

Our Society.

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FEMALE SUFFRAGE IN HALIFAX.

WE suppose that the majority of the readers of this paper are ladies, and therefore we think that we ought to advocate the cause of the women as regards their obtaining the right to vote in Local and Dominion elections. The genial and stately member for Queens (Mr. Hemeon), introduced a bill to that effect in the House of Assembly a week or so ago. It was defeated, but not by a very large majority, which goes to show that it is only a mere question of time before the women will be allowed to go to the poll and deposit their vote. It is thought by some that if it had not been for the very clever, if somewhat misconducted, speech of the Attorney-General against the motion, it would have passed. That honorable gentleman took the ground that women would lose their womanliness by being on an equality with men in this respect—Mr. Longley is gallant and a champion of the fair sex, but he evidently wants them to remain the fair sex—Mr. Roche also opposed the bill by suggesting that it would be advisable to make the age qualification over forty. No woman, even to vote, would acknowledge themselves over forty. Those members, who had the courage to vote for the bill, no doubt have returned home with clear conscience and will be received with open arms by their would be female constituents. Women fulfilling the qualifications have a vote in civic elections in Halifax and it would be interesting to know how many availed themselves of that privilege at the last aldermanic election. But although they do not take an interest in civic affairs we know of many ladies whose interest in politics both Dominion and Local is very keen, and whose knowledge of public affairs is deep, and who all will be able to record a vote, and, would be able we think even to make as good representatives in parliament as many a one that is sent there. The presence of ladies at a political meeting is a capital thing, it has an effect in subduing the general tone of the meeting—preventing personalities and therefore making things more pleasant, more useful and more sensible.

Many many arguments can be urged in favour of female suffrage and very very few against it. Now a days when women are educated in exactly the same way as men, read the same books and in a way indulge in the same pursuits. It is a scandal that these highly educated individuals have no say in the government of affairs at all, except that they have indirectly which is not little.

But the whole tendency of the present age is to allow more latitude to women, and unjustly so. Ladies without any thought do things, which if their mother's had done would have meant social ostracism and hard words in all directions. If we soon have the suffrage we will eventually have female representatives and we would be delighted to see honorable ladies sitting side by

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side with honorable gentlemen in the Legislative assembly and no doubt the great battle between the sexes would be who should elect the Speaker and if the ladies were victorious would she wear a wig on the latest Parisian bonnet. Let us try and hurry on the moment and not keep intelligent educated women out in the cold any longer in the political world.

THE few wet days we have had recently have shown up the defects in our sidewalks. Their condition is a standing disgrace to the city of Halifax. One cannot walk along any one of the principal streets without stepping into puddles and splattering the bottoms of one's trousers. It is high time that this was remedied. It is a thing that forces itself prominently before the notice of all strangers visiting the city. They do not stay perhaps very long with us: they see more of our streets and sidewalks during their visit than anything else, and when they find these in such a wretched condition no wonder they go away with a poor idea of the place. What can be worse, for instance, than the condition of the sidewalk in front of the Government House on a dark, wet evening? There is no light—the nearest electric lights being at the corners of Morris Street and Spring Garden Road. The pedestrian flounders on in the murky darkness through innumerable pools of water that have collected in the holes in the sidewalk. We can confidently assert that in no other city in the Dominion is such a stretch of sidewalk to be found before one of the principal buildings. That this should be remedied is everybody's business, and what is everybody's business is justly said to be nobody's business. Our City Council will do nothing in the matter until the voice of the people makes itself heard with no uncertain sound. As things are now, it is certainly not going too far to say that the best interests of the city are neglected by those whose duty it is to look after them. If a candidate for Aldermanic honors were to be put up in the interests of better pavements he would be certain of election.

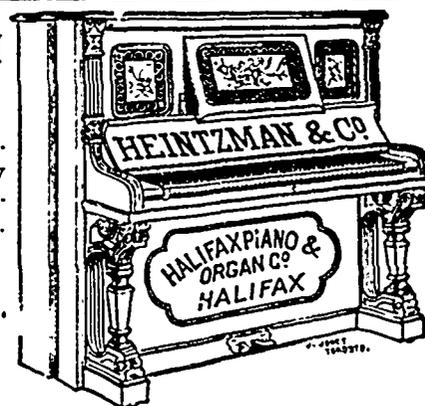
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