

foresee. Some are sanguine enough to think that America will have rest when a black woman has been elected president of the United States; but are they sure that when the barriers of sex and color have been broken through, a demagogic crusade will not commence against the limit of age? I have heard an English Radical say that "a vote is the right of every sentient being."

At present the franchise is sought in Great Britain only for unmarried women and widows. But evidently the movement will not stop there. It cannot logically or justly stop there. If the special interests of women and the home are to be represented, it is preposterous to exclude all those women who are actively discharging the proper functions of their sex, and all women who have a home. Nor is it intended that the movement should stop at spinster and widow franchise. Spinster and widow franchise is merely the thin end of the wedge, if indeed, considering that the claim of spinsters is less than that of married women, it may not rather be called the thick end. The abolition of subordination in the family, of the authority, usurped or obsolete as Radicals deem it, of its head, and of everything that tends to merge the civil personality of the wife in that of the husband, is the prime object at least of the extreme wing of the party, which would be achieved if man and wife could be seen fighting against each other at elections.

Since England has got loose from her old political moorings, and under the name and forms of a monarchy turned herself into the most unbridled of democracies, America has become the more conservative country of the two, and we seem farther from a great revolution in the relations between the sexes on this side of the water than they are on the other. Something may be due to the fact that, suffrage here being universal, and there being no proposal to limit the franchise to unmarried women, the change presents itself at once in its full magnitude. But more is due to the conservative instincts of the "territorial democracy," and to the superior robustness of republicans who have had a long tenure of political power. The American citizen, satisfied of his right, is not infected with that feeble facility of abdication which takes possession of the soul of tottering privilege and makes it yield at once to every clamorous demand. A great safeguard is