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Twelve Reasons Why Women Want to Vote.

BY ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

1. Because it is fair and right that those who obey the laws should have a voice in making them, and that those who are taxed should have a voice in the way in which it shall be spent. Harriet Beecher Stowe says: "If the principle on which we founded our government is true, that taxation must not be without representation and the property and are taxed, it follows that women should be represented in the State by their votes. I think the State has no right to afford to disqualify the aid of women in its affairs than can the family."

2. Because it is the quietest, easiest, most dignified and least conspicuous way of influencing public affairs. It takes much less expenditure of time, labor and personal presence to go up to the ballot-box, drop in a slip of paper and come away, than to stand all day at the polls offering coffee and entreaties to a miscellaneous crowd of voters. Above all, the ballots would be effective; the coffee and entreaties too often are not.

3. Because it would elevate and broaden women's pocketbooks to take part in the same time which they now spend on fancy-work, wax flowers, crazy quilts and gossip, and devote it to the study of public questions. It would make them more intelligent companions for their husbands, and broader-minded mothers for their children. If women understood politics, a man would not be obliged to leave his wife and go to the shore of an evening in order to find some one with whom to talk over the questions in which he is most interested.

4. Because it would increase women's influence. Mrs. Zerelda G. Wallace, "the mothers' champion," lately said, speaking of the exclusiveness of women from all voice in regard to public affairs: "Think of the women whom I have watched on the boards of the land. The mothers tries to teach her boy that he must be pure, and temperate, and honorable. That boy goes out from his mother, and the first thing he meets with neutralizes and gives the lie to all his mother's teachings. He says to himself, 'Why, mother says so and so'; but he finds men in high places violating all those teachings, and he begins to conclude that his mother does not know much about it. From that minute that boy disinherits his mother's judgment, and though she must still have a hold on his affections, she does not have a hold upon him in any other way. There is where you wrong us, gentlemen, and cripple us in training men who will make the statesmen of this nation. If you want us to make statesmen, you must give the women an interest in the government, and you must respect their opinions."

5. Because it would result in the election of better men to office. In Wyoming, soon after the passage of the woman suffrage law, a man was elected who was popular with his party, but who was a second rate man. After his election he grew more careless, went into saloons openly, and was several times seen on the street the worse for liquor. The politicians of his party did not care. His term was out, they re-nominated him. A man came home from the caucus, and his wife asked him if he would make another. He told her. "Why," she said, "that man cannot possibly be re-elected." "Why not?" asked her husband, in surprise. The wife made no answer, but she put on her sunbonnet and went out and talked with the woman next door, over the fence. The woman next door then put on her sunbonnet and went out and talked with her next neighbor, and so they passed over all through the town. The women held no caucus, made no public demonstration, but when election day came, the candidate found himself defeated. He knew he had done nothing to make him lose caste with his party. The woman could not understand his defeat until one of his lady friends said to him, very quietly, "We could not let you go back; you were setting a bad example to our boys." In Wyoming, both parties have come to recognize the necessity of nominating theirbest men, or at least not nominating bad men, if they wish to succeed.

6. Because, under our present system, bad women have too much influence in politics. A member of the Michigan Legislature once the Rev. Amos Shaw said that if women voted, the bad women would have to vote. She answered: "There is a certain row of houses close to the capitol at Lansing, and you know by what sort of women those houses are occupied every evening: they pass the word all through the Legislature; and you know that their influence is a formidable factor in determining legislation. At the last election a class of men would be chosen to office who are not so susceptible to the influence of bad women. The women of this nation are few in number, in comparison with the good women, to exert much influence merely by their votes. A man who says that if women are elected to high places, they are officers are elected by men alone, and are responsible for their official acts to a constituency composed of men alone. Public opinion on social questions is comparatively lax among men. Hence, men of notoriously immoral character are often chosen to positions of high public trust, and they appoint others like themselves. Witness the case of Sheriff Flack, of New York. Such men, of course, are open to the influence of bad women, who are thus able to exert a power of all proportion to their numbers. Let the great mass of good mothers, wives and sisters have a voice in choosing our representatives, and a higher class of men will be chosen, who will not be under the sway of bad women. Women want to vote in order that the good women may have more influence in politics than the bad ones.

7. Because women want to protect their business interests. As farmers need votes in order that they may represent the farming interests, and manufacturers in order that they may represent the manufacturing interests, so women need votes in order that they may represent the interests of the home. For instance: A few years ago the mayor of Louisville made an..."
effort to enforce the city ordinances against gambling-houses. He was met by a petition from legal voters, begging them to desist, on the ground that his action would injure the business interests of the city. Men who came to Louisville to trade expected to have "a good spree" after transacting their business. If they could not do this in Louisville, trade would go elsewhere, the mayor of St. Paul made an effort to enforce the city ordinances against houses of ill-fame, and he was met with a similar petition by the wives of those prominent citizens of St. Paul made an effort to enforce the city ordinances against houses of ill-fame, and he was met with a similar petition by the wives of those prominent citizens of St. Paul. They knew that the gambling-houses and ill-lunged balls were fixed on making money, and they looked mainly at the money side of the business. Their business was bringing up their boys and girls to be good men and women. They need the help and cooperation of every loafer, every man who is absorbed in the liquor interest believe it. "The chil­dren of darkness are wiser in their generation than the children of light."