

countries there should be reciprocal citizenship, and that no one, otherwise qualified to vote, of more than twenty-four inches in girth, or wearing shoes of not less than "number four," should be debarred the franchise. This stipulation the giants insisted on; and though the Vetulian ambassadors were unmercifully laughed at for admitting so whimsical an article in a solemn treaty between two nations, it was soon forgotten by the public. Not so, some of the judges, before whom came some contested elections! They disqualified every voter who did not come up to this physical standard. And, as just at this time, a celebrated lady reformer was running for Parliament in the capital, the small shoes and the small waists among the female voters began at once to disappear. Every virtue helps every other virtue; and one good reform helps on another. Once political necessity began to demand natural waists and natural feet, it was astonishing how people began to see ugliness and deformity in what before had been considered beauty. A determined fight was kept up for a while by a minority of the fashionable dressmakers, till—the Court of Justification coming on—a few of them were banished to "The Island." Then all was peace. And it began to be discovered, by those who most needed to make the discovery, that nature had from the first decreed (what the sculptors had long before discovered), that the girth of a well-proportioned and youthful female figure, is always as exactly as possible, two-fifths of the height. So that a woman of five feet would measure twenty-four inches—