

CHAPTER I.

WHY SHOULD WOMEN HAVE THE POLITICAL FRANCHISE?

"WHY should not women have the electoral franchise?" ask zealous Woman Suffrage advocates. Then they proceed to declaim on the injustice of withholding that which its partisans quietly assume, without proof, to be a right! They are bound, firstly, to answer satisfactorily this question: Why should women have the political franchise? The great majority of men and women still think we should maintain the existing law, based on eternal distinction of sex. We logically throw on innovators the burthen of proof. It is their business to show ample and sufficient cause for a repeal of the law.

Woman Suffrage is not the simple straightforward question which the bulk of its interested supporters purposely, or unconsciously, assume it to be. The demand of direct political power for women involves a serious, profound, radical, and alarming alteration in the British Constitution—neither more nor less than asking, for the weaker sex, the rights and

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