Los Angeles, Cal. May 2nd, 1912

Dear Madam:

It is incredible how a woman of any intelligence, to say nothing of one of your intelligence, can fail to see at this time the relation of politics to the great evils of which you write so eloquently. You talk of not making connections,-- can you not see, can you not FEEL the connection between corrupt politics and the crying abuses that are going on and have been going on for lo, these many years?

Speaking of the lynching incident in the small western town, where there were 80 saloons, you excoriate the woman and hold them mainly, or entirely, responsible; the helpless, powerless women. What power had the women to help this condition as long as they had not political freedom? Saloons are made possible and permanent fixtures by VOTES, everyone knows that. YOU know it, if you would but put aside your unreasonable prejudice and admit the truth. The women in that town did well to amuse themselves, what else could they do? Just one thing. They could have agitated the equal suffrage question, and if they did not then indeed they "little sensed their problem," and little were they fitted "to deal with it", but other women, hundreds of thousands are "seeing" and it is such women as you who are blind, You who prostitute your great talent to fight women who are trying to get the CHANCE to help, and place yourself as an obstacle in their path, and therefore in the path of progress of the race. Why do you do it? And if you will do it, how can you have the effrontery to preach to women about what they should do and criticize them as you do? Without the ballot, they can do NOTHING and never could and never can, and anybody

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anybody with any sense who is not blinded,made aboslutely blind,by prejudice, knows it. Even if they had the ballot, to hold them entirely responsible for what goes on in a world that has been ruled absolutely by man since the world began, would be outrageous, but as things are, it is doubly so. No one has any MORAL RIGHT to do it.

The idea of saying that women are responsible for corruption anywhere! You insult the womanhood of this country, and of the whole world. Men are responsible, Why do you not hurl your diatribes at them? If women were free, that is, if they had suffrage, and <u>after</u> they had had it long enough to make their influence felt, which would be sometime, after ten centuries of man-rule, then and not until then might they be held in some measure responsible for the corruption in politics which is the cause of all the evils you deplore. What good would you accomplish doctoring the surface of things while the canker at the red root goes on festering? What good to adopt a few children while the monstrous system that deprives these children of their <u>natural</u> parents continues to take its toll? If this system exists, then even you cannot and will not say that women have no concern with it, and that in investigating conditions and,armed with the only weapon of any effect whatever in a democracy, a republican form of government, taking steps to eradicate and blot out the evil that is causing all these evils, a woman will be "making a man of herself." As if a woman ever could make a man of herself no matter what she did. Joan of Arc, though she donned men's garments

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and did a man's work in a man's world, not in "woman's sphere" did not "make a man of herself." It is because there are such huge obstacles as you in the way, that women are forced to become militant. It would seem almost as though the Chinese women have hit on the best way, shorter and quicker. They took thirty bombs and placed them before the thirty statemen who were to pass on the great question of equal suffrage, and the statesmen capitulated without a murmur. Some such method as this, I fear me much, will have to be resorted to, if women are to be blocked at every turn by traitors within their own ranks. Men deny women suffrage because they do not want them to have it; they all admit the justice of women's claim. It remains for some women, of all people, to give an exhibition of Justice blindfold.

Yours truly,

M. A. Holland

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