in a word: woman's suffrage has not been hurtful; it has helped a little, perhaps more than can easily be particularized.

The change in the position of woman in the past fifty years must be noticed. Then the only vocations open to her were teaching and sewing. If she were averse to these, or failed in them, the only alternative was to marry, and then it was "any man, good Lord, any man," or else to live with some relative as the generally despised old maid. But within the last half-century she has entered into active outdoor life and is no longer a necessary home-body. Not that home has lost its charms, or that it will ever cease to be the place which she most loves and where she reigns supreme, but choice or necessity has driven her into varied pursuits, many of them calling for familiarity with public affairs and executive ability.

You see them not only doing clerical work in offices, but acting as shop-girls in stores, or laborers in a factory. Many have charge of large administrations, are presidents of colleges, heads of corporations, and indeed engaging in almost every avocation of their brothers, and doing so with success. There is a host of female doctors. Women have invaded the pulpit and are pastors of churches. They are found in the court room, and not a few are efficient and successful practitioners. Indeed, it may truly be affirmed that they have fully entered into the active life of the world.

And now, what of the future? Female suffrage will come. Not fully at once, but by varying steps. Woman's broader education, her increasing familiarity with business and public affairs, will lead to it. And why not? The chief reply is the home. God forbid that it should be jeopardized, for upon it in all its fulness depends the best social life. In fact, it is the basis upon which growing humanity depends. And in it woman must ever be the great factor, the unchallenged queen. But female suffrage will not debase the home or lessen its power and influence. On the other hand, it will introduce a refining and uplifting power into our political life. It will not stop marriage, neither will a higher education. The great natural laws of our being will always assert themselves. Speaking at a Vassar commencement a few years since, I overheard one of the graduates say to two others, "I am simply disgusted; three-fourths of the girls are engaged already." Evidently she was not one of the happy ones. It is to be hoped that afterward she fared better. But woman, conscious of her independence and capacity to support herself, will demand true manhood in her husband. Children will come. However, the glory of the home will not be in the number, but in the quality of the offspring. Race suicide is not the worse offense. There is wisdom in the fable of the hare and the lioness. The former, boasting of her litter, sneered at the latter for her single offspring. "Yes," was the reply, "but he is a lion." To load a home with so many children that the mother cannot give to each the full blessing of a mother's care and attention is far worse than race suicide. Not crime, but mutual self-denial, should and will place reasonable limits on the number of the family group. Union in effort is the growing lesson of the times. Our first parents, guilty of a mutual sin, were, according to the allegory in Genesis, driven out of Eden, that garden which gave man all things to live with and nothing to live for. Our great epic poet closes his immortal poem with these words:

"The world was all before them, where to choose Their place of rest, and providence their guide. They, hand in hand with wand'ring steps and slow, Through Eden took their solitary way."

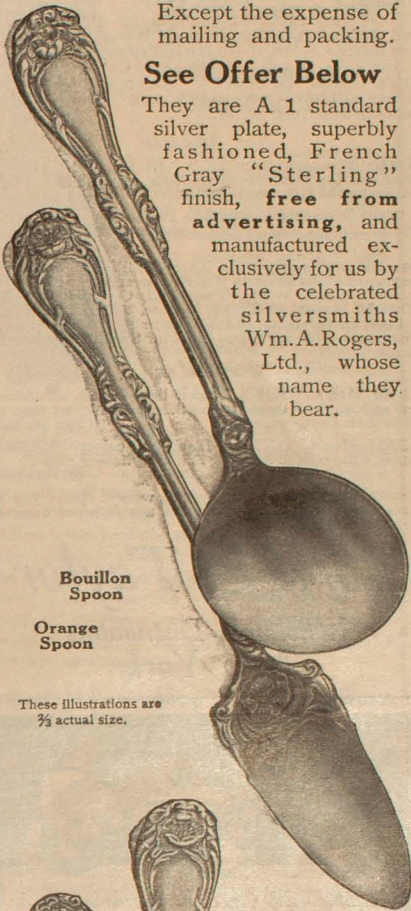
Hand in hand they went out of Eden; hand in hand they must enter the new paradise, grander and nobler than the pristine Eden, because wrought out of the thorn-growing earth by their united labors, and into which have entered and shall enter all of human toil and struggle, self-denial and sacrifice, hopes and aspirations, faith and worship.

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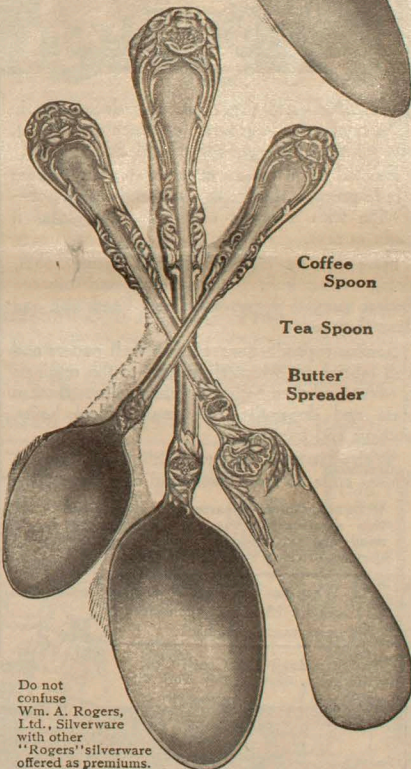
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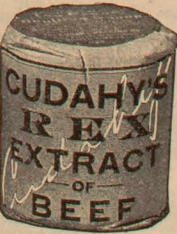
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