

right. But the robbers who have for so long preyed on the people have finally come to regard their privileges as vested rights, instead of what they are—vested wrongs—and the long habit of seeing them basking in the sunshine of their privileges and growing fat on their plunder has even lulled to sleep the public conscience and dulled the public's sense for right and wrong. . . . Many proofs there are that the people all over the country are awakening to an appreciation of this fact and one of the most hopeful signs, that promises a renaissance of our people and a reconstruction of our institutions on the old, true democratic foundation of equality of opportunity, is that the youth of the country is realizing where a continuation of the present policy of privileged plunder would land us.

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#### Independent Newspapers.

The Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat (dem. Dem.), May 2.—A newspaper can be no more independent than an individual, for the owner of a newspaper is an individual who may or may not give voice to sound ideas. He may or may not be honest in his convictions. The really independent editor is he who has convictions and honestly maintains them, no matter what may be the consequences. . . . It is an old saying, which we do not believe to be true, that there are two sides to every question. There is only one side and that is the right side. There may be two opinions, but there are no two sides to any question. . . . The question, therefore, is which side is wrong and which side is right. Both may be wrong, but both cannot be right. That is an infallible proposition. So we have the precedent of a divergence of opinions, one advocating one thing and another the very opposite. If the former is swayed by prejudice or the love of gain he is not independent. If the latter is inspired by the belief that he is right he is in the very broadest sense independent. It matters not so much what principle the editor may advance, but it does matter very much what actuates him, whether personal or partisan prejudice or honest conviction. . . . It is for this reason we have little faith in the non-partisan newspaper. As a general rule the non-partisan journal is ready to swing in any direction. Usually it is without any permanent conviction. Usually it is purchasable. At least you can depend upon the partisan newspaper. If it is honest—and we believe the great majority of partisan newspapers are honest—it will be found every day in the year where it was at the beginning. It is not one thing to-day and another thing to-morrow. It stands like the eternal rocks for what it may believe to be right and therefore is in the strictest sense independent. As we stated at the outset, a newspaper can be no more independent than an individual. Hence it must be partisan or wholly without principle. The men it may support are not in the calculation. It is the principle that is involved and when an editor abandons a principle to support men who are opposed to that principle, though they may be known as "good men," he is a traitor. He is not in any sense independent.

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In maxims there is often more sound than sense.  
—The Silent Partner.

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## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

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#### LITTLE BITS OF PAPER.

##### For The Public.

Little bits of paper  
Written on with pen  
Make a mighty people  
Slaves to daring men,  
Make them follow notions  
Of folks dead long ago,  
Tho it bring them naught  
But poverty and woe.

Little bits of paper,  
Sealed with ruthless hands  
Give to haughty idlers  
Might by owning lands,  
Make the foolish people  
Sweat, produce and do  
All the useful labor,  
Making rich the few.

Little bits of paper  
Put into a box  
Make the simple voters  
Proudly orthodox,  
While the real rulers  
Pull the cunning strings,  
Snickering the meanwhile  
At the antics of the "kings."

A little bit of paper  
Given man and wife  
Makes the woman property  
All the rest of life.  
He assumes to own her,  
Body, soul and thought,  
As the piece of paper  
Says he may and ought.

Little bits of paper  
Keep us all as clods  
Just so long as mankind  
To superstition nods.  
Little bits of paper  
By authority  
Rob the unsuspecting  
Of their liberty!

JOSEPH A. LABADIE.

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## WOMEN WHO KNOW THAT THEY NEED THE BALLOT.

From the Woman's Journal of March 28, 1908.

Jane Addams, in her recent address at Boston University, gave some practical examples showing how the poorer women in Chicago find themselves at a disadvantage for want of a vote. She said:  
"The Russian Jewish women are always grumbling because there are no covered markets in Chicago. They look upon the buying of food for

their families as a matter of importance; they are anxious that it should be wholesome, and with them the food question is associated with very ancient ceremonials. They do not like to take home their meat all grimy and dusty. They say such dirty markets would never be allowed in Russia. We are accustomed to hearing Chicago compared unfavorably with New York and Boston, but when it is compared unfavorably with Russia, we feel mortified.

"The Italian women are greatly dissatisfied because there is no public wash-house. In their own country they always washed the clothes together, either at a stream or in a village wash-house, and they talked and had a great deal of laughter and fun while they did it. They find it very dull to do their washing alone, and very uncomfortable to have to hang the wet clothes up to dry among their families, in a small room. But they have no votes, and they cannot get attention for their perfectly reasonable and legitimate wish for a municipal wash-house.

"Then there is the burning question of fire-escapes. A woman with young children was very much troubled because her tenement had no fire-escape. She came to Hull House to ask us to put one on. We advised her to have her husband see the alderman from our ward, who had scattered promises of fire-escapes right and left, before he was elected. She answered, 'But my husband is away at work for months at a time, and when he is at home he is not as much afraid of fire as I am, and he does not understand as well as I do how helpless the children would be if there was a fire.' That woman was from the interior of Sicily, and there is no more conservative woman anywhere than can be found in the interior of Sicily; but at the end of our talk she said, 'Well, if I had a vote, I believe I should get a fire-escape!' So women are being brought to the wish for the ballot in a thousand ways, not through any theory, but as a result of their own practical experience.

"The American women are being converted in the same way. The Chicago Woman's Club has more than a thousand members, including many women of influence. They have been very successful in getting good laws passed and improvements introduced. But they find that in order to get them enforced and steadily carried out, they need the power that a vote gives. Take the Juvenile Court. Several different men have acted as judges. The women have followed the proceedings of the Juvenile Court with close interest, and they know very well which of those judges was the ablest in dealing with the children's cases. They often say, 'Oh, if we could only have Judge So and So back again!' But they have no voice in choosing the judges.

"Around us there are many factories that employ young girls in running dangerous machinery, making tin cans, etc. Our women collected a

long list of bad accidents, the loss of fingers and of hands. They went before a committee of the Legislature, and told the result of their investigations. The committee seemed impressed, and promised to recommend legislation calling for the use of guards on the machines. But a deputation of business men went to the Legislature after us, and destroyed all the effect of our hearing. They had votes, and they succeeded in preventing the needed legislation."

Miss Addams said that women living in a city could no longer, by their individual efforts, safeguard their homes from dirt, impure food, and the danger of fire. These things are now done by the city collectively, i. e., by the government, and the women, to deal with them effectively, must have a vote. "We must be contemporaneous, if we are to be useful," she said, "and women constantly find their efforts for good checked by the lack of this simple mechanism, the ballot. It is so simple a thing that one wonders why there is all this tumult over the idea of women voting. The polling booths in Chicago are now in respectable localities, and in no way a demoralizing place for women to go to. This violent opposition is largely the result of tradition."

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## WHAT OF THE WOMEN YOU KNOW?

H. N. Rickey in Cleveland Press.

People don't agree about woman suffrage. It may be just as well they don't, any more than that everybody should think the same about politics or making love or religion. It would be a stupid old world if everybody was a Republican and we all drank the same brand of coffee.

You may believe that woman's place is in the kitchen, or taking care of the baby, or mending your socks. You may go even further and believe that is her *only* place.

They don't agree with you in Finland.

In Finland they think a woman has as much sense as a man has.

The new Finland is only about two years old. It has had self-government only about that long. Just as soon as Russia gave autonomy to the Finnish people, the people bestowed absolute suffrage upon their women. They not only decided to let them vote, but they opened all the elective offices to them, such as judge and mayor and member of parliament. They told them they might even be policemen if they liked.

The women *did* like. At the first national election 56 per cent of the entire vote was cast by women. There are 32 of them in the Finnish parliament. They are filling many administrative offices, and filling them wisely and devotedly and well.

Finland is the first nation to enact a national law totally prohibiting the liquor traffic.