

**THE SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL DEPENDENCE
OF WOMEN**

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The Social and Political Dependence of Women by Jun. Anthony

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JUN. ANTHONY

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BY CHARLES ANTHONY, JUN.

*Ἴσως δὲ, εἶπον, κατὰ τὸ ἔθος γαλοῖα ἂν φαίνοιντο πολλὰ κατὰ τὰ εὖν
λεγόμενα, εἰ πράξεται ἢ λέγεται.* PLATO.

'The intellectual and moral differences between the sexes seem to me to be entirely the result of *education*; using that word in its most extensive sense, to comprehend not merely the instruction received from teachers, but the habits of mind imposed by situation, or by the physical organisation of the human frame.'

DUGALD STEWART.

'Asserting the rights which women in common with men ought to contend for, we have not attempted to extenuate their faults, but to prove them to be the natural consequence of their education and station in society.'

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT.

'Parmi les progrès de l'esprit humain les plus importants pour le bonheur général, nous devons compter l'entière destruction des préjugés, qui ont établi entre les deux sexes une inégalité de droits funeste à celui même qu'elle favorise. On chercheroit en vain des motifs de la justifier, par les différences de leur organisation physique, par celle qu'on voudroit trouver dans la force de leur intelligence, dans leur sensibilité morale. Cette inégalité n'a eu d'autre origine que l'abus de la force, et c'est vainement qu'on a essayé depuis, de l'excuser par des sophismes.'

CONDORCET.

FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1880.

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PREFACE
TO
THE FIFTH EDITION.

THOUGH 'The Social and Political Dependence of Women,' originally published in 1867, does not literally embody the author's present views, (views which have been largely affected by a wider study and acceptance of the doctrine of evolution,) yet as its main principles have become more fixed and important in his mind, and as the changes to which he refers move more in the direction of further development than of essential modification, he has thought it best to comply with the demand for a new edition by reprinting the volume almost in its original form, the alterations consisting for the most part of omissions and verbal corrections.

The subject has made an enormous advance in the knowledge and favour of the public during the last ten years, an advance which is indicated less

by the divisions in the House of Commons, progressive and striking though they have been, than by the totally different tone and temper which characterise the discussion both in the Press and in Parliament. It is worthy of notice that in 1867—as conclusively shown by the footnotes in the following pages—the proposal to substitute the word ‘person’ for the word ‘man’ in the several clauses of the Reform Bill, was regarded by the mass of Englishmen, (of whom, and of whose prejudices, newspapers may be considered to be fair representatives, distinctly in advance of their readers,) as an absurd and even ludicrous ‘novelty,’ which deserved to be laughed out of court. It was a theme out of which every penny-a-liner was sure of raising a laugh, though he might raise it, like Jeremy Diddler raised the wind, on false pretences or irrelevant issues. Now in 1880 what a different spirit is abroad! The question is no longer treated as a joke; its objects are no longer reviled; its advocates are no longer ridiculed. The whole subject has come to be approached in a spirit which affords the liveliest satisfaction to all those who believe in the justice and expediency of enfranchis-

ing women, who see in that enfranchisement the dawn of a purer and nobler relation between the sexes, and who feel that the legal subordination of one sex to the other is among the chief obstacles to human progress and happiness.

January 1880.

