

marriage and population are good and desirable, it is our duty to discourage the "mannification" of women. To give them votes, to let them invade the professions, to accustom and reconcile them to the idea of going through life "independent" of men is the Wrong Road, the road of race decline and decay. Thackeray spoke like the big, strong, sensible man he was when he declared that any woman, if she had not a positive hump, could bring a man to his senses. I for my part would not rule even the humped ones out of account. And as matter of fact they do not allow themselves to be ruled out of account. With the general perversity of a teetotal vegetarian and all-round anti-sport, Bernard Shaw has tried to abash women by calling them huntresses. It is a good job there is somebody to do a bit of hunting. What is the good of all we do for posterity if the joy of life is to die out of us and the sites of Edinburgh, London, Paris, and Berlin are to become heaps of ruins like those of Babylon, Nineveh, and Troy, whose people disappeared off the face of the earth from sheer weariness of life.

But this brings us to another matter.

III.

What a Matriarchal State would be like.

In "The Revolt of Man" the late Sir Walter Besant has given us a striking picture of what the Matriarchal State might be like. It shows how much good work a man may do in the way of writing useful books, and the world know very little about it, that this genuinely clever tale should have been in print since the eighties without one having ever heard of it. It is now published as one of Collins' sevenpennies, and is accessible to all.

I am not to spoil the market by giving the story as a story; but it is quite fair to summarise the features of the Matriarchal England (I do not mean Britain) of the future if the Feminists could have their way.

The novelist pictures an England ruled by women, as it might very well be if women, who are the majority, are to have the vote. The country is governed by the House of Peeresses, for the Commons House has been abolished. The women members of the Lower House talked such commonplace and trivial stuff, their debates were so full of personalities, and the whole proceedings were so undignified, that a female electorate, worshipping rank and style, had no scruple about transferring all power to the Upper House. The monarchy was abolished as incompatible with the theory of the perfect State, the head of which had to be a Perfect Woman, who could not be found.

The educational endowments throughout the country were all monopolised by women. The rough, hard, dangerous, and useful work was left to the men; but the women held the professions, the young ones jostling the seniors, who got most of what little work there was to do.

Population.

The population had greatly dwindled. Manchester had become a country town of twenty thousand inhabitants. At Liverpool there were miles of empty and silent docks. The railways had fallen out of use; for the men,