

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

VOL. V. (New Series), No. 234.

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Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free.)

## SHUT YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND TAKE WHAT ASQUITH SENDS YOU!



**DOCTOR A. Q. . TH:** There! If you'll take this medicine like good little girls, I won't stop Nurse Gr. y from giving you some Amendment jam afterwards—if there is any jam.

**REBELLIOUS LITTLE GIRL:** No nasty medicine for me, thank you! I mean to have nice medicine that will make me well, and it's there in your pocket!

### CONTENTS.

|  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Our Cartoon .....                                | 769 | For the Man in the Street.....                   | 775 |
| The Outlook .....                                | 769 | Announcements .....                              | 775 |
| Women and the Law of Divorce.                    | 771 | W.S.P.U. Deputation to Canadian Premier.....     | 776 |
| By H. Munk Beattie.....                          | 771 | Government's High-Handed Action at Holmwood..... | 776 |
| Penal Servitude or Votes? .....                  | 771 | The Forcible Feeding of Suffrage Prisoners.....  | 777 |
| The Suffragists in Monmouth Prison, Dublin ..... | 772 | W.S.P.U. Answer to Mrs. Fawcett.....             | 778 |
| Another Protest .....                            | 772 | Holiday Campaign Throughout the Country.....     | 779 |
| The Cabinet Minister's Holiday .....             | 773 |  |     |
| A Question to Labour M.P.'s .....                | 774 |  |     |
| The Early Manner, By W. Pett Ridge .....         | 775 |  |     |
| A Call to Irishwomen .....                       | 775 |  |     |

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

### THE OUTLOOK

The Irish petition for a reduction of the sentence imposed upon Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans, and for their treatment as political offenders, has been refused by the Lord Lieutenant, in spite of the fact that the Irishwomen's Franchise League, which presented the petition, had secured the signatures of some of the most prominent and influential people in Ireland. Lord Aberdeen's answer to the petition will not be taken as final, and the agitation on behalf of Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans continues. The Secretary of

the I.W.F.L. has written to Lord Aberdeen to point out that he is acting in opposition to what the *Freeman's Journal*, the official Nationalist organ, describes as the preponderating conviction of Irishmen in regard to the treatment of political prisoners, and she adds:—

In view of the fact that the authorities have already been compelled to release Mrs. Baker when almost at the point of death, it is necessary that the matter should have the immediate attention of your Excellency, unless it is the desire of the Irish Executive that the two remaining English Suffragist prisoners should expiate their offence by undergoing the extreme penalty.

The two prisoners are being forcibly fed. It is understood that Mrs. Leigh's health is already breaking down in consequence.

#### The Report on Forcible Feeding

The agony caused by forcible feeding and the serious results from it are described in a preliminary report made by Dr. Agnes Savill, Mr. Mansell Moullin and Sir Victor Horsley. The report shows that forcible feeding is attended both by pain and danger. The official statement that danger to life and health exists only when the victim offers resistance is denied. The report proceeds to show that physical injury has been inflicted during the feeding process, and that there exists serious danger of the injection of food into the lungs and consequent pneumonia and pleurisy. It is further reported that the principles and precautions usually observed in artificial feeding are not

observed in the prison forcible feeding. The effect on stomach and alimentary system is disastrous, but the injury which this treatment does to the nervous system is stated to be the most serious of all. These three eminent medical practitioners conclude their preliminary report by saying:—

In the light of the facts enumerated in this briefly summarised paper, the position of the medical profession in regard to forcible feeding of suffrage prisoners must be considered anew. We cannot believe that any of our colleagues will agree that this form of prison torture is justly described in Mr. McKenna's words as "necessary medical treatment" or "ordinary medical practice."

#### Man-Made Law

The *Vigilance Record* for August gives particulars of various cases of White Slavery recently tried and punished in the Law Courts. A man convicted of procuring a child of fifteen for immoral purposes and carnally knowing her (the better to achieve his purpose he had kept her locked up in a bedroom for a week), was sentenced to two years' hard labour. Two men, convicted of importing young girls to England for immoral purposes, were sentenced to six months' hard labour, a sentence equal to that imposed upon Suffragists who have merely broken a window! In another case, Mr. Curtis Bennett decided that nine months' imprisonment (in addition to three months' imprisonment for returning to England after having been deported) was adequate

punishment for a man who had lived upon a woman's immoral earnings, and after ill-using her for months had finally tried to stab her with a knife. Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans, because they protested against the degradation of women, have been sent to five years' penal servitude, but two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, is the heaviest punishment which can be imposed for entrapping girls and women and selling them into a slavery far more dreadful than men have ever endured since the world began.

The Shortcomings of the Labour Party

The constitutional Suffragists in their manifesto to the electors of Midlothian state that the Labour Party is "determined to put up a strenuous fight for the enfranchisement of women during the present Session." We should be interested to know upon which facts the statement is based, as up to the present time there has been no real announcement to that effect from the Labour Party itself.

So strongly do I feel on the woman's question that, if our party do not act whole-heartedly this session, even to the extent of turning out this contemptible Government if necessary, I shall seriously consider the desirability of withdrawing from the Labour Party and spending my time and money in fighting for the women's cause instead.

Mrs. Fawcett's Attack on Militancy

Mrs. Fawcett points to the fortunes of recent Woman Suffrage Bills as a proof that militancy has had an injurious effect on the Parliamentary situation. But what are the facts? Before militancy began years elapsed without any Woman Suffrage Bill being introduced at all, and since it began, the introduction of a Woman Suffrage Bill has become an annual event.

The Parliamentary Position

The second reading division on the Conciliation Bill in 1911, and the second reading division in 1912, are not parallel cases, because in 1911 the Government had given no promise of facilities for the final stages of the Bill.

An Irish Women's Committee for Securing Votes

We have received a letter which appears in this issue from the promoters of an emergency organisation to be known as the "Irish Women's Committee for Securing Votes Under the Home Rule Bill."

liament shall be elected by the Local Government electors, and would therefore give votes to Irish-women on equal terms with Irishmen, since in Ireland the Local Government franchise is precisely the same for both sexes.

Sir Edward Carson's Conversion

Sir Edward Carson is converted to Votes for Women. That is the only possible interpretation of the fact that women as well as men are to sign the solemn Ulster Covenant.

Liberal Attack upon the Government

For Suffragists to accuse the Government of dishonest and treacherous dealing with Votes for Women, is regarded by Mr. Massingham, of the Nation, as something very like high treason.

Deputation to Mr. Borden

The deputation from the Women's Social and Political Union which waited upon Mr. Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, is fully reported elsewhere. In accordance with the practical policy of the Women's Social and Political Union, Mr. Borden was not asked whether he was personally in favour of Woman Suffrage, the question addressed to him being whether he was prepared on his return to Canada to announce that he would forthwith introduce and carry a measure giving women the vote on the same terms as men.

GENERAL BOOTH AND WOMAN'S EQUALITY

"First and foremost, I insist on Woman's equality," wrote General Booth in 1908. "Every Officer and Soldier should hold to it that Woman is as important, as valuable, as capable, and as necessary to the progress and happiness of the world as man."

For thirty-five years she was my trusted counsellor in difficulty, my unfailing encouragement in depression, my unspeakable comforter in sorrow, and my unflinching comrade in difficulty.

This high tribute to her memory is borne out by one small incident that showed the fine militant spirit in the General's wife. It was at the Conference of the Methodist New Connexion in 1861; the case of the General, who had already shown himself something of a rebel, was under discussion, and a weak compromise was suggested to him.



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WOMEN AND THE LAW OF DIVORCE

By H. Musk Beattie

(Second Article)

[In the first article on this subject the questions of Domicile, Foreign Marriages, and Grounds for a Dissolution Decree were dealt with.] It has been decided that the general tests of legal cruelty are bodily injury, reasonable apprehension thereof, or injury to health; that the acts complained of must be of such a nature as to show that further cohabitation is unsafe.

The foregoing notes give an indication of the disadvantages under which women find themselves when they seek relief from a matrimonial tie which has become intolerable, or at least irksome. The effect of the law as it stands is that if a husband merely misconducts himself, and commits no other matrimonial offence, his wife can only obtain a judicial separation, which may be described as a sort of half-divorce, and which puts a premium on immorality.

Then, again, with regard to the desertion necessary to be added to the adultery in the absence of cruelty or one of the other offences. It must last for two years or upwards (except when the desertion arises from disobedience to a decree for restitution of conjugal rights). This is very unfair to women.

Moreover, the decisions as to what constitutes legal desertion are as detrimental to the interests of women as those determining legal cruelty. For example, it has been decided that the fact that a husband left his wife and cohabited with another woman, visiting his wife only occasionally, did not amount to desertion; nor does the fact that a husband comes and goes merely as a visitor.

With regard to the question of the custody of the children of the marriage of persons, one of whom has obtained a divorce; although the interests of the children are in general the first consideration, yet the same tendency to differential treatment as between men and women is manifest. The Court has special regard to the absolute right, at Common Law, of the father to the custody of the children, and will, as a rule, only allow the mother access to, or disinterested from the custody of her children, unless she can give some more cogent reason than her mere natural desire to have them.

If a wife seeks a divorce on the ground of the adultery and bigamy of her husband, she must be able to prove that both offences were committed with the same woman. If her husband has entered into a bigamous union with one woman, and commits the

adultery with another woman, she has no ground for a divorce. Adultery in the case of a woman will be presumed under circumstances which the law would not deem to justify the like presumption in the case of a man; thus, if a married woman goes to a house of ill-fame with a man, adultery will, as a matter of course, be presumed, whereas in the case of a married man, such a fact would not raise an irrebuttable presumption against him.

The adoption by Parliament of one standard of morality for men and women, and its incorporation in new statutes modifying the existing law, is the end to be achieved. With regard to matters of divorce, as in other respects, men have legislated for themselves, and the laws when made have been so interpreted by men as to create additional difficulties for the women who are subject to them.

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To be obtained in 1d. and 3d. packets from all Stores, Grocers, or Oilmen. JOHN KNIGHT, LTD., The Royal Primrose Soap Works, LONDON, E.

PENAL SERVITUDE OR VOTES? A Striking New Poster

The British public, it is well known, always goes to sleep unless its memory is continually jogged. Just now, it is essential that it should not go to sleep and forget that two women have been sent to penal servitude for five years by a Government that refuses to give women the Vote.

These two brave convicts must be released, and votes must be given to women; otherwise this Government will have to go.

This poster should appear everywhere, on blank walls, in windows, on hoardings. We call upon members of the Women's Social and Political Union, who are never deaf to any appeal, to see that this is done.

This poster should appear everywhere, on blank walls, in windows, on hoardings. We call upon members of the Women's Social and Political Union, who are never deaf to any appeal, to see that this is done by ordering immediately a number of the posters and taking steps to get them well displayed in every neighbourhood all over the British Isles.

AN IMPORTANT ADMISSION

The Times, in a recent editorial comment on the Government's programme for the Session, says:— That mockery of electoral reform, the Franchise Bill, proposes an addition to the electorate for which no one has asked, while it omits the only addition for which there is an eager demand.

THE URBITOR BURBERRY

serves a dual purpose. As a Fine-weather Overcoat it is becoming and comfortable. As a Weatherproof it supplants, with great advantages, Oilskin or Macintosh.

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The Book of the Urbitor, together with patterns, will be sent on request. BURBERRYS 30, 31 & 33, Haymarket, S.W., LONDON. 8 and 10, Boulevard Malesherbes, PARIS; Basingstoke; and Appointed Agents in Provincial Towns.

THE SUFFRAGISTS IN MOUNTJOY PRISON, DUBLIN

Forcible Feeding of Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans—Petitions Refused

Our fears on going to Press last week were soon justified by a telegram, received too late for insertion, containing the information that Mrs. Leigh and Miss Gladys Evans were being forcibly fed in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin.

It is further proof were needed of the grave responsibility undertaken by the Government in resorting to this barbarity and outrage, we have it in the Report on Forcible Feeding drawn up by Sir Victor Horsley and others, and reprinted by us on page 777. The treatment there described and denounced after careful investigation by eminent physicians in the treatment that was practised last Tuesday week upon these two women, who had then fasted a week or more (in fact rendered the process doubly dangerous to life and health), and is still being practised daily upon them now.



Miss Gladys Evans as Drummer in the W.S.P.U. Band

date to suffer the same cruel treatment that they are to-day allowing the women to suffer.

MISS GLADYS EVANS The following extract from a letter written to a friend by Miss Gladys Evans at the time of the Suffrage disturbances in March, when she was still in America, conveys some idea of the spirit in her that made her throw up her work there and return to England later, when she heard of the W.S.P.U. Leaders' imprisonment in June.

Mrs. BAINES We are sorry to have to announce that Mrs. Baines is making only very slow progress towards recovery. The effects of her five days' fast have proved even more serious than was at first supposed, and the present state of her health is very far from satisfactory.

Mrs. Leigh as Drum-Major

ANOTHER PROTEST One Month's Hard Labour for 3s. 6d. Worth of Damage

On Tuesday, August 20, Mrs. Gatty broke a small pane of glass outside the Post Office at Abergeenny, as a protest, to use her own words, against the exclusion of women from the Reform Bill and in accordance with Mr. McKenna's own pronouncement to his constituents, in which he stated that the disfranchisement of the latch-key voter was more than flesh and blood could stand; and, further, as a protest against Mr. McKenna's whole treatment, as Home Secretary, of the imprisoned Suffragists.

Treated as a Criminal Mrs. Gatty was then removed to Usk Prison, where, on her declining as a political offender to give up her possessions, her own clothes were removed by force and she was forcibly clad in prison dress.

In Ireland, where, owing to political conditions, political offences have been unusually frequent in the past, this distinction will be readily understood, and I hope you will join with me in urging upon the authorities the duty of at once extending "first division" rights to Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans, the Suffragist prisoners whom I have mentioned.

In Abergeenny Police Court On Wednesday, August 23, Mrs. Gatty appeared in Abergeenny Police Court to answer the charges of doing wilful damage to a pane of glass at the Post Office.

From the "Manchester Guardian" SIR.—The medical report on "forcible feeding" to which you call your attention is very painful reading. The evidence of the report is clear as to its cruelty, and it required no report to convince of its futility.

Very well, there is nothing further for me to say. Mr. Marsh: The Bench find you guilty, and you will be sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

THE CABINET MINISTER'S HOLIDAY

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AT MARIENBAD

The following announcements appeared in the Press last week:—Elaborate arrangements are being made for the protection of Mr. Lloyd George against a repetition of the attentions paid him on Wednesday by a number of Suffragists.

That night, a neat little brown paper parcel was left at the hotel door, to be taken carefully by Mr. Lloyd George. When the wrapper was removed, a white cardboard box was disclosed, bearing upon the lid and upon all sides, within and without, labels stamped with the magic words, "Votes for Women."

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT We are glad to be able to publish the following true account of a "hostile demonstration," in consequence of which Mr. Lloyd George thinks it necessary to be guarded like the Czar of Russia:—

On Monday morning the two visitors were early astir. As they started out, they saw two furtive figures coming along the other side of the road, the two Ministers saw them from afar and raced past, their hats raised, the Suffragists in the rear shouting "Don't forget our warning."

As you have been staying in the midst of such grandeur and beauty, we cannot help hoping that its influence has helped to drive out some of the petty meanness and small self-concern that has been allowed to warp your judgment in the past.

A FAREWELL GIFT As flowers are a usual parting gift at Marienbad, they next purchased a fine gloriole, whose rich blooms shaded from dark purple to pure white.

Mr. Marsh: The Bench find you guilty, and you will be sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Very well, there is nothing further for me to say. Mr. Marsh: The Bench find you guilty, and you will be sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

SIR EDWARD GREY AT FALODEN

Sir Edward Grey was again reminded of the claims of women to be counted among his constituents when he was presented with his portrait, on August 25, by the Liberal electors of Borsick-on-Breede.

According to other accounts, the two women were very roughly handled, one of them having her dress and veil torn, while the crowd, composed mainly of Liberals, threatened to duck them in the pond.

The following account has been sent to us by the lady who vainly tried to put a question to Sir Edward Grey:—Future generations would look at the portrait and say, "Here was a man."

SOME PRESS COMMENTS

A week or two ago it was reported that Mr. Lloyd George meant to spend his rest of his holiday in the rest of the colony land to which he was invited by a colony of his Welsh fellow-countrymen.

A GERMAN ACCOUNT Suffragettenangriffe gegen Lloyd George in Marienbad.—Der englische Schatzkanzler Lloyd George weilte seit einigen Tagen in strengstem Inognito in Marienbad.

Cage for English Cabinet Ministers (From a drawing in the Swedish paper, "AFTONBLADET")

of the grounds, followed by her sister, who had vainly attempted to make herself heard in the din.

LORD HALDANE NOT FORGOTTEN The Writing on the Gate Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, has done his full share as an individual, in addition to sharing the responsibility which belongs equally to all members of the Cabinet, in goading women to adopt desperate measures in fighting for the Vote.

These considerations were probably what influenced the unknown Suffragettes who, apparently during Sunday night last, pasted to the gates of Lord Haldane's residence, Cloan House, Portlissure, a large notice in purple and green lettering. It ran as follows:—







