

# Women's Franchise.

No. 44.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1908.

PRICE  
ONE PENNY.

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## Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

April Subscriptions are now due. Weekly Numbers, 1d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. Back numbers can still be obtained, but the Number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

## Notes.

MEN and women of all shades of political opinion have joined in the universal sorrow caused by the death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. By no party will his loss be more sincerely felt than by those who place the Enfranchisement of Women before all other considerations. He was our good friend; he pleaded our cause logically and eloquently on many occasions, and there is no doubt that his public and able championship helped not a little in convincing many of the waverers of his party of the justice of our claims, and in materially increasing the number of our supporters both in the House and in the country.

READERS of *Women's Franchise* should be planning how they can best assist to make the Suffrage Procession, arranged for Saturday, June 13th, the greatest possible success. The striking march last year in the cold and mud of February should show how much may be done on a June afternoon in the sunshine we hope to have. Everyone should help, and take their part.

The Artists' League is busy arranging for the decorative part of the procession, which they hope to make a conspicuous success, but after all the only decoration that really matters is the presence of the women—thousands and thousands of women of all classes marching with their banners through London.

Let every reader see to it that her ten best friends are present. It has been said "nothing happens unless you make

it." Why leave all the "making" to other people? Play your part.

Small hands—bills to distribute relating to the procession may be had by anybody interested from Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster.

LADY McLAREN has written an interesting "Answer from the Ladies' Gallery to the Speeches in Opposition to the Women's Suffrage Bill." The title of her pamphlet is 'Better and Happier, from a sentence in the speech of Mr. Herbert Gladstone on that occasion, when he said he believed that the country would be made better and happier by the admission of women to the Franchise. Among other subjects discussed are women's legal "privileges" and disabilities, their right to labour and law, the physical force argument, the false arguments from history, and many others. Lady McLaren shows herself as a practised controversialist. If women may not work in mines, why should men be allowed to paint tea-cups? If women are not to be allowed to sell drink to men, why should men be allowed to sell ribbons to women? Mr. Fisher Unwin are the publishers of this instructive little brochure.

WE have often heard it argued that women have no business qualities; that they would be useless in great and responsible positions in the commercial world, for they can never keep a secret. That they are admittedly better than men in managing trade undertakings in France is well known, and we have long suspected that it is only prejudice and jealousy which prevents Englishmen from acknowledging their own countrywomen's talents in this respect. It is therefore satisfactory to read that *Modern Business* "highly estimates the good qualities of Englishwomen." Loyalty to her chief is the most valuable of a woman's business qualities. She is a past master in the art of ostentatious silence regarding her employer's private affairs, and she has such good judgment generally, that her opinion is always worth having in matters of moment.

AT a recent meeting in support of Women's Suffrage, one of the speakers, a lady, caused much amusement by observing "I have no vote, but my groom has. I have great respect for that man in the stables, but I am sure if I were to go to him and say, 'John, will you exercise the Franchise?' he would reply: 'Please, Mum, which horse be that?'"

THE report for 1907-8 of the National Administrative Council of the Independent Labour Party refers to the agitation for the Enfranchisement of Women, "which has been carried on during the year with undiminished ardour," and also to the fact that all the Independent Labour Party Members of Parliament, except Mr. Keir Hardie, who was away, voted for the Women's Suffrage Bill on February 28th, Mr. Snowden, who was one of the backers of the Bill, speaking in its support.

AS it has been intimated to us that some of our readers think the change of imprint means a change of management, we think it wise to state that this is not so, no change whatever having taken place in the conduct of, or responsibility for, the paper.

Owing to the furnishing of a sum of money, free of any control, having been made for the purpose of providing a

central dépôt for the selling of all literature connected with the movement, this business and the paper is now conducted under the name of the Woman Citizen Publishing Society.

MRS. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT has sent another 4s., in accordance with her promise of 1s. a week towards the publishing expenses of *Women's Franchise*; Mrs. Mellor Leigh-Lye one guinea for the paper to be sent to various persons for a certain period; Miss G. M. Williams has sent 3s. 3d. for the paper to be posted for six months to the Redland Free Library, Bristol, and Miss Jenner has subscribed for another month, for two copies of the *Women's Franchise* to be sent to the Public Library, Newton Abbot.

#### FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Dismore, Miss F.	1	0	0
Hitchcock, Miss E. M. M.	2	0	0
	£3	0	0

#### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**HOLLAND.**—*Jus Suffragii* for April gives details of the preparations for the International Suffrage Congress to be held at Amsterdam from June 15th to 20th. It is expected that there will be a very large attendance, and that all the countries that belong to the alliance will be well represented. Reduced fares from London have been arranged, and a list is given of hotels and boarding-houses drawn up by the Central Committee.

The Netherlands Women's Suffrage Association is growing rapidly. It now has thirty-four sections as against twenty at the beginning of the year, and the membership exceeds 4,000. "We may attribute this success," says Miss Kramers, "to the eagerness of the Dutch Suffragists to be the hostesses of their foreign sisters."

**UNITED STATES.**—The National American Women's Suffrage Association held a "Hearing" before committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress on March 3rd. The object of the speakers was to demand enfranchisement at the hands of the National Congress and the State Legislatures. "This," says Rachel Foster Avery, "is the only method which would spare us the necessity of asking the vote of every male citizen in the United States. It corresponds with the method pursued in Great Britain and on the European continent, although, because of the individual States, it is even then much more complicated and means longer and harder work for us in this line; but we must work along every line in order to allow no possibility of success to escape us."

The method of raising money by a self-denial fund has appealed strongly to American Suffragists, and Mrs. Avery, as Secretary of the Anthony Memorial Fund Committee, is appealing to her countrywomen to organize a National Suffrage self-denial week from June 1st to 7th, and contribute the money thus raised to the fund.

**SWITZERLAND.**—There are already two cantonal Suffrage associations, and a third is about to be formed in Zurich. It is now proposed by the Geneva Association that the separate groups should be federated, and a joint delegate sent to the International Congress at Amsterdam.

**GERMANY.**—The new Associations Law passed its final reading on April 6th, and becomes operative on May 15th. This law gives women the same rights as men in regard to organizing political associations, attending meetings, and the like. Hitherto, they have been classed with minors, and their meetings might at any moment be broken up at the pleasure of the police. The new law is, in some respects, less liberal than those hitherto in force in some of the smaller States, but the important points are that it is a national law for the whole of Germany, and that it places men and women on an equality. Any future agitation to obtain more liberal conditions must be conducted jointly by men and women, whose interests will be identical and not antagonistic.

A. ZIMMERN.

#### Correspondence.

[We have received permission to publish the correspondence herewith. We do so the more gladly as we consider besides much else it voices sentiments of broader sympathies between different methods of work for the same cause now happily greatly on the increase.]

... I quite agree with—that it is a deeply religious movement; and I think we ought to be most careful neither to utter a word nor to do anything which can help those who are ready and only too willing "to blaspheme," to fling discredit on the movement.

I think it is useful to us to remember that in the early days of the Christian faith, opinions and methods differed—Paul and Peter were really sometimes at loggerheads; yet both were working to the best of their lights for the great Principle for which Christ died. Also, when some of the Apostles came to Jesus and said they had forbidden a certain man to "cast out devils," because he didn't do it in Christ's name, Jesus said they were wrong, for he who was not against them was for them.

I don't think I should have been brave enough to advocate the active demonstration business—and I immensely admire those ladies who, for the sake of lifting this great question out of the rut into which the wheels of the State machine have ever pressed it, have boldly acted so as to force the question upon the attention of the man in the street, and of the working populace who can better appreciate than we comfortable folk can, the danger and discomfort which they have been willing to incur. I must say that I am in accord with the plan of harassing a Government—half-a-dozen successive Governments if need be—which refuses to make this great and simple matter of justice part of their programme. It will prove to be the only way.

Women have now, since the times of Mary Wollstonecraft, said "Please sir," to the men very nicely, quite insistently and with growing logic. The response has always been the same—the same old tune with sundry variations of key.

The last entrenchment of "the enemy" is that women do not want the vote. The response now-a-days is not only a very emphatic assertion that they do want it, but an active threat that they mean to get it.

Some respectable supporters—academic supporters, whose approval has been theoretic, not actual, may be—will be alienated; but for one "friend" so lost, the Cause will gain a dozen who are ready to make a sacrifice of comfort, of time, even of reputation, for the belief that is in them.

I was only thinking yesterday that Jesus was not on bad terms with the respectable and orthodox until that noble outburst of rage of His and His resort to physical force. Up to then they had let Him preach and teach in the Temple unmolested, and had invited Him to their houses. After that there was a weeding process.

In every fight for an advance of Justice and Truth we see the same thing happen. There comes a time in every struggle when a small handful, fired with a holy disregard of all convention and "prudence," rebel into militant activity and demonstrate the faith that is in them in disregard of personal consequences. It is at this moment that every Cause is tested. It is then the crucial time. Many who have before concurred are then "offended," because they have not quite planted themselves on the bedrock of principle, but are still unconsciously standing on the shifting sand of expediency. It is then, too, that sincerity is subjected to the touchstone, "for they who are not ready to bear witness to their faith with their blood are no true believers."

This is a profoundly religious question. Jesus taught the Fatherhood of God, the *Unity* of the Soul:—"Then shall ye know that I am in the Father and ye in me and I in you." Some conception of the unity of the human family came to Paul when he taught that we are members of "one body," limiting

the conception, however, by the appended thought "in Christ." Now, after 2,000 years of further reflection, we have burst through the humiliation placed upon the conception by Paul and risen into the fulness of Christ's idea, feeling, believing, and trying to realize the grand conception of Humanity—the "Infant of God" forming, developing, as it were, in the matrix of Nature.

How can that Infant form and develop if half the cells composing it are repressed and the free circulation through them of the Life Principle impeded? Humanity is composed of men and women and the children born of them, and the real development of Humanity can only proceed when men and women work together as equals on an equal footing. Faith like Christ's in the infinitude of the Human Being—the great thought now labouring in the bosom of mankind, namely, the indwelling of the Creator in Humanity, cannot obtain while one half of the Race is held in subjection by the other half.

In such a question as this—a matter of the deepest, most vital importance, not to the women of our country only, but to the Race inhabiting this little planet—we must not let personal tastes interfere with our estimates.

The women who have stood forward as a militant band, determined to let deeds ring out where the sound of words has fallen muffled, have specifically declared why they have taken the steps they have. They have wished to focus attention, to traverse certain restrictions in order to make people think: to wring a real actual declaration out of men who have given specious answers of the kind to which women have grown only too much accustomed.

By all means let us, men as well as women, embarrass the Government—even if they called themselves a Government of Angels instead of Liberals! What's in a name?

Justice cannot be built up on a basis of *injustice*, and if we want real Liberalism, real measures of reform, we must get a sound basis to build on.

This question of the position of Woman underlies every other.

It has, of course, always done so; but a principle *exists* long before it is recognized. Until it is recognized we are unconsciously influenced by it—as the law of gravity influenced before mankind knew anything about it: when it is recognized it alters our conception and therefore our aim, and to regulate our activity by it becomes a duty. Now that we are fully recognizing the principle of Humanity, and that women and men *must* be equal for Humanity to progress along its destined path, we must do our utmost to realize that principle in action, knowing that once it is so realized it must bring other detailed reforms in its train.

This is why I will not find fault with the methods of such as are demonstrating their belief physically. They have determined to force the slow hand of the little "powers that be." Their offences are technical, they are not of the moral order; and they are immensely brave, high-hearted women.

Since the time when we talked of this matter and you were going to march in the procession I have thought as deeply as I am capable of thinking, and—I don't mind owning it!—the physical force section has goaded my sluggish mind into a more active thought. Like you, I shrank, deprecated, hesitated. Now I see the light, and am satisfied that those who naturally incline to more tranquil, academic methods, must be careful not to put stumbling blocks, wittingly or unwittingly, into the path of such as are willing to induce a burden and heat into the day greater than we should have dared to do.

I think the question of Adult Suffrage should be kept wholly out of this movement. It is apart from it. The present demand is for equality for the woman—that she shall be on the same basis, *pari passu*, with man. To alter the basis of the Suffrage is a distinct question, for which, as yet, there is no real demand in the nation. The nation is not awake to that, and it should not be forced.

[Owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over Correspondence, Reviews of Books, and other Articles.]

## Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

Convener of Committee: MRS. JOHN HUNTER.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS BURNET, 2, St. James Place, Hillhead, Glasgow.

Joint Hon. Secretaries: MISS GRACE PATERSON, MRS. I. D. PEARCE.

Organising Secretary: MISS HELEN FRASER.

COCKBURN BUILDINGS, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.

Telegraphic Address: "SUFFRAGE, GLASGOW."

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

*We demand the Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.*

### Kincardineshire By-Election.

TO-DAY we had the result of the poll at our first Scottish by-election for over a year—a by-election at which we have fought strenuously and done much valuable educative work.

The Liberal majority at the General Election was 2,353—to-day it was 1,698—a drop of 655; and I think most people will agree with us that, considering the "touching faith" our Scotsmen have in Liberalism, and the persistency with which they stick to old opinions, it is a gratifying result.

Many of them voted as one old man did, who said, "Wha gaed me my vote? Gladstone; and I'm gaun' to gie it to him." Such loyalty must be extremely gratifying to Liberals, but it is rather trying for Suffragettes.

One thing we do know, however—that we have converted practically every man and woman of the Mearns to a belief in the principle of equal voting rights for men and women—and that is a good piece of work. They have come miles to listen, they have filled our halls to overflowing to the end of a too-long-dragged-out contest, they have wished us well and cheered us on our way, and we left to-day to cries of "Haste ye back!" at every station.

The Government candidate has thought it expedient to assure every one that he stood for "Votes for Women." His agents and the Liberal women have told the electors that to get votes for women they must vote for him. It shows clearly how much our cause has progressed. That we are political factors now at by-elections is plain to those of us who hear what is said by Government candidates on Women's Suffrage on their platforms, and—even more significant—what is said by Liberal agents of us to the electors. We have had splendid press notices in the Aberdeen papers—*The Dundee Courier* and *The Scotsman and Herald*—and they have pointed out that "Votes for Women" was the one political topic discussed from north to south of the constituency.

We have had among our Scottish workers Miss Una Dugdale, Misses Haig, Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Pearce, Miss Underwood, Miss Doig, Miss Hadden, and Miss Kirby. Quite a large contingent of our national workers and speakers were here, including Miss Mary Gawthorpe, whose ready wit, vivacity, and brilliant speaking made her a favourite with every one.

This by-election will be followed by Dundee, Montrose Burghs, and Stirling Burghs, and we have opened committee-rooms in Bridge Street, Montrose, to-day.

We are going to be very busy. To be busy means spending money, even though we are "canny" with it, and we want our members and sympathizers to help the by-election funds. Money cannot be spent to better advantage than in this way, so we appeal for financial help for by-elections and other Scottish work.

HELEN FRASER.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

**OBJECT.**—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

**President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Secretary:** MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. **Treasurer:** MISS BERTHA MASON. **Organiser:** MISS GARDNER. **Hon. Secretaries:** MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING. **Telegrams:** "VOICELESS, LONDON."

**OFFICES:** 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

**Chairman**—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN. **Mrs. Broadley Reid**  
**MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.** **Hon. Bertrand Russell**  
**Miss Edith Dimock** **Mrs. Philip Snowden**  
**Miss I. O. Ford**  
**Miss Martindale, M.B., B.S.**  
**Lady Strachey**  
**And the Hon. Officers, ex officio.**

**Miss Margaret Ashton**  
**The Lady Frances Balfour**  
**Miss Florence Balfour**  
**Mrs. Allan Bright**

### Current Topics.

AFTER this week Miss Lowndes will not be able to undertake any more designs for banners. Over fifty are now started, and she feels there will not be enough time to get them finished properly if more are ordered. At the same time she will be glad to hear from donors who would be willing to give one or two more "famous women banners," which are still waiting the necessary 11. for materials and mounting, viz: Deborah who judged Israel, Flora Macdonald, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Queen Victoria, Frances Power Cobbe.

The Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will open at Amsterdam at 9.30 on Monday morning, June 15th. There will be a general reception on the evening of the same day, and public meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and a farewell dinner on Saturday evening. Mrs. Chapman Catt's address while in Amsterdam will be care of Dr. Aletta Jacobs, Tesselschadestraat 15. Sympathizers who are not delegates may attend by paying an entrance fee of five Dutch florins—a Dutch florin is 1s. 8d. in English money. All information regarding the Congress can be obtained from the National Union offices.

The Conservative Women's Franchise League has just issued a new leaflet, entitled 'Some Reasons why we should Join the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise League.' It will be found of use to Conservative women in their propaganda among the members of their party. The leaflet can be obtained on application to Dame Warden, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place, Cheltenham, price 1s. 2d. per 100. Special price if large quantities are ordered.

Miss Mary Hayden's name appears on the list of the Senate of the new Dublin University, and another lady, whose name has not yet been published, is, we hear, on the Council of the new Belfast University. The Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association is doing excellent work in arousing women to a sense of their duties with regard to voting at the approaching election of Poor Law Guardians, which takes place on or about June 1st. Mrs. Haslam, the hon. secretary, has written a letter to the Irish papers, in which she hopes that "every elector, whether male or female, and whether householder or lodger, who enjoys this franchise, will exercise it by voting for the best men, and preferably still, for the best women, who may offer themselves as candidates for this responsible office."

At the annual meeting of the Bolton Women Textile and other Workers' Representation Society, Miss Reddish dealt with the question of Women's Suffrage, and said that women should work unitedly towards that end. She pointed out that the disfranchised men of to-day were not disfranchised in the sense that women were, as their condition was continually changing, thus enabling thousands to gain the qualification each year. A branch of the National Union has just been formed in Bolton, and we hope Miss Reddish's speech will be the means of enrolling many new members in it.

### Remember Saturday, June 13th !!

#### Women's Suffrage Day.

**When a United Procession of Women Suffragists** will start at 3 o'clock from Victoria Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, and march by Cockspar Street, Lower Regent Street, Piccadilly, and Knightsbridge to the Albert Hall, where a mass meeting will be held at 5 o'clock. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. The names of the speakers will be announced later. All women who demand the vote are urged to join in this procession, to bring large parties of women sympathizers with them, and to subscribe, if possible, towards the expenses of the procession.

Will all those willing to help in any way communicate as soon as possible with **Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.?**

**Apply immediately for Tickets.** The demand for seats is already very great, and to prevent disappointment we would advise every one to apply as early as possible to Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

**The prices of the Tickets are 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.,** and boxes of various sizes can also be obtained.

Many influential bodies of women have already signified their intention of taking part in it.

Brakes and carriages can be provided for those unable to walk.

### Our North-West Manchester Campaign.

THE North-West Manchester election has run its course. Though the Easter holiday was a great interruption, our meetings have been very well attended, and we have had a constant succession of people going in and out of the committee-room. Every night we have had a meeting in a well-known public hall, besides two every day in the committee-room. The speakers have been Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Ashton, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Abadam, Miss Crompton, Miss L. Cox, Miss E. Cox, Miss Zimmern, Miss Allen, Miss Winstanley, Mrs. Cooper, and Mrs. Burden. Among the best of the meetings was one held for women only on the night before the poll. Miss Abadam spoke, and roused so much enthusiasm that the audience refused to go away, and insisted upon waiting to see the speakers off. It was also satisfactory as showing how popular our meetings had become. We had to turn away at least fifty men, who grumbled because they had come on purpose to hear us. Sometimes they allowed their wives and daughters to go in while they waited outside; but they found, to their dismay, that it was impossible to get them out again. They knocked on the window with their pipes, but their wives simply nodded and smiled and stayed inside. One man told me that he was afraid that we were teaching women to rebel.

There was less difficulty in advertising than usual in Manchester, partly because we had a van on which we pasted our notices, but chiefly because Miss Margaret Ashton was so well known that she was an advertisement in herself. Wherever she went, and particularly at out-door meetings, there was a buzz of excitement. Every one asked, "Which is Miss Ashton?" and when they had found out they crowded up to listen, and to tell each other all they knew of the past career of Miss Ashton and all her family.

The fame of the Suffrage Societies is spreading abroad. A letter came to us from South France, addressed to Miss Ashton, Mrs. Drummond, and Miss Sharp, from "a great sufferer," asking them to work towards an Act "that all men from twenty to sixty-five, if in good health, should be obliged to work, so as not to leave all expenses to females of family—this law to apply to well-educated men especially."

We have had a very successful campaign, which is almost entirely due to the untiring energy and enthusiasm of Miss Ashton and Mrs. Swanwick. Not content with speaking about five times a day, both indoors and out, they spent the rest of their time distributing leaflets, talking to people at the door of the committee-room, writing to the papers, taking messages, and doing all the odd jobs that speakers ought certainly to be spared. It would be impossible to work with them and not to be enthusiastic and keen. The work of organization in Manchester was comparatively light, owing to the splendid way in which the members of the North of England Society turned up. Many of them came every day, early in the morning, and stayed till the end of our evening meeting, doing any sort of job that had to be done, however unaccustomed it might be, from chalking pavements in prominent places under the very feet of unsympathetic acquaintances, to covering themselves with black paint in making notices of our meetings. There was absolutely nothing that they would not do with the utmost cheerfulness and readiness; and coming as they did in such numbers and every day, the regular work of advertising, &c., was quickly done, and time was left for other things. The North of England Society is most sincerely to be congratulated on the strength such members must give to it, and I owe them very grateful thanks for the way in which they lightened my labours. Special thanks are due to Mrs. D'Auguier, Mrs. Young, Miss Allen, Miss Eckhard, and Miss Stonex, who worked through the whole campaign, and also to Mrs. and Miss Hewitt, Miss Smith, Mrs. Schofield, Mrs. Wilson, Miss L. Cox, Miss Macgregor (of Devon), and others who gave a very great deal of time to the work. E. M. GARDNER.

### The North-West Manchester By-Election.

OUR first meeting was held in the committee-room on April 13th. For the whole of the election time the two daily meetings in the shop (which could accommodate about two hundred) were generally packed. In spite of bitter winds and snowstorms, out-door meetings were held at the doors of works and in open spaces, such as Marshall Croft and Stevenson Square. A small covered cart was used to advertise the meetings, and from this cart much of the out-door speaking was done. Twice the cart was raided by rowdy young people, and once it was invaded by a fiery woman, who tried to use it to advocate Adult Suffrage. One exciting incident was an outbreak of fire in the shop, due to a defective flue. I arrived on the scene just as three fire-engines galloped up, to find Miss Stonex placidly distributing leaflets at the door, "to keep the crowd out," and Miss Gardner as placidly explaining that the fire had been extinguished, and all valuables saved. The situation had its humours, for the firemen complained pathetically that we had spoilt the barmaids' meeting which was being held at the fire-station.

Every evening, with the exception of Good Friday and Sunday, meetings were held in some public hall, and all were well filled. There was an average of five meetings a day. During the first week Mrs. Fawcett helped us, and Mrs. Cooper and Miss Abadam were invaluable later. Miss Margaret Ashton's great local reputation enforced her admirable and convincing pleas.

The holiday season prevented many of our speakers from coming, but those we had shirked nothing, distributing hand-bills, chalking pavements, going out with the cart, stewarding at meetings, selling literature, and drawing people within, to sign the petition.

Not one of the candidates was satisfactory from our point of view. Mr. Churchill told the deputation which waited on him, "I'm going to treat of your claim in one of my speeches. Look out for it!" We did. But that speech never came. He never mentioned it except when directly asked, and several times the question remained unanswered. He "could not be tied to time and place," he would use his influence with the Cabinet

"when and as opportunity offered," &c. Mr. Joynson-Hicks, in giving the usual reply that he was "favourable," did so in a way to make one greatly doubt the source of his "favour."

During the nine days the committee-room was open we gained 761 signatures to our petition. Our audiences were invariably interested and respectful, and our resolution was always carried, often unanimously. None the less, I would warn Suffragists not to be unduly elated by these good results. One could not help being struck by the fact that a very large proportion of the audiences refrained from voting; this, and the general tone of conversations and questions have confirmed most of us in the belief that ignorance and apathy are our chief enemies. As yet there are no signs of any party or any prominent man standing to lose anything for our sakes, and no appreciable number of electors are willing to put our claim first. Therefore every nerve must be strained to bring forward the women's case at every election. The allusions to the Suffrage organizations which filled the daily press show that, though they do not yet in the least understand us, they are beginning to fear us. One of the signs of this was the persistent misrepresentation in which every paper joined, even those which profess to favour our cause; and another was the desperate effort made by a number of Liberal women to confuse the issue by sending out, at the last moment, a leaflet headed "Women Suffragists," saying they "represented" many other women, and calling upon women to support Mr. Churchill. The facts being that they "represented" no one but themselves, and were Liberals first and Suffragists second. It was a slim trick, which I endeavoured to expose in a letter to *The Manchester Guardian*; but though the letter was dated and handed in on the 23rd, it was not published till the 25th, the day after the poll. H. M. SWANWICK, Hon. Sec.

North of England Society for Women's Suffrage.

### Work in Dewsbury.

I CAME to Dewsbury on April 15th, and at once saw Mr. Boyd Carpenter, the Conservative candidate. He said he thought Englishwomen should enjoy a position like that of women in the colonies, where he had lived, and offered to answer our questions to candidates that night at his first public meeting. I went there to hear him do so, which he did satisfactorily in the main. The audience applauded each affirmative reply. The Labour candidate, Mr. Turner, stated expressly in his election address, "I am in favour of votes for women." He also invited me to attend his first public meeting to hear our questions answered. I did so, and he answered them satisfactorily, giving them priority over all other questions.

I called on Mr. Runciman later, as he was not in town when I came. He answered the questions with some reservations. As a Cabinet Minister it would not be correct for him to sign a requisition to his party leader, nor would it be correct to ballot for a place for a Women's Suffrage Bill; but he was in favour of the principle, and approved of giving the Parliamentary vote to women on the municipal register. He said he would do what he could for the cause in the Cabinet. As to mentioning Women's Suffrage in his speeches, he said he would do so if asked.

We got a suitable committee-room, capable of seating about fifty, and here we held afternoon meetings. On Saturday Miss I. O. Ford and Mrs. Kelly came from Leeds, and we had a most encouraging outdoor meeting in the market square. It was market day, and we had a crowd round our lorry, numbering at one time about 400. The attention was most marked, but there were comparatively few questions put on Monday night. Mrs. Cooper (of Nelson) and I held a similar meeting in the same place (locally known as the Quack's Corner). We had a very large number of women, as it was a holiday. On Tuesday Miss Ward gave her valuable assistance, and Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Maudefield, and Mrs. Litherington of Leeds, also Miss Kilburn, of Huddersfield Women's Suffrage Society, came and worked hard all day. We had a committee-room meeting at 3 P.M. with a deeply interested audience. Later we went to Batley, and gave addresses in the market-place to an immense crowd, who listened with all their ears. Then we came back to Dewsbury, where we had another meeting in the market-place, the audience keeping breathless silence. The interest went on increasing on Wed-

nesday: so much so, that meetings ran into each other, and their limits could not be defined. We had dinner-hour meetings in the outskirts; then Miss Ford began a committee-room meeting shortly before 3 P.M. with an overflowing audience. This meeting went on till 6.30 P.M., one set of hearers replacing another, and Miss Emily Ford and I taking up our parable in turn. Meantime, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Ward, and some of our other helpers took a carriage, drove to Batley, spoke in the market square, and again at a point on the way back. On their return another gathering was addressed by us in Dewsbury market-place. On this day, in addition to Miss Kilburn and the members of the Leeds Women's Suffrage Society, who aided most valiantly, Dr. Charlotte Browne of Leeds gave us her valued help for the day. Thursday (polling day) we had a regular field day, as we had a wagonette forenoon and afternoon, and drove round to nearly all the twenty polling stations in the division, displaying a banner with the strange device, "Electors! Remember women to-day." We also carried the poster "Coming in with the Tide." Our passing-by was hailed with waving of hats and hands, accompanied by cheers. Miss I. O. Ford, Miss E. Ford, and three ladies from Leeds were here, so that those who did not go in the carriage went through Dewsbury thoroughfares displaying our placards, giving leaflets, and conversing with inquirers. Our public work closed with a committee-room meeting, for some who yet asked for more.

OVERHEARD IN A CAFÉ.—"I don't see why women cannot be given the vote without all this fuss and bother!" Echo answers, "Why?" [Executed to the smoking-room.] I think this fairly represents Dewsbury opinion.

ISABELLA ROWLETT.

THE enthusiastic reception we met with everywhere in Dewsbury was most delightful. Our meetings were splendid, and on the polling-day, when we had not intended to hold any more meetings, we were obliged to, for the people begged to hear more. We found it most difficult to get the audiences to leave our committee-room. Miss Rowlett had found a most excellent empty shop and had filled it with chairs, and there we had to sit for hours in the afternoons, holding forth to eager, sympathetic audiences. On the polling-day four of us walked round the town with sandwich boards constructed by Miss Emily Ford, with that excellent poster "Coming in with the Tide" in front, and behind, "Electors! Remember women to-day." We met with the greatest kindness and enthusiasm. The men shouted, "You do right! That's the way to get it!" One woman said, "Ay, it's a nice picture, and it's a good woman who's carrying it!" We had a good body of helpers, but could have done with many more. Two ladies came from Huddersfield, and six came from Leeds to help. On one day only we had five outdoor meetings and three indoor ones. The outdoor meetings were as sympathetic as the indoor ones, and we made a great many converts. Carrying the sandwich-boards in the snowstorms made those who spoke to us realize how earnestly we are working. "You couldn't do that," said one woman, "if you didn't care." I. O. FORD.

### A Brief Visit to Sheffield.

My experiences at Sheffield have made me realize how possible it is to-day, contest or no contest, to gather a big audience in the street for a speaker on Suffrage.

Nothing could well have been less auspicious in the way of climatic conditions than Sheffield this Easter. After a short uncertainty the Liberals decided not to fight, and as far as I could see, the announcement by the Lord Mayor of the return of the new member was a very tame affair. But we snapped up the crowd standing quietly to see Mr. Fitzalan Hope drive away from the Town Hall. It was only necessary to produce one chair, two women, and a bundle of leaflets to ensure an audience within five minutes. Our committee-room was on our hands. Mrs. Bauer was on the spot as organizer, so we went straight on through the day. I saw from the point of vantage of a wooden chair four wonderful audiences, standing motionless in rain and cold. Our paramount attempt this winter has been to educate, to interest, to stimulate the elector.

Being in mind our dependence on the indispensable help of the elector, and the effect he may have on the evolution of his

sitting member, as well as upon the development of a candidate, such work as Sheffield afforded is, in my opinion, anything but lost. If only money were more plentiful, I would strongly counsel that some of our workers should keep on with open-air meetings at least as long as any seat is vacant, contest or no contest. With limited resources one has to recognize the need of concentration on contested elections; but one would like to be in a position to neglect no single chance to bring the electors over to our side.

I want to repeat certain sentences from B. P. G.'s excellent open letter in the current number of *Women's Franchise*. "The private opinions of M.P.s are comparatively unimportant. It is the opinions of the constituents at the back of the M.P.s that are important. An M.P. whose constituents want Women's Suffrage is in a very different position to an M.P. who is only personally in favour of Women's Suffrage."

Let us bear this in mind, even where a candidate says and does all we could wish. There are those who are only too anxious to bid us stay our hand. M. P. STANBURY.

### Branch Societies.

**BRIGHTON.**—At the meeting of the Brighton and Hove Society last week Miss Bryan, who presided, reminded her audience that Mrs. Fawcett had addressed her first meeting on the subject in Brighton nearly forty years ago. Miss Merrifield, the acting hon. secretary, added a few words in tribute to the memory of Mrs. P. A. Taylor, and was followed by Mrs. Edward Francis, who dwelt on the various articles of our Suffrage belief. Miss Pickworth seconded a resolution dealing with the remark often made by men that women have so much influence already that they do not want the vote. She remarked of a Member in the House of Commons, who said that "there are many unlovely things about men, but the most unlovely is politics," that it seemed to her a slightly different version of the story of the fox and the grapes. Mr. Fox, keeping them all to himself, tells Mrs. Fox that they are sour. She remembered hearing of a father with an independent-minded young daughter who took political views which were opposed to his own, and of how the father had said, "If it were your brother speaking like that it would break my heart, but it doesn't matter what you think." Mr. J. Jenner Verrall alluded to the growth of public opinion in favour of Women's Suffrage, and welcomed the formation of the society as a proof that in Brighton an increasing number was convinced of the justice and expediency of the claim. He was satisfied that the association of women in political questions and their participation in the Franchise would be of the greatest service.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

May.			P.M.
APRIL			
30th	Penge, Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall	Speakers, Miss Adadam, Mrs. Sambrook	
MAY			
2nd	Cheltenham, Social Meeting, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place	Speaker, Mrs. Swiney	
4th	London, Public Meeting, Bedford College	Speaker, Mrs. Fawcett	
5th	Wandsworth, Drawing-Room	Hostess, Mrs. Bramsdon Bransbury	3.30
	Meeting, 20, Woodboro' Road, Putney	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour	
6th	Hampstead, "At Home," The Library, Prince Arthur Road	Chair, Mrs. Todd Speaker, Mrs. Wilson	4-6
11th	Hull, Public Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Fawcett	
	Cardiff, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam	
	London, Drawing-Room Meeting, 1, Pretoria Road, Streatham Park		
12th	Pontypridd, Public Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Fawcett	
	London, Willesden, First Annual Meeting		

\* Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Harcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

### Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C., and 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

#### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

MRS. COATES HANSEN  
MISS HODGSON  
MISS IRENE MILLER  
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG

MRS. DRYSDALE  
MRS. SANDERSON  
MRS. BELL  
MRS. HOLMES

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.

MISS MANSELL  
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL  
MRS. M. CLAYTON  
MISS HAMILTON

### Notes.

**CHANTICLEER.**—In spite of promises to the Jews, promises to the Irish, sops to the Educationists; in spite of Welsh oratory; in spite even of the Patents Act (that enormous achievement), Manchester will have nothing to say to Mr. Winston Churchill. The important part played by women in the elections is no longer ignored by the Liberal press: it cannot be ignored much longer by the Liberal politicians, if they are wise. The pettish and schoolboy utterance, "I will not be henpecked," will have to give place to a more gentlemanly and a more statesmanlike reply to the just demands of women, if we are to retain a shadow of respect for the present-day representatives of that which was once a great party. Moreover, let us remind Mr. Churchill that whether he will or will not be "henpecked" depends entirely on the hens (the simile is Mr. Churchill's, not ours). Chanticleer may strut and swagger only so long as he thereby gains the admiration and goodwill of the surrounding hens. That, indeed, should be his object; but let him forget the object, let him begin to swagger and crow out of sheer self-love, let him begin driving the hens away from the corn, let him despise and bully them, he will find that no fine tail, no beautiful voice, no artistic flapping of the wings, will save him. Whether he will or whether he will not, he will find himself pecked out of the yard by the very hens he despises; and outside he will remain until he learns that even a bantam cock may be a gentleman, and that even hens have rights.

**BARMAIDS.**—The Editor of *The Daily Chronicle* is extremely anxious to know whether the barmaids who "figured conspicuously" in the Manchester election "were Manchester folk spending their own money in influencing fellow-citizens." It is a very shocking idea that working women should have any money to spend over and above their bare keep, and we should be glad to be able to reassure the Editor by the news that the barmaids' money was stolen; but unfortunately this cannot be actually proved. On the other point, however, we can throw light. The barmaids were not influencing their fellow-citizens, for the obvious reason that they do not possess fellow-citizens. Our Editor seems to forget that women are aliens, and as such are not entitled to citizenship. One advantage of that position is that they may spend as much money as they can get in turning out the Liberals, whether at Manchester, Peckham, Dundee, or at any other place, without living in the constituency, yet without bringing themselves under the Corrupt Practices Act. That Act deals with political organizations, and politically we do not exist. Keeping the Liberal out may be called a new form of social amusement. If the barmaids choose to spend money amusing themselves in this way it is no affair of *The Daily Chronicle*, and the only remedy the British Constitution has against the practice is to enfranchise them.

**EDERE—TO EAT.**—The spiteful tone adopted lately by certain Liberal papers towards our methods, especially those connected with the by-elections, is positive proof of the fact that our attacks on the party in power are making themselves badly felt. It is a tone which we welcome for this reason, but it does not reflect credit on those journals which make use of it. To describe our action as "notoriety hunting" is rather stale abuse, and to thus lag behind public opinion is a bad journalistic error. However, let us not be hard on editors, remembering Homer Wilbur's defence of the "mutton-loving shepherd, who

blows up the flames of political discord so that he may thereby handily boil his own pot"; the name Editor being derived "not so much from *edere* to publish, as from *edere* to eat, that being the peculiar profession to which he esteems himself called."

**AMERICAN SYMPATHY.**—It is encouraging to find that the news contained in these columns is read and sympathetically commented upon in America. "Lotus," after perusing our accounts of imprisonment and the political situation some weeks ago, writes to an American paper as follows: "Mr. Herbert Gladstone has been acting on the principle that you may make faces at a man behind his back if you are ready to shake hands with him when he looks at you. In other words, he has voted for Women's Suffrage in the House, and yet has signified his approval of the magistrates who committed the Suffragists to prison... Presumably, since the law cannot err, the punishment fits the crime, or else one might wonder what wearing a pair of odd shoes full of nails has to do with ringing at Mr. Harcourt's door... One excellent result is to be hoped for from all this. Women who have had experience of such things will, when the turn of the wheel puts power into their hands, be the first to vote for some less absurd form of punishment. Educated women will realize the futility of a punishment which in the case of the ignorant merely brutalizes and does not reform. The magistrates who sentenced women to the degradation of wearing clothes from a common prison wardrobe, boots of odd sizes and painful to walk in, who ordered that they should scrub and clean their own cells, that their food should be meagre and nauseating, that their occupation should be making absurd little sacks of coarse material, bulged better than they knew, for there is no woman in the world, be she Suffragist or not, who will not sympathize with women so treated. That it should be in the power of any magistrate in these days to condemn any fellow-being to bodily torture is against all the prejudices of the age; but when men who have sinned against the laws of their country are classed as first-class offenders and women who have only committed a technical offence are branded as 'felons,' it becomes the duty of every woman to utter a strong protest against such unjust dealings."

"Lotus" is also much interested in the "First Female Parent"—that one who was granted parenthood and a vaccination exemption order at the same time by a magistrate, but who was deprived of both by the vaccination officer, who knew that by law she did not exist at all unless she committed a crime, or demanded a vote (which is the same thing). "Lotus" tells the story to her American readers, and that mother—or that wife of her child's father, as we must say if we wish to avoid arrest for illegal phraseology—would now be a famous woman if only her name had been allowed to transpire. "Lotus" says: "It is pleasant to know exactly how the law regards mothers. The lady in question, whose brief elevation to the rank of 'parent' is now at an end, will no doubt console herself by reflecting that if the honour of parenthood belongs entirely to her husband, she will be to blame if anything happens to the child." It is obvious from this last sentence that "Lotus" has thoroughly grasped the position of motherhood under British law. It is equally obvious that feminine satire is not confined to this side of the Atlantic.

[We regret to say that no final report has reached us from Manchester. The Dewsbury report arrived too late for insertion last week.]—ED., W.F.L.

### The Phrases of Noodledom.

ABOUT a hundred years ago Sydney Smith (in an article on 'Female Education') dealt with what he called the 'Phrases of Noodledom.' These phrases, some of which are still going strong, were commonly used in the way of reproof or argument by the opponents of any suggested alteration in woman's lot. The phrase, "A woman's theatre is the sick-chamber" is, I believe, obsolete. Perhaps Sydney killed it, when he said that, although a woman ought to be compassionate, he thought she might find it difficult, even with the best intentions, to be compassionate from nine in the morning till twelve at night.

Then there were several Phrases of Noodledom about female education, which may be summed up in the aphorism: "A learned woman makes a bad wife and an incapable mother." Why should it be supposed, asked the wit, that because a woman has eaten of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, she will keep her whole family on the same unsubstantial fare? And was there really any danger that a mother would forsake her infant for a quadratic equation? And was it a solemn truth that only female ignorance could make the domestic wheels go round?

But most popular of all was the famous quotation from Pericles: "To a woman, not to show more weakness than is natural to her sex is a great glory, and not to be talked of for good or evil among men." Sydney's opinion was that no lady, whatever her natural modesty and sensitiveness, need object to be talked about in the manner that men talked of Miss Edgeworth, Mrs. Barbauld, Mrs. Somerville, or Mrs. Fry. (The last two names were inserted in the collected edition of the 'Essays.') This particular phrase of Noodledom still bobs up from time to time. A few years ago Sir W. Vernon Harcourt quoted it, with approval, during a debate on Women's Franchise, and only the other day (February 29th) it formed the "tag" to a leading article in *The Times* on the same subject. In the opinion of philosophers like the late Sir William Vernon Harcourt and *The Times* leader-writer (to say nothing of Pericles), we must suppose that the half-baked nonentity who is never heard of outside her own kitchen is a far more glorious specimen of her sex than a woman like Florence Nightingale, who, for the good deeds that are in all men's mouths, has been rewarded with the Freedom of the City. Therefore, let our womenkind refrain from the open practice of virtue, lest they be well spoken of (which is just as criminal, apparently, as being evil spoken of), and so incur the displeasure of *The Times* leader-writer and the shade of Pericles.

Another Phrase of Noodledom, which is well quoted at the present time, is: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Yet it is a hundred years and more since women began to find out that to joggle a baby's brains into a sort of egg-flip when he ought to be quietly asleep, was the worst possible preparation for ruling the world or anything else. The rocking-cradle is obsolete, but the phrase and the fallacy still remain. Perhaps *The Times* leader-writer and Pericles had their brains joggled in infancy, and hence their prejudices against women.

There is another Phrase—of Knaveedom rather than of Noodledom—which, though never quoted verbally by the opponents of Women's Suffrage, yet sums up in a dozen monosyllables their attitude towards the whole question: *Those that ask shan't have, and those that don't ask don't want.*

EMILY SYMONDS (George Paston).

### Important Notice.

#### CARAVAN CAMPAIGN.

THE van will start from Mrs. Despard's house, Earnshaw Cottage, Oxshott, on Saturday, May 16th, at 4 P.M. All friends of Women's Suffrage are heartily invited to come and see the van and give it a good "send off." Trains from Waterloo, 1.37 and 2.15, arriving at Oxshott 2.20 and 3.1. Day tickets (which must be specially asked for) 1s. 7d. return.

The first meeting will be held at Leatherhead at 7 P.M. All those who have cycles are invited to accompany the van and attend this meeting and help to make it a success. Tea at Earnshaw Cottage, by kind invitation of Mrs. Despard, 3 to 4.30 P.M.

### Scottish Notes.

#### KINCARDINSHIRE BY-ELECTION.

THE campaign has continued with a great measure of success during the last week. A very large number of meetings have been held, and the canvassing has gone on steadily. We are undoubtedly going to influence the vote. I am particularly proud of our organizers and workers. They have displayed an energy and enthusiasm that can find no equal in the ordinary political parties. In eloquence, initiative, adaptability, earnestness, tact, and never-failing humour, the Suffragettes have left the ordinary politician miles behind. Without us the by-election would have been a very dreary affair indeed.

One finds that our anti-Government policy is coming to be understood at last, in spite of party prejudice. This growing understanding on the part of the rank and file is not unmarked at Liberal headquarters, and many expedients are being employed to counteract. Here is the usual insinuation of "Tory gold." The usual Liberal woman who trusts the Liberal Party—and works for it without payment, is also forthcoming, although it is noticeable that the Liberal women's meetings are chiefly addressed by men! The Liberal press performs its share of the necessary work by suppressing as far as possible the reports of the speeches of the Suffragist, and forgetting to chronicle the unanimous passing of resolutions, while devoting much notice to more or less irrelevant and humorous heckling.

Humour is a very good thing, but the deliberate suppression of the serious nature of our propaganda is a sign of the fear which it evokes in the Liberal camp.

There has been a slight tendency to play down to the level desired by the Liberal press; but it has been wisely checked. Our women know that they are not in the contest to provide columns of misreported entertainment to the readers of the local papers, but to move votes. To this work we are turning all our attention, and I am beginning to believe that our efforts will be crowned with success. TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

ELECTIONEERING in Kincardine has compensations. Beautiful scenery, both inland and at the coast, invigorating air, good weather, and excellent roads for cycling, help to compensate us for hard work, tired limbs, and sore throats. We have a big county to cover, and we have been to every corner of it with our battle-cry, "Votes for Women." Our audiences are most varied—fishermen and fishwives, agricultural labourers and tradesmen, shopkeepers and farmers—all eager to hear our speakers. Whether we defeat the Liberal candidate or not, there is no doubt about the good impression we are making, and the fine propaganda work being done.

Last Thursday Miss Munro and I decorated our cycles with placards—"Votes for Women," "Keep the Liberal out," "Taxation without representation is Tyranny"—and proceeded to walk down to the old town of Stonehaven, a hot bed of Liberalism. A man stopped us on the way and said, "If you go down there with those cycles you will be attacked by the people—and serve you right too," he added. We answered with a smile, rang our bells merrily, and walked on. We encountered nothing worse than howls and yells, and two punctures in my back tyre. The grim faces of the fishermen looked a trifle grimmer when they saw us, but they came to our meeting, and soon we had a big crowd. Decidedly the most picturesque meeting I have ever attended. In the background the blue sea and the little harbour, where a fishing-boat rocked with a white sail unfurled on which was inscribed in black letters, "Votes for Women." We stood on a pile of herring-boxes, in front of us a crowd of fishermen and wives and young girls. The latter wore the Liberal candidate's colours, and vigorously opposed us. We had plenty of questions and good-humoured banter at the close, and marched back to the new town attended by troops of youngsters. That same evening we cycled back to Stonehaven from Newton Hill, after a fine meeting. It was a beautiful evening, a full moon shining on the water, and as clear as daylight. Miss Munro and I looked at each other as we pedalled along, and the same thought came

### State Burglary.

MISS MEREDITH, one of our Edinburgh members, arranged a successful demonstration last week on the occasion of the sale of her furniture, which had been seized in consequence of her refusal to pay Imperial taxes as long as she was denied the vote. Mr. J. D. Easson loyally backed her up, and spoke to the assembled crowd, reminding the people that if Miss Meredith was in her own country (New Zealand) she would have a vote, but that this benighted kingdom was afraid of the women. Mrs. Macleod Easson made preparations for a demonstration at the sale of her goods, but so nervous were the authorities, that the sale was postponed. However, the demonstration took place, speeches having been made by Mr. and Mrs. Easson.

It is quite in keeping with the character of men who steal a woman's property that they should not dare to face the public, but should prefer to sell it in a sneaking and hole-and-corner manner.

Some of our English members are being threatened with the State burglars. Dr. Wilks has already been visited by the bailiff. She hopes to have an effective public protest in the Hackney Town Hall at the time of the sale. Mrs. Sargent Florence's sale will also be made the occasion for a public demonstration in Great Marlow. Members are at work there organizing the indoor meeting.

Dr. Lewin's 10l. fine has been seized in the shape of jewellery. We have ascertained from a lawyer that the usual fine for refusal to hold a licence for armorial bearings on a few spoons and forks is five or ten shillings, so we now know that Dr. Lewin has been mulcted of 9l. 10s. for the crime of protesting against her voteless condition.

All shame upon a Government that replenishes its Treasury by means of these petty thefts; and all honour to the women who serve their cause by thus publicly protesting against the tyrannical and iniquitous exactions of an unrepresentative oligarchy!

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From April 30th to May 14th.

Thurs. 30	Social, 18, Buckingham Street, Debate Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss FitzHerbert (chair) Miss Mary Pearson Dr. Thornett	3.30 8 8
MAY			
Fri. 1	Duologue, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Hodgson Mrs. How-Martyn	8
Sun. 3	Hyde Park	Mrs. Winton Evans Miss Matters Chair, Miss M. Smith	3.30
Thurs. 7	Peterborough, Public Meeting Social, 18, Buckingham Street Central Branch, Debate, 18, Buckingham Street	Mrs. Despard Miss Matters	3 3.30 8
Sat. 9	Lewisham, Bazaar (Holloway Prison Cell on view)	Miss Neilans	9 3
Sun. 10	Hyde Park	Miss M. Smith	3.30
Mon. 11	Cardiff, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard	8
Wed. 13	Marlow Town Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Sargent Florence and others	8
Thurs. 14	Social, 18, Buckingham Street National Hall, High Street, Hornsey	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. How Martyn	3.30 8

By-Elections, Meetings Daily:—  
Wolverhampton  
Dundee  
Dunfermline

Special "Suffrage Day," June 13th,

Procession starts from Embankment, 3 P.M., Albert Hall, 5 P.M.;  
Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.

\*\* All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street Strand, W.C.

The campaign here is over, and we are now awaiting the result. The Suffragists gave life to this election, which otherwise would have been a very tame affair. The men were reminded they had a vote, and an unusually heavy poll was the result. Meetings until the end were well attended, and both the people and Press continued enthusiastic over our cause. The news of Churchill's defeat in North-West Manchester quite upset our opponents. It was another feather in the Suffragist cap, and we wore it proudly on polling-day. The latter was bitterly cold, but we stood at the various booths from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and a good many votes were given to us.

One sturdy fisherman placed a poem in my hand as he went to vote. He wrote it himself, and I reckon it now amongst my treasures. It expresses the feeling of many men here.

[The poem will appear in these columns next week.]

### Dundee By-Election.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON, who has represented Dundee in Parliament for twenty-two years, has been raised to the peerage, so we are preparing for a by-election. Sir George Baxter, a well-known local manufacturer, is to be the Unionist candidate. Mr. G. H. Stuart, of the Postmen's Federation, is to represent the Labour Party; whilst Mr. Edwin Scrymgeour, a member of the Town Council and organizing secretary of the Scottish Prohibition Party, is to stand as a Prohibitionist. The Liberals are delaying the selection of a candidate till after Saturday, but besides Mr. Winston Churchill, various names are mentioned, one being that of Mr. Raymond Asquith. Dundee is considered a safe seat for the Government. From 1832 till the last General Election, when one Labour Candidate was successful, it has consistently returned Liberals; but the members of the Women's Freedom League are confident that they will at least reduce the Liberal majority. Monday, April 27th, is a holiday here, but after that the campaign will begin in earnest. Many members are out of town this week, but those at home have been busy canvassing, arranging about halls and committee-rooms, in order that everything may be ready for next week, when we expect Miss Molony to take charge. L. C.

### London Council.

A REPRESENTATIVES' meeting of the Council was held on Saturday afternoon last at 18, Buckingham Street. A copy of the constitution decided upon will be forwarded during the week to each of the London Branches for confirmation. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th, at 3 P.M., at 108, Iverna Court, Kensington, when nominations for the post of London Organizer will be considered. It is hoped that all the London Branches that offered contributions towards the "Organizer Fund" will make special efforts to make good their guarantees as quickly as possible. To facilitate business at the next meeting, delegates are requested to send in resolutions and nominations in advance, for inclusion in the Agenda, to the Hon. Sec., Miss M. Lawson, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Miss Baenziger, Hon. Sec. of the Maida Vale Branch, is giving a Franchise tea at 134, Portdown Road, Maida Vale, on Wednesday, May 6th. Members of other branches are invited.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

### Notes and Comments.

THE all-absorbing topic of the past week has been North-West Manchester. What are we to think of the result? The new Member, Mr. Joynson-Hicks is a supporter of our cause. So was Mr. Churchill; so was Mr. Dan Irving. There are many who are dissatisfied with Mr. Churchill's advocacy of the cause; and we notice that the victorious candidate, in his address after the result was declared, did not take the opportunity of alluding to his intentions with regard to Women's Suffrage. He enlarged on the iniquities of the Education, Licensing, and Eight Hours' Bills, and indicated his views on Fiscal Reform, but made no reference to Women's Suffrage. So far as the candidates individually are concerned—more especially as Mr. Churchill is not likely to remain long a stranger to the House—we doubt whether the election has any great significance to us.

A much more important question is, to what extent did the anti-Government policy, pursued with such wonderful enthusiasm and self-sacrifice by the Women's Freedom League and the National Women's Social and Political Union, affect the issue? It is difficult, indeed impossible, to say with certainty. The silence of the Press on both sides may mean much or it may mean little. *The Morning Post* is satisfied to ascribe the victory of the Conservatives to the spread of Tariff Reform and disgust with the Liberal Government; *The Daily News* finds the explanation in similar conditions. Both are agreed in saying nothing about the effect produced by these societies. Such silence about a policy which has bulked very largely, as we certainly know, in an unusually vigorous campaign may again mean much or it may mean little. At all events Manchester knows the truth, that in the near future Women's Suffrage will be a power in every election.

The real question is, What will Mr. Churchill and Mr. Joynson-Hicks tell the Cabinet and the Opposition leaders respectively about Women's Suffrage in Manchester? Since the Press has joined, as usual, in a conspiracy of silence, the great question is whether Mr. Asquith will come to the conclusion that his opposition to Women's Suffrage has caused a turnover of 250 Liberal votes. If he thinks so, and if moreover he is, as some would have us believe, a mere opportunist, he will presumably grant facilities to Mr. Stanger's Bill. If he is convinced that the turnover is due to other causes, or if he is honestly opposed to Women's Suffrage in itself, the loss of the seat at Manchester will not drive him one step on the road we would have him tread.

It is interesting to note that *The Daily News*, in discussing the constructive programme of the Liberals in the light of the Manchester result, specifically demanded that Mr. Asquith should adopt a measure for Women's Enfranchisement.

### Hampstead Meeting.

WE would remind our readers of the meeting, calling upon the Government to extend facilities to Mr. Stanger's Bill, to be held in the Town Hall, Hampstead (opposite Belsize Park Station on the Hampstead Tube) on Tuesday next, May 5, at 8 P.M.

Tickets (2s., 1s., and 6d.) are on sale at the office of the League (38, Museum Street, W.C.), at the Town Hall, and at the following shops in Hampstead:—"Bookshops," College Crescent, Swiss Cottage; Mr. G. Buckle, Heath Street, Hampstead; Messrs. Frankland, King & Co., Swiss Terrace; and Mr. S. Mayle, Priory Press, 70, High Street, Hampstead.

We would remind our readers that this meeting derives special importance from the fact that Mr. Stanger, who will expound his Bill on this occasion, is shortly to lead a deputation to the Prime Minister calling upon him for facilities for the Bill. It is, therefore, important that we should give Mr. Stanger every possible support, and enable him to emphasize before Mr. Asquith the demand which we are making. A crowded and enthusiastic meeting will strengthen his hands. The other speakers are Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P., Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Mr. Joseph Clayton. The chair will be taken by Mr. H. W. Nevinson.

May we ask friends to apply for tickets at once, in order that the office work may not come all in a rush at the end? We strongly urge our friends not to risk buying tickets on the night, as the Hall does not hold more than 450.

### Clapham Branch.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

MR. VICTOR D. DUVAL has been appointed Hon. Secretary in place of Mr. Francis, who has removed to a distance. Mr. Duval, who is a vigorous member of our Stewards' Corps, and the leading spirit in the Clapham League of Young Liberals, has been doing splendid work for the cause in Clapham. He reports that the Young Liberals are becoming enthusiastic for Women's Suffrage, and that the Clapham Branch has a splendid future before it.

The Branch will hold its first big public meeting on May 27th, in St. Anne's Hall, Venn Street, Clapham. Mr. E. Duval will take the chair. The speakers will be announced in due course.

Will those who are willing to work for this meeting send their names at once (to save postal expenses and clerical labour) to Mr. Duval, 20, Lindore Road, Battersea Rise, S.W.?

### Birkenhead and District.

MR. ROBERT H. TATTERSALL, who is acting secretary for the Branch which is about to be formed in Birkenhead, has circularized all the members of the local women's societies, both suffrage and political, inviting them to send the names of men who are likely to join the Branch. He will be glad to receive the names of any men to whom he may write. Address to 5, Eaton Road, Birkenhead.

Our readers will remember that a considerable nucleus was formed as a result of the meeting addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Ivory Cripps, and Mr. Mitchell. The movement is spreading steadily, and Mr. Tattersall is able to report considerable progress already.

### A Victory in Norway.

SUFFRAGIST writers and speakers have often insisted on the unfairness of the economic system under which higher wages are paid to men than to women who do the same work, and do it equally well. They have pointed out that the enfranchisement of women will tend gradually to remedy this injustice. It is now possible to point to a concrete example of this process of reform, which is described in a recent number of *Nylænde*, a magazine devoted to the interests of women, and ably conducted by Frøken Gina Krogh, one of the pioneers of the Suffrage movement in

Norway. The Department of Works (*Arbeidsdepartementet*) proposed to differentiate between men and women employed in the postal service, after the manner unfortunately familiar to all our readers. Lower salaries were to be paid to women, and their status was in other respects to be made inferior. This retrograde proposal aroused a storm of protest; the various women's societies combined to emphasize the facts that the cost of living was the same for both sexes, that their official duties were often the same, and that in such cases their remuneration ought also to be the same. Logic and justice prevailed. The proposal was rejected by the Storting. The moral is obvious.

### Edinburgh.

An important public meeting, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of the Men's League, was held on Tuesday, April 14th, at India Buildings, Edinburgh. The chairman, Mr. J. Dan Easson, defined the aims and policy of the League in his presidential address, and foreshadowed the prosecution of a vigorous campaign. In discussing the question of "militant tactics," he pointed out that the damage done at Corstorphine Hall by the anti-suffragist students of Edinburgh University far exceeded all the damage that had been caused by women demonstrators throughout the Kingdom. The campaign in Scotland will open on May 22nd, when another public meeting will be held by the Edinburgh Branch. It will take place in the Synod Hall, which accommodates about 2,000 persons, and among the speakers will be Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and the Earl Russell.

### One Point of View.

"A SUFFRAGIST!" he echoed, regarding me with an expression of pained surprise, as though I had avowed myself a Mormon or a chimney-sweep. "Are you aware, sir," he continued, "that your position is wholly untenable? That it is controverted by all the known laws of protoplasmic metabolism?"

I was not. I doubt if I had ever looked at the matter in that light. The Philosopher and I had congratulated ourselves at St. Pancras when we found one carriage, in the long express packed with Easter Monday holiday-makers, which seemed to promise an almost undisturbed journey. There was only a single passenger besides ourselves, and we settled down comfortably, glad to shake the slush of London from our feet, and prepared to admire the spring landscape whenever a lull in the snowstorm might enable us to detect it.

But the other passenger had talked. He had lectured me upon scientific subjects, and when, in despair, I strove to turn the conversation upon any other topic—politics, or the weather for choice—he always contrived to manoeuvre it back again in about thirty seconds. Protoplasmic metabolism overwhelmed all my defences. I cast one appealing glance upon the far corner where the Philosopher slumbered in peace, and seemed to catch a furtive glimmer in his nearer eye. But no help from him appeared probable. I abandoned the unequal contest, and resigned myself to the Scientist.

"All the trend of Evolution is against you," he went on, pleasantly. "The female comes first in the scale of development—"

"Then," I interrupted, "she must be—"

He waved me aside.

"Not at all. Priority implies a lower stage of existence. Observe the aphid."

With the best will in the world, I did not.

"The aphid," he continued, without remorse, "begins as a female. It is self-sufficient—I had not observed the resemblance before—and parthenogenetic. But let a morbid, katabolic condition supervene. Then the male comes into being. No, you can base nothing upon that. Consider the pearl. And remember that every advance, every higher type is the product of certain adverse elements in environment. In the history of the aphid you have the history of sex, and that," he

concluded, in triumph, "is why man is, and must be, superior to woman."

"I see," I said—perhaps weakly.

"Now apply that to our civilization. Sooner or later, if we give woman undue influence, we of the West will be overrun and obliterated by the nations which keep her in her proper place. There is the true Black and Yellow Peril. But our Cabinet knows nothing of the aphid and its lesson; it cannot foresee the disasters that dog the footsteps of feminist inefficiency."

The train stopped. So did the Scientist. He got out. We were saved.

The Philosopher remarked, "He should read Huxley's 'Evolution and Ethics.'"

"Then why," I asked, with some pardonable embroideries, "didn't you tackle him before?"

The Philosopher smiled.

### Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

### The Force that Rules.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Howell's letter in your issue of April 16th, may I be allowed to restate his argument in another way?

The maxim that "Force rules the world," or, as it is sometimes stated, "that Society depends ultimately upon Force," rests upon a fundamental fallacy, which was (no doubt unwittingly) well illustrated by *The Times* leading article after the Second Reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill. "If woman gave us laws," said *The Times* leader-writer, "they would have to persuade men to enforce them, and men would not do this unless they also approved them." Surely from this it follows that it is the principle which lies beneath the law on which it depends (or, in legal language, which is its sanction). It is not the policeman, but the moral idea behind the policeman, which enforces the law. The maxim that "Force rules the world" stops one step short of the truth.

For all force relies ultimately for its sanction upon morality, and in so far as it depends upon immorality is foredoomed to failure, is transitory, impermanent, evanescent, and bears in itself the seeds of its own decay. But morality is constant, eternal, and indestructible, beyond time and space, above changes of government or terminologically inexactitudinaceous promises of astute politicians.

The cause of Women's Suffrage will conquer because it takes its stand not upon force, but upon something to which force itself must ultimately bow, and that something is morality.

E. W. HENDY.

Alderley Edge, April 24th, 1908.

SIR,—In the earliest form of Chinese picture-writing the idea of a wife is represented by a symbol which should certainly commend itself to the modern champions of sex-privilege. It consists of a woman and a broom—emblems, to the celestial mind, of a ministering angel in a halo of dust and a heaven of tea-leaves. What could more adequately express the ideals which your antagonists uphold? I hasten to present them with this discovery, which can be worked up into an argument fully as logical as the rest of their case, and almost as venerable. It is true that the Chinese are outgrowing the stage of civilization to which hieroglyphics and domestic servitude belong; even now they are ruled by a lady who is considered an expert in militant tactics of the most advanced type. But that is no reason why Englishmen of the twentieth century should be disloyal to the tried and proven standards of pre-Confucian wisdom.

ALPHABETICUS.

\* \* \* All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "THE EDITOR"—Business Letters to "THE PUBLISHER"—at the Office, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.  
Printed and Published by THE WOMAN CITIZEN PUBLISHING SOCIETY at 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.—Thursday, April 30, 1908.