

I am no believer in the wonderful results that are to follow the granting of votes to women. According to some of the more fervid of their orators, a sort of millennium will be brought about, a new heaven and a new earth, and an immediate bettering of social and economic conditions all round. Perhaps it is only the opinion of the mere man when I say that when we are properly instructed we can legislate for women as well as for ourselves quite as well as they can, and I am quite sure that they will lose rather more than they will gain. The insensible influence they now possess, and so successfully use, will evaporate with many of the feminine attributes and nameless charm which they now possess, and which constitute such a potent influence, unseen, unfelt and often unacknowledged, in public affairs. I remember Leatham making a very clever speech against female franchise, and describing the inconveniences that might arise if they got into office in the House. He admitted that it might be an advantage to have a young and blooming First Commissioner of Works, but what would become of some great bill if the Attorney-General eloped with the Solicitor-General, or if public business were brought to a standstill by the accouchement of the Prime Minister?

Perhaps in all this I have taken too pessimistic a view of the situation, and have brought into dark and even lurid prominence the worst features of the complex blend that goes to make up the female character. That may be so, and it is necessary to remind my readers how essential women are and always have been, not only to our very existence, but to much of the charm and sweet-