

Document I: Negative reactions

TUESDAY, NOV. 23.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

In this glorious country where in chivalry abounds and in which men who have even an iota of self-respect have manifold respect and reverence for womankind, there appears to be no pressing need of suffrage for members of the fair sex.

Why should women want to vote? Of course this can be answered by a woman interested heart and soul in the so-called cause, but a man of the world, not a mollycoddle, can propound no sane answer to the question.

Women preach about the corruption of the ballot. This may be very true. Thousands of men undoubtedly have been corrupted because of their right to vote augmented by their unprincipled, grasping methods in the mad search for money.

Men are human; so are women. The human frailties are as apparent in one sex as in the other. Men have been corrupted by their right of suffrage, and what is to prevent some women from becoming similarly contaminated.

No good American wants to see woman participating in such unlady-like actions as mark the operations of the suffragettes in England. There is no occasion for it here. There may be in England, as least Mrs. Pankhurst says there is. We'll even admit that perhaps the English suffragettes are in the right.

ettes are in the right.

But is there any sane reason why their American sisters should follow their example? Certainly not. Conditions here are entirely different from those in England.

The political game is a dangerous pastime. Men go down to their ruin almost daily because of failure at it. It's a game for the strong.

Women should have no part in it for their own good. They should be content to rear their children to be law abiding citizens, to administer to the needs of their husbands so that they will not drift from home to find amusement, and by precept and example to inculcate into the developing minds of the young that regard for the moral and civil laws that will in the end perhaps serve to lessen the inroads of the divorce evil and bolster up the very foundation of society. Women can do all this in their homes and in the circles in which they move.

They cannot do it by wasting their time in a vain struggle for the ballot.

Mrs. Pankhurst tells an interesting story of the woman's movement in England but American women should not allow themselves to ponder too seriously over the methods she advocates.

The American woman's place is in the home, not in politics and worldly affairs.

Source:

The Library of Congress, American Memory

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Votes for Women

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Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911; Scrapbook 8; page 23