

wages that it will be better to leave that period out of our consideration for the present. For the rest, it is not so much a question of inability or incompetence on the part of the women, as that by the size of their labour market they are bound to force wages down. Then also it must be remembered that women often work without the idea of supporting a family, and that they so often leave their positions in order to marry that employers may be willing to pay more to ensure having a steady laborer who can continue to work after he is married, and who will probably work all the better for that reason.

To turn now to the United States of America,—even before 1783, nine out of the thirteen states which were later to ratify the constitution of the Union, had practically granted to women the right to vote as “free-born citizens,” “taxpayers,” and “heads of families,” etc., but gradually this privilege was withdrawn, and when about 1840 such women as Abby Kelly and Elizabeth Cady Stanton tried to take an active part in the anti-slavery movement they were thwarted in every way, so they determined in Mrs. Stanton’s own words, “to call a convention to discuss the slavery of women.” This was held in 1848 when Susan B. Anthony joined the ranks of the seekers after women’s rights. Since then an energetic suffrage movement has been carried on all through the Union, each State having its “Woman’s Suffrage Society,” and each of these organizations belonging to a national woman’s suffrage league. The demand for the vote was based on the American Constitution, which, the emancipationists claimed, granted the suffrage to women as a natural right. “We, *the people* of the United States . . . do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America . . .” etc., etc. Put the fact that the emancipationists considered women to be people had no weight in the eyes of the law, on account of the fact that the men who drew up the Constitution did *not* consider them to be people. The Declaration of Independence too has been cited, but the same holds true of it, as Thomas Jefferson most certainly would never have included women amongst those by whom governments were instituted