

history and loved the memory of the old times when men were masters in their own house.

Aided by his gamekeepers and rustics in the first instance, and helped also by a piece of local feminine tyranny, the Earl musters a small army, marches south to London, the ranks of his following being augmented as he goes by young men and maidens alike, the girls (who are of great service in the revolt) saying everywhere: "Give us our lovers, and let the men who work rule."

The revolution is accomplished without bloodshed, and one of the first symbolical acts of the victorious rebels is to throw down and break into pieces the statue of the Perfect Woman.

Momentous because Irrevocable.

"The Revolt of Man" is a very well conceived and executed picture of what is possible in a woman-ruled State. But while all the pictured topsyturvy is possible, I do not think all of it is probable. The book, however, is valuable as a not unfeasible forecast of the results of granting women the last and most momentous of the suffrages. It is well that we should pause and fully consider the potential results of the transference of power from men to women. Sir Walter Besant, I think, underrates the influence of the stronger personality of man; but in politics personality does not count for much as against blind partizanship and mere fanaticism such as that of Mrs. Pankhurst. The substitution of a windlestraw like Mr. Bonar Law for Arthur Balfour in the leadership of the Conservative Party shows that talent and personality count for very little with mobs of men even. The power and influence of the commonplace are very great—in speeches, books, and public affairs alike; and the sex that wallows in Marie Corelli and Charles Garvice has clearly a preference for commonplaces. The transference of power to women would be in itself such a topsy turvy proceeding that under such a régime all other inversions become not only possible, but natural.

If women ever get the Parliamentary vote it could not be taken from them again by anything short of a physical-force revolution, and it behoves us to consider well before we take a step which would be so irretrievable and we fear so disastrous.

Conclusion.

But we are not to end on any such note as "disastrous." There is nothing coming over us, and nothing likely to. Even should the worst come, the merry wives will shield the State from the mad widows and the wild, despairing spinsters. It is a good enough omen that Walter Besant's book was written with the co-operation of two ladies who made suggestions during the progress of the work. Wise women value their real power and great influence too much to barter them for the figment of a vote, with which they could only play checkmate to the women of the various opposing parties. For the true charm and function of woman I will yield to no man in admiration. I trust I may never be far from a woman's comfort and