

Why should Women have the Political Franchise? 5

springs from sheer inability to grasp the magnitude of the subject; with others, from a deliberate determination to perceive or admit no objections whatever to Woman Suffrage. Sophistry and special pleading clearly imply the weakness of the cause needing such artificial support. To grant one woman, on any plea whatever, the political franchise, would be the beginning of the end. Such a concession would inaugurate a political, social, moral, religious, and domestic revolution, compared with which all other revolts are but trivial.

So far as the agitation has gone, it has proved that the women of Great Britain do not want the franchise. But it has not yet been shown that any woman has a right to it. The claim of agitators is virtually this: "*We* want the suffrage; therefore we will force it upon a large number of British women, because they don't want, and have no right to it." Miss Amazon and her "Mates" want the suffrage. That is not a proper reason for granting it. It would not be if, instead of a small minority, the majority of women desired it. Once adopt the ask-and-have policy, and where can we consistently stop? If we permit women legally to do whatever some women wish to do, and have actually done, we must permit some women to be legislators, some to be soldiers and sailors, and some to wear men's clothes. The Amazonian logic is, that if one woman in a thousand wants the suffrage, therefore it should be forced upon the 999 women who do not desire to meddle directly with politics! The reason is

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