

ers, with historic sequence, and with logical force.

Just how to set forth a movement is a matter of opinion. Mrs. Johnson has elected to take the pro-suffrage "Declaration of Sentiments," adopted by the Woman Suffrage Association in 1848, as the basis for her counter arguments, and in so doing she possibly has not given weight enough to the changes in their base of supplies; while she could have shown more strongly than she has done that the suffragists have not effected what they claim, and that the anti-suffrage party has been strengthened through the practical mistakes of the "pros," as witnessed especially by the history of the school suffrage movement.

Mrs. Johnson has not given much space to proving that the exercise of the ballot is not a natural right but a political expedient, because many of the "pros" already grant this; but she has done well to devote many pages to the historic status of women, since Mrs. Dietrick and other "pros" have labored to prove that woman originally held higher rank than in the last twenty years.

To the physiological, biological, and psychological grounds for anti-suffrage Mrs. Johnson scarcely alludes; a serious loss to her work, for on these grounds, however unpleasantly frank it may be considered to treat them, rests the great, natural weight of the anti-suffrage movement; a scientific position that is becoming clearer as the bi-sexual theory is being demonstrated. The "sex" question is indeed treated in a special chapter of her book, but rather from the political side of voting, jury service, and office holding. It has a sentence so indicative of the ground on which woman suffrage may be granted, "making the present situation portentous," that it should be quoted:

From the very tender-heartedness of the men of our time comes the danger to the women of this nation. So far from desiring to hold the slightest restriction over the women of the Republic, they may rush into an attempt at abdication of a sovereignty that did not originate in their will but in their environment, in order to prove the sincerity of their desire that woman should not even appear to be compelled to obey.

Mrs. Johnson attaches great importance to the argument that a voter should bear arms, which a woman cannot do, and therefore woman suffrage is a question of anarchy or democracy. She admirably proves that education, trade, philanthropy, could not suffer if women never voted. Would that she had given more instances like that of Vassar College and the Willard School at Troy to show their independence of any suffrage origin. Of course antecedents are always questioned, but if Mrs. Johnson would write a second volume, giving concrete examples of progress effected independent of the suffrage question, she would do large service to the Republic.

As it is, her chapter on "Woman Suffrage and the Laws" is excellent in just such way; *e. g.*, that the passage of the "Married-Woman's Property-Rights Bill" in 1848 was absolutely free from any connection with suffrage. Judge Fine originated it out of regard for the moneyed welfare of his wife and daughter. The legislative changes for woman's benefit in various States are due primarily and chiefly to the masculine legal sense of expediency and justice, to be exercised in all departments of legislation.

It would be pleasant to note further the excellences of this book, but space forbids. It is a timely volume, to be widely and carefully read, bearing in mind how easily it could have become more personal, and that any book issued in reply to previous publications must answer their charges.

## WOMAN AND THE REPUBLIC.\*

MRS. HELEN KENDRICK JOHNSON has sent forth, so far as we know, the first of anti-suffrage books. Of magazine articles there are thousands. Already the book has found its critics, for the subject is so largely personal that it naturally excites debate, though the literary merit of the volume is conceded. It is written with remarkable freedom from personal animadversions on suffrage lead-

\* Woman and the Republic. By Helen Kendrick Johnson. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.