

THOSE "SILENT SENTINELS."

Gainesville Register: Not only are those women "pickets" in Washington making an unsavory spectacle of them-

selves, but, so far as their limited power goes, they are aiding the kaiser. Their leaders might with good cause congratulate themselves that the police and the federal authorities have been as lenient as they have.

The poor frumps who have since last winter "sentineled" the White House, bearing puerile banners proclaiming nonsense, have injured the cause of woman suffrage all over the country. State Press favors woman suffrage, but he does not favor insufferable women. It ought to be understood, too, that these Washington "pickets" are not members of the foremost and effective woman suffrage organization. They represent an offshoot, a weird collection of cackling geese more intent upon publicity for themselves than for righteous accomplishment. The National Woman's Suffrage Association, which is an organization of earnest and able women, should not be confused with or blamed for the squalling sisterhood which sponsors the White House "pickets." One of the strongest arguments against woman suffrage, if there is an argument against it at all, is that many women lack the temperamental balance which holds their tongues in equilibrium. That this accusation may as justly be aimed at men as at women does not discount the argument wholly. There are perhaps as many absurd men as there are silly women, but at least no men seized the chance to insult the president with near-treasonable proclamations at the moment when he was host to a foreign embassy. It may be said in all kindness to the feminine sex that only women were capable of offering that indignity to the nation's chief. It is possible that these so-called "silent sentinels"—who proclaim on banners what they do not care to speak—deeply feel that their lack of the ballot justifies them in seeking it through turmoil and discomfort and the jeers of the throng. It is possible that they so feel, but the general opinion of them is that they crave conspicuousness and publicity more than they crave the vote. Women will ere long be given equal political rights with men, but that grant will not come to them through the sort of terrorism that the screaming termites let loose, but rather through the convincing efforts of the refined and thoughtful women who reason with the powers that be instead of raging at them.