

cases the result was to feed high the new hope and to increase the certainty that the old institutions must give way to a new era.¹*

But this was only more or less passive influence, and in general there was no demand for woman suffrage even in those times when the foundation of all things political was the belief that all human beings were born free and equal. A few bold thinkers braved public opinion on this matter amongst whom were Lanjuinais, Romme and Guyomar. Previous to 1790 Condorcet had been considered an advocate of the emancipation of woman, but he refused to second her claims to equality at the polls when the matter came up in connection with the Constitution of 1793. But to quote Aulard ("French Revolution," Vol: II, 173). "The Commission of Six did not meet the feminist claims with an absolute refusal. On the contrary, it made this exclusion of women from the State politic only for reasons of opportunism declaring such exclusion to be only provisional and of short duration." The "short duration" just mentioned has extended for long over a century, and the women of France are still without their vote. But they are not without it because they have not tried to obtain it. The Code Napoleon subjected women to their husbands to an even greater extent than the Common Law of England of that time,* and all through the Napoleonic period the woman's rights advocates carefully concealed their views. But with the revolutions of 1830 and 1848 they came to the fore again led by the Saint Simonians, the Fourierists, George Sand and later on by Marie Deraismes and Léon Richer who in 1876 organized the "Society for the Amelioration of the Condition of Woman and for Demanding Woman's Rights." In France this movement was somewhat hampered by the fact that girls were married at an early age, almost always through the negotiations of the parents. Also their education was in some respects very deficient and they were almost all members of the Roman Catholic Church. At present the most active organi-

*"French Revolution and Modern Socialism."

†See below, under J. S. Mill.