

B1646

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HENRY
GEORGE
ON
W O M A N
SUFFRAGE

1792

I AM convinced that we make a great mistake in depriving one sex of voice in public matters, and that we could in no way so increase the attention, the intelligence, and the devotion which may be brought to the solution of social problems as by enfranchising our women. Even if in a ruder state of society the intelligence of one sex suffices for the management of common interests, the vastly more intricate, more delicate, and more important questions which the progress of civilisation makes of public moment, require the intelligence of women as of men, and that we never can obtain until we

interest them in public affairs. And I have come to believe that very much of the inattention, the flippancy, the want of conscience, which we see manifested in regard to public matters of the greatest moment, arises from the fact that we debar our women from taking their proper part in these matters. Nothing will fully interest men unless it also interests women. There are those who say that women are less intelligent than men; but who will say that they are less influential?—"SOCIAL PROBLEMS" (chapter xxii.), by Henry George.