

**THE WOMAN CITIZEN'S LIBRARY:
A SYSTEMATIC COURSE OF
READING, IN PREPARATION FOR
THE LARGER CITIZENSHIP;
TWELVE VOLUMES**

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THE SUFFRAGIST AROUSING HER SISTERS

By Ella Buchanan, Sculptress

THE WOMAN CITIZEN'S LIBRARY

A Systematic Course of Reading in Preparation
for the Larger Citizenship

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CHICAGO

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The Civics Society
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Introduction

WHAT THE WOMAN CITIZEN'S LIBRARY IS

EPOCHS begin with the extension of rights. When these rights involve the sacrifice of property or privilege, there result the revolutions with which our history books are filled.

But sometimes, among people of high social morality, these epochs spring from the spirit of democracy and begin with the sharing rather than the surrender of rights. That is the characteristic of the new age into which we enter, as women are granted larger opportunities in our social life. Men begin to share with women privileges which have come down from the ancient days when men were the owners of their families and warriors because they could be citizens.

This new epoch promises to be even more significant than any other period which has marked the extension of civil liberties. When one thinks of the changes that followed the abolition of slavery in America, the extension of education to a nation's children, and before that, the organization of a state in which there should be political equality for all its citizens, it is hard to imagine those other changes which must result in state, families, and social intercourse when women

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come to enjoy equal opportunity in the world of industry and politics. No institution in our complicated society will escape change in this new Age of Women. What steam did to an age of hand labor and electricity to an age of steam, the woman worker and the woman citizen will do to a civilization built up about man's privileges.

There are those who await these changes with apprehension; there are others who see in their approach only new ground for extreme optimism. Both classes of prophets are mistaken; and both are right. The future will tell its own tale whatever we may prophesy. And when that tale is told it will cover a multitude of wrongs adjusted and of new problems answered by those who shall enjoy the larger opportunities which this new age will bring to men as well as to women.

But whatever may be the record the future is to write, of one thing we may be certain: in this as in every other epoch the extension of rights is a blessing only when the new recipient regards them as responsibilities as well as privileges. Many a society which might have moved peacefully into larger efficiency under other conditions, has been filled with struggle and misery because too many of its members have regarded progress as an opportunity for mere enjoyment.

Herein lies both the danger and the opportunity for women. If they enjoy the privileges of their new epoch without an intelligent understanding of their new

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duties, their new opportunities can easily become a source of harm and misery. If, however, women seriously undertake to educate themselves for their new duties as well as for their new privileges, they will introduce into the social evolution an idealistic force which hitherto has been sadly lacking.

Take politics for an example. The State is as real as the people who compose it. The duties of citizenship are as definite as the duties of house-keeping. Only as these self-evident facts are fully appreciated will women be able to share in those many and splendid reforms which we can see must come in our social life. They ought, therefore, to know something of the great struggle through which Democracy has arisen and has gradually extended its duties and privileges. They ought to know how the nation, how a state, how a city, how even a little town or a ward is governed. More than that, they ought to gain a vision of that larger citizenship into which the world as a whole is now entering.

Or take social life with its economic struggles, its search for larger justice, its new sympathy with the poor and the unfortunate. It, too, is a field into which women must enter intelligently as well as earnestly.

All this means reading and studying. Not that every woman is to be a professor of sociology or a campaign leader; but every one of those thousands of intelligent women who particularly will be held respon-

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sible for the outcome of this new epoch, should approach social and political duties with an intelligence which will enable her to accomplish those reforms for which our present social order prays.

It is in the belief that these new opportunities and duties, both scientific and practical, can be so presented to women as to enable them to acquire this needed information that **THE WOMAN CITIZEN'S LIBRARY** is issued. There are many books treating of social progress, but no one of them emphasizes the discussion of vital questions from the viewpoint of women. That is the particular approach of these volumes. They number among the contributors not only some of the recognized authorities in the field of politics, but an especially large number of women who are actually engaged in the tasks of the larger citizenship.

Nor are these volumes merely content to give information as to rights and duties; they also show women how to carry on those activities which our complicated social life involves.

The volumes are thus an exceptional combination of theory and experience, of information and guidance. They are issued with the profound hope that they may in no uncertain measure serve to help the thousands of women who within the next few years will have so large a part in the development of our great Republic.

THE EDITOR.