

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER 14, 1873.

**Female Lawlessness and Female Suffrage.**

It is both amusing and amazing to see how many newspapers, without reflection or reason, have arrived at the conclusion that because several females illegally voted at the recent election in this city, the cause of female suffrage has made an advance and gained an advantage. Even so intelligent and usually considerate a journal as the Syracuse Standard remarks that "the principle of female suffrage is evidently making some progress, \* \* and as evidence of this progress we may point to the fact that in the city of Rochester, which is not behind any other in the Union in intelligence and fidelity to the constitution and laws, several women were allowed to register their names and cast their ballots at the recent election." Unfortunately for the Standard, the "evidence" it produces simply goes to show the progress of female lawlessness instead of the progress of the principle of female suffrage; and unfortunately for the city of Rochester, that "evidence" goes to prove that the city of Rochester is ahead of all other cities in lack of intelligence and of fidelity to the Constitution and laws if the lawlessness of these women and their accomplices be allowed to go without proper action and check. To the vast majority of people the voting of Susan B. Anthony and the other women who followed her lead, is evidence against their fitness for the exercise of the elective franchise. Certainly, bold and defiant law breakers are not the material out of which to make good law makers. And if women who are anxious to put on the breeches of the ballot do not know that they are not now legally possessed of the elective franchise, they ought at least be made to study and comprehend that fact as a condition precedent to their even asking for it.

Whether, under a government like ours, women should possess the elective franchise equally with men—whether the distinction of sex should be abolished as has been the distinction of race, color, and previous condition of servitude, is of course a fair and open question if any choose to raise it. And whenever any considerable and respectable portion of the women of the state or of the country express a desire to exercise the elective franchise—make and establish a claim that it is essential to their welfare, we concede that the question will be a pressing one, and one that, according to the fundamental principle of our government, it will be hard to logically answer in the negative. But until that time arrives, and the question is disposed of, the efforts of Susan B. Anthony & Co. to unsex themselves and vote as men will be so far as they are successful both criminal and ridiculous,