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The Strolle

PRIDAY, APRIL

Jarding Women Voting

woman sunrage nowaways and that place since 1000, and once a year wife, who or spinster an opinion right. In the beginning, newspapers of the entire country on any public question, the average of the children of school age belong of former times. In the beginning, newspapers of the children on any public question, the average of the children of school age about fifty years ago, the proposition have told with great glee how few man has no pgrticular objection to to these mothers, but although varwas received with scorn and ridicule, availed themselves of the privilege. granting tax-paying women a vote on ious discriminations were made, they it was declared to be a defiance of It was grudgingly given by a small tax propositions. while the inferiority of woman intel- contested at the beginning and car- on cities in the New York legislature citizens, the school board placed at while the interiority of woman of affairs outside the home, was loud- barely got through by the skin of its men in the third-class cities of the son utterly obnoxious to them. At of analis outside the nome, was four parely got enrough by the same of the same of the solutions to them. At ground for this, as the masculine rule care whether the women voted or and twelve do this in their charters. voted in much larger numbers than which always had prevailed, never not; the latter had no political orhad permitted them to enter the colleges or engage in any but domestic consequently there was no especial islature last year gave this privilege crime a bill was introduced in the employments. But presently the Civ- rush to the polls, although it is estiil War came and carried off the men, mated that about 30,000 voted in the and villages it would be most inconthus giving the women an opportun- state. But this year, presto, change! sistent to refuse it in this case. It and colored women in all the secondity to show their capacity for bus- In Cleveland a political fight is on is said the courts are likely to deiness. The war closed but the women for control of the schools, the party clare it unconstitutional, but if a that it could pass, but it has done so kept on in business. Then the college leaders have discovered that the wodoors were opened and the girls men can vote and they want them to of cities which still remain might as ernor for his signature. flocked in. After a decade or so they do it. Both parties have opened well be included. completely exploded the old theories headquarters for the women to reg- The Anti-Suffrage Society is opposof mental inferiority and continued ister. This is the way the Leader ing this bill just as it did the one of shall enfranchise women was adto do this by going from college in- (Rep.) describes the Democratic last year. It sent to each member of versely reported from the committee to the professions and various well- headquarters paid occupations. Through these they

jections to it not only grew very threadbare, but lost all their force, until finally they were relegated to the more benighted sections of the country, where they are still doing duty, and new ones were conjured up. Women were not capable of organized work and, besides, they could not engage in it without neglecting their homes and the stability of the home depended entirely upon the women, and if anything happened to it the nation would go to smash.

Well, the number, size and scope of women's organizations have astonished the world. The question of their capacity in this direction is settled beyond dispute. And while they have been giving vastly more time and effort to these matters than it would require to exercise the suffrage the homes have seemed to get on about the same as usual, the average man considers his wife quite as good a housekeeper as his mother was, and his children seem to be as well taken care of as his father's were. He is forced to the conclusion that it is not necessary for a woman to spend twenty-four hours a day within the four walls of home in order to keep So this objection is slowly passing eventually find their way to the junk pile of worn-out theories.

is growing more enlightened, and hostility on the part of men, the reamong broader and more progressive sults would be the same. men the justice of the claim for woman suffrage is now generally ac- to demanding the suffrage. Women knowledged. Many of the ancient are accustomed in a very large measprejudices still linger however, many ure to look to men for leadership questions of expediency present them- and, by instinct and by training, to selves, and there is such discourage avoid antagonizing them. It is perment over political conditions as to feetly natural that they should wish raise a doubt whether women should to be agreeable to men rather than he brought into them. Moved by disagreeable. They have been led to evading it.

of the more liberal-minded has prac- men themselves desire this measure tically concentrated on one point - and advocate it strongly and sincerethe indifference of women. In editor- ly as they do other measures, they ials, in public speeches, in private will be amazed at the thousands of conversation; the changes are rung women who will frankly admit that on the sentence : "When the majority they have only been waiting this of the women are for suffrage men auspicious moment to declare their will give it to them." They are en- own wish for it. tirely unconscious of their illogical One of the principal objections to to grant it to 1,000,000 women, for political campaigns—has no weight its day and run its course.

tion of men to do so and no sooner. about it than when they went to An illustration of this fact is now pay their taxes. Where it would be

the character of the opposition to men have had school suffrage in that he is absolutely opposed to allowing very little effort to exercise this woman suffrage nowadays and that state since 1893, and once a year the wife, widow or spinster an opinion right. In Lexington nearly one-half

tics is the latest innovation in Cleve- that it is class legislation, entirely feated by the usual large majority. It and manage property, and inevitably land. A headquarters fitted up with useless, the majority of tax-paying is said this was somewhat smaller and manage property, and mevicany Turkish rugs, French plate glass women do not want it and it will be than last year, but a few votes more the affairs of the world. While they mirrors, luxurious couches, and rock- used as an entering wedge for full or less among so many are not were doing all this they gradually ing chairs, elaborate hand-painted suffrage. To this they have added worth recording. The reports say loosened the yoke that St. Paul and Japanese screens, white laundered another circular giving a list of the galleries were crowded with wohis various predecessors and succes- curtains, palms and beautiful flowers places where a taxpayers' election men and some strong speeches were sors had laid upon their necks and was never included in the wildest has been held and the vote of the made in favor of the bill. This was disarranged extensively the alleged dream of an old school politician, women has been small. But they also true at the committee hearing, a headquarters in the Caxton build- large, as in Oswego, a few months and education of public sentiment are frage went right on, and the old ob-

> from 2 until 4 o'clock." rooms, etc. The Republican head-senate. quarters, which were opened some time previous, are equally luxurious. Each party has large committees of prominent women, the Democratic having as honorary president Mrs. Louisa Southworth, who it will be remembered has collected a suffrage petition of 50,000 names. Their registration has not yet been announced. That at Republican headquarters has reached 10,000 and it is expected that at least 3,000 more will be added. The Democrats say they will have quite as many.

Now the point is simply this: The issues at stake are no greater than the household machinery in motion. they have been for the last nine years and this large registration into oblivion along with the minor simply because the men desire it. Woones that women must not vote be- men in the mass are not aggressive, cause they cannot fight, that voting they do not like to brave public senwill unsex them, and all the rest. timent, they are absorbed in their Their mutterings are still heard, like usual round of work and pleasure, most spent and which indicate that out encouragement, only those whose the storm is abating, but they will sense of duty can overcome all obstacles will go into it. If this Cleveland experiment were made in any Notwithstanding the wailings of place, where now the inexperienced the pessimists, the public conscience new voters meet only indifference or

This is exactly the case in regard these and other considerations men believe that nothing is more abhorare not so much actively opposing rent to the average man than the the movement as they are quietly idea of woman suffrage. Therefore they do not entertain it, or if they While a vast amount of the old an- do they are careful that he shall not tagonism still exists the opposition know it. When the time comes that

position in admitting the justice and woman suffrage-that it will subject the right of a thing and yet refusing women to the unpleasant features of instance, who desire it, because 2,- in the matter of granting the tax-000,000 have not demanded it. But payers suffrage. As a rule, elections this is merely one phase in the evo- for bonds, appropriations, etc., are lution of this question, and it is not quiet affairs, and there would be nearly so hard to bear as those scarcely a particle of danger of which have preceded it. It must have brushing the down from the peach or the bloom from the grape if women "But when will the masses of wo-dropped a ballot in the box, saying men begin to show more interest?" whether or not they were willing to is frequently asked. The answer is be assessed a special tax. There easy: Just when they have the sanc- would not be much more publicity

affect her and her children, he can school suffrage on the women of the ing her from having a voice in ques- men, warned by various unpleasant tions of special taxation. So, unless experiences of the colored men made

"The drawing room effect in poli- peating the objections used then but the Democratic women have such omit all of those where it has been and this agitation of the question

termed a social affair. During the partment that the women of Mount that commonwealth in the eyes of afternoon more than 100 Democratic Vernon carried the recent school the world is now represented by women called and chatted for a few election, and declare that it is un-mouldy graveyards and crumbling moments over the work they have in true. But they carefully avoid the headstones. hand to get out the women's vote for fact that she corrected the mistake. Besides, its legislature has more

any voice in the laws which vitally lature. A few years ago it conferred tionally when they have been burnt readily see the injustice of prevent- second-class cities. The colored wo- York Sun. kept silent. Finally, against the The bill now before the committee earnest protest of the best colored school suffrage away from both white

The bill for an amendment to the constitution of Massachusetts which ed in open session last week and deed yesterday with an afternoon re- voted. They close with the state- chusetts. The sublime spirit of huception which might properly be ment made by the editor of this de- man rights which once distinguished

their party. There was a flutter of at the earliest possible moment. This weighty problems before it. It not sweet femininity in the headquarters however, is a sample of the rather only has to consider the grave quessharp politics for which these anti- tion of licensing cats, but it also has suffragists are noted. As an answer another bill on the calendar of equalquent about the refinement and cul- to their circulars in the assembly the ly serious import : Shall women be ture of the ladies who have the mat- bill passed by a vote of 138 ayes to allowed to weigh coal? They are al-4 noes. It is to be hoped they will ready doing this in four cities and it the delightful "atmosphere" of the meet with a similar response in the is believed by the highest legal au-There seldom has been a more flag- al and that the permission of the legrant instance of the extent to which islature must first be obtained. But

utterly impossible to convince a man class hatred can go than has just how are all those loads of coal going keg of nails. that it is unjust to forbid woman been afforded by the Kentucky legis- to be weighed over again constituup ?-Ida Husted Harper, in New they can hold their own in come

American Store in Africa.

A New York firm owned, for years, wo barks which plied in the Liberian trade, visiting also towns of importance everywhere along that coast. These little vessels were well known in this country among all who were interested in the emigra-tion of American negroes to Liberia. to offer. They came with condu-The larger number of emigrants from the southern states who removed to the land of their fathers sailed on these vessels, each of which had a comfortable little cabin and good ac- dress patterns, many me commodations for forty or fifty passengers. The New York firm discontinued this service for some years, as the profits had considerably diminished, but awhile ago it resumed the trade and now sends merchandise to sales will often be as large as traders of Sierra Leone and Liberia, of the opening day, but at betaking in exchange the coffee, palm oil and other products of those countries, but has also opened a store at tution of the town. S Monrova, the capital of Liberia.

Two young men are in charge of this store, which is filled from top to if Monrovia developes as its bottom with American goods of all hope it will do, the new enterprise sorts required by the Liberian retail likely to keep pace with trade. It is a distinctively American of the capital.-Ex. store where nearly everything can be bought, from a dress pattern to a sale at the Nugget of

and our products are proving that tition with any European product in the African markets.

The women of Monrova are as lond of shopping as their American see ters. On the opening day the two young men in charge had a very buy time for the store was thronged from morning till night.

All the shoppers of the little city were out to see what the store has able cash in their pockets and make inroads in the stock.

A great variety of arthur to sold, among them being our se er dresses were of the h

American store had become at great department stores of New York

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> S.—In case Bago Hill we will