Letter from E.C. Browning to Senator Butler

E. C. Browning

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Senator Butler

Honored Sir,

Although a stranger to you, I wish to express my appreciation and approval of your very excellent address on the rights of women to the elective franchise. Intelligence and good, law-abiding citizenship, ought to be the criterion for the vote. Moral and social reforms move slowly, until the time comes when a sudden breaking away of the clouds, lets in the sunlight. Patience and persistence are necessary to success in the field of human progress. Many victories have been achieved and many more will come. Not the least will be the emancipation of woman.

Put into her hand this weapon.
"A weapon that comes down as still
As snowflakes fall upon the sod;
But executes a freeman's will,
As lightning does the will of God;
And from its force, nor door nor lock
Can shield you; 'Tis the ballot box.

Put in the hand of woman and
The saloon, lottery houses etc. will
Be driven from the land.

Purity instead of corruption will
Be at a premium in politics.

A leading politician said to the
writer: "I know you are right, but
I would rather have the support
of one saloon and its hopper, etc.,
in politics, secretly given, than if
ten preachers, teachers, and one hundred
good citizens openly accorded. The
former controls the tenth, more
or less, that controls elections, and
the party that can manipulate
them will succeed nine times out
of ten." Still, rooting down the inherent
rights of the most intelligent and pure
conservators of society, will sometime cease.