

THE VOTE,
August 7, 1914.
ONE PENNY

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 250.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

THE CRIMES OF STATESCRAFT.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Manchester's Advance.

Three notable steps on the road of Women's advancement were made in the City of Manchester last month. The first was taken by the city itself; the Watch Committee passed a resolution that women-police should be appointed for duty in the parks. If this is a success other policewomen will be appointed. As there are an unusual number of parks in Manchester, there will be a wide field of work, and there can be no doubt of the success of the venture. The second noteworthy step is the founding of a Babies' Hospital by the women doctors of the city. Councillor Margaret Ashton, the well-known Suffragist, has given the magnificent donation of £300 to this object, and the sum necessary for opening the hospital has already been subscribed. The institution will be run entirely by women. The third effort appeals strongly to us as a League for it organises women's work for the public in a direction sorely needed, as we have shown. A "Rota of Women Police Court visitors" has been formed by the Manchester and Salford Branch of the National Union of Women Workers. Two of them go each day to sit in the Police Courts, listening to the cases concerning women, lending the support of their presence to girls and women who have to give evidence in a Court otherwise filled with men, and taking notes, with a view to giving help in the future. It is very gratifying to us that our struggle for the right of women to enter the Courts has borne good fruit. In Manchester the visitors have not only been well received, but welcomed by the officials of the Courts, given seats at the solicitors' tables, and they have even been fetched from one Court to another by a high official to be present in a case where a girl was giving very trying evidence in a Court full of men. Our warmest congratulations to Manchester, and may many other cities follow so good an example. The presence of women will soon make itself felt—as Edith Watson has found in the London Courts—not only in the attitude towards women and girls in the dock, but in the sentences passed on men guilty of unspeakable assaults on women victims.

Fettering Women.

We are glad to note that the action of the Committee of the St. George's Hospital, London, in demanding to know the political views of applicants for the appointment of Matron is not being allowed to pass unnoticed. It is evidently a direct attempt to fetter the freedom of the individual woman in a way which no man would stand. We see in this arrogant assumption the male "Partingtons" striving with their little mops to stay the advancing tide of woman's liberty. The *Daily Herald* elicited the information that the questions were only put to ensure that the Matron had no interests outside the hospital. How far do men dare to bind male officials in this way? No doubt the question of the State Registration of Nurses is a bone of contention, and probably Woman Suffrage looms large as a bogey which will interfere with hospital duties. Why try to make women mere machines for duty and atrophy their brains? It is to secure efficiency that women are setting their brains to work, both in the nurs-

ing profession and the administration of the State. Invidious restrictions with regard to political opinions are not to be tolerated in the appointment of a woman to a position of such responsibility as matron of a large hospital. The *British Journal of Nursing* has taken up the matter, and it will be interesting to know how soon the Committee of the Hospital will recognise the wisdom of removing their veto on freedom of thought outside hospital duty.

Prejudice or Efficiency.

As to the long struggle waged for the registration of trained nurses, the important deputation to the Home Secretary last week received cold comfort, being told that they must set to work to convert their enemies. This is the advice so glibly given to Women Suffragists by those who are blind to the rapid process of conversion, but it is never demanded of men—with votes behind them—who are fighting for a great reform. If Mr. McKenna had to practice what he preaches, he would be kept busy, for as the Grand Inquisitor, allowing women to be horribly tortured in prison, the multitude of his enemies is overwhelming.

Still Chattels.

All honour to the men who strove to bring home to the Colonial Secretary in the House of Commons the iniquity of bartering away women's rights without so much as "By your leave." Mr. Booth, Mr. Edmund Harvey, Mr. W. H. Dickenson, Mr. Aneurin Williams and Mr. Glyn Jones were among those who fought the battle of women in the early hours of the morning of July 30, when the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill secured its third reading. The proposal to re-commit the Bill on the ground of inadequate consideration of the rights and demands of women was negated. It was in vain that protests were made against treating women in this question of Nationality as "man would not treat man." The old chattel idea triumphed, but it swells the ranks of women determined to fight against such man-made injustice.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL: PIONEER. *By E. M. N. C.*

WHEN KINGS RECEIVED PETITIONS. *By Eunice G. Murray.*

AN AFTERNOON HOLIDAY IN IRELAND. *By C. Despard and L. Franks.*

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

THE CRIMES OF STATESCRAFT. *By C. Nina Boyle.*

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM: FORESHADOWINGS IN FICTION. *By L. A. M. Priestley.*

THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

MISS DORINDA NELIGAN.

TAX RESISTANCE: MRS. F. A. STEEL, DR. E. KNIGHT, MISS PYM AND OTHERS.

WHAT WAR MEANS.

OUR CAMPAIGNS.

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OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Fellow Members,
On my return journey from Ireland, where I have been spending the last three weeks, I saw in the English papers that what had come to us in our retirement as a terrible possibility had become real, that the hell-hounds of war were unloosed, that the greatest of the European nations were gathering mighty armaments together, that, in all probability, a conflict, vaster in extent and more awful in results than any that has ever been, was imminent.

Naturally, my thoughts flew to the Movement which, with so much gallantry and steadiness and sacrifice, our women have built up, and I asked myself: How is it to be affected by the catastrophe that has fallen upon Europe?

Some years ago there would have been but one answer: The Movement would break; the women—as Anti-Suffragists may be saying now—would return to their old allegiance.

Since those days—I am sure we of the Women's Freedom League feel this deeply—great and momentous changes have come to pass. We, the women, have learned to stand together. There has been a wonderful consolidation of our forces. We know now that all the horror with which we are threatened arises from a false conception of human society.

In our Holiday Number I wrote of the "Bullet Theory." Present events are emphasizing what I said then. So long as materialism—physical force—is the order of the day, so long as the spiritual considerations which women and honest workers of both sexes could bring to the government of the nations are absent, we shall have these epidemics of armed strife, this war hysteria through which peaceful communities are plunged into deadly conflict.

Therefore it is more than ever incumbent upon us to stand together now. I hope that during this crisis that is so severely testing us all the Suffrage Societies will act as one. Our first object must be to demonstrate everywhere, so long as time is left, against our nation embarking in this criminal war. If, or when, that fails, let us, by every means in our power, while helping so far as we can the innocent sufferers in all such times—the women and children—keep our own flag flying, and emphasise our demand to have a voice in decisions as to momentous events on which hang the destinies of the nation.

Using wisely and courageously the knowledge, experience and inspiration we have gained in our long struggle, let us determine that never again in the world's history shall man impose upon woman, without her consent and approval, the awful sacrifices, the terrible, unspeakable miseries and humiliations that a great war brings upon her.

I am aware that the tension will be hard, and the difficulties, if Great Britain sends her men into the fight, immeasurably greater than they are now. But, sustained by the belief that, if we are wise and strong, the day will come when the barbarity of war will be impossible, we shall not flinch or

fall back. I reckon on you, friends and comrades. We have found one another. Does any one imagine, when the hour of trial arrives, we can become once more helpless, scattered units? Join with me in showing, not by word only, but by action that this cannot be.

One personal word. I am thankful beyond the power of words to express that I am with you again, strong and well and ready for service.

I hope in a short time that we shall meet as a League to consider the situation.

Meanwhile, I pray that each individual member will do her best to serve our League and keep running vigorously our organ, THE VOTE, through which we can come into living touch with one another.—Your very sincere friend,

C. DESPARD.

HOW TO HELP OUR CAUSE.

Ask for "The Vote" Everywhere.

You will help our paper very much by asking for it at railway and other bookstalls and letting us have a post-card to say whether you get it or not.

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Mrs. Penrose, 100, Hamilton-road, Reading, will welcome a post-card from any member able to join her in selling THE VOTE, etc., at St. Ives, Cornwall, in August.

Miss Kemp, 1, Garfield-terrace, Caister-on-Sea, will do the same at Caister or Yarmouth.

Miss A. Mahoney, 5, Helvellyn-street, Keswick, will do the same in the Lake District.

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I remain, yours sincerely,

R. J. C. WOLSELEY.

Stafford, March 16th, 1914.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS—

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ELIZABETH BLACKWELL: PIONEER.

"You are one of my heroes," said Charles Kingsley to Elizabeth Blackwell, when he met her in her later life, when her fame was won. The remark was characteristic of the speaker. Equally characteristic of the woman was its effect upon her. "I could not understand," she said, "it seemed to stun me." But if she did not regard her work as heroic, she expressed her satisfaction that it had fallen to her to do the work of a pioneer. Her first long journey by herself in America, "along untravelled roads and across unbridged rivers," may be considered to be typical of her life's journey, so largely spent in treading out the way for others to follow. Its history was first given to the world in 1895, at a time when, as Mrs. Fawcett says in her preface to the present edition, there was but little demand for the book. Things, as she says, have moved far since 1895, though it is probable that even then, if the book had been published at 1s. in a largely-advertised series, it would have found a considerable public ready to receive it.

Elizabeth Blackwell was born in Bristol in 1821, and was one of a large family, who settled in America when she was eleven years old. Her father died when she was seventeen, and she and her two elder sisters kept a girls' school, maintained the home, and educated the younger children until the boys were old enough to go into business. The girls seem to have fallen into an intellectual circle at Cincinnati. They attended political conventions, educational conferences, etc., read Emerson, Carlyle, Fourier and other writers on social reconstruction—the subject which, beyond all others, attracted so many of the finest minds of the 19th century. "It was a most exciting time," she writes, adding on another occasion that she was "nourished from childhood on the idea of human freedom and justice."

At the age of 23, when the school was given up, she was invited to become the mistress of a district school in Kentucky. Here she spent two years, and, coming into contact with slavery, she became a fervent abolitionist. Her heart warmed towards the disinherited. Her sense of justice was continually outraged and she gave notice to quit the school.

It was after her return from Kentucky that her life's work was suggested to her by a friend, who died later of a painful disease. She urged Elizabeth to study medicine, saying to her, "If I could have been treated by a lady doctor, my worse sufferings would have been spared me." But at first the suggestion was hotly repudiated, Elizabeth declaring that she hated everything connected with the body. But though she tried to get away from the idea, it constantly recurred, took hold of her and inspired her. She consulted physicians and other friends as to the possibility of a woman becoming a doctor. They pointed out that, though the idea was a good one, the difficulties were insuperable. Opposition fostered the militant strain in Elizabeth Blackwell's character. She thought there must be a way to realise an idea which her correspondents represented to be so excellent. The determination to enter into the struggle which she saw before her, and to persevere to the end, took root never to be dislodged.

She immediately set about to find means to arrive at the desired end. Finding she could not borrow the necessary money, she set herself to save it, and resumed her teaching work. She entered a family at Asheville in North Carolina, studying medical books in her spare hours. She describes herself at this time as "busy as can be and consequently happy, for one is only miserable when stupid and

* Pioneer Work for Women, by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. Everyman's Library. Published by J. M. Dent & Son. Cloth, 1s.

lazy, wasting the time and doing nothing." From North Carolina, she went to South Carolina, where she found a friend who encouraged her in her medical studies and we hear of her studying the necessary rudiments of Greek for two hours before breakfast.

It was in 1847, at the age of 26, possessed now of some hardly-earned savings, that she sought entrance into a medical school, but her persistent applications only met with rebuffs. "You cannot expect us to furnish you with a stick to break our heads with," wrote the dean of one of the smaller schools. Advice, which can generally be had, with or without the asking, was showered upon her. It took the form of advising her to give up the scheme. "But a strong idea, long cherished till it has taken deep root in the soul and become an all-absorbing duty, cannot thus be laid aside." At length the University of Geneva, in the west of New York State, opened its doors to her. Here she spent two years filled with hard work, the inhabitants of the little town being undecided whether to regard her as a bad woman or as insane—two categories in which the unimaginative are apt to place those whose motives they fail to understand. At first, she was asked to absent herself from certain operations and dissections, to which request she made a dignified protest, assuring the demonstrator that she was there "as a student with an earnest purpose," and asked to be regarded as such. She expressed herself as willing to absent herself if this was the wish of the other students. Her letter was read to the class, and she heard with joy the very hearty approbation with which it was received. The victory was won. She resumed her place, the doctor telling her he felt "quite relieved"—a testimony to the appreciation of the older generation. She speaks of the conduct of her fellow students as admirable, while at the close of her college career, she writes, "The students received me with applause. They all seem to like me, and I believe I shall receive my degree with their united approval; a generous and chivalric feeling having conquered any little feelings of jealousy. I often feel when I am with them how beautiful the relations of man and woman might be under a truer development of character, in nobler circumstances." Her brother, who was present on the great day when she received her diploma, describes the ceremony, declaring that "Our sis. came off with flying colours, and the reputation of being altogether the leader of the class." "The students all agreed that our Elib. was a great girl and I found she was a universal favourite with professors and students." All the ladies of Geneva turned out *en masse* to see a woman receive her medical degree, though two years before she had been regarded as a strange animal and had been so conscious of the unfriendliness of the people that she had confined her walks to the distance separating her lodgings from the college. Dressed in black brocaded silk, she received her diploma with much dignity among manifestations of applause from the audience.

The address to the graduates was delivered by Professor Lee, who

"Justified the proceeding and passed a gratifying and enthusiastic encomium on the result of the experiment in the case of Elizabeth. He pronounced her the leader of her class; stated that she had passed through a thorough course in every department, slighting none, that she had profited to the very utmost by all the advantages of the institution, and by her lady-like and dignified deportment had proved that the strongest intellect and nerve and the most untiring perseverance were compatible with the softest attributes of feminine delicacy and grace, etc., to all of which the students manifested their entire concurrence."

The admission of women to the medical profession had a wide-spread effect in America and was very favourably recorded in the Press. In truth, prejudices are like puff-balls. When attacked

vigorously they disperse into thin air.

To gain further experience, she returned to the Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia, where she had already spent the interval between her two college courses. Here she continued her medical studies and practical work, living as she wrote to her mother, "in a good society, the fellowship of hard workers," adding "However little the result of my action may be, I have the strengthening conviction that my aim is right, and that I, too, am working after my little fashion for the redemption of mankind."

Feeling the need for wider opportunities of study than were open to women in America, she resolved to visit Europe. After a short stay in England, she went on to Paris, believing that unlimited facilities for study, both in surgery and medicine, could be obtained there. With the object of becoming an accomplished obstetrician, she entered La Maternité, the great State institution in which young women from all over France were trained as midwives, and in which 3,000 babies were born every year. The loss of sleep, poor food, and bad air made her stay a trying one, added to the fact that she was virtually a prisoner, the same strict discipline being applied to her as to the young inexperienced girls, her class-mates. She was willing to sacrifice physical comfort to gain her end, hoping after three months, to accomplish the second object of her stay in Paris, the obtaining of a surgical degree. But, while syringing a baby's eye for purulent ophthalmia, some of the water had spurted into her own eye, and she was only snatched from life-long darkness by the loving care of the French doctors and nurses. She rose from her sick bed strong and hopeful, determined to be the first woman surgeon in the world. But during the next 6 months, a time of great mental suffering, it became clear that the sight of one eye had been permanently lost, and though she was able to resume active work, she was obliged to give up the idea of further qualifying in surgery.

In 1850, at the age of 29, she returned to England and obtained permission to study at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she received a cordial welcome from Mr. James (afterwards Sir James) Paget. As at Geneva, she speaks of the consideration she received from the students. Every department was opened to her except, by a strange irony, that of the Diseases of Women, the Professor of Midwifery informing her that his refusal to give her any aid in her studies did not emanate from any disrespect to her, but that he entirely disapproved of a lady studying medicine.

"No one knows how to regard me," she writes. "Some thought I must be an extraordinary intellect overflowing with knowledge; others a queer eccentric woman, and none seemed to understand that I was a quiet, sensible person, who had acquired a small amount of medical knowledge and who wished, by patient observation and study, to acquire more."

Sir James Paget told her she would have to encounter more prejudice from women than from men, and she ventures the opinion that "English-women seem wonderfully shut up in their habitual views." This is not the accusation which is being brought against women to-day, though correspondents in the *Times* still suggest that women are the chief enemies of their own sex. No warmer testimony could have been given than that given by Dr. Blackwell to the worth and affection of her women friends in this country. She describes herself as sitting one dull winter afternoon in her bare lodging-house, "thinking regretfully of the bright skies of Paris, when three young ladies entered and introduced themselves as Miss Bessie Raynes Parkes and the Misses Leigh Smith." These are names well known in the early suffrage

movement, and she says, as may be said of modern Suffragists, that "they were filled with a noble enthusiasm for the responsible and practical work of women in the various duties of life." They naturally sympathised with her medical work and a life-long friendship was begun. "They hung my dull rooms with their charming paintings, made them gay with flowers and welcomed me to their family circles with the heartiest hospitality." Florence Nightingale was then chafing against the home life to which, with her magnificent powers, she was restricted. "Many a night we spent by my fire-side in Thavies Inn, or walking in the beautiful grounds of Embley, discussing the problem of the present and hopes of the future." The conviction was strengthened in both that "sanitation is the supreme goal of medicine, its foundation and its crown." If mute inglorious Miltons lie beneath the sod of village churchyards, we wonder how many Florence Nightingales and Elizabeth Blackwells are discussing the hopes of the future—hopes which may be still-born owing to the restrictions placed on the work and influence of women. She made many other friends whom she describes as unceasing in kindness and alive to progressive ideas. She returned to New York with many regrets that she was unable, owing to financial reasons, to take up medical work in England, but she hoped to return later. From Florence Nightingale she parted in tears.

She settled down to a private practice in New York, and deeply felt her personal and professional loneliness. The profession stood aloof and society was distrustful of the innovation. "It is hard," she writes, "with no support but a high purpose to live against every species of social opposition." In 1852 she lectured on the *Physical Education of Girls*. These lectures were attended by a small but intelligent body of women, who became her warm supporters and gave her her first start in medical practice. In the following year she formed a dispensary, which became the embryo of the New York Infirmary and College for Women, founded jointly with her sister Emily in 1867. Emily Blackwell had graduated at Cleveland, Ohio, and had later studied in Europe. She joined her sister in 1857, which enabled Elizabeth to pay a visit to England in 1858. She was heartily welcomed by her friends and it was arranged that she should give a course of lectures with a view to the starting of a similar movement in this country. Amongst the most interested in these lectures was Miss Elizabeth Garrett, Mrs. Fawcett's sister, and the pioneer of medical education in England. From the Queen downwards, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell found signs of favour towards the new movement. "On all hands," she writes, "we make converts, and those who are indoctrinated make converts." "We could shape the whole matter in the right way, for people welcome true ideas." It was during this visit to England that her name was placed on the Medical Register of the United Kingdom.

She returned to New York and further developed the work of the Infirmary. Her private practice was growing. She was coming into her own, when the movement was retarded by the Civil War. Owing to her influence, the Ladies' Sanitary Association was formed, its special work being the forwarding of nurses to the seat of war.

In 1869, she returned to England, finding "social questions of vital importance to human progress were taking root in the prepared soil of the older civilisation." For seventeen years, until their repeal, she took an active part in opposition to the C.D. Acts. She practised in London for two or three years, but was unfortunately obliged, owing

to ill-health, to give up regular medical work. The National Health Society was formed in her drawing-room. She watched with a mother's interest, the development of opportunities for the medical education of women and, on the establishment of the London School of Medicine for Women, she accepted the chair of Gynaecology. Many other reform movements received her enthusiastic support. She thought the Co-operative Movement was "characteristic of the common-sense, unambitious way in which reforms grow in England," and she desired to see an embodiment of Christian principles in the organisation of Society, as urged by the Christian Socialist movement. In view of the interest now taken on the subject of the sex education of children, it is interesting to note that she wrote a small work entitled *Counsel to Parents on the Moral Education of their Children*. The work was declined by twelve publishers and, after its acceptance by Messrs. Hatchards, the proof was thrown in the fire by the senior member of the firm (the widow of a Bishop), who insisted that its publication should be stopped. It was later published with a slight change of title. She writes later: "Looking now at the very reticent way in which the subject is treated in this little book, it is difficult to believe that such an episode could have occurred."

The list of Dr. Blackwell's literary works is a long one. They are the works of a pioneer and at the time they received but scant recognition. She thought they belonged to the year 1998 of the future. Had she lived to-day she would have rejoiced to find that the truism that *prevention is better than cure* is being accepted in the medical world. It is well to heal the sick and to bind up the injured bodies of those who have been broken on the wheel of life. It is better to remove the great mass of preventible ills to which flesh is heir.

Elizabeth Blackwell died in 1910, after an honourable career which may well inspire the young women of to-day. Half a century has gone by since she waged her fight against prejudice. Unfortunately, there are many still left to be fought. Much work that she began is unfinished, and still there are men and women who refuse to help to unshackle women from the artificial restrictions which have been placed upon them and who would deny them opportunity for their full development.

Against stupidity the very gods fight unvictorious and we fear that there is every indication that the mass of stupidity in the world is likely to last out our time.

E. M. N. C.

WHEN KINGS RECEIVED PETITIONS.

It is just a hundred years since the first of the Waverley Novels appeared, and in looking over the names of these mighty books, and in considering their contents, I was struck with the fact that Sir Walter Scott makes two of his principal characters in the "Heart of Midlothian," and in the "Fortunes of Nigel," personally petition the King. In the olden days, this was everyone's right; it is only in recent times that it is an offence to come directly to the Monarch and lay your grievance before him. Helen Walker, or Jeannie Deans, as Sir Walter Scott called her, walked to London to petition for the life of her sister, and though the King did not actually see her she was kindly received by the Queen, also by the King's ministers, and her mission was successful. Society applauded her action, and

men and women were eager to meet her, and to praise the devotion of the woman who had had the courage and sagacity to plead for mercy at her Sovereign's knee.

Very different is it to-day. When women try to approach the King through the usual channels—his Ministers—they are repelled; if they insist upon an interview they are arrested and imprisoned. When they deny the right of men to try them, to judge them, or imprison them, torture is added to imprisonment, and so one injustice is heaped upon another. Many women believed that the King was unaware of what was happening, or that injustice was sanctioned in his name by his advisers, so they sought to appeal directly to him. The result is well known. They were rebuffed and forced back by armed police. The King, we were told, could not interfere in the Women's Question, but he can and does interfere in the question of Home Rule for Ireland. The Unionist papers, which told us that the King could not treat with women rebels, applauded him as a patriot and as one who loves his country when he treated with Rebel Carson.

The rights of petitioning the Monarch go far back in history. In "The Fortunes of Nigel," Sir Walter Scott draws a fancy portrait of Ritchie Moniplies and his famous "sipplication," which he was for ever endeavouring to place before the King. In the end he was successful; King James received the petition, and knighted the petitioner. In one passage Scott puts these words into the mouth of the King: "What though he be but a carle—a two-penny cat may look at a king." Not so to-day, the King is guarded and protected by men, the voice of his voteless women may not be heard by him. Their cry must not penetrate through the pomp that surrounds him. While he goes about among his people, there are women in prison because they love liberty and they dare to be free. The King must not hear this; he must not know that women are sorrowing, sick, and ill-treated. Why not? Surely if the King realised these things they would cease; it cannot be pleasant for him to know that amongst the women of the land there is a wide and deep-spread discontent. Does he know that this feeling permeates every class, and, if he knows, why is he sitting idly by; why is he not calling a conference at the Palace to listen to the women's wrongs?

When Robert the Bruce and his army were approaching Bannockburn, the King stopped his army to listen to the wrongs of one woman; to-day there are thousands of wronged women, for no wrong is greater than passive injustice, yet the King does not stop to listen to the women's cry. He is apparently indifferent, and his Ministers keep him in ignorance of what is happening. Women as well as men are the King's subjects, and the woman's question is quite as important as Home Rule for Ireland. The only difference is that the militant men of Ireland are armed; the militant women of Great Britain are unarmed; therefore the King and his ministers do not realise that their Cause is serious and that they are in earnest. It rests with us to shatter this illusion. Like Jeannie Deans, the women from all parts should march upon London and demand justice from their King.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

SUFFRAGE AT CATERHAM.—Dr. and Mrs. Clark entertained a large number of friends in their beautiful garden at Fryerne on July 23, and in addition to delightful hospitality gave their guests a fine presentment of the case for woman suffrage through such able speakers as Miss Margaret Hodge, Miss Nina Boyle, and the Rev. C. Baumgarten, of St. George's, Bloomsbury. Such sowing of seed brings unexpected harvest, and our thanks are due to Dr. and Mrs. Clark for their kindness. THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature found a ready sale.

AN AFTERNOON HOLIDAY IN IRELAND.

English people who read their party papers diligently are, no doubt, many of them trembling over the critical state of affairs in Ireland. They imagine Protestants and Catholics, Unionists and Home Rulers, in that unhappy country, facing one another with clouded faces and clenched fists. They imagine the Volunteer armies (Ulster and Nationalist) perpetually under arms, looming large in the towns and villages, when men and women are holding their breath in suspense and fear, and thinking and talking of nothing but politics.

I wish some of these could have been present here in County Cork last Sunday afternoon and could have stood with us on the downs above the sea.

I will preface the tale of what we saw by a few words of an overheard conversation.

Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Quinn—two well-known village gossips—are, we suppose, taking a walk to the sea-shore and looking on at some unusual work. They have just met.

"Good morning, Mrs. Ryan," says Mrs. Quinn. "And what does Terry be doin' down there wid the boards?"

"Shure," says the better-informed Mrs. Quinn, "the Father Nolan has given him the job of putting up a bit of a floor there for the girls and boys to be dancing of Sunday afternoons."

"Well! Glory be! Isn't that grand for them? When we were young, wasn't the cross-roads good enough for us, and ne'er a bit of a board at all? But shure, they say it's all Home Rule is doing it. But indeed the ould time was good enough for us."

"Jus' so, Mrs. Ryan, but the Father must have good reasons of his own, and they say it breaks his heart entirely to have all the growin' boys and girls leaving for Ameriky, and half of them never comes back. So 'tis likely when Home Rule comes, they'll hear out there of the gran' doens here and maybe they'll be settling down again in the old country and buyin' a bit o' land for themselves."

This conversation took place on the road winding up from the shores of the Atlantic by the straggling row of whitewashed cottages, on the townland of Legherne. The day following, which was Sunday, the word went round in the congregation returning from early Mass in Derryvore Church that the brass band from Bantry was expected in the afternoon, and that a pic-nic party got up by the "Hibernians," was to arrive with the band.

Long before the appointed time, people began to assemble. From the inland farms came comfortable householders, in inside cars and neat genet traps, and from the village came bevvies of boys and girls. These had been taught their steps in the winter by the dancing master sent twice a week to Muldooney's room to instruct in the Irish and the dancing; and it is to be feared that the young people were scarcely so glib with their Irish as they were nimble with their feet.

All gathered round the floor, and Terry Ryan received compliments on his handiwork from the men seated around on the banks and cliffs.

Presently the cry arose, "Here they come!" and over the crest of the hill appeared a large brake, drawn by two steaming horses and heralded by the bray of brass instruments to the tune of "A nation once again." Numerous cars laden with pleasure-seekers from Bantry followed. All were in the highest spirits, laughing, singing, talking.

Then the bandsmen settled themselves on the short green sward; the dancers took their places on the floor and the band struck up a lively tune, to which two eight-handed reels were danced with great spirit. Sets, jigs, hornpipes, and waltzes

followed, the older people looking on with keen appreciation.

Presently a motor-car came puffing round the corner of the road. It was Father Nolan himself—a spare, alert man—who had come over to see the fun and to welcome the Bantry folk and their band to his parish. Way was made for him, and he took his place close to a stalwart Scotch gamekeeper, with his brace of spaniels, and the Protestant gardener at the big house—a staunch Orangeman in principle. Of the women there were cottagers, farm-servants, farmers' wives and daughters, shop-assistants, American visitors—persons of varying circumstances and divergent creeds. But there was no dissension. The little touch of human joy, the feeling of human fellowship, had disarmed them all.

The little party from the big house, who had been watching the gay scene and chatting with one and another, stole away presently to the silence of the further cliffs. Sitting on the soft green sward, between blue sky and bluer sea, they talked of Ireland—her regeneration, the better outlook for agriculture, the revival of such beautiful old arts as embroidery and lace-making; the return of the Irish tongue and of the old Hibernian legends, and the new school of poetry and the drama.

We decided—we were all women—that Ireland was rising, new-born, out of the ashes of the past, and we were glad to know that women are taking their part—and a noble part—in her resurrection.

C. DESPARD,
L. FRANKS.

July 31, 1914.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX. CRIMINAL COURTS. At the Old Bailey, July 20-28.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE DARLING.
JAMES BENSON was charged before Mr. Justice Darling with committing rape upon Edith Smith, aged 4 years. Mr. Darling said if the prisoner had not been drunk at the time he would have given double the sentence. 7 years' penal servitude.

This is the longest sentence I have known given at the Old Bailey for this offence since I started my work in the courts more than a year ago.

CLARA BURKE, 50, was charged with wilful murder and procuring abortion. 3 years' penal servitude.

ROBERT OSBORNE, causing grievous bodily harm to his wife. 5 years.

KENNETH VETCH, for procuring two persons to commit gross indecency. 6 months' second division.

BERRAM STONELL, 33, for attempting to procure a woman under 21, for immorality, was given by the Common Sergeant. 2 months.

J. HILDA HILLIER was found guilty of endeavouring to conceal birth of her child. Bound over in £20.

WILLIAM FARRER, 19, attempting to procure two persons to commit gross indecency, was charged before Mr. Rentoul. Bound over in £30.

Before the Recorder, JOSEPH KARMELEK, 30, and SAM SCHEFFER, 26, were charged with attempting to procure two girls, Yetta, 17, and Rosa Doffman, 20, to go to Buenos Aires to enter a brothel. They were found guilty. Scheffer was given 18 months' and Karmelek 15 months' imprisonment, each to have 20 lashes.

GERTRUDE OUGHAM, 40, was charged before Mr. Rentoul with attempting to procure her daughter, Irene, aged 17, to become a prostitute. Evidence showed that prisoner was a prostitute and took the daughter with her to the West End. A young German said he met mother and daughter and took the girl home with him for an indecent exhibition. The mother said she did not know anything of the kind had happened, she had worked hard to bring up her daughters since her husband left her ten years ago. Medical evidence proved no physical harm had happened to the girl and this was probably the reason for the absurdly small sentence of two months in the second division. Mr. Rentoul tried to persuade the girl to enter a home and leave her mother.

EDITH M. WATSON.
JOSEPH CLEARY was charged at Old-street with assaulting his daughter, aged 18, by entering her bedroom and giving her two black eyes. His wife died six weeks ago, and he had been getting sums of money in various ways from sympathetic people. A concert was given for his benefit, the tickets explaining that he "had the misfortune to lose his wife and had seven children to support. He was bound over in £20.—Daily Telegraph, July 27.

MISS DORINDA NELIGAN.

The following particulars of the life of a great woman will be read with deep interest, tinged with the regret that so staunch a supporter of the Women's Movement did not live to register her vote as a badge of citizenship.

Miss Dorinda Neligan, who passed away on July 18 at the age of 81, was a daughter of the late Lieutenant Thomas Neligan, of Cork, who served in the Peninsula War. Miss Neligan served as a Red Cross nurse in the Franco-German War in 1870. She spent some years both in France and Germany as a governess, and obtained a French diploma. It was her great knowledge of modern languages which helped to secure for her the appointment as Head Mistress of the Croydon High School for Girls in 1874, which position she held for 27 years.

She always took a keen interest in the higher education of women, and it was natural she should become a strong Suffragist. On June 29, 1909, she went on a deputation to the House of Commons and was arrested for refusing to go away. In November of the following year she went on another deputation to the House of Commons, the "Black Friday" memorable deputation. She succeeded in entering the yard of the House, and sat for some hours with Mrs. Pankhurst and others on the steps of the Strangers' Entrance. She went up again on the following Tuesday, but did not go out with the deputation, as she was afraid she might be a hindrance to the others in their rush to Downing-street. She always regretted the fact that she had not been to prison for the Cause.

Miss Neligan was a Tax Resister for several years; the fact became so well known that one of the local papers, in giving an account of her last sale, headed it "Miss Neligan's Hardy Annual," and

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another "No Surrender." It was always the same silver teapot that was sold.

When she sent her last subscription to the W.S.P.U. for the great meeting at Holland Park Skating Rink a friend said to her, "Supposing you are prosecuted for subscribing to the funds of the W.S.P.U. and sent to prison." She replied, "Let them; I do not mind!"

Her last illness was a very short one. She had a heart attack on Friday afternoon, July 17, on her way home from lunching with a friend. After lying down on her bed she seemed better, but afterwards became worse, and the doctor was called in. The next morning, before breakfast, she declared she was getting on famously, and kept very bright during the day, but a great change came during the evening, and she passed away at 8.30 p.m.

Among the many wreaths sent was one from the Headquarters of the W.S.P.U. with the following message attached from Mrs. Pankhurst:—"With love and remembrance for a brave veteran, whose life was spent in noble work for women and for the race." There were also lillies from the Croydon W.S.P.U., and a wreath from the Croydon Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

**MRS. FLORA ANNIE STEEL AS TAX
RESISTER.**

July 27 saw an unusual distraint for income-tax sale at Mrs. F. A. Steel's pretty week-end cottage near Aberdovey.

Mrs. Steel, following her last year's precedent, had offered the authorities, in payment of the claim (£1 15s. 9d.) the second chapter in MS of her famous book, *On the Face of the Waters*. This, however, they declined to take, though it was backed by two offers of £10 and one solid cheque for the same amount! The reason for this refusal being obvious; they did not wish to be held up to ridicule by the endorsement on the MS, which ran thus:

"The book, of which this is the second chapter, was acclaimed by statesmen as being of more use to a due understanding of India than many Blue Books. This book has had portions of it chosen for inclusion, as an example of patriotism and heroism, in school readers no less than five times in three English-speaking countries. It is being sold because the men who acclaimed, the men who chose, deny that the writer can make a cross on a bit of paper."

The cottage was gaily decorated with posters and the colours of the Women Writers' League, and there was a large attendance of sympathisers. Mrs. Steel, after challenging the right of the authorities to re-enter her premises—a challenge in which the law was absolutely on her side—permitted them to come into her garden as her guests, and therein afterwards conducted the sale entirely to her own satisfaction.

She subsequently sold the chapter for £10 and gave an address on the text, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." When these two duties came in direct conflict, she said, as they did in the present instance, when acquiescence in bad government meant the needless murder of children through bad housing, the needless prostitution of women through bad laws and the needless sweating of workers through bad economic conditions, it was time for those who saw the evil to protest. Tax-resistance was not violence; it was illegal to tax those who had no representation in Parliament. Besides she had helped the authorities to enforce their claim, she had even openly bought in her own goods, but she had made her protest. No one could say of her, and of those who acted similarly, that they had not rendered unto God the things that were God's. She hoped that every woman present who was able thus to protest would go away and do likewise.

Tax Resistance in Ipswich

On Tuesday, July 14, Doctor Knight and Mrs. Lane had a wagon and pony cart sold for non-payment of dog tax. Mrs. Tippett and Miss Andrews both joined in the protest. When Miss Andrews asked the auctioneer for two minutes to explain the cause of sale he said he could not wait, but she completely "took the wind out of his sails" by going on speaking and then thanking him for his courtesy in allowing her to do so.

A special meeting was held afterwards outside the sale yard, when a large number of men and women listened with ever-increasing interest while Miss Andrews and Mrs.

Tippett explained our policy and spoke on "Votes for Women." Beginning by standing afar off in a non-committal manner, the audience ended by forming a close ring round the speakers, and at the end questions were asked and the speakers applauded. Owing to the Flower Show in the park it was impossible to hold an evening meeting.

At Letchworth.

There was considerable excitement when Miss Ruth Pym, a Tax Resister, whose sale of goods had been expected for some days and a demonstration arranged, was informed by the Tax Collector late last Friday evening that her biscuit box would be sold the next morning at 11 in the Market-place. In spite of the evident desire to keep the sale "quiet" the Tax Resister and her friends did well. There was a very good gathering, and nearly one hour's speaking, and the resolution was put and unanimously passed that "it was unjust to tax without giving representation." We poster paraded the Garden City with "No Vote, No Tax." People were very sympathetic. The Collector did not like his job and being talked to by so many women. He meant to have the thing over before people knew, but our friends dropped their Saturday morning work and came; there is always a good Saturday morning shopping crowd, and as the holiday folk were arriving, we really had a good audience. C. L.

In London.

On Thursday, July 30, a pearl necklace belonging to Dr. Alice Corthorn, of Kensington, and a silver salver, which had been seized from Mrs. Dahl, were sold at Whiteley's Auction Rooms, Bayswater, because of their refusal to pay Imperial Taxes till women are enfranchised. A procession organised by the Women's Tax Resistance League marched down Queen's-road to Westbourne-grove, where a protest meeting was held opposite Arthur's Stores. Mrs. Louis Fagan took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mr. Laurence Housman.

Continued Work.

Mrs. Kineton Parkes returned to London at the end of July from a very successful tour in Ireland, where she has been lecturing on Tax Resistance under the auspices of the Munster Women's Franchise League and the Irish Women's Reform League. She left later for Devon and Somerset, where she is giving a week's open-air meetings owing to the kindness of a member of Women's Tax Resistance League in lending her motor-car.

WHAT WAR MEANS.

On the initiative of the International Suffrage Alliance a great meeting of women was held on Tuesday, August 4, in the Kingsway Hall, to emphasise the imperative need for peace. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., who was the first President of the Alliance, took the chair. She pointed out that women were not responsible for political events, but that the appalling situation emphasised the need for women to have the vote in order to be able to prevent its repetition. The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Creighton, who came to town at considerable personal inconvenience for the purpose:—

"In this terrible hour, when the outbreak of war in Europe is depending on decisions which women have no direct power to shape, this meeting of women, held under the joint auspices of many women's organisations, yet desire to face their responsibilities as citizens in dealing with the situation which has been brought about by the present crisis.

"They deplore the failure of peaceful negotiations, the failure to settle the present international differences by conciliation or arbitration, and the outbreak of war in Europe as an unparalleled disaster.

"Women find themselves in the position of seeing all their most reverence and treasure, the home, the family, the race, subjected to irreparable injury, which they are powerless to avert. In addition to all the horrors of slaughter, women are to see their countries impoverished, their homes broken up, their children and their friends dying of starvation and disease.

Whatever its result, the conflict will leave mankind the poorer, will set back civilisation, and will be a powerful check to the amelioration of the condition of the masses of the people on which the real welfare of nations depends.

"The women here assembled call upon the Governments of their several countries to support every effort made to restore peace, and urge all Governments not yet involved to work unceasingly towards a settlement, not by force, but by reason that by their united efforts the war may be speedily brought to an end."

Mrs. Barton, representing the Women's Co-operative Guild, seconded the resolution, and it was supported by Mrs. Swanwick, representing the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies; Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, representing the Women Writers' Suffrage League; Madame Gellrich, of Germany; Madame Schwimmer, of Hungary;

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Madame Malmberg, of Finland; and Madame Thoumaian, of Switzerland. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Barton's stirring speech was warmly received; she urged women of all countries to stand together, and advocated a "Down Tools" policy to stop the war. Mrs. Swanwick pointed out that when men were called to war women had to do men's work. Madame Thoumaian recalled the action of the Sabine women in flinging themselves between the combat Roman and Sabine men and thus ending the strife. The attitude of the meeting was strongly in favour of peace.

A further resolution was moved by Miss Mary MacArthur, National Federation of Women Workers, Women's Trade Union League, as follows:—

"That this meeting urges Women's Societies to use their organisations for the help of those who will be the sufferers from the economic and industrial dislocation caused by the European War."

Mrs. George Cadbury, of the Peace Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, seconded, and Dr. Marion Phillips, of the Women's Labour League, supported the resolution, which was carried.

In Brockwell Park

Miss Nina Boyle was the speaker in Brockwell Park on July 26, and her eloquent address attracted and held a large crowd of listeners. Miss Boyle dealt chiefly with militancy and showed how every other method had been tried without success, and therefore the responsibility for militancy lay with the Government and the people of England. The audience seemed quite impressed by Miss Boyle's account of her experiences in Holloway. Questions were asked and Mrs. Mockford ably took the chair.

The Order of the Star in the East.

At a meeting of the Manchester centre, held recently, presided over by the Lady Emily Lutyens, the following petition, signed by 64 members, was sent to the Home Secretary:—"We, the undersigned, members of the Order of the Star in the East, meeting in federation at Manchester, most earnestly petition you to stop immediately the cruelly barbarous operation of forcible feeding now being practised in our prisons. We would represent to you that the process is as useless as it is cruel, and is entirely unworthy of a civilized country."

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

WE accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, copy should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, London, by the *First Post on Monday Morning*.

THE MID-LONDON BRANCH of the Women's Freedom League holds open-air Meetings in Regent's Park every Sunday at 12 o'clock. Speakers next Sunday: Miss F. Eggett and Mr. Darby.

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