

The people using ballots, an enemy of the people! As a satire that would be delicious.

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### The Demand of Women for Woman Suffrage.

One of the commonest replies to the demand for equal suffrage, by persons who oppose it but "don't like to offend the ladies" by saying so, is the intimation that when a majority of women want to vote they will be allowed to. The polite insincerity here is obvious when it is considered that no means are provided and that there is no proposal for providing any means for officially ascertaining the sentiment of women on the subject.

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On one occasion Massachusetts did make such provision, and the result was quite discouraging to the anti-suffragists. In describing the episode, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe says: "In 1895, the Massachusetts legislature gave all the women opposed to equal suffrage the opportunity to vote No on the question, 'Is it expedient that municipal suffrage should be extended to women?' Of the 575,000 women of voting age in Massachusetts, only 861 voted against it. The opponents covered the walls and fences in every town and village in the State with huge posters urging the women to vote No, yet in 238 out of the 322 towns of Massachusetts not one woman voted in the negative. In every county and in every senatorial and representative district the women's vote was in favor, the majority in the affirmative averaging 25 to 1." The history of suffrage petitions tells the same story. In Maine, Illinois, Iowa, New York, Kansas,—in short, wherever petitions in favor of woman suffrage and remonstrances against it have been sent to the legislature, the petitioners have always outnumbered the remonstrants and generally have outnumbered them 50 or 100 to one. In New York, at the time of the last Constitutional Convention, the suffragists secured 300,000 signatures to their petitions, the "Antis" only 15,000. When Chicago women, led by Jane Addams, lately tried to obtain a municipal woman suffrage clause in the new city charter, 97 organizations with an aggregate membership of 10,000 women, petitioned for suffrage, while only one small organization of women petitioned against it. Most women are indifferent, as the great majority of all classes under civil disabilities, men as well as women, always are; but, of the women who take any interest either way, the large majority are in favor of woman suffrage. This has been shown whenever and wherever the matter has been brought to a test.

### "Business Is Booming."

These words, or words to this effect, are bubbling in the newspapers and among business men. They are deceptive. Let us hope they are not so intended, but it is like hoping against hope. Those who tell us persistently that good times have come again must know better, for they suppress as far as possible the evidence that times are in fact getting worse (p. 39). In spite of concerted efforts at suppression, however, the facts keep leaking out. Here for instance is an advertisement in the New York Tribune of the 12th, which is signed by R. Fulton Cutting, president of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. The families which that Association has been aiding this year, so the advertisement states, numbered 2,475 on January 1, increased to 2,949 on February 1, increased further to 3,452 on March 1, and still further to 4,066 on April 1. "These figures mean," say the Association, "for many thousands no work to be had, savings gone, health impaired by want and despair, homes broken up." In the face of such evidence, by no means confined to New York, how contemptible it is to insist that we are all prosperous. And how cruel, though thoughtlessly done, to attribute the suffering of these brethren of ours to their own fault. Kipling struck a true note when he told of the "men who, if their own front door is closed, will swear that the whole world's warm."

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### Hard Times.

As reported by the newspapers, all the speakers at the recent annual session of the American Academy of Political Science at Philadelphia were optimistic as to the financial and business outlook. But of what value are optimistic expressions when "optimism is the word," and no other may be uttered without rebuke? Over against this perfunctory optimism, we find as a hard fact that mill hands are being discharged by scores of thousands in New England, and that this vocation suffers to such an extent in Philadelphia that the city is trying to turn an honest dollar by tempting disemployed \$2 workers with offers of \$1 a day on city work. The business depression (vol. x, p. 1234; vol. xi, pp. 4, 37) is evidently still here, and honest business men recognize it. For instance, in Erwin & Co.'s Market Letter (54 Broad street, New York), edited by Byron W. Holt, we find these nooptimistic remarks:

The barometers of trade do not indicate the improvement that it is natural to expect nearly six months after the beginning of the panic. As Bradstreet's of April 4 says: "There is perhaps a little more doing, as a whole, in some lines, but the off-