

CONDEMNNS THEM ALL.

An Advocate of Woman Suffrage Who Assumes That Men are Utterly Depraved.

—To the Editor:—I noticed some days ago an article in your paper opposing woman suffrage. I feel that the justice of the cause demands a few thoughts on the affirmative side of this question. First we agree with your correspondent that the cause partly of the decrease in the Prohibition vote in the recent election is the woman suffrage plank in their platform, because it is a simple acknowledgment that men are so prejudiced in their jealousy of power that they will desert the party that otherwise advocates their views, rather than allow the other half of humanity the same just and equal rights which they themselves enjoy. But we believe a large number of votes were lost to the party from the fact that men considered the financial condition of the country as needing more immediate attention than the moral condition.

Numberless women and children are suffering hunger, cold, brutal cruelty and death because of the ravages of the saloons, and your correspondent admits that this sin lies at the door of men. But does it better the condition of our women any for us to know that fact? He admits that men are bringing this nation to ruin; yet he would rather see it fall than to permit women to assist in preventing the terrible crisis. There once was a time when women were somewhat protected by men from natural manhood and courtesy; but there are very few laws enacted and still fewer enforced for their protection. As men become more corrupt and women see their protection fast vanishing away, it is high time that they begin to cry out for the privilege of protecting themselves.

He is also fearful that woman's interest in civil affairs would degrade her. What about the men? Whatever is bad sauce for the goose must certainly be bad sauce for the gander. If citizenship is what is corrupting men so, then we had better abolish our constitution, establish a throne, and install a monarch and cease this "degrading" system. If a woman cannot serve two masters at once, neither can a man. Will it take a woman any longer away from her home to go to the polls and cast her ballot than it does for her to go to church? And how can a man be "running over the country lectioneering and making stump speeches" and attending to his farm, or store, or office, or profession, and setting the right example before his boys and training them up as he should all at the same time?

There is much ado made in the pulpit, in the papers and in general, about the great and sacred influence of the mother in the training of her children, which is all true and which is not realized by many mothers as it should be. But not one word about the equally powerful saving or damning influence of the father in the training of his boys and girls—by heredity, example and precept. The mother makes untold sacrifices, toils, instructs, prays, weeps and belabors her soul in anxiety for her children that they may become grand, pure, noble men and women, while the father is counteracting all her influence either by setting an example of drunkenness, lewdness, profanity, gambling and all other vices imaginable, or making laws to permit others to do so. The very worst holes of sin and temptation stare her children in the face as soon as they are old enough to step out of her dooryard. And yet she is allowed no voice in saying what temptations shall surround her children while she is striving to raise them up properly and while so much is expected of her. It is because of these conditions and this depravity of men that our best young women—those who are fitted to make the best wives and mothers—are declining to marry, thereby making it difficult for even the few men who are worthy of good wives to obtain them.

Your correspondent quotes from Titus II. Now is it necessary in order that a woman to have an equal voice in the affairs of government, must be indiscreet, unchaste, neglect her home, or be disobedient to her husband? But since he wishes to justify his views by the bible, very well, ~~let us~~ ~~take~~ the scriptures for it. We must take the entire scriptures on that subject. We dare not take from or add any thought to this holy book under penalty of having the eternal life taken away or the plagues added to us, that are mentioned in the book. Gen. V says, "Male and female created He them,"—man. It does not say He created female beings of some other species which were not to have the same rights that man should have; but they are of the same species of God's creatures as the male portion of mankind. While they are created for a helpmeet to man, yet nowhere in the bible does God give him any authority to rule over her against her will, or to deprive her of equal rights and privileges with himself. In 1st Cor., 7:8, and Colossians, 3:18-19, and also Eph., 5:22-33, we find Paul exhorts the women as to their obligations to their husbands; but not one without a corresponding obligation equally important upon the husband to the wife, thereby placing them on an equality.

That the day is fast coming when men will have no respect for the lives or the rights of women, is evident. The reader need not take my word for it, nor go outside of central Illinois, nor put on magnifying glasses to see it. It is said that the decision of one of our chief justices that "the black man has no rights which the white man is bound to respect" still stands obsolete on our statutes as a disgrace to our nation. How dare any person having wife and daughter, or mother and sisters, call himself a man, much more to pretend to love God and desire righteousness and justice, and by his vote, voice, pen and actions, proclaim that women have no rights which men are bound to respect?

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