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THE FULL CITIZENSHIP OF WOMEN.

In making the claim for full citizenship woman takes her stand with every human being who seeks for equality of opportunity. We claim that no further limitations be placed on our spheres of work than are placed on the occupations of men. The woman's own choice, and her fitness for the work should be the deciding factors. If she makes a wrong choice she will suffer, but the wider the opportunity given to all human beings—men or women—the less is the likelihood of a wrong choice being made. The argument in favour of this experience of privilege is well put by John Stuart Mills. He says:—

"Is there so great a superfluity of men fit for high duties, that society can afford to reject the service of any competent person? Are we so certain of always finding a man made to our hands for any duty or function of social importance which falls vacant, that we lose nothing by putting a ban upon one half of mankind, and refusing beforehand to make their faculties available, however distinguished they may be? And even if we could do without them, would it be consistent with justice to refuse them their fair share of honour and distinction, or to deny to them the equal moral right of all human beings to choose their occupation (short of injury to others) according to their own preferences, at their own risk? Nor is the injustice confined to them; it is shared by those who are in a position to benefit by their services. To ordain that any kind of person shall not be physicians, or shall not be advocates, or shall not be members of Parliament is to injure not them only, but all who employ physicians and advocates, or elect members of Parliament, and who are deprived of the stimulating effect of greater competition on the exertions of the competitors, as well as restricted to a narrower range of choice."

Woman has definitely and permanently entered the arena of politics. Fourteen out of forty-eight of the United States of America have adopted Woman Suffrage. This represents an area continental in extent almost equal to Europe, and includes the cities of New York and San Francisco. But let us come nearer home and listen to the testimony of the Statesmen of Australia, who, in resolution, passed by both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1910, placed on record their opinion of the good effect of Woman Suffrage throughout the Continent. "That this House (and Senate) is of the opinion that the extension of the Suffrage to the Women of Australia for States and Commonwealth Parliaments on the same terms as men, has had the most beneficial results. It has led to the more orderly conduct of elections, and at the last Federal Elections, the woman's vote, in a majority of the States, showed a greater proportionate increase than that cast by men. It has given a greater prominence to legislation particularly affecting women and children, although the women have not taken up such questions to the exclusion of others of wider significance. In matters of Defence and Imperial concern, they have proved themselves as far-seeing and discriminating as men. Because the reform has brought nothing but good, though disaster was freely prophesied, we respectfully urge that all nations enjoying representative government would be well advised in granting votes to women."

Australia was the first nation to grant women the right to sit in Parliament.

The women of New Zealand since their enfranchisement in 1893 have secured, amongst other reforms equal divorce laws, a legal claim upon the property of the husband by the wife and child (previously a husband had the power to will to a stranger all the property, even when the wife had helped to secure it). The opening of the

profession of the law to women. Local and National Veto of the Liquor Traffic. The closing of the Hotel Bars on Election Day, and the raising of the Age of Consent. The Australian States, with the help of the women's vote, have accomplished similar reforms, while in America every business and profession is open to women, not excluding that of the preacher.

Women in Public Offices.

In the old country, in every position open to them, women have proved their efficiency. In Poor Law administration Miss Twining has effected many reforms, notably the appointment of visiting committees to work-houses, prior to which poor patients were tended by ignorant fellow-paupers. Miss Flora Stevenson, as Chairman of the Edinburgh School Board, and Councillor Margaret Ashton, member of the Manchester City Council, have both done good service for education. The latter has also been instrumental in procuring municipal lodging-houses for women, and the payment of a living wage for municipal women servants. The Home Office has appointed a lady inspector of Prisons, and a lady sub-inspector of Industrial Schools. Six women probation officers work the Juvenile Courts in London. Under the Education Committee there are 25 women Inspectors of Education, and for the Education Committee of every education authority the law provides that a certain proportion shall be women. The London County Council has appointed women to serve as Inspectors under its Education, Public Health, and Public Control Department. Miss Philippa Fawcett is Principal Director in the Higher Education Branch of the Education Department. Two women hold posts as Inspectors under the Midwives' Act; seven under the Infants' Life Protection Act, and three under the Shops' Act. Since 1909 the power was granted to Sanitary Authorities to appoint Health Visitors, who instruct poor people in the nurture, care,