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VICTORIANS LIKE US

The Victorian Household: Power, Policies, Practices

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ABSTRACTS
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FROM KITCHEN TO TABLE: CHANGING PATTERNS WITH THE VICTORIANS

EVEN THOUGH FORMAL SERVICE à la Russe was brought to London in 1850s, it only became common in the 1870s and 1880s. Clearly, having the dishes placed in turn on the sideboard and served to the guests by the waiters contrasted with the display of the entire platters on the table and the service in two or three great courses placed simultaneously in front of the dinners. The change in style led to a more flexible menu, as it reduced the number of dishes served and accelerated the service (Burnett). It was evident the way this new style echoed the age of speed and progress, bringing various advantages to the skills of the chef and the proficiency of the waiters, in comparison to the older method —service à la Française. Offering no second servings, the food may still be served in individual dishes placed before the diners by the waiters or it may be placed on appropriate serving platters and each guest serves himself (Soriano). The focal point will be these changes of patterns as they mirrored the nature of Victorian society from the professionals to the raising middle class, but also the implied power of food technologies and innovations which made obsolete the traditionally celebrated seasonal bounty, for instance (Broomfield).
extended the vote. Within this framework, the purpose of this paper is thus twofold. On the one hand, we will assess the direct and unintended effects of the 1867 Act, exploring the relation between representation and democracy as the possession of the vote and of political power were not necessarily the same thing. On the other hand, we intend to analyse the construction of a political discourse sustained by several playwrights, such as historians and political actors, to meet political, economic, social and cultural needs. With this in mind, we will highlight opposing views regarding suffrage and the disbelief in democracy focusing particularly on Thomas Carlyle and his 1867 Pamphlet: *Shooting Niagara - And after?*, and some of the supporters of popular democracy and in favour of the extension of the franchise, namely J.S. Mill, W.E. Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli. In order to support these aims, we will also bring to light some 19th century periodicals, such as *The Illustrated London News*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Times* and *Punch*, scrutinising how they cast the debate on suffrage.

Keywords: Liberalism, parliamentary franchise, democracy, reform.

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