

## Disenfranchised Sister

*[Handbill]: Disenfranchised Men*

New York: National American Woman Suffrage Association [no date - circa 1910]

### Disfranchised Men

The students of Yale were not allowed to vote by the New Haven selectmen. A number of them were very indignant, and a good deal was said in the New Haven papers. This led a suffragist to write the following lines of sympathy:

Gentlemen: Since, for the moment, your temporary condition is somewhat like my chronic condition—since you cannot vote because the selectmen wouldn't let you, and I cannot vote because the men of Connecticut won't let me—our cases are remotely parallel, and I venture, as a sincere sympathizer in your undeserved affliction, to submit a few of the consolations for not having the ballot that have been offered me.

In the first place, you probably think you have a right to vote. This is a mistake. Voting is a privilege, not a right—a privilege, at the disposal of the State. If this privilege is conferred upon you by the selectmen representing the State at this moment, with that impartial and unemotional justice found only in the bosom of men, well and good; if not, then you must go back and sit down in quiet resignation with minors, criminals, idiots and women—disfranchised. It would be extremely bad form to make a disturbance. You may occasionally murmur to each other under your breath that you would like to vote, but any outspoken protestation would be very ungentlemanly and conspicuous. Think how it would sound to say, "I want to vote!" in a loud unmanly voice! Who would get up to give you a seat in the car under the circumstances?

Secondly, if you should be allowed to vote, think of all the ignorant men that would vote, too! You may not immediately see the consolation in this fact. Many do not. That is a proof that you are emotional and easily influenced by your feelings, that you are lacking in the calm, dispassionate, even-handed justice naturally inherent in man, of which we have such notable examples in the board of selectmen, and, therefore, you are unqualified to vote.

Thirdly, you have the great consolation of knowing that you possess on election day, if not the ballot, something far higher and greater—so immeasurably better than the unselfish founders of our government gave it to those whom they disfranchised, and kept the inadequate ballot for themselves. I refer to "influence," the "influence of a good man."

Use your heaven-sent "influence," dear brothers. On election day take the butcher and baker gently by the hand, and earnestly entreat them to

Small handbill printed on both sides. Approximately 6¼" x 7". A couple of creases and small tears, small ink blot, else about very good. Signed by "Disenfranchised Sister", drawing a parallel to male Yale students who weren't allowed to vote by the New Haven Selectmen, and were consequentially greatly indignant, "Sister" is not immune to sarcasm over the plight of the men: "Since, for the moment, your temporary condition is something like my chronic condition..."

vote the way you would yourself if you could. Walk along with the postman. Tell him you are only a man, but you love your country and take a mild interest in her welfare, and won't he please vote the way you want him to? It would be extremely nice of him. Then this wonderful "influence" will begin to work, and the man will go off and vote just the way he pleases.

These are a few of the considerations I have always found eminently consoling, and I hope they will have the same soothing effect on you as on your

*Disfranchised Sister.*

## Men Should Read

Why Man Needs Woman's Ballot, by Clifford Howard.

Women Should Mind Their Own Business, by Prof. Edward J. Ward.

Woman Suffrage a Necessity for the Safety of the State, by Hon. W. O. Howard.

Obstructions in the Way to Justice, by Charles Edward Russell.

Why Equal Suffrage Has Been a Success, by Prof. Thaddeus P. Thomas.

A Common Sense View of Woman Suffrage, by Jesse Lynch Williams.

Have You Ever Thought, etc? by Katherine Houghton Hepburn.

Votes for Woman a Success, as told by Mayors in Cities in Suffrage States.

What Kind of Men Want Women to Vote, and Why, edited by Katherine Houghton Hepburn.

Report of Commission on Universal Suffrage on Votes for Women to the French Chamber of Deputies.

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"I venture, as a sincere sympathizer in your undeserved affliction, to submit a few of the consolations for not havign the ballot that have been offered me." Further: "If this privelge is conferred on you... well and good; if not, then you must go back and sit down in quiet resignation with minors, criminals, idiots, and women - disenfranchised." And "Think how it would sound to say, 'I want to vote!' in a loud unmanly voice! Who would get up to give you a seat in the car under the circumstances?" The essay concludes with a list of suggested readings about promoting equal suffrage. Both an amusing and convincing argument. OCLC doesn't locate a copy.