

industrial revolution with the growth of town centres has led to new developments in legislation and in administration. There has been an extension of State activity, such as demands a larger increased number of public servants, and public servant of new aptitudes and qualifications. A vast amount of brain power and practical business talent can here find an outlet instead of running to waste. Third, the spread of education, and especially of Higher Education among women with the natural consequence—a desire that those who receive it should be allowed to place the advantage of their education at the disposal of the nation. These great changes have led women to claim the Parliamentary Suffrage as members of a modern industrial State—seeking to represent their own interests, to remove their own disabilities and to perform with the fullest opportunity their work of social service. Is it not ungenerous of women who are supported in comfort to hinder the less fortunate in protecting their labour by the ballot? Is not it foolish, when the usefulness of women in local and municipal affairs is admitted, to exclude them from a useful participation in the work of Parliament and of Departments of State—at least where women and children are concerned; for Parliament and the Home Office, Board of Trade, Colonial Office, India Office, Foreign Office, Local Government Board and Education Office—all deal with matters affecting women and children.

It may be asked whether women still suffer from grievous disability under the Law. In England an equal moral standing for men and women has yet to be recognized, and a man may still be more lightly punished for a gross cruelty to his wife than for a paltry theft. The argument that all Law rests ultimately upon the power to enforce it—a power lacking in the case of women—may be met by the counter argument that there are other services essential to national—

to social existence which women can perform and which are equal to those performed by soldier and sailor. It should be sufficient to sustain the bearing and rearing of children. But the physical force argument in a less crude form assert that centuries of practical experience have led men to an understanding of what is or is not practicable, and that women lacking this training of experience would be likely to attempt the impossible in legislation. Is that a good reason for postponing women's experience since she already wields a vast influence which must be vitiated by an absence of practical experience? Another objection made to Women's Suffrage is that it would add largely to the ignorant vote. There is no indication that an educational qualification for the male voter will be introduced, and we have the anomaly of the educated woman property holder, tax payer without a vote and the ignorant man with one. Again, there is the fear of adding a large number to those already marshalled to orders played upon for petty purposes. But against this is to be set the danger of leaving a section of the community to hold opinions and town influence without responsibility. It is not necessary to give up belief in the educational influence of responsibility. In New Zealand and Australia where Woman's Suffrage has not been an accomplished fact from six to fourteen years, it does not appear that homes have been neglected or faddist legislations been promoted, that women have been specially subservient to party organizations, or that they have sold their vote, neither have they neglected to use it.

Nor can it be truly said that women in England do not want to vote. Women's Suffrage is now adopted by Women's Trades Unions and Women's Co-operative Associations all over the country. The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, representing all important philanthropic organizations of