

him to help the weak and the defenceless. One day her nurse told the child a story of the sufferings of a woman from a drunken husband who had stolen her earnings. The child listened with quivering lips, and then said, 'Never mind; I'll fix it up!' and in awe-struck tones she whispered to her how she would get leave to stay at home next Sunday, and when all had gone to church she would take the big scissors from her work-basket and cut out of the law-books all the wicked laws that made life so hard for women. The nurse, seeing that she was in earnest, told the judge, but cautioned him not to let the child know that she had repeated to him her intentions. Then the father called the little daughter to him, and taking her to his bosom, with kindly words and gentle tones drew from her the plan that she had conceived; and he explained to her that even if she cut the laws out of the pages, or destroyed the books, it would not help the women. With eager questions she besought to know how women's wrongs could be righted, and then he told her, looking down into her childish, eager face, that it could only be done by changing the laws; the state legislature could alone accomplish this. The words were burned into her childish soul, and looking into his face, she said, 'When I grow up I'll get these laws changed!'

A GREAT REFORMER.

"So fixed was her purpose that, when she was but twenty years of age, she went to the New York legislature, sitting at Albany, somewhere in the thirties; there were many Dutch farmers who had grown rich, and who were grieving that the dowries given to their daughters were dissipated by their husbands; for thus to see their hard-earned money spent in free living was an insupportable grievance to these thrifty men. Miss Cady easily obtained their assistance, and after some effort she secured the passage of a law giving married women separate rights of property. For fifty years this same indomitable woman has laboured by voice and pen; she has passed through all the phases of the great reform, and travelled the road of all reformers; she has seen the cause ridiculed and reproached, she has seen it tolerated, and to-day, were she here, she would see it acclaimed by the bravest of England's women. Shall we succeed in obtaining our just demands? There is no class that has ever yet combined to demand a right in any nation that has not finally, after long struggle, obtained that for which they have stood together with loyal solidarity; and therefore we cannot but believe that if a real combination is to be made among women to demand that which is undoubtedly a part of their work in the world, namely, to participate in making the laws that affect the nation and the home, they will at last obtain that which they seek. There are in this hall those who look upon the question from various aspects. Some see the great need of reform in the labour problems; others, perhaps, view the subject from an educational standpoint; the Temperance reformers realise that it is impossible to obtain any sweeping measure that shall crush the power of the liquor traffic until an immense contingent is added to the temperance vote of this country; and that contingent stands waiting to join in the great battle when they are summoned to the side of man, for the women are well-nigh solid on this reform. Whatever it may be that makes for the up-

lifting of the downtrodden, that contributes to Home Protection, and the safety of the children as they go out upon the ways of life, we believe that the women's vote will ever be an added increment to the power that makes for righteousness. It is not wonderful that this should be so. The patient hand that rocks the cradle, the unwearied eye that watches through the dark night and the grey dawn, the strong arm that leads the little feet so patiently out and guards the stumbling steps, the aching heart that sees the children go forth beyond the garden gate, the tender soul that yearns and prays, and waits and weeps—why should she be debarred from bringing to the ballot box the weight of her experience, the fervour of her love, the power of her gentleness, the uplift of her consecrated motherhood? It is no unreasonable demand, but one based on every law—scientific and ethical. And as a Temperance woman I appeal to that great contingent who carry aloft the standard on which is emblazoned the words, '*Home Protection*,' to put aside all preconceived prejudice, to come forth without reluctance, strong in the belief that God has called you, perhaps in a way that you know not, to reinforce by the votes of the wives and mothers, the women in the schools and the churches, the great reforms that seemed to need a century for their accomplishment, but that the women's help will hasten to success in a few brief years."

## Science Notes.

### TEETH AND CIVILISATION.

Painfully aware, as most of us are, of the frequency of toothache and early loss of the teeth, we have not yet arrived at any universally accepted explanation of the cause of this frailty. From a comparison of our own teeth with those of savages and of the lower animals, it would appear that the progress of civilisation has been accompanied by degeneration of the teeth, but it is not so clear what particular feature of civilised life is responsible for this degeneration.

A writer in *Nature* recently offered an explanation which seems to show more originality than profound knowledge of anatomy. He suggested that the clue might be found in the fact that the fifth cranial nerve supplies both the eye and the teeth of the upper jaw; various dentists whom he had consulted were of opinion that decay was more frequent in the upper than in the lower teeth, and he, therefore, thinks it probable that the great strain put upon the eyes by the exigencies of civilised life may result in such wear and tear of nervous matter that the teeth are injuriously affected by it. One would think, on reading this, that the writer is unaware that the teeth of the lower jaw are supplied by a third branch of the same nerve, trigeminus. Then again, the first division of trigeminus is not the nerve which gives the sensation of sight (that is the second of the twelve pairs of cranial nerves); neither is it the nerve which supplies the muscles which move the eye; it merely gives (or more strictly, contributes to) the sensitiveness of the skin surrounding the eye, and of the sclerotic or white covering of the eyeball. How this first branch

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