
OPINIONS OF MARY

hat, or hang it on the wall, or make a centrepiece of it. It is not as if it were something that might explode and kill everyone in sight if she didn't know how to handle it! Really, it is comical to read some of the nonsense about 'protecting her' from something that apparently (in the minds of men) might have some awful consequences. She might find some new and original way to use a vote, but that has to be proved. It is easy to make assertions. I maintain that the ordinary woman is quite as capable of understanding affairs of state and forming an individual opinion on a question as a raw country youth of twenty-one who doesn't know his hay-foot from his straw-foot, or an ignorant foreigner who has not been in the country long enough to learn its language, apart from mastering its political problems. Granted that she takes little interest in politics at present—with some exceptions—what is the object of her doing so? She is powerless. When she begins to take an intelligent interest she is apt to become restless in contemplation of her position in the community—classed with infants, Indians, idiots and inmates of prisons. That is the list of those having no votes, is it not?"

"But I understand infants and Indians are wards of the Government, and—"

"Well, you and I are no longer infants, so we are not wards of the Government; we are sane, we are not criminals—so the State is mak-