

"The utter lack of interest taken by most women in the woman suffrage question, to which we have already alluded as manifested in Massachusetts and Connecticut, is emphasized by the rather striking and special 'referendum' which has just been put to the vote in Massachusetts under State authority. The total vote polled was 292,000, and there was a majority against woman suffrage of 77,000. Although there are over 600,000 women in Massachusetts, only 20,000 took sufficient interest in the subject to vote for woman suffrage; the remainder of the minority vote was made up of men's votes, which numbered more than did the votes of the women. This is the outcome of more than forty years' continuous agitation of the woman suffrage question in Massachusetts, aided by such illustrious men as Garrison, Howe, and Wendell Phillips; and it is now generally admitted that, for a time at any rate, the question is practically dead. Here is a case in which the referendum confirms the vote of the Legislature, the Woman Suffrage Bill having been thrown out of the Massachusetts Senate by a large majority."

We quote the above from the *Daily Chronicle*, and though "'tis sad, 'tis true—." How long shall we as a sex coquette and dally with the "party politician," and expect justice at his hands? What we women have got to do is to organize ourselves into a strong "woman's party," and without glancing to the right or to the left just go straight towards the goal of "the vote." Let us compress into this duty all the fire, all the energy, all the devotion, and every penny which we now fritter away over a thousand senseless baubles, such as male elections, extravagant clothes, dainty food, emulation, and every species of vanity, and it will soon be found that the question of Woman's Suffrage is very much alive. Organize and persevere, and the cause is won, in spite of all the "Male Anti-Justice for Woman Associations" in the world.

There is a popular impression that women have no interest in financial legislation; that they do not understand them, and know no more about bonds and stocks than the average man knows about astronomy. Those who talk and write in this way only show their own ignorance on the question. Many women are regular subscribers to the *Financial Times*, and know the difference between one South African mine and another as well as men, although this is not saying much, considering how very foggy people are about the investments in these gold mines, over which every one has been more or less bewitched.

It will probably surprise people who hold the belief in women's commercial incapacities, to be told that according to the latest United States Government reports the number of shares held by women in the national banks alone amounts to the very respectable figures of 1,733,772, representing the enormous value of \$130,681,494. In other words, women hold over 24 per cent. of the national bank shares issued, and those shares represent a capital percentage of over 18.

Women show up almost equally well in the other banking institutions of the country. The total number of these establishments last year was 3,211, with an estimated share value of 307,151,716 dols. The percentage of this capital held by women is 12.4, which

is divided among 23,146 members of the other sex. These figures prove that women own a big slice of national bank, State bank and private bank capital.

In Marie, Countess of Caithness, or Duchesse de Pomar, as she preferred to be known during the later years of her life when she made her home in Paris, has passed away an interesting, a clever, and a very beautiful woman. Her charming house in the Rue Wagram was the resort alike of the fashionable and intellectual. Especially she welcomed such as had dived into things mystical and supernatural. Her belief, indeed, in the oriental teaching of re-birth was such that she was firmly assured the spirit of Mary, Queen of Scots, had come into being again in her own existence, a belief which her undoubted likeness to the ill-fated Queen encouraged. In her house was a sanctum stored with many a priceless relic of the woman of whom she believed herself to be a later incarnation. Her two most important published works are "Serious Letters to Serious Friends" and "Old Truths in a New Light," works which show her to have been a clear and profound thinker, as also a writer of some power. One of her greatest friends was Isabella, Ex-Queen of Spain, who, indeed, made her Duchess de Pomar in her own right, long after the death of the Comte, her first husband. The Duchess was a singularly fortunate, as well as a clever and beautiful woman, for in addition to the immense fortune left her by the Comte, she inherited a few years since a further fortune of a hundred thousand pounds a year. It is interesting to remember that after his marriage with the widowed Comtesse, the late Earl of Caithness who was, as is known, a clever mechanician, took pains to invent a particular kind of traction-engine, which he considered would be invaluable on her Cuban estates. Some sixty thousand pounds were expended in constructing and exporting several of these, when it was discovered that a most important factor had been overlooked. The Cuban soil is of the sandiest and lightest, and, greatly to the chagrin of the inventor, the traction-engines distinguished themselves by sinking straightway into the sand, whence it was impossible to extricate them, and where, if they have not long since gone to pieces, they remain to this day.

Old-world Egypt is to have the "new woman," and it stands badly in need of her. A small elementary Government school will be opened shortly at Cairo, where Egyptian girls will have new, and all too rare, chances of obtaining a good education. Women will watch with much interest this hopeful sign of progress reaching as far off as Egypt, and it is all the more encouraging because this school has not been started by foreigners, but by the Government of the country.

The City Fathers of White Pigeon, a little town in Indiana, have been petitioned by 500 citizens to enact local legislation prohibiting women from wearing regulation bloomers on the streets of that place. The petition also asks the imposing of penalties for violations of the law. The prayer of the petitioners is that horses are scared by the apparitions, and that it is beneath the dignity of the sex. A counter petition is now in circulation, and White Pigeon Solons must decide the question of the "to be or not to be" of the women to wear bloomers.

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