

## Universal Suffrage

Composition No. 2

Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, 1889.

I must acknowledge that this is a subject to which I have given but very little thought, not being greatly impressed by its importance one way or another, simply because it has in no way effected my own individual happiness.

I do not, however, fail to realize the vast importance of this matter. To be classed with the idiot, maniac and "jail-bird" far below the roughest, least intelligent scamp can by no means be overlooked.

Many of the uses of the ballot make but little difference with a woman; what does she care who becomes County Clerk, Road-warden, or Sheriff; but there are other matters which influence her in more ways than her brother, yet in which she has no voice whatever.

How grand it was for our forefathers of Revolutionary fame, to declare that "taxation without representation is unjust," and uphold their declaration at the point of the bayonet; - and - yet - it was those very same forefathers

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who framed the laws by which the vast prop-  
erty of many women, who have no way whatever  
to be represented in the election of these law-mak-  
ers to office, is heavily taxed, - while the servant  
of one of these same women, who has scarcely a  
dollar to his name, - which, by the way, he is  
unable to write, - has as much power in the  
politics of our country as an intelligent man.

I have lived in a state in which women  
were allowed to vote on county questions, and in  
which they have the right to hold city offices.  
Although in most matters very few votes were  
polled by them on questions in which they  
were interested, such as temperance, a great deal  
of interest was displayed.

I remember one little town about the  
size of Whittier, one of whose chief prides was  
a handsome brick school house, much nicer  
than is usually seen in a place of its size,  
and it boasts of the fact that but for the  
vote of the women it would not have been  
secured. So we find that  
Justice is slowly awakening to this great wrong.

and it is with some feeling of respect that  
we can point to some states whose Senators  
and Representatives have been honorable e-  
nough to acknowledge the right of  
Universal Suffrage