

ONE REASON WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

(Continued from page 142.)

not; but for the officials of a city or town to deliberately decide not to carry out the law is simply tyranny, and leads inevitably to the present disregard for law.

Still in every city exist places where our young people are tempted to immorality; they should be closed, every one. Still there are people who excuse this condition, and speak of a "necessary evil"; these should be educated. Still the ancient bad alliance between social vice and politics, and between business and social vice, and between the liquor traffic and social vice, continue almost unchecked; and the boys and girls in our schools are sent out into life unwarmed of the dangers that lurk in immoral living, and untrained for parenthood.

While some splendid advances have been made by men in the field of industry and in education, there has been, on the whole, but slight advance in the application of religion to business, politics, economics or social life. While humanity is somewhat better than it was a hundred years ago—and there may be some who will deny this—there has grown up amongst us a very large class of people who are wholly actuated by motives of selfishness, cruelty and passion.

Some means must be found to eliminate this element from control in the community. From this class come the betrayers of girls, the keepers of houses of vice, the men who live upon these women, the white slavers, the political bosses, and the business men who stand as the excusers of vice for financial reasons.

So far men have failed in the management of this class of people, all of whom are far more dangerous to the community than so many mad dogs would be. The reason why men fail to enforce the laws against social vice must be either inability to devise a plan to reduce it through wise measures, or else they are themselves vicious.

Now, since men have made such a failure of this matter, and seem to make so little progress, some of us believe that it would be well to place political power in the hands of women, with the hope and faith that the larger part of them would join with the better and more statesman-like men, and either enforce the laws against social vice or make better ones.

Although women should be given the vote because they are human beings, and because it would be an act of justice, still, if it be possible to show cause why better results would follow than by continuing the present plan, the minds of many who now oppose woman suffrage might be changed.

The situation has become so terrible that something must be done. We cannot longer bear to hear the cry of the victims of man's cruel selfishness, we can no longer bear to see our splendid young men and young women openly tempted into the ways of sin and disease and death through the deliberate connivance and supervision of judges, State's attorneys, police commissioners and members of grand juries. We believe that when women vote the laws will be better enforced, and that is one of the reasons why we are urging this reform.

O. E. J.

THE SOLUTION

The baleful confusion that surrounds the problem of the social evil is the result of three things: First, the prudery that has put a taboo on all frank and decent discussion of questions of sex, leaving some of our customs hundreds of years behind our racial experience in this regard; second, the lack of educational facilities for the young with regard to the physiology of reproduction leading to the false notion of the sexual necessity for men, and, third, the habit we have fallen into of thinking that the government is to be forever controlled exclusively by men.

The enfranchisement of women is fundamental to the solution of the problem, simply because 90 per cent. of the adult male population is already sexually demoralized as a result of improper community conditions. Men themselves admit these figures, and statistics with regard to venereal disease, which show that 50 per cent. of the adult male population has been infected with gonorrhoea and 10 per cent. with syphilis, would seem to bear them out. People think so irrationally with regard to matters of sex that it will be simpler for the sake of clear reasoning to transpose the question to crime in another department. Imagine for a moment a community in which 90 per cent. of the voters admitted murder as an incident in their personal histories, and in which murder was licensed by the police and the officers of the law in certain districts, and in which it was an absolutely non-punishable offense if committed anywhere by a man. Would it not be very like attempting to lift one's self over the fence by one's own boot-straps for these unfortunates to attempt to eradicate murder in their midst, especially if the government provided absolutely no facilities for detective service? The situation is precisely the same with regard to the social evil. Most men are or have been immoral, the law licenses immorality in certain districts, and immorality as such on the part of a man is absolutely non-punishable anywhere in Maryland.

On the other hand, one-half the population has had chastity imposed upon it from without by the operation of what we may call two unions—one a union of men who demand chaste wives, and one a union of virtuous women who will not permit polyandrous competitors to undercut them in a monogamous marriage market. These unions constitute the force that has brought about what morality we have, and in the case of men they both become inoperative. The one because men demand license, not chastity, for themselves, and the other because the governmental detective service, which will disclose in a man what nature discloses in a woman, cannot be had without direct appeal to the machinery of law.

People will forgive in secret what they could not in decent self-respect forgive in full face of public opinion.

Now, if we really want monogamy, and there is no doubt but that a majority of the community, women included, does, there are a few things to be done which can quite readily be done as soon as we add our 90 per cent. of chaste women to our 10 per cent. of chaste men in the electorate. With these things accomplished the social evil will eradicate itself automatically. The work to be done is as follows:

1. Enfranchise women so that the moral instead of the immoral element will be able to control the governmental machinery. This is fundamental to the achievement of all the other propositions.
2. Institute acreage suitable teaching in the physiology of reproduction in all schools from the kindergarten upwards. Co-education is essential.
3. Supply enough vocational schools to insure a trade to all able-minded boys and girls.
4. Segregate the feeble-minded of both sexes in farm and industrial colonies, where they can be self-supporting. Unprotected feeble-minded girls furnish the easiest victims for prostitution at the present time.
5. Supply recreation centers and decent cheap public amusements for young and old. People will have a good time if they have to sell their souls for it.
6. Permit marriage and divorce on reasonable grounds. True love is its own best vindicator. It is the demand of the future for its own, and will break the law if the law will not yield. Conditions in America cover the case.
7. Fix a minimum living wage for working women, for they will eat bread out of the gutter if they must otherwise choose starvation.
8. Institute government insurance against sickness and lack of employment. Don't make the road to ruin the only path a girl in hard luck can take.
9. Found a State employment bureau, so that she who wants work can find it without too much delay and danger.
10. Raise the age of consent to 21, so that a girl can no longer legally sell her soul before she can sell her farm.
11. Legalize an eight-hour day and abolish child labor to reduce competition in the labor market and make it easier to get a job.
12. Make immorality on the part of minors, boys as well as girls, cause for commitment to the Juvenile Court.
13. Make immorality on the part of adults a crime, punishable by one year's imprisonment or a fine of \$500, or both, for the first offense, and by castration or sterilization for the second offense. This would be an effective weapon for eradicating the brothel, but even more it would serve to indicate to the growing generation the odor in which immorality is held. The preventive and educational effect of legislation has been lost sight of in the sphere of sex. Crime is never recognized as crime until the community sets its stamp upon it.
14. Institute a large and well-paid squad of women police to enforce these laws. Criminals can never be entrusted to enforce laws against their own kind, especially if they are open to the temptations which they are opposing. Without women police these laws would be ineffectual.
15. Demand a health certificate for marriage.
16. Abolish alcohol.

The program as outlined will keep women busy for a generation or so after they become enfranchised, but then the social evil will begin to disappear. It is to be understood at the outset that all of this work cannot be accomplished over night. The plan is advanced merely to indicate that the accomplishment of this reform is very simple and consists of a

**—A CHRISTMAS—
ANNOUNCEMENT**

All new subscriptions to the *Suffrage News* intended for Christmas presents should be with the business manager not later than December 18. The Christmas number will be issued December 21 and will be sent to all new subscribers.

At your request we will send free to the new subscriber an appropriate Christmas Card announcing the gift and the giver.

MRS. C. J. OGLE

Sylvanside, Kenwood Ave. Catonsville.

few progressive steps, which, when taken, will set us far upon the road to success.

Only 10 per cent. of the adult male population will consider the program rational at the present time—the rest will find out the truth only when they are born again of free instead of slave mothers. E. H. H.

THE DAILY RECORD

There is a small daily paper published in Baltimore, which makes just about as much stir in the city as the *MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS*. This is the *Daily Record*—law, real estate, finance and general intelligence. A little more pretensions than the *SUFFRAGE NEWS*, because we make no pretense at general intelligence, but comparable to it in that its circulation is small, like ours.

This *Daily Record* is the official organ of the courts of Baltimore. In it are the daily announcements of the cases to be tried each day, as well as the reports of the cases tried and disposed of the day before. A comprehensive, matter-of-fact little sheet, although somewhat dry. Again like—but never mind. For an official organ, however, we could plead for a little more accuracy in its make-up. Thus—

In the issue of Saturday, November 9, we see this item:

Criminal Court.
Judge Elliott.

Sam W. Pattison, Clerk.

Proceedings of the Court:—

Then follows a list of the cases tried Friday, November 8, including burglary, concealed weapon, assault, assault on wife, vagrant, desertion. The names and sentences of each offender are given. Then at the bottom of the list we see:

Court adjourned until Monday.
NO ASSIGNMENT FOR TODAY.

Yet on that day, November 9, some 250 women were haled into court and fined for keeping houses of prostitution. This annual fine day is jocularly known around the courts as "Ladies' Day." The *Daily Record* didn't know about it however. Which was slack work on the part of the *Record*.

But worse follows; inaccuracy number two. At this point the resemblance between the *Record* and the *SUFFRAGE NEWS* comes to an abrupt end.

Thus, in the *Record* of Monday, November 11, we find:

Criminal Court.
Judge Elliott.

Sam W. Pattison, Clerk.

Proceedings of the Court (referring to "Ladies' Day," Saturday, November 9.)

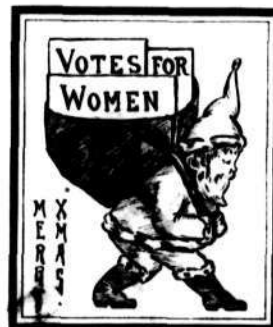
COURT NOT IN SESSION.

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Words fail us. But the *MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS* is five cents a copy, and the *Daily Record* is two cents. What can you expect for two cents? Humming-birds?

ELLEN N. LA MOITE.

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