

the Bible, and fear that it decides against them. In all Christian States, women are, and have been from time immemorial, excluded from the exercise of direct political power. The exception in the case of reigning queens is accidental, and more nominal than real; since our constitutional Sovereigns reign, and we are governed by a Prime Minister. This exclusion from man's political privileges must be either in accordance with, or antagonistic to, the Bible's teachings and spirit. If the former, no Christian can consistently advocate Woman Suffrage. If the latter, Woman Suffrage advocates must court the most searching investigation to prove that for nineteen centuries Christian civilised nations have ignorantly, or wilfully, violated Bible precepts including women from the political franchise.

It is remarkable that among revolutionary advocates in politics, religion, and social structure, no number either openly disavow natural and revealed religion, or quietly repudiate all Bible precepts which are not exactly to their taste. Mary Wollstonecraft was the *Mother* of the Woman's Rights movement. "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" supplies the arguments rehashed and served up with the *sauce piquante* of platform declamation. But the disciples have in some respects gone beyond their teacher. Though not orthodox, Mary Wollstonecraft devoutly believed in God.\* Some of our

\* Her denunciation of so-called "cunning men"—the blasphemous impostors who delude silly women of all ranks, by impiously pretending to foretell the future—is worthy of a Christian divine. (See Vol. i., Chapter XIII.)