

water. Look at me! I make my own bread, and there's no difference between one batch and another from year's end to year's end; but if I'd got any other woman besides Vixen in the house, I must pray to the Lord every baking to give me patience if the bread turned out heavy. And as for cleanliness, my house is cleaner than any other house on the Common, though the half of 'em swarm with women. Will Baker's lad comes to help me in a morning, and we got as much cleaning done in one hour without any fuss as a woman 'ud get done in three, and all the while be sending buckets o' water after your ankles, and let the fender and the fire-irons stand in the middle o' the floor half the day, for you to break your shins against 'em. Don't tell me about God having made such creatures to be companions for us! I don't say but He might make Eve to be a companion to Adam in Paradise—there was no cooking to be spoilt there, and no other woman to cackle with and make mischief, though you see what mischief she did as soon as she'd an opportunity."

That extravagant speech is put into the mouth of Bartle Massey, the woman-hating schoolmaster; but it is when a writer speaks by the mouth of another that he or she can most safely be truly frank.

The Real Objections.

We could have wished that our suffragist correspondent had dealt with the real objections to women's suffrage—the way in which women, even the best, are swayed by personalities rather than principles; woman's lack of inventiveness and initiative, and consequent cataleptic receptiveness, imitativeness, and pliability; the preponderance of women in all old countries, involving, as it would, the swamping of the male voter, and the potential handing over of the State to the women; the exaggerated claims made on behalf of women by the Feminists, including the declared object of making the State matriarchal and putting man in a quite subordinate, not to say slavish position; the cross-currents of "feeling" engendered in bodies on which women are represented, and the public woman's boycott and even persecution of public servants whom she dislikes, merit apart. The average woman is incapable of being fair where her feelings are at all engaged. One has had intellectual disagreement with men, and found it not at all inimical to warm personal friendship; but always on the part of the wives there was a tendency to make of this difference of opinion a personal quarrel. As a newspaper man, expressing opinions freely on public questions, I have been surprised to find myself treated with distinct chilliness by some dame with whom I had no quarrel. On asking for an explanation, as it used to be my habit to do, I would be referred to some forgotten article or note in which I had taken the opposite side to her husband.

I have associated less or more with all sorts and conditions of men and women, from dock labourers and their wives on to Cabinet ministers and *their* wives, and I have never once heard women start a political discussion. The leaders of the Suffragist movement never by any chance discuss what they will do with the Parliamentary vote when they get it, nor have