

MEMORIAL
OF
VICTORIA C. WOODHULL

PRAYING

The passage of a law carrying into execution the right vested by the Constitution in citizens of the United States to vote, without regard to sex.

DECEMBER 21, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

The memorial of Victoria C. Woodhull, to the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, respectfully sheweth: That she was born in the State of Ohio, and is above the age of twenty-one years; that she has resided during the past three years in the State of New York; that she is still a resident thereof, and that she is a citizen of the United States, as declared by the fourteenth article of amendments to the Constitution of the United States; that since the adoption of the fifteenth article of amendments to the Constitution, neither the State of New York nor any other State, nor any Territory, has passed any law to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote, as established by the said article, neither on account of sex nor otherwise; that nevertheless the right to vote is denied to women, citizens of the United States, by the operation of election laws in the several States and Territories, which were enacted prior to the adoption of the said fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, and which are inconsistent with the Constitution as thus amended, and therefore are void and of no effect; but which, being still enforced by the said States and Territories, renders the Constitution inoperative as regards the right of women citizens to vote. And whereas Article VI, section 2, declares "that this Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made and which shall be made under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding;" and whereas no distinction between citizens is made in the Constitution of the United States on account of *sex*, but as the fourteenth article of amendments to it provides that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States," nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws; and whereas Congress has power "to make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution all powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States," and to make or alter all regulations in relation to the times and manner of

holding elections for Senators and Representatives, and especially to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the said fourteenth article; and whereas the continuance of the enforcement of the said local election laws, denying and abridging the right to vote to citizens on account of sex, is a grievance to your memorialist and to various other persons, citizens of the United States, being women: Therefore your memorialist would respectfully petition your honorable bodies to make such law as in the wisdom of Congress shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the right vested by the Constitution in the citizens of the United States to vote without regard to sex.

And your memorialist will ever pray.

VICTORIA C. WOODHULL.

NEW YORK CITY, *December 19, 1870.*

