



# Mr. Dooley on Woman's Suffrage

By F. P. **DUNNE**

**W**ELL sir," said Mr. Dooley, "fr'm th' way this here female sufferage movement is sweepin' acrost th' counthry it won't be long before I'll be seein' ye an' ye'er wife sthrollin' down th' sthreet to vote together."

"Niver," said Mr. Hennessy with great indignation. "It will niver come. A woman's place is in th' home darning her husband's childher. I mean——"

## **No Longer "For Gentlemen Only"**

"I know what ye mean," said Mr. Dooley. "'Tis a favrite argymint iv mine whin I can't think iv annything to say. But ye can't help it, Hinnessy. Th' time is near at hand whin iliction day will mean no more to ye thin anny

other day with th' fam'ly. Up to th' prisint moment it has been a festival marked: 'For gintlemen on'y.' It's been a day whin sthrong men cud go foorth, unhampered be th' prisince iv ladies, an' f'r th' honor iv their counthry bite each other. It was a day whin it was proper an' right f'r ye to slug ye'er best frind.

"But th' fair sect are goin' to break into this fine, manly spoort an' they'll change it. No more will ye leap fr'm ye'er bed on iliction mornin', put a brick in ye'er pocket an' go out to bounce ye'er impeeryal vote against th' walls iv inthrenched privilege. No more will ye spind th' happy mornin' hours meetin' ye'er frinds an' th' akelly happy avenin' hours receivin' none but inimies.

"No sir, in a few years, as soon as ye've

had ye'er breakfast, ye'er fellow citizen who, as th' pote says, doubles ye'er expinses an' divides ye'er salary, will say to ye: 'Well, it's about time we wint down to th' polls an' cast my votes. An' I do wish ye'd tie ye'er neck-tie sthraight. Honorya, bring me me new bonnet an' me Cashmere shawl an' get papa his stove pipe hat.' Thin ye'll be walked down th' sthreet, with a procission iv other married men in their best clothes an' their wanst a week shoes that hurt their feet. Th' sthreets will look like Easter Sundah. Ye'll meet ye'er frinds an' their wives comin' fr'm th' pollin' place an' talk with thim on th' corner.

"Good morning, Michael."

"Ah, good morning, Cornelius."

"A delightful morning is it not f'r th' exercise iv th' franchise."

"Perfect! Howiver, I fear that such a morning may bring out a large republican vote."

"I hope our frind Baumgarten will succeed in his candydacy."

"I heartily agree with ye—he will make an excellent coroner, he's such good company."

"Yes, indeed, a charming fellow f'r a Dutchman. Cud I prevail on ye an' ye'er lady to come an' have a tub iv ice cream sody with us?"

"Thank ye, Cornelius, we wud be delighted, but three is all I can hold. Shall I see ye at th' magic lantern show to-night?"

"Th' pollin' place won't be in th' office iv a livry stable or a barber shop, but in a pleasant boodwar. As ye enter th' dure ye won't say to th' polisman on jooty: 'Good mornin', Pete; anny murdhers so far?'"

#### **Our Recent Importations in Ballots**

"But wan iv th' judges will come forward an' bow an' say: 'Madam, can I show ye annything in ballots? This blue is wan iv our recent importations, but here is a tasty thought in ecru. F'r th' gintleman I'd ricom-mind something in dark brown to match th' socks. Will that be all? Th' last booth on th' right is unoccypied. Perhaps ye'er husband wud like to look at a copy iv th' *Ladies Home Journal* while ye'er preparin' th' ballots.'"

"Ye needn't get mad about it, Hinnessy. Ye might as well face it. It's sure to come now that I see be th' pa-apers that female sufferage has been took up be ladies in our best s'ciety. It used to be diff'rent. Th' time was whin th' on'y female sufferigists that ye iver see were ladies, Gawd bless thim, that bought their millinery th' same place I buy mine, cut their hair short, an' discarded all iv

their husband's names excipt what was useful f'r alimony.

"A fine lot iv rugged pathrites they were.

"I used to know wan iv thim—Docthor Arabella Miggs—as fine an' old gintleman as ye iver see in a plug hat, a long coat an' bloomers. She had ivry argymint in favor iv female sufferage that ye iver heerd, an' years ago she made me as certain that women were entitled to a vote as that ye are entitled to my money.

"Ye are entitled to it if ye can get it. They ain't anny argymint against female sufferage that wudden't make me lible to arrest ivry time I'm seen near a pollin' place. But it isn't argymints or statistics that alters things in th' wurruld. Th' thick end iv a baseball bat will change a man's mind quicker an' more permanently thin anny discoorse.

"So th' first iv thim lady sufferigists had a hard time iv it, an' little boys used to go to their meetings to hoot at thim, an' they were took up in th' sthreet be polismen f'r pretindin' to look like gintlemen, an' th' pa-apers wud no more think iv printin' their speeches thin iv printin' a sermon in a church.

"Now, be hivens, 'tis diff'rent. 'Tis far diff'rent. I pick up th' pa-apers an' read:

"Gr-reat sufferage revival. Society queens take up th' cause. In th' magnificent L. Quince dhrawin' rooms iv Mrs. Percy Lumley's mansion in Mitchigan avnoo yesterdah afthernoan wan iv th' most successful sufferage teas iv th' season was held. Mrs. Lumley, who presided, was perfectly ravishing in a blue taffeta which set off her blonde beauty to perfection. She wore pearls an' carried a bunch iv American beauty roses. On th' platform with her were Mrs. Archibald Fluff, in green bombyzine with a pink coal scuttle hat, Mrs. Alfonso Vanboozen in a light yellow creation cut demi thrain an' many other leaders iv th' smart set.

#### **Sending Your Vote by the Footman**

"A spirited debate was held over th' pint whether something shudden't be done to induce th' department stores to put in polling places. Wan dhream iv beauty asked whether if it rained iliction day wud th' iliction be held or postponed f'r better weather. Th' chairman ruled that th' iliction wud have to go on rain or shine. "Iv coorse," says she, "in very bad weather we cud sind th' footman down with our votes. But we must not expict to gain this great reform without some sacrifice. (Applause.) In anny case th' tillyphone is always handy."

"A lady in th' aujeence wanted to know how old a lady wud have to be befure she cud vote. Says th' chairman: "To be effective th' reform must be thorough. I am in favor iv makin' it legal f'r ivry woman to vote no matter how old she is an' I, therefore, wud put th' maximum age at a lib'ral figure, say thirty years. This gives all iv us a chance." (Cheers.) Afther th' meetin', a few voters dhropped in f'r an informal dance. Among those presint was."

"An' there ye are. Ain't I again female sufferage? Iv coorse I am. Th' place f'r these spiled darlings is not in th' hurly burly iv life but in th' home, be th' fireside or above th' kitchen range. What do they know about th' vast machinery iv governmint? Ye an' I, Hinnissy, are gifted with a supeeryor intilligence in these matthers. Our opposition to a tariff is based on large pathriotic grounds. We have thought th' subjick out carefully, applyin' to it minds so sthrong that they cud crush a mountain an' so delicate that they cud pick up a sheet iv gold foil. We are in favor iv abolishin' th' tariff because it has thrown around this counthry a Chinese wall; because we are bribed be British goold fr'm th' Parsee merchant who ripsisnts th' Cobden Republican Marchin' Club iv London, England; because th' foreigner does or does not pay th' tax; because Sam'l J. Tilden was again th' tariff; because th' ultimate consumer must be proticted.

"Larkin on th' other hand, blessed with a republican intelleck since eighteen eighty four whin he become a protectionist because James G. Blaine was a fine man, annyway ye took him, is in favor iv a tariff on borax, curled hair, copra, steel ingots, an' art because cheap clothes makes a cheap man; because th' star spangled banner an long may it wag; because th' party that put down th' rebellyon an' stormed th' heights iv Look-out Mountain an' sthrewed th' bloody field iv Anteatam is th' same party (applause) that to-day is upholdin' th' tax on hides undher th' leadership iv th' incomp'able hero Seerinio D. Payne. Often have I set here listenin' to ye an' Larkin discussin' this here question, wan moment thinkin' that I was as fine a pathrite as th' goose that saved Rome, be payin' more f'r me pants thin they were worth an' another moment fearin' I was a thraitor to th' flag f'r buyin' pants at all undher this accursed tariff. Both iv ye want to do what's best f'r th' counthry.

"But if ye put th' question up to th' ladies, if women undherstood th' tariff, which th' poor crathers don't, ye'd find they were

against it f'r no higher reason thin that it made thim pay too much f'r th' childher's shoes an' stockin's. Can ye imagine annything baser thin that, to rejoyce a great question like th' tariff down to a personal level, take all th' music an' pothry out iv it an' say: 'I'm again it, not because it has lowered th' morality iv ivrywan that it has binifitted, but because it's a shame that I have to pay eighty-six cints a pair f'r stockin's.'

#### *Life Spent at the Bargain Counter*

"Women take a selfish view iv life. But what can ye expict fr'm a petted toy iv man's whim that has spent most iv her life thryin' to get four dollars worth iv merchandise f'r two dollars an' a half? Th' foolish, impractical little fluffy things! It wud be a shame to let thim hurl thimsilves into th' coorse battles iv pollyticks. How cud ye explain to wan iv these ideelists why we have th' Phlippeens an' th' Sandwich Islands, an' why we keep up a navy to protict Denver, Colorado.

"We don't hear much about sufferage up our way in Ar-rchy road an' th' ladies that have got out their noblest hats in behalf iv th' cause complain that they can't stir up anny excitement among th' more numerous ladies that prefer to wear a shawl on their heads. Maybe th' reason is that these fair dhreamers haven't been able to figure out that a vote is goin' to do thim anny good. P'raps if ye asked ye'er wife about it she'd say:

"Well, ye've had ye'er vote f'r forty years. F'r forty years ye've governed this counthry be a freeman's ballot an' ye'er salary an' perquisites at th' mills still amounts to a dollar an' eighty-five cints a day. If a vote hasn't done ye anny more good thin that I don't think I can spare time fr'm me domestic jooties to use wan. I will continue to look afther th' fam'ly, which is th' on'y capital a poor man can accumylate to protict him fr'm poverty in his old age. I'll stay at home an' see that th' boys an' girls are saved up until they are old enough to wurruk f'r us. An' if ye want to amuse ye'erself be votin' go on an' do it. Ye need recreation wanst in a while, an' ye'er vote don't do anny wan no harm.'

"I wudden't talk to me wife about votin' anny more thin she'd talk to me about thrimin' a hat," said Mr. Hennessy.

"Well," said Mr. Dooley, "if she gets a vote maybe she'll thrim it to please ye. Annyhow it won't be a bad thing. What this counthry needs is voters that knows something about housekeeping."