

*Lest Catholic Men
Be Misled*

by Mary Nash Crofoot

*Omaha
November 2, 1914*

Pamphlet
Transcript

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Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society, RG1073-S6-F2-B1

(Exhibit 2)

Lest Catholic Men Be Misled.

Literature was distributed Sunday at the doors of the Catholic churches in Omaha, quoting a few Catholic priests, who, as citizens, had declared themselves in favor of suffrage.

Because the Catholic church has not declared herself on this point, politics being outside of her sphere, this great effort has been made to influence the Catholic voter. Although I am strenuously opposed to mixing politics and religion, as a Catholic woman I must protest against our Catholic men voting for the enfranchisement of women in Nebraska. I do not believe that any Catholic men or women would favor "Votes for Women" if they realized certain facts.

First, There are a million socialists in this country, and all are unanimous for woman suffrage, because they hope by the women's vote to help themselves politically. All socialists are opposed to anything Christian, but they bitterly hate and attack Catholics. Why should Catholics join themselves with such a body?

Second, The great cry of the suffrage body is for individual liberty. They demand the vote because they object to their husbands, fathers and brothers voting for them. I heard Dr. Shaw say the other evening, when she spoke at the Brandeis, "No one these days respects authority on any question." She said, "Who believes the pulpit knows more than the pew?" She spoke of St. Paul as though he were a school boy friend, but did not mention how a certain suffrage leader scored him for enslaving women by his famous text in regard to marriage. It strikes me that a catholic should hesitate to support a movement whose leader expresses such sentiments against authority, when the fundamental point of our belief is the divine authority which Christ gave to His church.

Third. The feminist doctrine, I grant, has not made itself felt here in Nebraska as it has in the east, but nevertheless its followers are an arm of the suffrage body. Does the Catholic woman wish to be in the class which has feminists within its body. We, with the Virgin Mary for our standard of ideal womanhood, must have a care that our ideal is not shattered.

Fourth. I fear that women in politics, judging from the present campaign, will injure the Catholic virtue of charity.

I call attention to Dr. Shaw's interview in yesterday's Bee when she called respectable women, such as Mrs. George, "liars," and spoke of driving the antis back to their "kennels." I contrasted the dignified address and clear argument of Mrs. George with Dr. Shaw's clever political speech when she flippantly dodged the real issue, and confined herself principally to abusing the antis.

I hope that Catholic men in this community will vote "No" to woman suffrage.

Omaha, Nov. 2, 1914.

MARY NASH CROFOOT.

This must be returned to Mrs. J. B. Lawrence - 8307. Poplar Ave Omaha

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