

Flotsam and Jetsam.

HER FIRST POLITICAL TRIUMPH.

It was recently decided by the Supreme Court of Maine that a woman seeking to register is required to disclose her age, and is not entitled to register on stating that she is "over twenty-one." Such would seem to be the necessary construction of the Maine statute requiring the register to shew, among other things, the "age" of the voter. However, in Connecticut a recent Act has recently been passed making the statement of exact age unnecessary. Thus is seen the first of the long heralded changes in political method which the enfranchisement of women will cause. From one viewpoint it seems a little silly that a woman—an enfranchised woman—should have any more objection than a man to stating her age. Still it must be remembered that there are many women who, while feeling it a duty to exercise the franchise, yet retain the characteristics which made them oppose its grant. Moreover, the requirement to which objection was made is without purpose, except perhaps as it serves as some slight means of identification where there are several persons of the same name. The only information which the election officers need is whether the would-be voter is of voting age. How much he or she is past that age is of no moment. There is no reason other than a lawyer-like desire for specific information rather than a conclusion why the exact age should ever have been demanded. The ladies are to be congratulated on their victory in Connecticut and urged to retrieve their defeat in Maine. But just what other inroads will feminine peculiarities make on established proceedings? We have it on the authority of the master dramatist "How hard it is for women to keep counsel." If the fair sex is conscious of this alleged frailty—it probably is not—how long will feminine jurors consent to take the oath to keep their own counsel and that of their fellows? Will they not also insist on the time-honored prerogative of changing their minds and secure a law giving the right to come in the next day to amend a verdict? Such suggestions sound silly enough, but many a practice has had no better foundation than a masculine foible and we cannot complain if a few of the other gender are incorporated. Let us hope, however, that there will be no insistence that the style of judicial robes shall change annually. Imagine the solemn entry of the august tribunal at Washington in gowns having elbow sleeves and narrow skirts.—*Law Notes.*