

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE:
THE REFORM AGAINST
NATURE**

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Women's Suffrage: The Reform Against Nature by Horace Bushnell

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HORACE BUSHNELL

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REFORM AGAINST NATURE.

BY

HORACE BUSHNELL.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

It is not to be supposed that this little volume has finished the argument of a subject so large, and, in former times, so entirely unattempted. If it brings the question to some fixed issue, taking it away from the mere chance-working it has had hitherto, it will have done the service proposed. And if the projected reform is totally different from all other reforms, in the times gone by, in the fact that it is a reform against nature—an attempt to make trumpets out of flutes, and sun-flowers out of violets, the discovery can not be difficult, and it will save us much trouble if it is made soon.

I take pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to Rev. Mr. Alger, in his book on the Friendships of Women, for a good many historic facts and references that would otherwise have cost me much labor. Also, to Rev. George B. Bacon, of Orange, New Jersey, for the history of Women's Suffrage in that State.

I do not propose to continue this discussion, but to abide the criticisms laid upon me with what of patience I am able.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

For once I will dare to break open one of the customary seals of silence, by inscribing this little book to the woman I know best and most thoroughly ; having been overlapped, as it were, and curtained in the same consciousness for the last thirty-six years. If she is offended that I do it without her consent, I hope she may get over the offense shortly, as she has a great many others that were worse. She has been with me in many weaknesses and some storms, giving strength alike in both ; sharp enough to see my faults, faithful enough to expose them, and considerate enough to do it wisely ; shrinking never from loss, or blame, or shame to be encountered in any thing right to be done ; adding great and high instigations—instigations always to good, and never to evil mistaken for good ; forecasting always things bravest and best to be done, and supplying inspirations enough to have

made a hero, if they had not lacked the timber. If I have done any thing well, she has been the more really in it that she did not know it, and the more willingly also that having her part in it known has not even occurred to her; compelling me thus to honor not less, but more, the covert glory of the womanly nature; even as I obtain a distincter, and more wondering apprehension of the divine meanings, and moistenings, and countless, unbought ministries, it contributes to this otherwise very dry world.

H. B.