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*THE VOTE.*  
January 10, 1913.  
ONE PENNY.

**AN EASTERN PROPHET'S MESSAGE.**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

VOL. VII. No. 168.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1913.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.



From a photograph by

**ABDUL BAH ABBAS.**

[Boissonnas and Taponier, Paris.]

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### A Candid Opinion.

Masculine lines of reasoning, in politics, are never quite clear to the inquiring suffragist mind; and it cannot fail to strike one, at the present rather ill-tempered crisis in Parliamentary affairs, that it is asking a good deal of the women of the nation that they should entertain respect for its legislators when those legislators will not even make a pretence of respecting each other. The First Commoner, with a lack of restraint rather unusual in such a quarter, has condemned as "ridiculous," and as "utterly irrelevant," the contributions of the toiling word-mongers who earn their £400 a year by the sweat of their brow and the travail of their soul at the speech-factory of Westminster. Their painful and elaborate phrase-making does not impress one set of people, at all events; and that set of people is composed of those who belong to the trade in question and know its inmost secrets and shibboleths. It is said that "Two of a trade never agree." Without applying this proverb too closely to the case, we should like some impartial dictum on the value of the work of these servants of the public, who scramble for the right to be paid for disparaging each other's efforts! It would be interesting to know how much of the Speaker's rebuke was the result of that familiarity which breeds contempt, how much was genuinely deserved, and how much due to the spleen engendered by the interrupted holiday.

### Sauce for the Goose.

It is difficult not to be moved to merriment by the solemn concern of Parliamentarians for the rights and the protection of a trifling minority in Ireland—a minority which is in fear that it will not get fair play at the hands of the majority. We wonder how much Ulster politicians or Home Rule Cabinet ministers would have bothered about the piteous predicament of this minority, if a goodly portion of it had not been armed with votes wherewith to prick politicians forward to their defence! On New Year's Day, with much solemn emphasis, Mr. Asquith pointed out, in answer to Sir E. Carson, that the minority in question would still be represented, not only in the Irish Parliament, but in the Imperial Parliament too; thus showing all unconsciously and ingenuously how great a value he and all other responsible statesmen attach to representation as a safeguard against tyranny or injustice. Nor was there one member of the House, however embittered, who could meet him in frank denial on this point. But while the head of the Government did not attempt to prove that the minority would not require this safeguard; while he freely and frankly admitted that not only the protection of double representation—in both the Home Rule and the Imperial Parliaments—was an essential condition in assuaging the fears of Ulster, but that other provisions had again and again been admitted in the Home Rule Bill to prevent the "misuse of legislative powers for the oppression or persecution of the Minority in Ireland," we find he continues absolutely callous to the claims of the Majority—the women of the nation, who outnumber the men, who have no representation, and for whom no safeguards have ever been devised or provisions introduced to allay their fears of "oppression and persecution" through the "misuse of legislative powers" so strangely and arbitrarily placed in the hands of the minority! The value of the vote was never more clearly admitted.

We welcome the strong hand now appearing in *The Daily Herald's* treatment of Woman Suffrage; and the way in which the pledge-breaking record of the Liberal Government is being set forth. Always a sop given when the women of the party showed signs of rebellion, but nothing more—as when Mr. Stanger's Bill was carried in 1908 by a majority of 179, and then shelved when Liberal seats and Liberal Ministers were once again saved by the aid of the women. A real rebellion of Liberal women would now save the Woman's Cause.

### Lighten the Ship.

If the Unionist party goes on abandoning encumbrances at its present alarming rate, it looks as if very little but a derelict hull will be left of its once stately, if cumbrous, craft. The House of Lords has gone by the board; ancestral acres are tacitly doomed. Mr. Balfour has been superseded, the Referendum has been thrown to the sharks, the food taxes are food for the gulls. There does not seem to be anything left that can go—except another leader! A party struggling to regain power by the jettison of its programme, against a party which retains power by the betrayal of principle, is a sorry state for a great nation and a sad spectacle for its friends, however gratifying to ribald critics. The crazy three-decker, with its mixed rig of Conservative, Unionist and Tariff Reformer, is badly in need of dry-docking and overhauling. Wanted: an enterprising firm to take over the job—a difficult one.

### Did a Woman Write the Epistle to the Hebrews?

The authorship of "the noblest writing of the Apostolic Age," as the Epistle to the Hebrews has been aptly called, has long been a matter of dispute—quite needlessly if justice had been done to a woman, as M. A. R. Tucker shows in a most able and clearly argued article, entitled "The Gospel According to Prisca," which appears in the January issue of *The Nineteenth Century and After*. That the Epistle may have been written by Prisca, the wife of Aquila, has been debated by the learned, and accepted by some, among them Professor Peake; but the appearance of an article in our leading monthly review strongly supporting the authorship of Prisca is significant at the moment. Is it a case of woman obtaining just recognition, denied for centuries? The article shows how the loss of the feminine authorship may be accounted for by the age-long habit which works on the idea that "the solution of *cherchez la femme* is not resorted to if the woman, when found, will hear of anything to her advantage." The writer, with wide knowledge of ecclesiastical history, points out that in the later forms of "The Legend of Luke" the life-long companions and co-evangelists of Luke are "transformed into two men, Aquila and Priscus." Most interesting comparisons and contrasts are made between the writings of Paul and the Epistle to the Hebrews, and the spirituality of the woman's outlook is emphasized. The reference to marriage and a modern movement in Rome is particularly forceful. The writer says that Prisca, the head of a Church House in Rome—Paul's "household of faith"—knew by intuition that the subordination of the wife was not the meet safeguard.

She knew it as a woman knows a thing by moral intuition. She knew it also as a Roman, a denizen of that great city where the women of noble families had risen against the subordination of marriage. . . . She knew that when the women of Rome eschewed those traditional marriage rites which legalised the wife *in manu*—that subject wife whose status inaugurated the decline of Greece—the free and noble women who held their own estates and were mothers and matrons, but not *mulieres*, became the nursing mothers of the nascent Church. History repeats itself. At this moment in Rome there is an echo of the matrons' voice of two thousand years ago, and the Italian women have set in their programme of social and political reform the abolition of marital authorisation.

### A Pillar of the Church.

This suggestive article deserves to be widely read, and we trust that it will be noted by those among the clergy as well as outside their ranks, who are always ready to call women to service but deny them equality of rights. "Prisca, writing after the death of Peter and Paul"—to quote *The Nineteenth Century* article again—"to put in memory the Church of Rome and consolidate its faith, becomes one of the pillars of Roman faith and hence of the faith of Christendom. This association of a woman with the building of the Church would have kept in mind the debt which the Church owed to woman and the ages which followed would not have been quite so 'dark.' We should have learned to number the name of a woman among the great evangelists: Paul, Apollos, Cephas—'I am of Prisca!'"

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

**The Urgent Need.**—Our work is now in full swing, and we make an urgent appeal to all our members and friends to give every moment they can spare to Suffrage work during the next few weeks.

**Caxton Hall Meetings.**—Our regular public meetings at Caxton Hall begin next Wednesday afternoon, when we look forward with much pleasure to the speeches of our staunch friends, Mr. H. D. Harben and Mrs. Nevinson. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Despard at 3.30. We should like to have Caxton Hall filled on this occasion, and we ask our readers to help us see that this wish is realised.

**Political Campaign in London.**—This will begin by a demonstration in Trafalgar-square Saturday afternoon, January 18. As it is expected that the Reform Bill will be again considered by the House of Commons in the week beginning January 20, we are determined to make an unmistakable and emphatic demand on the previous Saturday that women shall be included in this Bill, and we confidently rely on our friends to rally in force in Trafalgar-square. Speeches will begin at 2.30.

Each afternoon, beginning Monday, January 20, there will be a political poster parade in Parliament-square from 2 to 5 p.m., and volunteers are asked to send in their names at once to this office. Each evening that the amendments are considered we shall hold a public indoor meeting in Westminster, particulars of which will be announced later.

**Miss Munro's London Campaign.**—The first meeting will be held at Poplar Town Hall on Tuesday next, January 14, the speakers being Mrs. Despard, Mr. George Lansbury, and Mr. John Scurr. The chair will be taken by Miss Munro at eight o'clock. Committee rooms have been taken at 208, East India Dock-road, and during the week, Miss Andrews, Miss Gibson, and Mrs. Huntsman will be found there to extend a cordial welcome to all members ready to take charge of the shop, distribute handbills, canvass or poster parade in the district. Public meetings have also been arranged at Croydon, January 27, and at Clapham Hall, Clapham, January 29.

**Gravesend.**—Next week Miss Gibson goes to Gravesend to work up a meeting at the Upper Public Hall, January 20, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and the Rev. A. Steven. The Chair will be taken by Miss Gibson at 8 p.m. We have reasonable hope of forming a Branch in Gravesend before Miss Gibson leaves the district.

**Literature Department.**—Envelopes to match the notepaper blocks can now be obtained, price 3d. per packet, both for quarto and octavo size, or per 100, 10½d. octavo, 7½d. quarto. Only a few boxes of crackers are left. Will all who wish to buy these attractive boxes in the League colours please send as soon as possible? Prices 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### FREEDOM LEAGUE CAMPAIGN IN POPLAR. January 6 to 18.

A great demonstration is arranged to take place on Tuesday, January 14, at the **Town Hall, Poplar**, at 8 p.m. Speakers: MRS. DESPARD, MR. GEORGE LANSBURY, MR. JOHN SCURR. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Shop and committee-rooms, 208, East India Dock-road.

In order that this meeting may be filled to overflowing, and a new Branch of the League formed, members are urgently asked to give some spare time.

The shop must be kept open, canvassing requires to be done, the pavements await chalking, and poster parades are arranged for as follows:—

Jan. 9—Thurs., 12—2; Jan. 13—Mon., 12—2; 6—8  
" 10—Fri., 12—2; 6—8 " 14—Tues., 12—2; 6—8  
" 11—Sat., 12—2

Dinner-hour meetings will be held each day at the various works. Miss Andrews, Mrs. Clarkson Swann, Miss Gibson, and others have kindly consented to speak.

The shop is to be kept open until Saturday, January 18, so that sympathisers, gained at the meeting may have a place of call. Call at the shop or send p.c., stating kind of work you can do and available time, to Miss Munro at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

The best ways to reach the committee-rooms are by train from Fenchurch-street (G.E.R.) or Broad-street (N.L.R.) to Poplar, or by the District or Metropolitan Railway to Aldgate, thence by motor-bus or train; No. 15 motor-bus from Charing-cross *via* the Bank passes the door.

### THE WILL AND THE WAY.

It will be generally admitted that the drawing together of the suffrage world and the labour world is to the advantage of both. There are suffragists, no doubt, to whom democracy is so much of a bugbear that the idea of an alliance between their movement and the movement for the raising of the labouring classes is distinctly unpalatable; and there are men in the labour movement still so far from an understanding of the true spirit of democracy as to be unwilling to further the freedom of women: but these, in both cases, are a minority, and, moreover, a small minority; throughout the suffrage world, as throughout the labour world, the general tendency is towards a policy of mutual support. In truth, as thought deepens—and thought is the main-spring of movements—as it grows clearer and more definite, the fact becomes, and must become, more and more apparent that the interests of labour and woman are either joint interests or interests which can be furthered by co-operative action. Indeed, the struggle for the vote finds its mandate in the condition of working women; and labour, in its claims, cannot consistently leave aside the claims of its women labourers. Consistency to be sure cannot be cited as appearing in the methods applied by men in dealing with their own interests and those employed when dealing with the interests of women; nevertheless growing intelligence, if not emotional perception, will point out ever more clearly that those interests cannot be divided.

The woman's movement is especially and primarily a movement for the emancipation of the less fortunate women; an altruistic movement, in which the more highly placed women, the better educated, the better fed and nurtured, yes and the better brained women, are working for the freedom of those who cannot free themselves; for the raising of those who have no time, no thought and no energy to give to the raising of themselves. It is from this sense of sisterhood that the workers for the vote draw their inspiration. For who

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would have the strength to fight as women have fought, to undergo what women have endured, to work ceaselessly, to persist unflinchingly, for personal freedom or class gain? Exceptions there may be in this as in most things; some there may be who want only the enfranchisement of a special class or classes; but the strenuous in this struggle, those who bear the burden and heat of the day, are women whose call to action is the sufferings of other women, to whom service in the cause of suffrage means service in the cause of sisterhood. In the ranks of labour this is being more and more fully recognised, and the recognition cannot fail in its effect. All over the country the rank and file of labour, with the exception of certain trades in certain districts, are showing sympathy with, and a desire to support, the demand of women for the vote.

The rank and file. But what about the leaders? What about the Party in Parliament? The attitude of the Party is disappointing to those who desire in action the proof of professed support. We are told by the spokesmen of the Party that its strength is too small to cope effectively with the Party called Liberal; that an attempt to force the hand of the Government on the Suffrage question would result only in the discomfiture of Labour David and not in the submission of Liberal Goliath. Very careful are the utterances in which this statement is made, very specious the arguments by which it is defended. Yet what do these utterances amount to? What do these arguments prove? Words, words, words, are they, with nought of substance, nought of weight by the side of a patent fact. For look at the Government majority on the Ulster clause of the Home Rule Bill on the first day of this year. Ninety-seven it was, and David, if he could not actually have turned the scale by putting his stone in it, could so far have weighed it down as to insure success for the cause he undertook to espouse. There would have been no need to use the stone; the Nationalist legs of Goliath would have given way under him at the mere proposal to use it, and Goliath's head would have seen the wisdom of following the lead of his nether limbs. In that decision Goliath would have found his greatest glory; since the maintenance of Liberal principles is surely the crown of the Liberal Party. And the Labour Party might place that crown upon Goliath's head—if the Labour Party's will were sure. For the way is plain; not a dangerous way, either, to the life of the Government or the being of the Labour Party. Is the will wanting? Suffragists, when they ask the watchman what he can tell them of the night, must ask that question. And to think that it is in the power of the little band of men who represent the class for whose wives and daughters suffragists are fighting; to think that it is in their power to answer that the day cometh! To think that they have the great opportunity! To think that they have, till now, neglected to take it!

If till the end they refuse, if they let the golden hour go by into darkness, surely it will be because the night they are inviting is already in their eyes. G. COLMORE.

A WELCOME FELLOW WORKER.—From the issues to hand of the latest Suffrage paper, *The Woman's Outlook*, the organ of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, we find that considerable activity for the Cause is being carried on, and a campaign is to be waged against ignorance and prejudice. That it is necessary is shown from one item in the November issue which tells of Madame Una Wookey's successful appeal against the Incorporated Law Society for refusing to accept her as a qualified attorney. The judgment was reversed on appeal simply because she was a woman. *The Outlook* pays a generous tribute to the influence in all countries of the struggle of British women for enfranchisement. We wish the new Suffrage paper (P.O., Box 118, Grahamstown, C.P.) rapid growth and great success.

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## Sir Edward Grey's Amendment to the Reform Bill.

The Amendment proposes to delete the word "male" before "persons" and is the first stage of the women's chances of enfranchisement.

### RULES:

1. The competition is open to all our readers except members of the Headquarters staff.
2. Each forecast must be accompanied by the coupon below, and give the name and address of the sender.
3. Coupons must be addressed to the Editor, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.; the envelope marked *Prize Competition*. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient if the flap of the envelope is tucked inside.
4. Competitors may send as many forecasts as they like provided each is accompanied by a coupon.
5. The competition will remain open until the day before the voting on the amendment.
6. The Editor's decision will be final.

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### POLITICAL NEWS.

#### Juggling with Words.

In the House of Commons on December 31 Sir Henry Craik (U., Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) asked the Prime Minister whether the Solicitor-General expressed the view of the Government when he said in the London Opera House on December 4 that the Franchise Bill, with a Woman Suffrage amendment, was secure in enjoying the full advantage of the Parliament Act, and whether a Bill altered in a sense contradictory of a previous decision of the present House of Commons would be one to which the Government would be prepared, without any further appeal to the people, to apply the provisions of the Parliament Act.

Mr. Asquith said that in the speech referred to the Solicitor-General was careful to point out that what he was saying did not constitute any new declaration, either on behalf of the Government or himself (the Prime Minister). He referred the hon. gentleman to his own declarations on the subject, to which he had nothing to add.

Sir Henry Craik.—Can he not give us a plain answer to the latter part of the question, as to whether the Parliament Act would apply in a case where this current Parliament had altered its decision?

Mr. Asquith.—I think it would be better to discuss the question when we come to the Bill itself.

Mr. Clynes (Lab., Manchester, N.E.).—Can the right hon. gentleman say what chance the Bill would have if the Parliament Act did not apply?

Mr. Asquith.—That is a matter of opinion. Lord Robert Cecil (U., Hitchin) asked when the Franchise Bill would be taken.

Mr. Asquith said he would like to have notice of the question.

#### "The Deepest of Remaining Political Wrongs."

*The Daily Citizen's* words are excellent; they must be followed by deeds. On January 6, in a leading article, it said: "We believe that democracy will remain a maimed and incomplete thing, the rankling sense of injustice will not be removed, the splendid enthusiasm and energies of women will not be set free for great social causes, until men and women stand free and equal in the political field. We say without hesitation that the exclusion of women from the rights and obligations of citizenship is the deepest of all remaining political wrongs, that the enfranchisement of women is the most urgent and pressing of all political reforms. Wage-earning women need the vote so that they can add political power to the industrial power which they can now exercise as members of trade unions, and so strengthen themselves in the fight against sweating and oppression. The wives of workmen need the vote so that they may play a full part in the struggle against slumdom and child-hunger and unemployment and pauperism, and all the other evils of the present industrial system. All women need the vote so that they may no longer be branded as political inferiors. . . . It is our deliberate and considered opinion that the Irish Nationalist Members, whose votes will mainly determine this question, could strike no greater blow against the Home Rule movement, now happily on the very verge of victory, than to attempt the defeat of women's enfranchisement. . . . The Nationalists, we take it, have avoided too many pitfalls in the past to fall into one dug specially for them by the anti-suffragists. If the Irish movement is true to the women's movement they will both pass safely through the gates of victory."

#### Against the Third Reading.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., speaking at Glasgow, on January 5, said the Government were now about to take up the Reform Bill. If an amendment to include Women's Suffrage was not accepted he and others would vote against its third reading.

#### Adult Suffrage Demonstration.

On Sunday, January 5, a big demonstration demanding Adult Suffrage, took place in Trafalgar-square, in which the British Socialist party and other organisations joined. Mr. H. M. Hyndman, supporting the resolution said that by associating themselves in the demand for Woman Suffrage the advocates of Adult Suffrage ran the risk of alienating much support from themselves, but they recognised that women must be in the movement if the present awful state of social conditions were to be removed.

The resolution, in the following terms, was carried by acclamation: "This meeting calls upon the Government at once to introduce an Adult Suffrage Bill, giving the vote to all men and women as the only complete and satisfactory solution of the Suffrage question."

#### Suffragists Chloroformed and Robbed.

The following facts, published widely in the Press, are taken from *The Daily News*, January 3.

Disquieting rumours of the chloroforming and attempted chloroforming of ladies have been received from Bath. Some weeks ago Miss Wheelwright, a well-known Bath Suffragist, was attacked while walking in a lonely spot by a person who held a chloroformed pad to her face. Having succeeded in rendering her temporarily unconscious, he robbed her of a ring. Soon afterwards a servant-girl formerly in Miss Wheelwright's employment was attacked in the same manner, and a handkerchief held to her face, but her cries brought assistance. The assailant escaped.

The latest story concerns two girls who were walking at night

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near the Midland bridge over the River Avon, when they were accosted by a well-dressed man, who persuaded one of them to deliver a letter for him. She found the house to which the letter was addressed to be empty, and subsequently her father opened the letter and found the message inside, "Chloroform the bearer if necessary."

It is thought there is no connection between this and the former outrages.

#### The Culprits Go Scot Free.

From a letter which appeared in *The Westminster Gazette*, on December 31, under the heading of "The Goose and the Gander," signed "E.M.A.," we take the following extract, which succeeds a protest against violent treatment of militant Suffragists:—

"I went down to Buckhurst Hill to address a Suffrage meeting. The hall was small but crowded. Suddenly a small flame sprang up close to a lady's skirt, and there was a general stampede for the door. Some young men had put down a smoke-bomb, which filled the place with dense black smoke and horrid stench. The scamps escaped, though there were three policemen at the door. No one cares; no one makes any fuss. But just think what would have been said had it been a Suffragette who had played such a prank."

#### The Children's Bureau at Work.

The following significant facts appear in *The Standard* of the first investigations of the Children's Bureau in the United States.

The Children's Bureau at Washington, D.C., which is under the directorship of Miss Julia Lathrop, has just begun its first investigations into the causes of infant mortality. According to Dr. Cressy Wilbur, chief statistician for vital statistics, at least 300,000 babies die annually in the United States under one year of age, which, calculating roughly, means that every eighth baby dies before the year is out. In unfavourable localities the rate rises to 373 per 1,000, while the corresponding rate in good residential quarters is 156 per 1,000. This investigation is the first intensive house-to-house inquiry conducted by the United States Government, which is based upon birth records rather than upon death records. A carefully prepared schedule has been sent to the parents of children born within a given year in the areas under consideration, and the conditions of each child during its first year of life will be traced. Parents are required to answer questions regarding housing, feeding, and care of the child, the milk supply, their industrial and economic conditions, and the sanitary conditions of the neighbourhood. Each city will be a complete study in itself, so that it can easily be compared with later studies and furnish records of varying social and industrial conditions.

#### Michigan Not Yet Won.

The news of the defeat of Woman Suffrage in the State of Michigan by the narrow majority of 760 votes is a disappointment which will only lead to further effort, even though the subject cannot be dealt with by legislation until 1914. The returns from country districts were very seriously delayed, and it is these which have turned the scale. Suffragists declare that illegal influences were used against them, and that the liquor trade was seriously alarmed. It is said that there were 12,000 uninitiated ballots, and that Michigan's Supreme Court will be asked to pass judgment on them.

#### Woman Candidate for French Presidency.

Mademoiselle Marie Denizard, a Suffragist of long standing, is a candidate for the office of President of the French Republic. The election will take place about January 17. If she gains one vote she will have done as well as M. Crévy, M. Combes, the Duc d'Aumale, and others did at their first attempt. She told a *Journal* interviewer:

"I have no illusions about the result of the election, I shall not replace M. Fallières at the Elysée, but if the feminists in the Chamber and Senate vote for me—and there are some—it will be interesting. Queen Victoria was a Chief of State; so is Queen Wilhelmina. And have we not seen in France women acting as Regents for Kings who were minors? My candidature is not so fantastic as one might think. It means that woman has the right to take her part in government, as she pays her share of the taxes..."

#### Determined Resistance.

The following paragraph from *The Scotsman* (January 2) will be read with interest; it appeared on the same day in a number of newspapers, including *The Yorkshire Post* and *The Birmingham Post*.

There is the prospect of a sharp struggle between the Insurance Commissioners and the Women's Suffrage societies. The Commissioners' efforts to get information from them in regard to the working of the Insurance Act have met with indignant repudiation. The women have replied in express terms ignoring the Act altogether, on the ground that the principle of representation with taxation has been ignored, and that the Act, with all its inconveniences, was passed without in any way consulting them. It remains to be seen what the Commissioners will do in face of this development. The societies are fully determined to abide by the consequences, whatever they may be. The resistance is being led by the Women's Freedom League.

### OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

#### The Budapest Congress, June 15-20, 1913.

Miss Rosika Schwimmer sends the following interesting news of the arrangements for the Women's Suffrage Congress:— For all members of the Congress we have secured advantages on the Hungarian as well as on foreign railways and steamer (also Transatlantic) lines. Many are the schemes now at work to help our funds. Until the Congress, guests at afternoon teas, parties, and "At Homes" now make a voluntary payment for their enjoyment; this plan has already brought to the treasury many hundred crowns. In many families the children have saving-boxes for the Congress funds, the little Countess Haller Janosi Kozma, who is a student of the Gymnasium and an ardent Suffragist since she was four years of age, heading the list of these little collectors. Another girl-student of the Gymnasium gives lessons to her fellow-students, the payment for which goes to the Congress funds. A cinematograph performance was generously given in aid of our funds; this good example was followed also by owners of cinematographs in country places. Sports have also paid their tribute. On November 1 two distinguished football clubs held a match for our benefit. We are indebted to the committee of artists presided over by the Countess Pejasevich and the painter, Ritta Boemm, for a good sum. Our most prominent painters and sculptors, men and women, have made us presents of about sixty works of art, which were sold by auction by the popular writer and director of an artists' cabaret, M. Endre Nagy, as auctioneer. M. Endre Nagy has written humorous poems about our work, which are recited every evening at the cabaret and arouse keen interest. Various municipalities and districts have contributed to the funds. Touching episodes show us how deep is the understanding for our Cause in all circles of the population. The Society of Peasant Women (agricultural working women) of the village of Balmazujváros sent us 63 crowns. This gift we value most highly, as it means really a great sacrifice by these exceedingly poor women for the Cause. A cook in a country town gave to a member of our executive 3 crowns received as a tip. Her wages were required for urgent needs, but she said: "It is my duty to show that I am thankful to the movement which will improve the position of all women, and I beg you to give the tip to the Congress fund." In December we arranged a Christmas bazaar, with lectures by the Countess Teleki, the famous writer, Terka Lux, and the English Suffragist, Miss Cicely Corbett, which also brought us good profit.

For the sake of propaganda we put, free of charge, at the disposition of all Suffrage Societies of the twenty-four countries affiliated to the International Alliance, a lecture with 105 lantern slides dealing with Hungary, written by the Countess Teleki and Mrs. Szirmay. For more than a year the Committee of Interpreters, organised by Mrs. de Szirmay, has arranged conversational lessons in German, French and English, so that there should be at the disposal of the members of the Congress well-equipped guides and interpreters. The Committee of Guides, presided over by Mrs. Eugenie Miskolezy Meller, will be at the service of members of the Congress for sight-seeing. The Reception Committee, presided over by Mrs. Olga Ungar, is arranging for accommodation for members in the best hotels and boarding-houses of Budapest and dealing with offers of hospitality. The Committee of Young People, presided over by Flora Békassy, the members of which will serve as pages during the Congress, takes part at the lessons in foreign languages and is studying the history of the women's movement of different countries. They also arranged a soirée with a theatrical performance on behalf of the Congress.

The Congress will be held in the Municipal Redoute, beautifully situated on the banks of the Danube. Oriental women will take part for the first time at a Suffrage Congress. Ma Hla Oung, the leader of the Buddhist women of Burma, who is herself town councillor, and her daughter Mah Nee Nee, Chinese Members of Parliament, and probably men and women of other Oriental countries, are expected to be present at the Congress. The Chinese women will bring a purple silk banner on which is embroidered in Chinese letters the sentence: "Let us hold together. We are working for the same ideals." This banner is a present to the International Alliance for Woman Suffrage. Private persons (men and women) and Corporations are admitted as members of the Congress. The membership fee is 10 crowns = 10 fr. = 8.50 marks = 2 dollars = 8s. 6d.

The importance of the Congress is enhanced by the meeting of the second Congress of the International Men's League for Woman Suffrage, which will be held in Budapest at the same time and which will be presided over by the Right Hon. Sir John Cockburn, who as Prime Minister of Australia has granted women the suffrage.

Do YOU WANT TO SUCCEED IN LIFE?—Our readers will do well to consider Mr. Frank Hartley's offer with regard to scientific development of personality. By sending two penny stamps to him at The London Institute of Mental Culture, 35, Wellington-street, Strand, a copy of "How Failure Becomes Impossible" and a specimen lesson will be sent. It will then be open to them to enrol themselves among the first hundred applicants this week for the entire course at half fees.



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FRIDAY, January 10, 1913.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.  
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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## TOWARDS UNITY.

Not uniformity! That is the mistake which lies at the root of the greater number of our present difficulties. Diversity in unity: the one in the many, the many in the one, is the principle behind everything that is beautiful and strong. The many working blindly independent one of the other, and even in antagonism, makes for chaos. The one dominating, superior, forcing the others to serve, makes for tyranny.

It cannot be too fully realised that the secret of the future is with those who understand this truth and who are prepared to work for its recognition in the world.

On many different sides it touches us to-day. In another column of this issue of THE VOTE will be found an account of the visit of Abdul Baha, the Persian prophet and teacher, to our League, and of the earnest crowd that came together to hear him speak on the subject that engrosses so much attention to-day, "The Equality of Men and Women."

It was a memorable occasion, which will leave its impress on all those who were present. Here we are not so much concerned with what was said then, or at other times, during the visit to London of this strange and beautiful human being who is called by his disciples "the Servant of God," as with the spirit that, wherever he goes, seems to radiate from him.

This spirit is not new to the world. Right down through the ages there have been those who have felt it and who have sought to give it expression, but it has not entered, as a compelling force, into the highways and byways of life. What makes the wonder of the present day; what may, if we can seize the fateful moment, save and purify society, is that the conception of human unity is beginning to set its mark upon the practical side of life. For many an age great ideals have been in the world, or rather above the world, in the clouds of vision and aspiration. Now they have come nearer; and the result is shame and sorrow over that in which we find ourselves.

Think of it! That now, after these many years of Christianity and civilisation, we should still have sweated women, and exploited workers, and starving babes, and ill-nurtured children, and girls captured and done to death in the vilest traffic the world has ever known. That, further, when no one dares deny that all this is; when, indeed, the existence of these horrors is testified to by the passing of poor, attenuated laws, which scarcely touch the fringe of the evils that they profess to deal with drastically, men should still be proud of their political ability, and should still deny to women, as inferiors, a place in citizenship. That in the meantime our statesmen and the greater number of our politicians, engaged in party manoeuvring, fail to see whither the world is driving—all this is bewildering. Were it not that because we have seen the vision and are working

for its fulfilment, the outlook might almost make us despair.

One of the strangest features in the whole of this sad business is the calm assumption of superior wisdom on the part of those who, not having felt their brothers' and sisters' anguish, are contented with things as they are. Says a writer in Saturday's issue of *The Standard's* Woman's Platform, preaching a lesson to impatient Suffragists: "In obedience to the laws of Nature, my sex will find fullest liberty and power of expansion."

That is the sort of unpractical dreaming that is given out as if it were the highest wisdom. Human man-made law and absurd social conventions, based on false relations, have taken the place of natural law.

The highest of all the laws of Nature is that which knits us together in the bonds of a common humanity; through disobedience to that law the woman and the worker are being deprived of liberty, are being held back from the expansion which is their human right. And the hope which lies behind the Woman's movement consists in this: that we are working towards unity, not as a beautiful theory to be admired afar off; but as a moving, renovating power and influence in our everyday lives.

Man and woman—a dual humanity—womanhood, manhood, not uniform, but equal in dignity and power—albeit the power may function in different ways—standing together all the world over, to heal the miseries into which our unnatural way of treating one another and regarding the universe have plunged us! It is towards that we are moving. May our VOTE throughout the year that has just opened, be a messenger and herald of this gospel of peace. It will be noticed that we lay stress on the international point of view; we have other ventures on foot, for we feel that the goodwill and spirit of comradeship aroused by our November festival must not be allowed to sleep, and if our fellow-members and friends stand by us loyally, we shall not fail.

In the meantime, and especially during the next fortnight, we must be active. It is said that the first amendment to the Reform Bill will be taken on January 20. Varying rumours are in the air. There are those who say that our Cause never stood so well, that never was there so good a reason for believing that in a very short time the unseemly strife that has been dividing men and women in this country will come to an end. Others predict the worst. What we know is that our friends inside the House are leaving no stone unturned to ensure success, and that some of them are hopeful.

Some of us have been taking holiday. Returning refreshed, let us work as we have never worked before, and whatever the immediate result may be, we shall know that the hope which has borne us up through opposition, difficulties, and even apparent failure, cannot die, for it is rooted in the Eternal.

We are moving towards unity, and therefore we can never really fail. C. DESPARD.

### BY-ELECTIONS.

Two by-elections are pending, one in the Flint Boroughs, caused by the death of Mr. J. W. Summers, the late Liberal Member, and the other at Derry, where the sitting Member, Lord Hamilton, has succeeded his father, the Duke of Abercorn, whose death took place last week. Mr. T. H. Roberts is the Unionist candidate for the Flint Boroughs. The Women's Freedom League will oppose the Government candidate at the Flint Boroughs election unless he is known to be a strong and proved friend of Woman Suffrage. According to *The Daily News* a Labour candidate is "not to be countenanced," and the Parliamentary Labour Party does not welcome or encourage the local trade unions in their efforts to secure one. "He would have no chance at all of election; he might, however, just get enough votes to keep the Liberal out" is the significant comment of *The Daily News*.

The latest results were:—

| FLINT BOROUGHES.       |       | DERRY.                      |       |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| December, 1910.        |       | December, 1910.             |       |
| J. W. Summers (L.) ..  | 2,098 | Marquis of Hamilton (C.) .. | 2,415 |
| Col. H. Howard (C.) .. | 1,589 | Mr. J. R. Leslie (N.) ..    | 2,310 |
| Liberal Majority ..    | 509   | Conservative Majority ..    | 105   |

## AN EASTERN PROPHET'S MESSAGE. ABDUL BAHA SAYS: "THERE IS NO DISTINCTION: MEN AND WOMEN ARE EQUAL."

A venerable figure, radiating brotherliness, despite long years of imprisonment, wearing a long brown robe and a white turban, which emphasized the keen, alert eyes, Abdul Baha greeted with evident pleasure the crowded audience which received him with reverent enthusiasm at the Women's Freedom League meeting, Essex Hall, on January 2. The leader of the Bahai Movement, speaking through a very able interpreter, said:—

This is a wonderful gathering. I hope its purposes and objects will be realised, demonstrating to mere man that men and women are equal. May it become an impetus to women in all parts of the world to greater achievements!

The world of humanity is like a bird with its two wings—one is male, the other female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards. According to the spirit of this age, women must advance and fulfil their mission in all departments of life, becoming equal to men. There is no difference between men and women. They must be on the same level as men and receive all their rights. This is my earnest prayer, and it is one of the fundamental principles of Baha Ullah.\* Baha Ullah proclaimed that the world of humanity was one tree; all nations, peoples, religions, men and women constitute the branches, leaves, blossoms, fruit. In this one peerless tree there is no distinction of gender in God's sight. Whoever practises humanitarian work draws near to God, whether man or woman; there is no distinction.

As we study world phenomena we come to the conclusion that in the mineral and vegetable kingdoms there is no difference between male and female; in plant life there is no strife for suffrage; the vegetable kingdom has suffrage already. Likewise in the animal kingdom there is no quarrel and strife between male and female, although it is an inferior creation to man. The male never taunts the female with his superiority; both enjoy perfect equality. Why should man, who is endowed with great intelligence, who is made in the likeness of God, stoop so low as to permit such things? That he should ever dare to declare himself superior to woman is astonishing. He thinks himself as a creation to be above woman. He declares that at present women have not attained to his intellectual and artistic level; that they are intellectually weaker; their will power is less; so man must be superior.

Some scientists have declared that the brains of men are heavier when weighed than women's, and so science shows that men are superior. Yet when we look round us we see people with small heads, whose brains must weigh little, but they show the keenest intelligence and great powers of understanding; and others with big heads, whose brains must be heavy, and yet they are witless. Therefore the avoirdupois of the brain has nothing to do with intelligence or superiority.

When men bring forward the second proof of their superiority by saying that women have not achieved as much as men, they use poor arguments which leave history out of consideration. If they kept themselves more fully informed historically they would know that great women have lived and achieved great things in the past, and that there are many living and achieving great things to-day.

Let us turn for a moment to history, and we shall see what women have accomplished in humanitarian, charitable, religious, and administrative work. As regards political life there was the great and powerful Queen of Palmyra, Zenobia, whose dramatic history most people know. When the king, her husband, died, she showed such administrative capacity that the Roman Government appointed her his successor; she waged wars and gained great victories in Syria, she laid siege to Cairo and took it; but she also organised an efficient and just

\* Father and predecessor in leadership of Abdul Baha.

Government, and through her sagacious administration, wise deliberation, strict justice, and great hope for the advancement of the people under her rule, her new subjects unanimously accepted her as Queen, although she belonged to another nation. She built many cities, the remains of which are to be seen to-day; the many tourists from Europe and America who visit them are astonished at the signs of her power and wisdom. She became so powerful that she threw off the Roman yoke, and when the legions of Rome were marshalled against her, she completely routed them, although her army was much smaller. Clad in a red mantle, wearing her crown, sword in hand, she charged at the head of her army; such dauntless courage was irresistible, and victory was complete.

Many other women have accomplished great things in the past, too many to be mentioned here to-night; they have administered justice, shown themselves powerful, resourceful, and courageous. These are historic facts. In the religious world it is the same. You find recorded in the Old Testament how all the conquests of the Israelitish nation were inspired by one woman; His Holiness Moses was not permitted to cross the Jordan after caring for the children of Israel in the wilderness forty years, but a woman led them to victory. Likewise during the Messianic dispensation, after the crucifixion of His Holiness Christ, the apostles were shaken in their faith; even Peter, the rock on which the Church was to be founded, had denied his Master three times; finally it was Mary Magdalene who strengthened them, assuring them that the Christ ever lives, is changeless; His body was crucified, but He was the Word of God from the beginning to eternity. This fearless woman saved Christianity to shine everlastingly on the horizon of glory.

Amongst the women of our own time there is Qu'urat 'ul Ain, the daughter of a Mohammedan priest; at the time of the appearance of the Bab she showed such tremendous courage and power, that all who heard her were astonished. She threw aside her veil, despite the immemorial custom of the Persians, and although it is considered impolite to speak with men, this heroic woman carried on controversies with the wisest men, and in every meeting she vanquished them. The Persian Government took her prisoner, she was stoned in the streets, anathematised, exiled from town to town, threatened with death, but she never failed in her determination to work for the freedom of her sisters. She bore persecution and suffering with the greatest heroism; even in prison she gained converts. To a Persian Minister, in whose house she was imprisoned, she said: "You may kill me as soon as you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women." At last the end of her tragic life came; she was carried into a garden and strangled. She put on, however, her choicest robes as if she were going to join a bridal party. With such magnanimity and courage she gave her life, startling and thrilling all who saw her. She was truly a great heroine. To-day in Persia among the Bahais, there are women who also show unflinching courage, and are endowed with great poetic insight; they are most eloquent, and speak before large gatherings of people.

Women must go on advancing; they must extend their knowledge of science, literature, history for the perfecting of humanity. Ere long more will receive their rights. Men will see women in earnest, bearing themselves with dignity, improving the civic and political life, opposed to warfare, demanding suffrage and equal opportunities. I expect to see you advance in all phases of life; then will your brows be crowned with the diadem of eternal glory.

In giving his benediction at the close of the meeting, Abdul Baha said:—

O Thou Almighty, confirm the members of this Society;

assist these souls present to arise and serve the world of humanity, to proclaim the oneness of the world of women, that they may become free from past prejudices and behold the countenance of God. O God, confer marvellous progress upon this Society; cause it to advance in all the virtues of humanity; illumine the hearts of all with the rays of Thy Kingdom; quicken their spirits with the breath of Thy Holy Spirit, and bestow the life of God. Give us Thy blessing so that men and women may have equal freedom; may they attain to equal rights so that even male and female may be entirely forgotten. May all unitedly and solemnly serve Thee and obtain the blessings of God. Give us Thy bounty, O Lord, so that all humanity, men and women, characterised by the image of God, may attain the supreme knowledge of Thee, discover the foundation of all holiness, live and act in accordance with Divine teaching, unitedly and with one accord, their hearts cemented and spirits joyous till they see the world of heaven!

The announcement that Abdul Baha would speak on the Equality of Men and Women at a meeting arranged by the Women's Freedom League, at the Essex Hall, on Thursday, January 2, attracted so large a gathering, that not only was the Hall crowded to its utmost limits, but many had to be turned away. Mrs. Despard presided, and in an introductory speech welcomed the Prophet from the East with his great message of peace. She said that it was the false relations between men and



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women which had brought discord, and what all desired was that the discord should cease. She gave a brief outline of the Bahai movement, beginning with the coming of the Bab—The Gateway—who died a martyr's death, but his teaching lived, and the number of his followers grew in spite of persecutions, imprisonments, and martyrdoms. She spoke of the wonderful progress of the woman's movement in Persia, and especially of Qu'urut 'ul Ain and her remarkable influence in the emancipation of women, through her tragic life to a martyr's death. We can never forget, she said, the great spiritual force behind the woman's movement; it is moving throughout the world; knowing this, we go on with courage and hope.

After the Master's address, Mrs. Holmes made a moving appeal for service in the woman's Cause; personal service and the service of money; the Suffrage movement, she said, was part of the great Divine plan for the regeneration of the world. Till the status of woman was raised it was impossible to complete the plan.

Lady Bloomfield, in a short speech about the Bahai movement, said she was glad to identify herself with her sisters working for freedom. She told how the message of Abdul Baha was not an essay written in a luxurious library; it was a cry of regeneration ringing out from behind prison walls. Now he had come out into the world with his message—peace, the banishment of religious differences, humanity not fighting against each other but against evil, and the equality of men and women. Mr. Sidley, in a sympathetic speech, said that none could fail to be impressed by the simplicity and sympathy of the Master after forty years of prison. All paid homage to his courage and fidelity of purpose and the Divine intention of his message.

Be strong!  
We are not here to play; to dream, to drift;  
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift;  
Shun not the struggle, face it, 'tis God's gift.

Be strong!  
Say not the days are evil—who's to blame?  
And fold the hands and acquiesce—O shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!  
It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day how long,  
Faint not, fight on! To-morrow comes the song.  
—M. D. BABCOCK.

#### WHAT WE ARE DOING.

The Women's Freedom League is now in process of resisting the Insurance Act as a protest against Government without consent, without expressing any opinion as to the virtues or vices of a national insurance scheme. There is, however, an aspect of the present situation which is of extreme importance to women in general in view of their unrepresented condition and the consequent elements of additional compulsion which enters into their position under the Act. The Government has managed to fall out with the doctors, and in spite of all the bluster of the Liberal Press, it is a question whether any adequate medical service is going to be available in return for contributions compulsorily deducted. It would be a last outrage, a final abomination, if after having this highly paternal form of control inflicted on us without consultation, we get as the return for enforced insurance an inadequate benefit and a totally inefficient service in time of need.

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100 STUDENTS AT HALF FEES.

**FRANK HARTLEY,**

#### WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

##### Minimum Wage for Women.

An important extension of the minimum wage principle has been approved by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. This concession is the result of a movement inaugurated a few years ago by the Women's Co-operative Guild, which had for its object a minimum wage for co-operative female employees, of whom there are about 11,000 in this country. Beginning with the distributive societies, the Guild convinced first one and then another of the justice of the demand until no fewer than 180 societies had adopted the proposal, which has now been finally endorsed by the Wholesale Society. Under this scheme a minimum wage scale has been set up throughout these great concerns. Girls of fourteen years of age will begin at 5s. a week, rising 2s. a year to 17s. at twenty. What is specially significant in this case is that women have by their own efforts improved their wages. The Guild is not, as Trade Unions go, a very strong body; but it may claim credit for being the first to gain by its own efforts an extension of the minimum wage principle to women. The female chainmakers also have a minimum, but that is because the trade is classified as a sweated industry, and is, therefore, under the direct supervision of a Wages Board.

##### Women to Enter the Ranks of the Well-paid in 1913.

Before long women expect to have their feet on another ladder. In the High Court a Girton student, through her solicitors, will ask the Law Society to show cause why she should not be registered as a solicitor. Since men high in the profession have repeatedly said that there is no reason; since women have practised successfully as lawyers for years in Australia, Canada, America, France, Switzerland and Finland; since even the Committee of the Council of the Russian Empire have this month adopted a Bill providing for the admission of women to the Bar, it is reasonable to suppose that in England now "every word importing the masculine gender only, shall extend and be applied to a female as well as a male." That would be the thin end of the wedge so far as the legal profession is concerned. It would mean the opening of a lucrative profession to women.

The year 1913 will see women at last in the ranks of the well-paid. A woman has just been admitted as lady licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons; another woman has this month achieved the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery at Manchester University, demonstrating the fact that woman is no longer handicapped in her choice of one of the most prosperous

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A. F. C.

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Room 23, London Institute of Menti-Culture,  
35, Wellington Street, London, W.C.

professions; that the facilities so long denied to woman in dental surgery have been removed. A Bill is shortly coming before Parliament which will make the way clear for her in accountancy. Hitherto the Institute of Chartered Accountants has refused to admit women as members. But their day is coming, and it is a good day. The work is well paid and the practitioners as yet are few. Moreover, the accountant will become more and more in demand as the small trader, with his individual methods of keeping accounts, is superseded by the limited company whose business must be in the hands of chartered accountants.

Women have begun their conquest of the air, and may be expected to go on. 1912 witnessed the first flying meeting for women at Hendon, an altitude of 4,150ft. has this year been attained by a woman in England, ten women are now certified pilots, and the Women's Aerial League has offered a scholarship of £50 for three years to a student of aviation at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Great things are expected in 1913.

#### Women Workers' Home.

In a few weeks' time an attempt will be made to deal with one of the most serious aspects of the housing question in South London. Hitherto there have been very few cheap and respectable lodging-houses where working women could stay with any measure of comfort or privacy, but some time ago Mrs. Ada Lewis left £300,000 to provide a lodging-house which should be an improved type of Rowton House for women.

Mrs. Lewis was the widow of the late Mr. Sam Lewis, the famous moneylender of Cork-street. Mr. Lewis left his widow the bulk of his fortune of nearly four millions, and when she died in 1906 a million of this vast sum became available for charities under her first husband's will.

As a result, a large home has been built in the New Kent-road, where 300 women can be provided with bedrooms at sixpence a night, a sum which compares favourably with the charges of the ordinary lodging-houses in the same neighbourhood. The upper floors of the building are devoted to separate bedrooms, which are a considerable advance upon the cubicles at present provided even in some model lodging-houses, while the larger rooms, which contain two beds, are fitted with quite a suite of bedroom furniture. In addition to the "shop" where cooked food is sold and a kitchen with stoves and gas-rings where the women can cook their own food, there are spacious dining, reading, and serving rooms. Another feature is a bath for a penny and a laundry where the women can do their washing.

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### ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

WOMAN'S INFLUENCE ON THE PROGRESS OF KNOWLEDGE. By Henry Thomas Buckle. (The Women's Rights' Library. Price 6d.)

The famous historian Henry Thomas Buckle, would assuredly have been a most enthusiastic member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage had he not died a couple of generations before it came into existence! This essay on "Woman's Influence on the Progress of Knowledge" must have brought much ridicule on his devoted head, when it first appeared, for it rides gaily full-tilt through the most cherished male—and particularly scientific—male—prejudices with regard to women's mental ability. Even to-day many are ready contemptuously to say that woman jumps to conclusions, but man laboriously proves them, and that his method is the only one by which great scientific discoveries are made, and therefore the only one worth serious consideration. "Nothing of the sort!" says Buckle. The discovery of the law of gravitation, of the uniformity of crystals, of the "Homologies of the Vertebrate Skeleton"—which certainly sounds most awe-inspiring scientific—were all made by the deductive—or "intuitive"—method as opposed to the inductive. He finds on this an eloquent and refreshingly enthusiastic appeal for a proper recognition of woman's special intuitive genius, and an appreciation of the services she has rendered to the progress of knowledge by encouraging and keeping alive this habit of deductive thought. It is a most readable booklet and though, of course, more or less out of date now—for we are not to-day inclined to admit any sex distinction in the intellectual realm—contains much suggestive thought that is still applicable to the position of woman. "The Women's Rights' Library" is to be congratulated on having brought to light such an interesting contribution to feminist literature.

M. H.

THE CONSUMER IN REVOLT. By Mrs. Billington Greig. (Stephan Swift and Co., 16, King-street, Covent-garden. 1s.)

Mrs. Billington Greig's little book, "The Consumer in Revolt" is a revelation of what we consume, and though it does not conduce to appetite the knowledge of what our food and drink, our medicines, our dress and furniture really are made of, will tend to make the consumer demand a greater honesty from the supplier.

In the report of the Local Government Board, under the Sales of Food and Drugs Act, 1910-11, the analysis of 100,749 samples proved 8,252 to be adulterated, with 253 minor offences against the Act, making a total of 8,510 or 82 per cent.

Milk and butter, oddly enough, appear to be the most dangerous of all foods according to Dr. Haden Guest, and an analysis of our most trusted patent medicines is valuable propaganda for the Christian scientists.

Mrs. Billington Greig recognises that the whole blame must not be put on the capitalist. "The worker does not come to the consumer with clean hands . . . ; to the agency exacted from him as an employed worker he has added a few dishonest tricks of his own. Time-killing is one of them, and the doing of shoddy work from sheer laziness is another. The *ca' canny* policy with which he seeks to restrict production, and the deliberate prolongation or creation of work by special devices, at which he excels and in which he shows an amazing indifference to the destruction of the work of his own hands."

The remedy Mrs. Billington Greig suggests should be a Consumers' League, demanding honesty alike from master and man. The national purchaser, woman, has great power, backed up by organised Leagues such as the Women's Co-operative Guild and the local authorities; with concerted action this evil state of affairs might be stopped.

M. W. N.

### TO OUR MEMBERS.

This is the time of year when everyone makes good resolutions. We suggest two for every member of the W.F.L. :-

1. To anyone who does not take "THE VOTE" (there should not be one member, but there may be), **take it each week, and read it.**
2. To every member taking one copy regularly, **take TWO copies, TO BOTH.**—Give the order to your newsagent NOW, so that it is not forgotten. Pass one copy on to a friend, or leave it in a public place. REMEMBER! The "Man in the Street" does not understand even yet WHY you want a vote. To circulate **your** paper is the best way of informing him.

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### HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

The criminal returns for Scotland just published show a marked decrease in crime all round, but an alarming increase in wife-beating and other assaults by men on women.

#### Attempted Murder.

On January 2, at Welshpool, David Ruscoe, 48, was arrested for attempted murder. Had been drinking for a fortnight, threatened his wife with an axe because she would not give him beer money, then said he would shoot. Wife snatched up baby, and with sister ran out of house, shutting door. Man fired through door; sister seriously wounded, child injured.

#### "Entitled to Kick."

Frederick Austin, 37, pianoforte maker, charged before Mr. Hedderwick, North London Police-court, on December 31, with living on immoral earnings of a woman and with assaulting her, said, "I'm entitled to kick her, ain't I?" Previously convicted. Remanded for further proof in view of a committal for trial.

#### Parallel Cases.

Compare the sentence on James Hardman, by Lord Coleridge, with that passed on Maud Birchall, at the same (Manchester) assizes, who, wronged and deserted, left the body of her infant baby in the left luggage office, where it was found. Acquitted of infanticide, and found guilty of concealment of birth. **Nine months, second division.** No mention made of the father of the child.

Compare sentence on William Coburn, Glasgow, with that on William Cairney, also of Glasgow. Charge of "bag-snatching" at the Central Railway Station. William Coburn's case of attempting to decoy little girls for immoral purposes was summarily disposed of at the police-court; the far more shocking and disgraceful charge of "bag-snatching" was reserved for the Criminal Court; and the Sheriff, remarking that "such conduct could not be tolerated for a moment in a great city like Glasgow," sentenced this desperate offender to **Fifteen months' hard labour.**

#### Cruelty and Neglect of Children.

John Campbell, before Sheriff Lyell, Glasgow Sheriff's Court, charged with ill-treating and neglecting his six children, failing to supply them with food, clothes, bedding and medical aid. Was regularly employed, but gave his wife a bare modicum of his wages, asking her for it back again when he wanted drink. Through excessive drinking the house was bare of everything, the children semi-naked, the baby a skeleton. Wife a decent, hard-working soul. **Two months' hard labour.**

Albert Dunnington, of Bardsley, charged at Ashton, in an adjourned case, with cruelty to his children. Had been given "an opportunity for improvement" by the Bench, and went home drunk the same night. Told his wife he had "only" had 14 pints of beer and 7 small runs. **Six months' hard labour.**

George and Florence Jordan, Portsmouth, neglecting their children, who were found in a filthy condition with "layers upon layers of dirt" and a terrible stench, huddled in the scullery almost naked and swarming with vermin. Spirits and beer, but no food found. **One month each.**

Harry Lane and Mary Ellis, living together unmarried; charged together with cruelty to their children. Lane had two and Ellis (a widow) had six. Last April the man absconded on hearing a warrant was out against him in respect of the children, and was only arrested recently. The woman and children had been obliged to go into the workhouse. Children shockingly neglected. Woman had apparently had to go out to work, and was accused of "being absent all day" from the children! Case adjourned for a month on couple promising to get married!

In above cases it will be seen (a) that the treatment and starvation of the wife, and her misery in seeing her children starve, do not count; (b) that although the wife is not the legal parent, she is held responsible for the children's welfare, being punished with, and often instead of, the legally responsible parent in defiance of all justice and equity; holding the same position as a farm or stable servant who is cruel to the owner's beasts; (c) and that a deserting husband is only arrested when the family become chargeable to the parish.

EVERYWHERE woman is becoming more and more a definite personality with rights of her own and less and less of a tool, less and less a slave or a parasite. As wife and as mother, as citizen and administrator, woman is advancing. The conviction grows that women and men must work together as equals for the good of the State and for the welfare of the world.

J. CLIFFORD.

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EXHIBITION and SALE of EVENING DRESSES, CLOAKS, Etc. From JAN. 14th till 17th inclusive, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Readers of "THE VOTE" are cordially invited to inspect this SPECIAL SHOW.

### BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street Adelphi, W.C.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

LONDON.—Anerley and Crystal Palace Branch.—Sec.: Miss JESSIE FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

This Branch is co-operating with the local Branch of the C.L.W.S. in a public meeting on the White Slave Traffic to be held in the Town Hall, Anerley, on Monday, February 3, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam and Mr. Edward Smallwood, J.P., L.C.C. Admission free. Tickets (1s. and 6d.) may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Croydon.—Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Hon. Sec.: Mrs. LEVY, 9, Morland-avenue.

To facilitate arrangements the Secretary will be glad to receive by January 8 the names of all members who are bringing a friend to the Social on January 15. Mrs. Tanner has very kindly promised to speak on the Franchise Bill on Tuesday, January 21, at 8 o'clock. Will members book that date, and endeavour to bring at least one friend to the meeting?

Hampstead.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. SPILLER, 63, South-hill-park.

Hampstead and West Hampstead members will be glad to hear that their stall at the International Suffrage Fair made £30 clear profit. To the Fair Secretary, Mrs. J. Russell, we tender our very sincere thanks for her successful work in this connection. Our Branch meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, at 4, Downside-crescent, by kind permission of Mrs. Nevinson, at 8.15 p.m. Members are earnestly requested to attend.

Kensington.—Hon. Sec.: Miss MARION REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, N. Kensington.

Will members please remember the public meeting to be held at the Town Hall on January 31. It is proposed to open a shop for the fortnight preceding the meeting, and members are asked to write immediately to the secretary saying what time they can give in assisting at the shop and advertising the meeting. A Branch meeting will be held next week, of which members will receive notice. Business: Arrangements for January 31, and Conference resolutions. All members are urged to make a special effort to be present.

West Hampstead.—Hon. Sec.: Madame J. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road.

The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, at 8.15 p.m. at above address. Branch members are earnestly requested to attend.—J. V. R.

PROVINCES.—Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

The Whist Drive on New Year's Day was a great success. Our thanks are due to Miss Mottershall for the room, and to all the members who gave the prizes and refreshments. The sewing parties will be resumed on Wednesday, January 15, at 17, Lombard-street, from 3 to 9 p.m. Members are earnestly requested to advertise the public meeting at the Co-operative Hall, Gosport, on January 14. Speaker: Rev. G. W. Thompson. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

WILL MEMBERS HELP THE CAUSE by buying tea, chocolate, and soap from the Minerva Publishing Company, who will also execute printing orders?

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.**

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**  
 Thurs. Jan. 9. to Sat. Jan. 18.—Poplar Campaign. Great Demonstration. Poplar Town Hall, Tuesday, January 14, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Despard, Mr. John Scurr, Miss Anna Munro. *Shop:* 208, East India Dock-road. For poster parades and dinner-hour meetings see p. 175.  
 Sat. Jan. 11.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 10 a.m.  
 Mon., Jan. 13.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7 p.m. Mid-London Branch Members' Quarterly Meeting, followed by Special Meeting. Business: Resolutions for Annual Conference.  
 Tues., Jan. 14.—Poplar, Town Hall, Public Meeting. *Mrs. Despard, Mr. John Scurr, Miss Anna Munro and Mr. Lansbury.* 8 p.m.  
 Wed., Jan. 15.—Caxton Hall, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *H. D. Harben, Esq., and Mrs. Nevinson. Chair: Mrs. Despard.*  
 Thurs., Jan. 16.—White Slave Traffic Meeting, at Mrs. Harvey's, Braekenhill, Highland-road, Bromley. *Mrs. Despard, Miss C. Nina Boyle and C. F. Nye, Esq.* 6 p.m.  
 HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING, 4, Downside-crescent, 8.15 p.m.  
 Sat., Jan. 18.—Trafalgar-square. Demonstration to demand Votes for Women in 1913, 2.30 p.m.  
 Tues., Jan. 21.—CROYDON, W. F. L. Office, The Arcade, High-street. Meeting. *Speaker: Mrs. TANNER.* 8 p.m.  
 Wed., Jan. 22.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m.  
 Mon., Jan. 27.—CROYDON Public Meeting, at Small Public Hall, George-street, Croydon, at 8 p.m. *Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss C. Nina Boyle, Dr. Macpherson and Miss Munro.*  
 Wed., Jan. 29.—CLAPHAM PUBLIC HALL, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. *Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Tanner and Miss Munro. CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. J. Cameron Grant, Esq.*  
 Fri., Jan. 31.—KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Miss Munro.*  
 Sat., Feb. 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, Pimlico. *Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Chichele Nourse.* 8 p.m.  
 Wed., Feb. 5.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speakers: Mrs. Ackroyd and the Rev. Lewellyn Smith.*  
 Sun., Feb. 9.—BALHAM B.S.P. MEETING, 17, Defoe-road, Tooting, 8 p.m. *Mrs. Tanner on Political Situation.*  
 Fri., Feb. 21.—NORTHERN HEIGHTS, Public Meeting. *Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle and Miss Munro.*  
 Tues., Feb. 25.—MEETING AT SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James's, 3.30 p.m. *Miss Boyle on "Woman's Vote and the Empire."*  
 Thurs., Feb. 27.—WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD MEETING. *Mrs. Tanner.*  
 Sun., Mar. 16.—Humanitarian Society Meeting, Fife Hall, Fife-road, Kingston-on-Thames, 7.30 p.m. *Miss Boyle, "Women and World Politics."*

**PROVINCES.**  
 Fri., Jan. 10.—South Shields. *Miss Eunice Murray.*  
 Sat., Jan. 11.—Brighton and Hove. Branch Meeting, 8, San Remo Room, 8 p.m. *Miss Eunice Murray. Chester. Speaker's Class at 13, Abbey-square, 6 p.m.*  
 Tues., Jan. 14.—Csport. Co-operative Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker: Rev. G. W. Thompson. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.*  
 Liverpool. Aintree Institute, Aintree Branch Annual Meeting, 8 p.m. *Sunderland. Miss Eunice Murray.*  
 Wed., Jan. 15.—Manchester. 46a, Market-street, Social. Gosport and Portsmouth.—17, Lombard-street. Work Party, 3-9 p.m.  
 Mon., Jan. 20.—Gravesend. *Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Rev. A. Steven. Chair: Miss J. Gibson. Middlesbrough.—Hinton's Café (Luncheon Room), 8 p.m. Business Meeting.*  
 Tu., Jan. 28.—Liverpool. Aintree Institute. Public Meeting 8 p.m. *Miss Patricia Woodcock.*  
 Thurs., Mar. 13.—Brighton. Debate on Militant Tactics. *Miss Anna Munro.*

**SCOTLAND.**  
 Thurs., Jan. 9.—Glasgow. 70, St. George's-road. *Speaker: Miss Nannie Brown. Subject: "The Women's March."*  
 Wed., Jan. 15.—Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." *Speaker: Rev. Mr. Holt.*  
 Tues., Jan. 21.—Miss Floriel Florean's Concert of South African Folk Songs, Bechstein Hall, 8.15 p.m. Half profits to Suffrage Societies.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**  
 Mon., Feb. 3.—Church League for Women's Suffrage, Anerley Branch, White Slave Traffic. Meeting at Anerley Town Hall, 8 p.m. *Speakers: Miss Abadam and Mr. Edward Smallwood, J.P., L.C.C. Admission free. Tickets, 1s. and 6d.*

**KINDRED SOCIETIES.**  
 The Church League for Women's Suffrage, 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's-park, London, N.W.  
 January 7.—Brighton and Hove Branch. *Mrs. Francis and Miss Corben "At Home,"* at 75, Buckingham-place, Brighton, 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting, 5.30 p.m. Hendon Branch Quarterly Service at St. Mary's, 3.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. C. Hinscliff. *January 8.—Resolutions for General Council to reach office of C.L.W.S. Central Branch Meeting at International Suffrage Shop, 15, Adam-street, Strand, at 6 p.m. January 9.—Wellingborough. Inauguration of Branch at Archfield (Miss Lilly) in afternoon. Anerley and Crystal Palace Branch. Drawing-room meeting, 2 Thicket-road, Anerley (Mrs. Jones). *Chair: Mrs. Walter. Speaker: Miss Abadam. January 13.—Finance Committee, 7 p.m., Executive 8 p.m., at office of C.L.W.S.**



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**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

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Speakers: H. D. HARBEN, Esq. Mrs. MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, L.L.A. Chairman: Mrs. DESPARD. ADMISSION FREE.

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 3.—So that women may work side by side with men in social and industrial reform.  
 Write to your nearest Branch Secretary for particulars (see list below), and buy THE VOTE (the organ of the League). One Penny weekly, every Thursday.

**Women's Freedom League. BRANCH and GROUP SECRETARIES.**

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**  
 ANERLEY.—Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.  
 CLAPHAM.—Miss UNDERWOOD, W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.  
 CROYDON.—Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.  
 FINCHLEY.—Mrs. TINKLER, 3, Stanley-road, E. Finchley, N.  
 HACKNEY.—Mrs. PIEROTTI, 31, Walsingham-road, Clapton.  
 HAMPSTEAD.—Mrs. SPILLER, 63, South-hill-park, Hampstead.  
 HAMPSTEAD (WEST).—Mrs. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead.  
 HARROW.—Mrs. HUNTSMAN, Eions, Northwick-park-road, Harrow.  
 HAYES and SOUTHALL.—Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, Oakdene, Hayes, Middlesex.  
 HERNE HILL.—  
 HIGHBURY.—Miss JOHN, 65, Marquess-road, Canonbury.  
 KENSINGTON.—Miss REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, N. Kensington.  
 MID-LONDON.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.  
 NORTHERN HEIGHTS.—Miss A. MITCHELL, Merok, Gt. North-road, Highgate.  
 PECKHAM (Group).—Mrs. PICKERING, 23, Albert-road, Peckham.  
 STAMFORD HILL.—Mrs. THOMSON, 7, East-bank, Stamford-hill, N.  
 TOTTENHAM.—Miss F. EGGETT, 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey.  
**PROVINCES.**  
 AINTREE.—Mrs. SHAW, 15, Chatsworth-avenue, Aintree.  
 BRIGHTON and HOVE.—Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.  
 BURNAGE.—Mrs. BRICKHILL, 33, South-avenue, Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester.  
 CHELTENHAM.—Mme. BOROVIKOWSKY, Mostyn Villa, Hales-road, Cheltenham.  
 CHESTER.—Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square, Chester.  
 ECCLES.—Miss J. HEYES, Newholme, Hazelhurst, Worsley.  
 GRAYS.—Mrs. THURSTALL, 3, Heath-road, Chadwell-St. Mary, near Grays.  
 HADLEIGH.—Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir-tree-terrace, Hadleigh.  
 HARTLEPOOL (WEST).—Mrs. ENGLISH, 23, Carlton-street, West Hartlepool.  
 IPSWICH.—Mrs. PRATT, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.  
 LIVERPOOL.—Mrs. EVANS, 49, Kimberley-drive, Great Crosby, Liverpool.  
 MANCHESTER (CENTRAL).—Miss A. E. HORDERN, 478, Stockport-road, Longsight, Manchester.  
 MARLOW.—Miss HAYES, "Dirt," Marlow, Bucks.  
 MIDDLESBROUGH.—Miss A. MAHONY, 35, Albert-terrace, Middlesbrough.  
 NEWBURY and THATCHAM (Group).—Miss M. ASHMAN, Broad-street, Thatcham, Berks.  
 PORTSMOUTH.—Mrs. VLEETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.  
 POTTERIES.—Mrs. PEDLEY, 18, Lower-street, Hanley, Staffs.  
 SALE (Group).—Miss GELLER, Thornlea, Wardle-road, Sale, Cheshire.  
 SHEFFIELD.—Miss J. MACDONALD, 21, Harcourt-road, Sheffield.  
 SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mrs. REVEL, 13, Hopscott-terrace, South Shields.  
 SUNDERLAND.—Mrs. PALISER, 10, Fox-street, Sunderland.  
 STOWMARKET (Group).—Mrs. JOSLING, 59, Limetree-place, Stowmarket.  
 WALKDEN.—Mrs. ROGERSON, 33, Westminster-road, Walkden, near Manchester.  
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