

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### International Law.

The growth of arbitration has been rapid during the last century. Amongst all the cases settled by International Arbitration within the last 130 years no nation has refused to execute an award made by an arbitral court acting within its own competency. Immediately before the war thirty-four Governments approved the Wilson-Bryan Peace Treaties, which provide an unlimited agreement to consider the report of an impartial body on all aspects of any dispute involving laws or fact. The treaty between Great Britain and America on these lines is still in force, having been twice renewed. Last week came the welcome report of the first meeting of the Committee of Experts at Geneva to consider the progressive codification of International Law. The Swedish Delegation has been to the fore in this matter, having requested the Council at the League Assembly to appoint a Jurists Committee to draw up a provisional list of those problems of International Law for which settlement by International agreement appears practicable and desirable. The principal legal systems of the world are represented, and the Swedish ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Hammarskjöld, a prominent member of the Institute of International Law, opened the proceedings. The fact of peculiar interest to us in the preliminary session is the intention indicated in the speeches to deal with the codification of International Law in terms of peace and not to elaborate rules of war. The British, French, Italian, and Belgian delegates supported the contention put forward by a member of the Committee that the defects and uncertainties of peace law cause many wars. He considered that the Committee should therefore aim at making war law superfluous, by giving the world just and clear rules for the rights and duties of States in times of peace.

#### Wives and Children: Report Stage of Guardianship and Separation Bills.

It was in a House bored to tears and nearly emptied by a lengthy and perfectly academic opposition by the Labour Party to a small bill of agricultural statistics, which settled down to a consideration of the Report Stage and Third Reading of the Guardianship of Infants and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bills. Barely an hour remained before the Private Members' motion, which had to be taken at 8.15.

This scurry was, however, obviously welcome to the Government. Many amendments, nearly all initiated by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, were on the Order Paper, many of them so reasonable that if they had been adequately debated Mr. Locker-Lampson, who was in charge of the Bills, would have been hard put to it to put up a good case against them. As it was he had only in most cases to plead that there was no time—if the Bills were to get through that night—to explain fully, or even at all, his reasons for refusing to accept them, and one after another fell into limbo. Some small gains were, however, obtained; the Home Secretary promised to consider in the Guardianship Bill the extension of the limit (imposed during Committee) of the enforceability of an order for maintenance, when husband and wife were living together, from three to six months. In the Separation and Maintenance Bill he promised to see whether enforced cohabitation when the husband is suffering from venereal disease as a ground for separation is covered by the existing law under the interpretation of "cruelty," and, if not, to include it specifically. Two others concerning an ordered definition of "children" to include "step-children" and an important technical amendment relating to the discharge of an order were accepted. A further attempt will be made when the Bills come before the Upper House shortly after it reassembles to press for the amendment giving the court power to divide the furniture of a home when a separation and maintenance order paper has been obtained, to make adultery a ground for ~~divorce~~ <sup>separation</sup>, and many others. Magistrates who, as a result of their practical experience, are in favour of the first of these are urged to express their support to the Home Secretary without delay.

#### Teachers' Salaries.

A correspondent writes:—The National Association of School masters held its annual meeting at Nottingham on 11th April. Not for the first time we were left amazed at the lack of logic the men display upon the salaries question. Mr. Young, the new president, gave as his presidential address the "Birthright of British Boys," which is to be taught by men. Men are not entering the teaching profession in adequate numbers because the Burnham Award does not sufficiently recognize the added responsibilities of men; pay them more, Mr. Young argues, and more will enter the profession. He does not consider the obvious and logical question whether if the difference between men's salaries and women's is increased more men would find it possible to get jobs. Those who take this line forget that there is such a thing as a demand for labour which varies with the rates of pay no less than in supply of labour. It is in order to get over this dilemma that Family Allowances for teachers are put forward by a certain section, but there is nothing in Mr. Young's speech to suggest that he has ever considered this proposal or even that he is aware of the existence of dangers if the difference in the salaries of the sex is increased still further. On the implications of the title of his address it is perhaps unwise for those who are not educationalists to express any views, but his statement that boys can only be trained to have manly instincts, to act and think as men, if they are taught by men, is not as self-evident as he makes out. In the United States schools it is a usual thing for boys to be taught by women, and American men are certainly not less manly than the British. But one thing is certain, no one wishes to see the field for women teachers increased because they undercut the men, but this is exactly what Mr. Young and his like would bring about.

#### Substitution of Girls for Boys.

Amongst the written questions put forward last week in the House of Commons was one from Mr. Montague asking why

vacancies for seventeen boys at the Post Office repair factories under the Stores Department are to be filled by girls at a cheaper rate of pay. The explanation given by Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson was that the Stores Department is trying to reduce the number of boys employed as there is a difficulty in absorbing them as they reach adult age; the work, he stated, has no educational value for boys, but is suitable for girls. This might be accepted as a possible explanation of why girls should be employed instead of boys; if the Stores Department can really not be organized so as to avoid "blind alley" jobs, it is arguable that they are less injurious for girls, of whom the majority in any case regard industrial employment as temporary and marriage as their ultimate occupation. But clearly this is no reason why the girls should be paid less than the boys. None of the usual explanations given for unequal pay are applicable here. There is no question of the cost of maintaining a family, since it is boys and not men who are concerned; it cannot be due to the fact that boys stay permanently in industry and girls mostly do not, since the very reason the girls have been taken on is that the work has no permanent prospects for boys, nor is it possible to maintain that a boy's needs are greater than those of a girl. It is an unblushing case of sex discrimination in pay. The Postmaster-General did not refer to the question of pay in his answer; evidently discretion was regarded as the better part of valour.

#### Women Unionists in Aberdeen.

A School of Study for Women was held in Aberdeen under the auspices of the South Aberdeen Unionist Association for three days last week. Gatherings like this, which come half-way between the great national conferences and the local meetings seem an excellent way of keeping political enthusiasm alive amongst women. They are less remote and touch more women than the national meetings, and are more stimulating than the local ones. Political education upon strictly party lines may not strike everyone as the ideal method, but any effort to spread interest in the questions of the day amongst women is to be welcomed. Amongst other speakers at the School was Dr. Laura Sandeman, who contested North Aberdeen at the last election.

#### A Distinguished Life.

We send our cordial congratulations to Mrs. Haldane, of Cloan, who celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birthday last week. Messages of congratulation reached her from the King and Queen, Queen Alexandra, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Archbishop of York. Very few attain such a great age, and still fewer are able to do so in the full possession of wide intellectual and political interests. Mrs. Haldane has the happiness of sharing closely in the lives of her four children who have all attained distinction in public life.

#### Women Aerial Pilots.

The International Commission for Air Navigation which met in London last week confirmed the decision of a medical submission in March, 1924, that women should be excluded from employment in the operating crew of aircraft engaged in private transport, on the grounds that women have not the stamina for long distance flights. In the *Sunday Times* we read that Mlle. Bolland, who has built up a good business as a woman pilot, and is the possessor of two aeroplanes, intends to uphold her claim, as the loss of her licence would seriously interfere with her career. A second-grade of licence, for which women would be eligible to cover short pleasure flights, etc., has been suggested. We have no idea on what principle licences are granted, but common sense and fair play would suggest that the decision should rest not on sex but on individual capacity and physical fitness.

#### Animals' Welfare Week.

Throughout England, Wales, and Scotland, and in Northern and Southern Ireland, arrangements are now nearing completion for the observance of Animals' Welfare Week, 3rd-9th May. The problem of the caged bird will be discussed at a meeting under the auspices of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to be held in the Caxton Hall on Thursday, 30th April, at 3 p.m. Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Eustace Miles, M.A., Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Lady Clare Annesley, and Mrs. H. Baillie-Weaver are among the speakers at a conference to be held in the Caxton Hall on the afternoon

and evening of Wednesday, 6th May. There will also be cinema pictures, dances, and other entertainments. Particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Animals' Welfare Week, 1 Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2.

#### Playing Fields for Girls.

A useful letter in *The Times* on Wednesday, 8th April, signed by representatives of the Joint Consultative Committee of the London School Sports Association calls special attention to the shortage of facilities for outdoor games for London girls. We fear this shortage is to be found equally in other cities and towns. The proposed National Playing Fields Association will focus attention on the needs in this direction and women's organizations should make it their duty to ascertain the extent of local playing fields both for boys and girls.

#### L.C.C. and Training for Domestic Service.

At a meeting of the London County Council Education Committee it was decided to establish intensive courses for the training of unemployed young women as cooks-general. A special vote of £1,000 for this purpose for 1925-6 was agreed to. The Higher Education Committee which brought forward the proposal, stated that it had arisen from the report of the committee appointed by the Minister of Labour to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants. The courses would be provided, with a maintenance grant in place of unemployment benefit for the training of young women of 18 years of age and upwards. In view of the lack of knowledge of home management on the part of many young mistresses, there would also be special short courses of training in household management and cookery for training young persons in a knowledge of such management.

#### Save the Children Fund Summer School.

An International Summer School will be held at Geneva on 8th-23rd August, under the auspices of the Save the Children Fund International Union. There will be courses on Child Study and Esperanto, and lectures on International Questions, History and Literature. Particulars can be obtained from the Save the Children Fund, 26 Golden Square, W.C.1.

#### This Week and Next.

It just happens that this week two of our articles deal with Canada. This is as it should be. We hope in the future to give more attention than in the past to women's questions in our own Dominions. Next week we publish an article on the present position with regard to Housing, by Captain Reiss, and a further article by Mr. Albert Lieck on Husband and Wife before the Law.

#### Questions in Parliament.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN: HOME TRAINING COURSES.—In reply to a question from Mr. Hannon, Sir A. Steel Maitland stated that the sum contributed to the home-training courses for unemployed women carried on by the Central Committee on Women's Training, was estimated as £127,400 for the financial year just ended, compared with £43,150, £15,000, and £50,000 in the three preceding years. In 1922 and 1923 the percentage of the women trained who were known to have entered domestic service was 66 per cent. In 1924 the percentage was rather less, but the courses were not limited to women likely to enter domestic service.

METROPOLITAN POLICE COURTS (PROBATION OFFICERS).—In reply to a question from Mr. Groves, Mr. Locker Lampson stated there were 22 men and 31 women appointed by the Home Office; 12 of the women are specially attached to the Juvenile Courts. They are all paid wholly or partly out of the Metropolitan Police Fund, but a proportion of the cost of those attached to the adult courts is borne by the London Police Court Mission and other Societies.

POLICY.—*The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.*

#### A VACATION SURVEY.

The first few months of the year have not been wholly blank so far as women's questions in Parliament are concerned, and a brief survey of the position may be useful to our readers. So far as equal voting rights for men and women are concerned, we are obliged to be content with promises. The Government has pledged itself to appoint a Conference of all political parties next year, and to introduce a Bill in 1927. Another promise is all that we have attained with regard to pensions for civilian widows with dependent children, and that a promise which is not to our taste. The Government has stated its intention of dealing with the question as part of a comprehensive scheme of all-in social insurance. Our readers are advised in this connexion to read the articles on social insurance which appeared in this paper last year.<sup>1</sup> The difficulties in the way of provision for widows by social insurance are obvious, and women's organizations must bring strong pressure on the Government to include existing widows as well as widows whose late husbands who for some reason were not covered by insurance schemes. As it stands, this promise would have been more satisfactory is some definite time had been stated.

To turn from the shadowy region of promises to solid achievement we find that the Government's Legitimacy Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, where it was introduced by the Lord Chancellor. There is good reason to hope that it will become law before long, and another instance of offence against innocent children removed from the statute book. Just before the House arose for the Easter recess, two Bills which in one form or another have been tossed about Westminster for many years, passed their report stages in the House of Commons, the Guardianship of Infants' Bill, and the Separation and Maintenance Order Bill. We deal in greater detail with these measures elsewhere in this paper. Here it is sufficient to say that there is every expectation that they will return safely from the Upper House, if anything, somewhat strengthened.

Apart from legislation one of the most interesting political events of the year so far was the debate on Major Harvey's motion to give a married woman the right to decide whether or not she wished to retain her own nationality on marriage with an alien. Not a single voice was raised against the motion, and the Government stated that it would introduce legislation if

#### THE LOT OF THE PRIVATE MEMBER.

BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

A great change has taken place in the political electoral system in the country during the last half-century. Fifty years ago few constituencies had 10,000 electors; now anything under 30,000 is comparatively small. Fifty years ago no women had the vote, now in some divisions they outnumber the men. Yet, while these great changes have been taking place in the constituencies the House of Commons still remains in the iron grip of antiquity and its members bound hand and foot to the Party system. At an election time the electors flock to meetings to hear the candidates speak and to ask them questions and try and seek pledges. No one would probably be more annoyed than the successful candidate if he was told that he was going to Westminster as a "mere delegate"; the electors themselves would probably like to think their Member went as a free man to a free Parliament, but it is a mere dream. Once within the portals of the House of Commons, the Party system claims him as its own, loyalty to promises, adherence to declared policy at election time, must be respected only when they do not clash with a two- or three-lined Party Whip. One wonders how Members would vote if they voted in their constituencies and dispatched their votes by post to Westminster; the influences of their constituency would then be felt, at Westminster it is

different. Picture the scene—a big debate—the leaders of all parties delivering long speeches, the crowded House as the hour approaches for the division bell to ring; Members standing shoulder to shoulder at the bar of the House, then the cry of "Division," and the flocking of Members into the lobbies amid the cry of the Whips, "Government Ayes" on one side, and "Noes, please" addressed to their supporters by the Opposition. Who can tell how often a Member's sympathy is in one lobby while he records his vote in the other?

And if the discretionary powers of the Private Member is strictly limited, so are his legislative. He cannot introduce any Bill that would involve increased taxation, nor can he propose any amendment to any Bill that would have a like effect—any proposal to increase taxation either directly or indirectly must come from the Government. Now, when it is remembered how many reforms can only be effected by some increase of taxation it will be seen that a great limit is placed upon the private Member of Parliament's legislative activities. Nor is he likely to be able to pass into law any Bill that is at all controversial. To get a Bill read a first time is easy, but unless a Private Member is lucky in the ballot his Bill can be prevented being read a second time by any one Member who may object to it. It will thus be seen that a Private Member of the House of Commons has many difficulties and obstacles to face and overcome, and may at least plead to his constituents for a merciful view to be taken of his work at Westminster.

<sup>1</sup> See "Social Insurance," by W. A. Elkin, 21st Nov., 25th Nov., 5th Dec., 19th Dec., 1924, and "The Widow and the Fatherless," 10th April, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> See "The Law at Work: The Criminal Justice Bill," 3rd April.

## TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.<sup>1</sup>

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XXI.—TIBERIAS: NABLUS: AND JERUSALEM AGAIN.

When we left Damascus by train our route followed for a few miles the track of the Mecca pilgrimage. We were on a high tableland, and the line presently brought us into a very extraordinary looking country: there was rich red earth thickly strewn with boulders of black basalt varying in size from big cannon balls to blocks three or four feet in diameter. This country we were told was volcanic and the boulders had been thrown out by successive eruptions. Further on we came to a vast expanse of rich corn-growing country: at the stations we saw the grain lying in large heaps waiting to be transported to its destination by rail. A few years ago it would have been packed on the backs of camels for dispatch to Haifa and elsewhere. There was a strong military guard at these stations. We were impressed as we travelled along this line by the considerable display at the stations of military force far in excess of anything of that kind which we had seen in Palestine. Possibly the reason of this was to be found in the near proximity of the wild Bedouin tribes and in the fact that this was a country richer in agricultural productiveness than any we had seen last year. Another reason of a political nature may also be found for it. In Palestine under the British administration the possession of arms is forbidden, except under strictly defined conditions, to the native population. In Syria, under French rule, it is permitted: the near neighbourhood of wild Bedouins may again supply the reason.

We had hoped we might see something, in the shape at least of ruins, of some of the deserted cities of the Hauran. This great fertile plain once carried upon it, under Roman rule, at least ten considerable cities, besides many villages. Our friend, Miss Newton, of Haifa, had told us last year of a riding expedition she had made many years ago to explore them, and we had also read about them in Sir George Adam Smith's *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, and in *Cook's Guide to Palestine and Syria*, which quotes very interesting passages from Porter's *Giant Cities of Bashan*. These all give most fascinating accounts of these great Roman cities, deserted now for many centuries, but left intact with massive gateways, walls formed of immense blocks of hewn stone, often four feet in thickness: hippodromes, temples, mosaic pavements, and aqueducts just as their owners left them. They form a sort of Syrian Pompeii. In one of the cities thus described, Burák, large numbers of Roman houses remain quite perfect: "the traveller can take possession of any that he fancies for the night and apportion the rooms at pleasure to himself, his horses, and his attendants" (*Cook's Guide to Palestine and Syria*). We remembered Fitzgerald's poem:

Think in this battered Caravanserai  
Whose portals are alternate Night and Day,  
How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp  
Abode his destined Hour, and went his Way.  
They say the Lion and the Lizard keep  
The Courts where Jamshyd gloried and drank deep:  
And Bahram, that great Hunter—the wild Ass  
Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break his sleep.

Omar Khayyam is not exactly appropriate to the Decapolis, but he comes very near it, and we would have greatly loved to have seen some traces of those deserted Roman cities. But we were doomed to disappointment unless Tell-es-Shibab, an important station in our line, is the same as "Shuhba." This certainly had massive stone walls, was evidently at one time of far greater extent than at the present day, and occupies a very commanding position. Our railway line took us round three sides of it and we had repeated views of a fine waterfall in its immediate neighbourhood.

From this point onwards all regrets for ruined palaces and temples were extinguished by the glorious mountain views which met our delighted gaze. We were not only making a rapid descent on a mountain railway, comparable in its engineering feats with the St. Gotthard, but these mountains were clothed by flowers with a profusion which we had never seen before. Whole mountain sides were covered by them. Some were blue from summit to base with lupins, not lilac like our lupins, but pure, true blue, perfectly exquisite, heaven come down to earth. There were also sheets of poppies and

<sup>1</sup> This is one of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of several months.

anemones. But nothing seized us with such delight as the lupins. We had never realized how lovely these could be when seen not singly but in mass.

It is a pity the same remark does not apply to human beings. At Damascus we came across an army of American tourists, 400 or more in number, all in one party. Taken one by one these were quite agreeable, or rather let me say much the same sort of people as ourselves, but in the mass they were somehow overwhelming. We had to tell our dragoman to find out from theirs where they were going and then take us somewhere else. This was not because we thought ourselves superior to them, but because wherever they were they seemed to blot out everything else.

When the railway brought us down to Semakh on the Sea of Tiberias, quite a fleet of steamers awaited us and we thought ourselves lucky when our little party was detained to go in the last and smallest. We thought we were going to have a restful and quiet journey across the lake. "But there must aye be a something," as the Scottish lady said of her husband as a drawback to matrimony. We ought to have had a restful and refreshing hour and a half. But instead of the calm peacefulness of the spring evening that we had looked forward to and had enjoyed a year ago, we had the society of a group of people who were vehemently conversational and controversial. Several of them were Jewish colonists from a neighbouring, newly founded, colony. Among these was one handsome young Jew who never stopped talking in a very argumentative spirit during the whole of the ninety minutes of our transit across the lake. It a little consoled us that his fellow countrymen seemed to take somewhat the same view of his conversational talents as we did, for after a short time they plied him diligently with cigarettes; he was thus forced from time to time to shut his lips if only for an instant. This was certainly a welcome, if only a momentary, respite.

When we reached Tiberias we found the little inn we had enjoyed so much last year as well managed as ever: the whole of the large crowd of American tourists were catered for without fuss or confusion; and we were not disappointed in the neat comfortable rooms looking out on the lake, retained for ourselves.

The next day we parted with much regret from our companion, Miss J. F. She remained in Tiberias to meet friends there while we made our way to Nablus and Jerusalem. We recrossed the lake to Semakh in blissful quiet this time and took the train to Afuleh. On the railway journey of about two hours we had charming views of the Jordan valley and of the place where John baptised and carried on his mission of repentance. The Jordan here is infinitely more beautiful than at the muddy pool which we had seen last year near the Dead Sea. We passed an interesting Saracenic bridge, and a little later Beisan, formerly Beth Shan—the House of Quiet, an ancient town with extensive Roman remains. We too were on our way to a House of Quiet, for we were met at Afuleh as previously arranged, and were driven in a motor to Nablus, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Governor, Colonel Postlethwaite, and his sister, and had two delightful days of absolute quiet which was very refreshing after our week of strenuous sight-seeing since we had landed at Beirut. Our drive from Afuleh, in its second half, was over ground which we well remembered, past Jenin, the En-gannim of the Bible, and up the hill which we had descended last year, and from which we had had the ever memorable view of the Mediterranean, looking towards the Ladder of Tyre. It was a great pleasure to get on our old tracks again, and particularly to notice how marvellously the roads of 1922 had improved upon those of 1921. It was uneventful but agreeable not to plunge into bottomless pits of mud from which the motor had to be gradually and with great exertion excavated. The roads we traversed were now good throughout, and not good only in parts like the curate's egg. The road makers whom we so often saw at work last year, had not laboured in vain.

We received a most hospitable welcome from Colonel and Miss Postlethwaite and thoroughly enjoyed a respite from hotel life, and the contrasting quiet and peace of a real home. Nablus is a charming place in a beautiful situation, and is rich in gardens, and palm and orange trees. It is one of the cities of refuge mentioned in Joshua xx. It is there named Shechem in Mount Ephraim. It was not so much a city of refuge as a city of rest for us; we just enjoyed the views from the windows and verandahs of the governorate and did not go out of doors until the evening. The Sirocco was blowing and this strengthened our desire to remain quiet and not even try to see Herod's Street of Columns at Sebaste. By a lucky accident,

Mr. Champion, the Governor of Hebron, and his wife, called on Sunday afternoon: they had kindly invited us to spend a couple of days with them while we were in Palestine, and this fortunate meeting enabled us to fix approximately the date of our visit. We left Nablus by motor again on Monday morning and started for a most interesting and beautiful drive to Jerusalem. We passed Jacob's well, where our Lord conversed with the woman of Samaria, and had fine views of Nob, otherwise Sháfât, the place where the tabernacle was stationed in the time of Saul; of Bethel, where Jacob wrestled with the angel, and where he had the vision of the ladder reaching to heaven with angels ascending and descending. It will be remembered that the sacred stone now forming part of the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, is supposed to have been Jacob's pillow when he had this dream. Is there any reason why it should not have been brought from Palestine by the Scottish prince, son of William the Lion, who took part in the Crusades, and who was a friend of Cœur de Lion? We also saw Shiloh, where Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, where Eli dwelt, and where Hannah came yearly bringing with her the little coat for her boy Samuel.

## THE MARRIAGE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

By L. M. MOTT.

The reform of the Marriage Service of the Church of England is not a matter which concerns only the members of that Church. So long as the Church of England remains the established Church of the realm, so long will it be the Church to which the great mass of the people will resort for marriage and burial, even though many of them turn to it at no other period of their lives. For this reason and because the honour of the State is bound up with the honour of the State Church, it is surely of import to all that the morals taught or implied in the marriage service should not be on a lower standard than those adopted by all high-minded people to-day and recognized in the law of our land.

To many within the Church of England more is at stake. To them it is cause of sorrow that their Church does not set forth in its service an ideal of marriage greater yet, inspiring and inciting by its teaching to new and untried heights where the only contest between man and wife should be one of mutual love, deference, and respect.

It is possible to find men and women who, though disliking the word "obey" think it unnecessary to press the protest, because by disuse and common consent such obedience has become obsolete. Even if this were true, it is curious that they should acquiesce in a meaningless vow at one of the most solemn moments of life. But the assumption is false. In the less educated, less sophisticated groups of a nation, tradition and old usage linger on long after they are forgotten and dead among the more enlightened. Women who after long years of devoted work and friendship with the poor have been entrusted with the story of their daily lives, are aware of the sense in which the word "obey" is still taken by them, and how the authority of a great Church is invoked to support an unequal relationship in marriage intolerably degrading to the woman. The power of suggestion, too, must not be forgotten. The pre-Reformation rite was more explicit. In quaint old-fashioned language which tempers the sound to our modern ears, it indicates the spheres of obedience; the bride vowed to be "bonoure and buxom, in bed and at borde." The word "buxom" used to mean obedient. This hardly presents a high ideal.

It is worthy of note that the word "obey" is not found in the Roman liturgy in use to-day. The other anachronisms and undesirable implications are of secondary though still great importance. The service, taken as a whole, with its Tudor preface, its Pauline homily, its differing standard for husband and wife implicit in the prayers, is more in accord with the standards of the sixteenth century than with those of our own. It reached its present form in 1549.

The National Assembly of the Church of England has under consideration a draft reformed service which has already passed through the House of Laity and the House of Clergy. The draft, as presented, made few alterations of note except in the "causes for which marriage was ordained." The second of these, "for a remedy against sin," etc. had long been omitted in common usage, as being too revolting to be tolerated by anyone. An amendment, moved in the House of Laity by Miss Maude Royden and Mrs. Creighton, to omit "obey", making the vows equal for husband and wife, was rejected. More surprising was the

further rejection of an amendment to alter the prayer which petitions "that this man may love his wife, and this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful, and obedient." The House refused to insert the word "faithful" in the prayer for the man.

The House of Clergy, to its credit be it said, has made this alteration, and has also passed amendments which remove from the vow of the bride the word "obey," but they have, illogically it seems, retained the word in the question put to the bride by the priest. They refused to make it permissive for the wife to give the husband a ring and also an amendment abolishing the "giving away" of the bride.

The Pauline exhortation at the end, enjoining submission on the wife, remains unaltered. St. Paul, who taught in a more inspired moment that our bodies are "the temples of the Holy Ghost," would certainly regret that he had not survived in this sublime teaching for Christian marriage rather than in his words on the subjection of women. The raising and liberation of the whole of humanity is implicit in the teaching of Christ, however St. Paul and other men since may have failed to realize it at some moment or from some aspect.

The next step is with the House of Bishops. Any amendments which they may make to the service, as sent up to them by the Clergy, will be incorporated in the final revision and presented for acceptance or rejection, without power of amendment, first to both Houses of Convocation, and finally to the three Houses of the National Assembly sitting together. It is therefore of vital importance that all who desire complete reform should take steps to let their Bishops know their views and their reasons for them.

This, like so many of the reforms for which emancipated women work, is one which may barely touch their own lives. They are impelled to fight for it on behalf of their helpless inarticulate sisters, who have yet to win the freedom that they enjoy.

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN CANADA.

By H. MACDERMOTT.

"How can you do it?" "I don't know how you can bear it!" These, and similar exclamations, are so familiar to me from visitors to our little home; and all because we have chosen a house of our own in the country rather than the so-called comforts of the modern flat or apartment in town.

Now, to give a clear idea of our life I must explain that by country I do not mean the isolation of the prairies or farms of the West. No, we live in the province of Quebec, just 20 miles from Montreal and yet not suburban, being a small French village with but few English-speaking families, in winter perhaps only 3 or 4, although in summer many visitors come to their summer houses near the river. Our house stands at the top of a little hill away from the river but with a beautiful view across it and but 10 minutes from station allowing my husband to go daily to his office in town.

We were both college graduates, my husband an electrical engineer and I in the Honours School of Natural Science, Oxford, and before marriage lived in town and enjoyed to the full all the gaieties of pre-war youth. Together we set up house-keeping in a small upper flat in town, but as my husband owned an acre of land in this village, we decided to build a tiny house and follow fashion in moving out to the country for the hot months. Our combined savings covered the cost of building, and it took 3 carpenters only 2 weeks to put up the usual little wooden house so familiar all over Quebec. And at this point our work, which has never stopped, began, and it is our contention that our college training, far from being wasted, made us more adaptable and capable to undertake all that we have since completed.

Our house when we "moved in" resembled pretty closely a small wooden box, 20 ft. by 20 ft. with verandahs on two sides, and with no "finish" whatsoever, set at the top of an acre of rough, pasture land. First of all we painted, painted everything from roof to floor and all over again, three coats to protect our wood from the weather. At the same time we began to lay out our garden; hard work this digging in clay and rocks, but even that first season produced some flowers and vegetables.

It was with much reluctance that we shut up house and returned, in the Fall, to our flat in town, and that winter our first baby was born, and it was this event that changed and directed much of our life. With the baby all the disadvantages of our flat rose to the surface, and it was with delight that we

moved out to the country just as soon as possible in the spring. There we found peace and quiet and the baby could lie in the pram out of doors all day without the necessity of those dreadful walks for me. My health improved rapidly, and soon we were busy at our little house again; this year screening in all the verandahs from flies and mosquitoes so that we all slept outside with further benefit to the health of all the family. The garden grew under our care, a hedge of cedars and several lilacs and apple trees were added. But this was the first year of the war, and financial problems came to add their troubles to that dreadful time. Once more we returned to town with all its difficulties, and the nervous strain for me became almost unbearable with the approach of the second child whilst continuing to do alone all the housework, cooking, washing, and caring for the baby. Then both husband and the one-year-old developed whooping-cough of the worst kind, and following the doctor's advice we went to the country just as soon as the snow had gone. Our little house, you must understand, was only built for summer use. We set up one stove and managed to keep warm enough, and as summer advanced all improved in health once more, and then the second baby was born. City life became more and more impossible, and we decided to live in the country all the year round, though it was a big undertaking to transform our box of a summer house into a house capable of withstanding the rigours of a Canadian winter. All the following winter we planned and made models of what must be done to the house. First water pipes and drains must be laid 4 ft. or more below ground to prevent freezing in winter, second in importance, a furnace must be installed and that entailed digging a basement under the house, and then everything must be doubled, floors, walls, windows, and doors. It seemed a big undertaking, but early that spring we set out, this time with all our belongings on a huge furniture lorry, saying good-bye to our town flat without a single regret.

Here comes the advantage of a wooden house: ours was far too small for the increased family, so back came the carpenters, took off the roof, and raised it 6 ft., extended the back, and altered doors and windows with a view to winter protection. How we worked after the carpenters had done the big parts: there were hard-wood floors to be put down, window-panes by the score to be put in, and always painting. Then the basement to be dug, and we started on that with picks and shovels, but it was hard! Now a French Canadian makes a splendid carpenter, but he just refuses to dig, and no one would undertake that job till finally we managed to get a man from town who made a big enough hole to set up the furnace! And the furnace was installed by December, just in time before the real cold of winter set in, and we prepared ourselves for our first winter in the country.

It was a case of living in the house and building at the same time, and everything we did with our own hands, papering, painting, walls, ceilings, floors, and building cupboards, shelves, and even the refrigerator, that article beloved of all Canadian housekeepers. The house proved comfortable and easy to heat, using only 4 tons of coal, and the situation was ideal for the children, giving them fresh air and sun in abundance. English people, I believe, think of cold when they think of Canada, I would rather leave with you the impression of warmth, too much heat in summer in fact, but in winter, warm houses and almost always brilliant sun. Lots of snow and cold, but dry and sunny, making outdoor play for children under ideal conditions; how they love the "mountains" of snow, sliding and skating on their own rink which we make for them each year! For that alone we would cling to our little country home rather than face again the problems of children's play in a large city.

It is seven years now since that first winter, and still we love our country home and still we work at it, improving year by year. The family having increased we extended the house once more, giving us 10 rooms and of course involving us in more and more work, for now we have become so adept at inside decorating we would not dream of hiring a man to do it for us. Our basement extending under the whole house has cement walls and floor all done by ourselves, "a mix of cement" is a favourite way of spending the evening! Outside the very bricks of the foundation are laid by ourselves—14 bricks to the hour when we first attacked that problem, but we increased our speed with practice, and it's wonderful what a lot of fun is to be had out of work such as this when applied to one's own house.

We added to our interests by starting poultry-keeping on a very small scale, and not an egg did we get the first winter, but then I read and read and took poultry courses on all the latest

scientific ways of keeping hens and now can add £100 a year to the family income and have a poultry farm of some standing in the Province. This hobby, of course, involved my husband in a series of buildings, for in Canada hens must have well-built, dry houses, lighted with electricity and free from any draught. All this gave me lots more work, but pleasant work, and interesting both to myself and the children, who each have their own family of baby chicks in spring and their own pet hens in winter. So busy is our day that we keep to a routine carefully planned to include every duty, lessons forming the chief part of each morning; and here again, how that "college training" does help! When people ask how we accomplish all we do I say it's because we start early, for we get up at 5.45 every day for my husband's train at 6.54, and it is that early start that gives one time for breakfast, poultry feeding, lessons, housework, all unhurried, with still an hour out-of-doors before dinner. After dinner comes the sacred "rest hour," which brings us to the afternoon outdoor play refreshed and happy. Tea and the reading hour for the children, then bed for them and "Daddy's" supper brings us to the close of a happy day, and it is the happiness of our life with the good health of the children and ourselves that convinces us that our choice of life in the country is the best.

### THE LAW AT WORK.<sup>1</sup> PENAL REFORM IN CANADA.

We have before us a report of the Montreal branch of the Prisoners' Welfare Association, which contains much of interest to Penal Reformers in this country. The work there combines the care of the discharged prisoner with the provision of legal aid, and also with propaganda work in favour of more rational and humane methods of punishment, and the abolition of the death penalty. This combination of work for the individual with propaganda must have many advantages, and is a striking contrast to our own method whereby the work of helping the ex-prisoner has not been connected with any attempt to reform the system and the societies which exist for propaganda do not deal with individual cases.

The first object of the Society is to help prisoners, but not only on discharge. Help is given in the criminal courts and in prison. The method exists in Canada of releasing prisoners on parole before the whole of the sentence has been served, and the Association both urges the extension of this practice and also gives the men a helping hand and watches over them when so released. It is reported that out of eight parole cases in the care of the Association last year, two were disappointments and had to go back to prison. A good deal of help is given in the Police Courts through the poor boxes, which are financed by the Association and disbursed by the Judges and Recorders. The help given takes as a rule the familiar form of fares or food.

Reform in prisons is advancing on the lines we should expect. Concerts are given to the prisoners, and recently the reciter, Bransby Williams, gave up a day on his Canadian tour to entertain the inmates of a jail. The Association is collecting funds to instal an orchestra. The warden of the same prison is making great efforts to introduce a profitable industry, so that the prisoners may be enabled to earn wages. In another prison the Association has provided a library, which is in the charge of one of the prisoners. We are told that there were no executions during the year in Montreal jail, but two took place in Quebec Province. The Association protested against them, but without success.

An institution in Quebec of interest to women magistrates is the Girls' Cottage Industrial School, founded for non-Catholic delinquent girls in connexion with the Juvenile Court in Montreal and Quebec Province. The Government pays 10 dollars a month for each committed case; voluntary cases are also received, and are paid for by their parents or from contributions. The practice is that a girl over 16 taken before a judge for the first time is often put on suspended sentence and allowed to go to this school as a voluntary case. The managers do not take girls sent in this way over the age of 21, but even with this limitation the range of ages must be considerable. An attempt is made to keep the older and more experienced girls in a separate establishment from the younger ones. A complete mental examination is insisted upon before a girl is admitted to the school.

Gardening is an important feature, and the school is in close touch with the Women's Institutes. Much is done in the way of vegetable preserving and pickling; poultry are kept and also

<sup>1</sup> Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

cows. The managers are anxious to build another cottage which will take 25 girls, in addition to the 40 already accommodated in the main school building. They would thus secure a rather more normal life for the smaller number in the cottage, and these girls would also have the benefit of the daily walk between the cottage and the school. There is no doubt that the want of the daily walk to and from school or work is a very great loss in the lives of the inmates of many institutions, and has an effect on both health and spirits.

These reports are bound up together with those of twenty-seven other organizations in one volume, entitled *Welfare Work in Montreal*—a convenient method of gathering together the social activities of a city which might well be adopted in our own country.

### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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#### FACTORIES BILL.

The deputation which the N.U.S.E.C. had asked the Home Secretary to receive, in order to lay before him its views and the views of certain other women's organizations on restrictive legislation imposed on women in industry, is not to be received, as the Home Secretary had no time before Easter. He asked, however, for a statement of our views in the form of a memorandum as he was to consider the points of the Bill during the Easter recess. A memorandum has been duly prepared by Mrs. Abbott and forwarded to him.

#### EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARIES.

The following books have been added to these libraries recently:—

*Houses for All.* E. D. Simon.  
*Ten Years After.* Sir Philip Gibbs.  
*Margaret Bondfield.* M. A. Hamilton.  
*Health of the School Child.* Board of Education.  
*New Housing Handbook.* R. Reiss.  
*What I Remember.* Dame M. G. Fawcett.  
*An International Year Book of Child Care and Protection.*  
*Builders of Peace.* H. M. Swanwick.  
*Society Women of Shakespeare's Time.* V. Wilson.  
*Economic Development of British Overseas Empire.* Knowles.  
*Christian Case for Birth Control.* C. Rose.  
*Artificial Limitation of the Birth Rate.* M. Scharlieb.  
*The Geneva Protocol.* Noel Baker.  
*The Church and Woman.* A. M. Royden.  
*Women and the Labour Movement.* Henry.  
*The Vested Interests.* Veblen.  
*Memoirs of a Militant.* A. Kenny.

#### BRISTOL S.E.C.

The Annual Meeting was held on 3rd April. At a brief business meeting first, the Reports were read and adopted, and the Executive Committee was elected.

Then Mr. W. C. H. Cross took the Chair, and spoke a few words on the necessity for Equal Franchise, with which many other subjects were connected. These called for the energy and brightness of youth as well as for the eloquence and experience of older women. Miss Elkin (London) followed with a vivid and interesting account of the Council Meeting, at which she had kindly acted as Bristol's proxy delegate. Most of the resolutions were referred to, and the arguments that had guided their path to success were touched on. In particular Miss Elkin dealt with the resolution and amendments on Family Allowances, and put before her hearers with great clearness the pros and cons of that debated and debatable subject.

Altogether the members received a lively impression of the discussion that had taken place at the Council, and warm thanks were expressed to Miss Elkin for the pleasure she had given and to Mr. Cross for his never-failing kindness and support.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### A CONCRETE HOUSING HOPE.

MADAM.—Since my letter on "Steel—and other—Houses" published in your issue of 3rd April, Scotland has produced a concrete "hope," as she produced the steel "hope," which places the two alternative methods of house construction on about an equality so far as cost of production and speed in erection are concerned.

A model house now being shown at Falkirk has been designed and constructed by Mr. John Livingstone, a building contractor of that town. It consists of living-room, bedroom, kitchenette, and bathroom, and was erected by Mr. Livingstone and two unskilled labourers in a week, at so low a cost that the house could be sold for £275. It is a standardized house, is suitable for mass production, and can be extended to five apartments. If his scheme were in full working order, Mr. Livingstone claims that a house of the model type could be constructed after the first month at the rate of one a day. The house is to be known as the bioblock hollow wall type, and is built of pre-cast concrete slabs in a reinforced frame, and all around the building between the walls there is a continuous and clear cavity giving immunity from damp. The blocks, roofs, windows and doors, and frame, can be shipped or railed to the site ready for erection, which can be carried out by unskilled labour.

Municipal deputations have inspected the house, and the Director of Housing of Edinburgh Corporation was particularly impressed by the method of framing, which he described as most ingenious, and said that the ideas incorporated in the house were worthy of further consideration and development.

By the Falkirk achievement, the rival claims of steel and concrete as alternative methods in housing, are reduced to estimated durability, amenity, and hygiene. I might also mention an interesting experiment in concrete methods at Clydebank, near Glasgow. Here it is claimed that a four-apartment dwelling, with bathroom and scullery, could, in mass production, be put up for £350. The type, it is further claimed, would not crack, would be damp and vermin-free, and the house would stand a hundred years and still be useful. The house can be erected rapidly and with unskilled labour, and both the interior and exterior lend themselves to æsthetic and artistic treatment and design.

M. S. B.

#### THE MENACE ON THE RHINE.

MADAM.—In reply to "Englishwoman and Internationalist" I fear I am not competent to write on the Use and Abuse of Liberty, nor will I attempt to deny that we did some wrong things during the war. But we cannot forget why we went (reluctantly at first) into it, viz., to fight for the liberty of a smaller nation which had been basely betrayed. As to the Press, I think every nation has papers that give expression to violent and extreme views, but that again is another form of liberty and a much to be deplored one.

In reference to the blockade, I think it is a well known fact that had it been enforced much sooner, as our military and naval experts wanted, and a total stop been put to foodstuffs and materials for ammunition going into Germany, the war would have been brought to an end far sooner, thus saving hundreds of thousands of valuable lives, and years of suffering and waste. Surely no one can want another such war, and though one cannot altogether condone France's attitude with regard to the Rhine provinces, etc., one can but sympathize with her, for after all she suffered and lost she must naturally dread a revengeful and I fear not too trustworthy former enemy so close to her frontiers. Let us hope she may eventually see that the best safety lies in Germany being a member of the alliance.

Maybe "Englishwoman and Internationalist" and I are illustrations of the old adage:

"A woman convinced against her will is of the same opinion still," and you will soon be considering this correspondence unprofitable, and saying it "must now cease."

EUPHEMIA M. LANCASTER.

### THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**Stafford W.C.A.** APRIL 23. 7.30 p.m. Report of Annual Council Meeting. Speaker: Miss Auld.

**Woolwich S.E.C.** APRIL 22. 3 p.m. Inaugural Meeting in Mayoress' Parlour, Town Hall. Speaker: Miss F. M. Beaumont.

## WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

**Hanley.** APRIL 20. "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C." Speaker: Miss Auld.

**Shelton.** APRIL 22. "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C." Speaker: Miss Auld.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 19th April. 3.30, Music; Lecture: Mr. Ramsay Muir. 6.30, The Rev. Dr. Major.

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