

THE VOTE.
July 18 1913.
ONE PENNY.

"NO TRIFLING—WE CAN'T WAIT!"

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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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.

AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS FORTY-TWO YEARS AGO.



In view of the great progress of Woman Suffrage in the United States of America special interest attaches to this picture of Victoria C. Woodhull arguing for Woman Suffrage before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives on January 11, 1871. Mrs. Woodhull is supported by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth C. Stanton, Pauline Wright-Davis and Lady Cook.—See page 193.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Mr. Asquith's "I Won't!" The Scotsmen's "You Shall!"

The Prime Minister is still busy saying "I won't" to Suffragists, whether men or women; he talks about "no useful purpose being served," and refers them all to the recent decision of the House of Commons on the Dickinson Bill. We say "Wait and see!" We have faith in Scotsmen—Bailies and Councillors—who come to inform him that there has been enough trifling with Woman Suffrage, and other male champions who "mean business."

Government for the People.

We have often been told that Liberalism means "Government of the People, by the People, for the People," but we have agreed hitherto with Mr. H. G. Wells's definition that it seemed to be "Government of the people, by the barristers, and for the barristers." Recent disclosures incline us to think that a better description would be: "Government of the people, by the party politician, and particularly for the politician." In a pamphlet just issued, entitled "Free Trade Means Disinterested Government," we are given the Government's record in rewarding their friends and supporters. We read that of 244 Radical Members elected in January, 1910, 46 have received Ministerial appointments, 10 have received other appointments of profit, 14 have been made peers, and on 37 other honours have been showered. Thus in three years more than one-third of the party have received honours or preferment. If we include 35 other Members who were similarly "cared for" just before the 1910 General Election, then more than one-half of the party have received rewards. This is indeed "Government for Politicians."

Anything but Justice to Women.

The recent "brawling" in the House of Commons, reported in our news columns, has set going again the question of the further protection of male legislators, who object as seriously to the crack of a toy pistol and unexpected bags of flour and cardboard mouse-traps hurtling from the Strangers' Gallery on to the floor of the House as they did to a Women's Freedom League member chained to the grille. It is, no doubt, very trying to be perpetually reminded of a pressing question of justice, which was supposed to be conveniently shelved last May, in the midst of the play-acting of party politics. But we inform these same disturbed legislators, whose "self-control" amid nerve-shattering events we are bidden to admire, that punishing brawlers with imprisonment in the Clock Tower or even the birch will not save them. They may revive a forgotten Bill for self-protection, and spend long hours in an attempt to make it effective, but instead of trifling with time and attempting to sweep back the Atlantic with a broom they would do well to bring about peace by bringing in a Government measure for justice to women—and save these startling occurrences.

It is Not the Cloak that Makes the Nurse.

We have been glad to give prominence to the question of the State Registration of Nurses as one of vital public importance as well as of imperative justice to a large army of trained women who are doing splendid service to the State. It is a woman's fight for recognition, but, being a fight of the voteless, has been met with delusive promises and complete failure of performance. As with Woman Suffrage, Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament have blessed it in theory and spurned it in practice, and all the Prime Minister could say to a recent deputation was that it was necessary to convert the enemies. He has refused to give facilities for a Bill. That the uniform of a nurse which is held in honour and confidently welcomed as a sign of skilled help in sore need is from time to time abused is well known. Because of its effectiveness the White Slave traffickers have not been slow to make use of it,

and the following question and answer in the House of Commons is the measure of comfort afforded to those who, by a means which has proved most satisfactory in the countries where it has been adopted, seek to protect the public from imminent danger:—

In the House of Commons on July 9, Dr. Chapple asked the Prime Minister "whether his attention has been called to a case in the police-court, taken under the White Slave Act, in which a woman, purporting to be a nurse, by being dressed in nurse's uniform, was concerned; and whether, in view of the growing frequency of this abuse, he will, pending the extension of the franchise to women, take any steps, by legislation or otherwise, to protect the nursing profession in this respect."

Mr. McKenna: The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to this question. The matter is receiving attention, but it presents very serious difficulties, and I cannot at present add anything to the answer given to a question by my hon. friend on March 13 last.

Dr. Chapple: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that where nurses' registration has been adopted this abuse is almost unknown?

Mr. McKenna: I am not aware, but will inquire.

Dr. Chapple: I shall be glad to give the information.

We add our tribute of honour to Dr. Chapple, who has long been a staunch friend in Parliament of the State Registration of Nurses, and to Sir Victory Horsley, who is to speak at the annual meeting to-day (July 18) at 4 p.m., at the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, of the Society which devotes itself to this cause, to be presided over by its founder, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. There is no vote at the back of the demand to insure the redress of this grievance, no party gain to be made out of it, only sheer justice. We do not find men, burning with chivalry towards women, seizing this most evident opportunity to put it into practice. Oh dear, no. The men who direct the Parliamentary machine "pass by on the other side."

A Belated Biologist.

We consider "no useful purpose would be served" by arguing with Dr. Pembrey, or any other medical man—who sees fit to dogmatise as to what women shall or shall not do—on the respective merits of "the possession of a baby or a first-class certificate in classics." We leave him to the tender mercies of *The Sunday Times* (July 13), which says:—

Woman may be the lowly creature in the biological scale that Dr. Pembrey describes her to be; but she is just high enough to have a brain and will of her own—factors that are decisive in the shaping of her own destiny. The fact is that biology does not go far enough back. To be really secure of the entire subjection of woman, it is necessary to revert, not to the mid-Victorian but to the Palæolithic age, when any inconvenient aspirations, any foolish aberrations, of woman were discouraged with a stone axe.

We regret that our Competition results are again crowded out this week.—Ed.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Autumn Plans.—Our regular London indoor meetings have now been discontinued, but will be resumed in September. Will all readers who have returned to London by Monday, September 15, keep that evening free for a reunion of members and friends of the Women's Freedom League, to take place at Caxton Hall, further particulars of which will be given at a later date?

Our weekly afternoon public meetings at the Caxton Hall will begin on September 24, when Mr. Laurence Housman will speak on "The 'Rights' of Majorities." Other friends who have already promised to speak at these meetings are Mrs. E. M. Moore, Mrs. Nott-Bower, Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., Mrs. Nevins and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, so we hope our readers will reserve Wednesday afternoons for these meetings of the Women's Freedom League. Admission is free, but we shall reserve a few front seats at 1s. each.

Monday Evening Meetings.—As so many of our members are unable to be present at our afternoon fixtures, we purpose arranging lectures on alternate Monday evenings, sometimes at the Caxton Hall and sometimes at this office; after the lectures opportunity will be given to the audience for questions and discussion. These meetings should prove to be a popular feature of the work of the Women's Freedom League in London, and we hope our readers will keep Monday evenings free in order to attend.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK.

Government without Consent.

On July 10, Mrs. Harvey, in the condition of warfare entailed by having her house barricaded against the King's officers, gave a garden party under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League. Her guests entered stealthily by a wicker gate amongst the trees, while some who arrived from another direction climbed the fence, an act which, by the way, the law does not permit to the tax collector.

Amongst those present were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Kineton Parkes and other members of the League, and a short business meeting was held after tea.

Mr. Asquith's Insurance.

Mrs. Kate Harvey, in accordance with the policy of the Women's Freedom League, also steadily refuses to have anything to do with the Insurance Act. The League resists government without the consent of the governed, and under this Act, women, without their consent, have a compulsory levy and a compulsory contribution deducted from their incomes and earnings.

Mrs. Harvey's gardener, who rejoices in the name of Asquith, is the cause of the present action, and in respect of him she has been served with ten summonses under the Insurance Act to appear at the Bromley Police-court on Monday, July 21. Each summons is exactly the same, and represents one of the ten months during which Mrs. Harvey has refused to act as tax collector for the Government. The members of the League are invited to attend at the court to support Mrs. Harvey; and if they will communicate with the Political and Militant Department, will be given full information. It is arranged that a decorated four-horse brake, starting from Headquarters, will

be available to convey supporters to Bromley and back.

Suppressed Names: Letter to the War Office.

The following letter has been addressed to Colonel Seely in connection with the prosecution of Mrs. Gerald for procuring girls for immoral purposes:—

To the Secretary of State for War,
War Office, S.W.

Sir,—I am instructed by my Executive Committee to call your attention to the recent prosecution of a woman keeping a flat for purposes of immorality. The woman was 26 years of age, and the girls employed by her were aged 17, 18 and 19. Amongst the correspondence impounded were communications from a young gentleman at Sandhurst, whose name, most improperly, has been suppressed.

You will be aware that recently legislation has been enacted with a view to placing some restriction on the organised social evil, legislation which this young gentleman and his fellow-miscreants have endeavoured to set at naught. We should be glad to know what steps it is the intention of the War Office to take in this matter, as my organisation feels it is impossible that it should be overlooked.

We would venture to remind you that Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria, whose objection to Woman's Suffrage is so frequently quoted by prominent Anti-Suffragists, would not have allowed a person of this description to hold Her Majesty's commission after being concerned in a scandal of so gross a nature.

The case is that of Rex v. Queenie Gerald, tried at the Clerkenwell Sessions before Mr. Justice Lawrie, on July 10th.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of the Political and Militant Department.

July 14, 1913.

Mr. McKenna has also been invited to make a statement in regard to the suppression of the names of the fashionable men clients of Mrs. Gerald—in accordance with the remonstrance addressed to him by Lord Winterton on the habit indulged in by magistrates of allowing well-to-do persons to conceal their names. The Home Office has been asked by the Women's Freedom League to state its views and intentions, prior to having further questions asked in the House of Commons.

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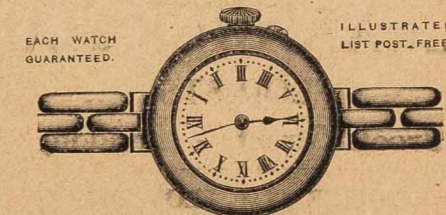
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THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

The men who govern us have given themselves up to a solemn orgy of pompous pretence. One does not know whether most to admire Mr. Asquith's disquisitions on the spirit of True Democracy or Sir Edward Carson's bombastic championship of the Right of the Governed to control the Government. In the debates on the Plural Voting Bill, in the House of Lords' discussion of the Home Rule bugbear, or in the campaign in Ulster, we wade knee-deep in precious phrases, in profound philosophies, in golden glints of great truths, in waves of protest against all the unconstitutional actions, intentions, and enactments of unconstitutional Governments and governing persons. They belong to a vast game of pretence, these phrases and protests: they are used by men who know themselves and who know that others know them for the hypocrites they are; for there is only one sincere note in the whole gamut of pretence, and that is party interest.

Sir Edward Carson means, quite "constitutionally," to "take over Ulster for ourselves." He "knows nothing of legality or illegality"; his "covenant" covers all that. He and his bold barons and loyal lieges resolve that it is their "bounden duty to make and complete all preparations for resisting by force and every other method... any Nationalist Parliament... The whole Unionist party, he assures Ulster, is behind him, whether they are "constitutional or in the long run unconstitutional" in their methods. *Yet they all supported the Cat and Mouse Bill!*

They will collect their own taxes, too, in Ulster. And if anyone else attempts to collect the taxes—other governments, for instance, not approved by Sir Edward—"they must make it impossible." He believed "in his conscience" that he was under heaven entitled to defeat Home Rule. Oh, these self-righteous brawlers! President Kruger swore by "God and the Mauser." Sir Edward is only a poor imitator after all. But he is going to "give no quarter when the time comes"—"stagger humanity," in fact, like the older braggart. And he was anxious for the day to come when "this everlasting threatening of civil and religious liberty would be ended and the terror removed," for "they neither would nor could give up their rights as citizens." Hurray! And so say all of us.

Lord Lansdowne also waxed prophetic and portentous in dilating on Ulster's "moral right" to resist a Government she disliked. "This monstrous indignity to herself" (not nearly so great as that inflicted on the entire womanhood of the country) is to be resented by "the British League," whose offices are at 25, Ryderstreet, "next the gun shop."

The debate passes all bounds of permissible silliness; and it is only the violent and unmeasured actions consequent on all this rubbishy talk that make it serious. The conduct of the male denunciators of militancy will be of a character in keeping with their astonishing record for law-breaking and bloodshed, and the chief sufferers, as usual, will probably be helpless women.

In the House of Commons Mr. Asquith outdid all competitors. He considered that "one ought to count for one for all purposes of election," and that a "privileged class of 500,000 out of 8,000,000" had obtained an unjustifiable advantage. He made no remark about the unjustifiable advantage of the privileged sex, also in a permanent minority. He thought the House "ought to be as accurate a reflection as they could make it of the mind of the people"; but it is Mr. Asquith first and foremost who has discriminated among "the people" as to whose mind is to be represented and who has given his heavy support to unjustifiable advantage.

We help to pay £400 a year and £5,000 a year to all these dishonest talkers with whom the real meaning of their own words and principles are blurred and

distorted by party trickery and interested "interpretations" of the English language. The unctuous sentiments ladled forth make us sick with their unreality; the blessed word Mesopotamia was not more full of cryptic possibilities to the weeping old dame who was so moved by it than are "democracy," "militancy," and "constitution" in the mouths of our arch-foes on both sides of the House. C. NINA BOYLE.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.

The present year marks an important advance in the attitude of the Society of Friends towards Woman Suffrage. In the epistle from the London Yearly Meeting, held in May, the question is referred to in the following terms:—

Four aspects of these world-wide stirrings of life have claimed our special attention. In almost every nation, womanhood seeks for a fuller recognition and a larger sphere of service. It has been given to few generations to witness a movement of such surpassing importance. It belongs to no one country; it is the vision of no one people. It has swept round the world, and East and West to-day are linking up their forces. Out of great and bitter need, the women of the world are asking for their opportunity to serve their generation. The history of our Society brings abundant evidence of the advantage which comes to the community through a full recognition of the dignity of woman, and through according her her rightful place in family, social and church life. We as Friends, both men and women, are called to bear our share in bringing this movement to its full fruition, and in saving it from the serious dangers with which it is threatened. This can only be done as we derive our convictions on this subject once more from their true source, and so, by bringing Christ into the heart of the movement, lift it on to the highest possible plane.

The London Yearly Meeting is composed of representatives from all parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, and the epistle is addressed to "The Quarterly and Monthly Meetings in Great Britain, Ireland, Australasia and elsewhere, and to all who are associated with us in religious fellowship." This epistle is read at a meeting for worship on some Sunday during the year in every meeting-house of the Society of Friends. In this way the question is brought to the notice of all members at a time when they can sit and think over it quietly. It also comes with all the authority of an official utterance of the Society and as the outcome of a consideration of the question in Yearly Meeting itself.

It is encouraging to find that the Society of Friends, which has always recognised the *spiritual* equality of woman, is now beginning to see that the logical outcome of its position is the granting of the vote to woman. Two years ago the position was very different, and the Yearly Meeting refused to consider the question. The change in attitude is largely due to the efforts of the Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, which has been at work during the last two years with this special object in view. There is still, however, much work before the League, both in urging members of the Society of Friends to take their share in a Cause which, as a society, they have neglected too long; and, by bringing them into closer touch with the movement, help them to realise that the spirit they wish to introduce is already present in its midst.

AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED.

The Tottenham Branch of the W.F.L., through Mrs. Harbord, has sent £5 6s. 6d. as a contribution to THE VOTE. This is the result of a Jumble Sale, and a Jumble Sale means hard work, if it also means much fun. Congratulations and thanks are tendered to the Tottenham Branch on behalf of the League. JULIA WOOD.



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MENTAL DEFICIENCY. MAN'S WAY OF DEALING WITH IT.

Whilst women are still told that they must have nothing to do with politics, politics are touching closer and closer the interests of women. The present Government are now pledged to carry the Mental Deficiency Bill before the House is prorogued.

According to a Local Government Board return, published on July 8, there are 31,824 mentally defective paupers in England and Wales (other than the certified insane). They are classified as idiots 1,766, imbeciles 4,887, feeble-minded 14,172, moral imbeciles 727, and mentally infirm 10,272. The Bill proposes to deal with these, as well as to compel all those outside who are certified as mental deficient to come into institutes and homes.

A Board of Control is to be appointed consisting of not more than fifteen Commissioners, of whom not more than twelve are to receive a salary not exceeding £1,500 each per annum. Local committees of the County Councils are to have local powers to deal with the question.

The Bill, in defining a mental deficient, describes them as "incapable of managing themselves or their affairs," and again, "those that require care, supervision and control for their own protection," and yet again, as "those on whom punishment has little or no deterrent effect." Some of these descriptions have quite a familiar ring in the ears of Suffragists. Is it possible that this is another scheme of our legislators to procure our incarceration?

In Clause 2 we note "that a person may be dealt with under this Act who is in receipt of poor relief at the time of giving birth to an illegitimate child or when pregnant of such child"—poverty again brought in—the woman only to be punished, whilst vice that can pay escapes.

In Clause 5 power is given to a magistrate or officer of the local authority to present a petition for a person to be treated as a mental deficient. Even a policeman (Clause 15) may charge a person before the courts with being a mental deficient, and that person may be sent to an institute until evidence of his or her mental condition can be brought before the courts.

It is interesting to note the elaborate arrangements in the Bill for "the religious persuasions of the defectives." Mr. Wedgwood, M.P., told the House of Commons the other day that he was sure very few Cabinet Ministers had even read the Bill, and that there was not a shadow of a mandate for the Bill. Many people, no doubt, were shocked and horrified to find that there was so very little accommodation for the feeble-minded, but providing protection for these poor afflicted ones is very different from compelling people to send their children into what are really prison institutes.

This Bill not only provides people with an opportunity, but compels them, whether they like or not, to make use of that opportunity. We have far too much compulsion—far too much of one class of persons imposing their will on another class—e.g., the recent example of compulsory thrift, compulsory attendance of mere babies in our schools, the closing of shops and the forbidding of children with their parents on licensed premises.

These interferences are almost entirely confined to the poor; they do not touch the people of the middle or upper classes. Now we are to have the policeman or officer of the new authority to inspect and to make lists of the people who come under this vague definition of feeble-minded. They will search people's houses, examine the children and make all sorts of backstairs inquiries from neighbours. Well-to-do people can provide for their children if they are feeble-minded, and the last thing they would wish to do is to be compelled to part with them.

Let the Government go to the root of the matter. Why are there more feeble-minded in the slums than elsewhere? The question is largely economic. Let our houses be made fit for habitation, let our mothers and

children be enabled to live the healthy life of bodily activity in fresh air and with a sufficiency of food.

Suffragists will not be compelled to obey this, or any other law, passed without consulting them. We demand first the enfranchisement of our sex, and we deny the right of any Government to pass laws over our heads. The Bill does propose to make use of women in carrying out its dictates. Members are found in the House stating how important it is that women should help, and even the Bill states that one of the Commissioners shall be a woman and that at least one woman should be on the local body.

Let us, we say, come in as enfranchised persons, let our ideas be put into the Bill and then, and not till then, are we ready to help to solve the problem.

S. A. MUSTARD.

WHEN WOMEN HAVE A SAY.

The recall of Police Judge Charles L. Weller, of San Francisco, marks an epoch in American politics.

Weller is the first American judge who has ever been ousted from office by a recall election.

Weller's conviction was accomplished by the votes of women.

Weller, as police judge, ran his court as the average police courts are run throughout the country. That is, petty offenders were "soaked"; serious cases made light of and professional bondsmen, politicians and such barnacles clustered around the bench.

Weller was not a bad man. He was not even a bad judge, as judges go. He just had an out-of-date viewpoint.

Weller could have gone on the rest of his natural life conducting his court as he did, and while occasionally a few men would have been incensed nothing would have come of it.

But the women of California secured the right to vote. They were not downtown. They didn't know how a "wide-open town helps business." But they did know what the ruin of a girl's body and soul was.

So when Weller reduced the bail of a man charged with assaulting a young girl, and when the man put up absurdly low bail, the women began to talk and to think.

They found that the average bail demanded by Weller for crimes against young girls was \$300, while the average bail demanded for crimes against property was \$3,000.

The women said such a man, with such a sense of values, isn't fit to be a judge.

Eighteen thousand of them signed a recall petition, and 31,000 men and women voted to recall Weller, and put a young and unknown lawyer named Crist in his place.

And it was done. All of which shows that the recall will get rid of public servants and judges not because they are necessarily dishonest, but if they are not temperamentally fitted for their jobs.

It also shows that where women vote—even if the town is as tough as Frisco—decency is going to count more than dollars and people more than profits; hence we say that the recall of Judge Weller marked an epoch in American politics.

Fine for the women voters. Fine for the recall. Would that we had both.—From the *Chicago Daily Press*.

SUFFRAGE PICTURES.—At the Sixth London Salon of the Allied Artists' Association there are two pictures which will interest our readers. No. 411, by Miss Mary Robinson, is called "The Most Sensational Derby on Record: Suffragette and the King's Horse Anmer"; No. 891, "The Woman's March," by Mrs. L. Dellisa Joseph. It is a large picture, the subject is decoratively treated, and is exceptionally fine in tone and colour, but what is specially important to Suffragists is that the artist entirely conveys the spirit of the Cause for which the women are marching. Of the thirteen hundred works at this exhibition from some twenty-six countries, there is nothing finer in its way than this picture.

THE VOTE.

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, July 18, 1913.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
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The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. If a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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THE VICTORS OF TO-MORROW.

"Men do well," says a modern play-writer, "to keep the women blind."

That is the service which has been undertaken by the Anti-Suffrage Society. To keep the woman blind; to make them believe that in every social arrangement—in every political device the best that can possibly be contrived is being done for them and for their children—that is the aim of the League, which, under Lord Curzon as President, Mr. Mitchell-Innes as Chairman of Committee, and Mr. Massie as Treasurer, is opposing Woman's Suffrage. These good people are busy now raising an Indignation Fund, to be subscribed to not only by their own members but by the general public. "How much are you indignant?" is the question that is to be asked of those who profess to abhor violence, and who look upon the processions and protests, through which the strength of our agitation is shown, as hurtful to the community and degrading to women. For "there can be no relaxation of the League's efforts if Women's Suffrage is to be defeated." When that is achieved, when women return peacefully to their ancient subjection, then—and then only—will they obtain what they are supposed to desire.

In the issue of *The Anti-Suffrage Review* that voices this pathetic appeal for funds, there is a delicious piece of doggerel-verse which, if it is to be taken seriously, holds out to woman the hope of subjugating her brother-man by far simpler methods than those the Suffragists are employing.

"Where," woman is asked, "is your vaunted power over man, if the bomb and destruction are all that you can?"

The answer is clear:—
Go! Get to the cradle, and watch by it still,
Inspire man and teach him to vote as you will.

Unhappy man! Turn whatever way he will, he cannot apparently escape.

All this may seem very funny, but there is that behind it which deserves consideration; for the tactics of an enemy, if carefully observed, will often enlighten those whom he is seeking to draw on to their ruin.

It strikes us that, in spite of all protestations to the contrary, our opponents are not, by any manner of means, convinced of our defeat. One feels disposed to ask: When will they be sure? What will be the indubitable signs? They must desire peace, even as we desire it. When and how is peace to come? We wonder if these superior men and obedient womanly women think that those who have been standing together valiantly through evil and good report, those who have grown stronger and more numerous after every seeming check, are going, at some particular moment, to surrender their defences, to loose one another's hands, and to allow, without protest, the cruel, soul debasing social system that men have built up, to run forward on its way?

Under certain conditions this might be. If the superior men and women were able to deprive all the women into whose souls the great hope has come of their children; if they could arrange either that these

rebellious ones should have no children at all, or that the care and training of their offspring should be taken from them and put into the hands of the superior persons, there might be some chance of bringing the strife to an end. Unfortunately for them the young women, who form the rank and file of the Suffragist army, have a peculiar charm—low be it spoken!—even for Antis. In the effete days which are already passing away there was something stimulating to man in a woman with an opinion of her own. We have ourselves witnessed some notable conversions. If women of fine physical culture, of free mind and independent will, marry and have children—boys and girls—they will, of course, surround the children with the atmosphere in which they themselves live and move. This is a spiritual law from which there is no escape; the rising generation are proving it. Brought up in the air of liberty, taught free movement of the limbs, independent thinking and free speech, hating convention and apt in detecting prejudice afar off, these boys and girls are not going to be set aside from any purpose they may form by the patent sophistries of persons so superior as those who are appealing to the public for an Indignation Fund through the pages of *The Anti-Suffragist Review*.

We happen to know some of these children—glorious, independent little souls—and we can assure the enemies of women's liberty that they will find them harder to tackle than their mothers have been. We are advised to go to the cradle. That is precisely what we are doing; and to the girls' cradle as well as the boys'. Says one of the characters in a remarkable American play, *The Mortal Gods*:—

Defeat
May be endured by those who hold in lap
The victors of to-morrow.

This every true woman knows; and therefore, to-day, she can smile at defeat; therefore, "as one who fears no failure, courts no success," she can have patience; therefore, however dark the present may be, she can rejoice. The future is hers. She holds in her hands those who will mould it—the victors of to-morrow. She is leading them; but not by the old devious ways—the ways of the courtesan. "Inspire man and teach him to vote as you will." The real woman does not imagine that by bringing up her sons to rule everything but themselves, and her daughters to submit outwardly, in decorous seemliness, while within they weave their nets and spread their snares, she is going to kill abuses, and heal diseases, and make social and political life pure and sweet. For, looking into the depths where the tortured dwell, feeling in her own soul the passion of their pain, she has been learning another way. Not weakness, not submission, save to that Divine inspiration which is never very far from those who seek it; but strength, but joyous liberty has to be forged on her anvil; and, with all her force, she has set herself to her work. The man who dominates; the woman who in ignorance or indolence accepts his domination,

Shall not for ever pick their way to ease
O'er broken bodies, lifting up white brows
And hiding crimson feet. Daring to make the Christ their
sheltering sanction while they feed
On others' lives and keep injustice sleek.

In those vigorous words speaks the warrior-woman of to-day. We, meanwhile, of the Women's Freedom League, who are in the rough and tumble of the battle, draw strength and hope from our conviction that, in our insistent demand for political emancipation—a demand which cannot be long denied—we are making the implements that will enable those "Victors of To-morrow" to win their way to a peace such as that of the incoming tide—

Too full for sound or foam.

In the gladness of that conviction, we can bear with ease the "sound and foam"; the taunts and misconceptions that to-day are meted out to us by those who do not yet even dare to think freely.

C. DESPARD.

BIRTHDAY PARTY TO OUR PRESIDENT.

An evening of enthusiasm—flowers, songs (Eastern and Western), dances, and a birthday present for the President from large numbers of friends, many of whom could not join in the festivity but whose love and devotion added to the joyous determination which will outlast the evening of July 10 and continue to increase until the real birthday present of the vote is won for all women. Banners and pennons decorated the Caxton Hall on July 10, but more significant were the living decorations—the great crowd of Suffragists, sympathisers and supporters who gathered to do honour to our President. Standing at the door of the large hall, Mrs. Despard welcomed the continuous stream of guests until she was summoned to take her place on the platform for the brief presentation proceedings. Miss Nina Boyle took the chair, and in welcoming our President, told of the splendid reception, second only to that given to Mrs. Chapman Catt, accorded to her at the International Suffrage Conference at Budapest. She spoke of the devotion to her and the Cause she represents which lies behind the birthday gift and makes it valuable, and said that the Birthday Fund would become an annual event. Applying to the hon. treasurer of the League the words of Mr. Asquith about "the shrinking modesty" of Mr. Winston Churchill, Miss Boyle asked Dr. Knight to make the presentation.

Prefacing her short speech, asking Mrs. Despard to accept the birthday gift, with the remark that she did not see what she had done to be compared with Mr. Churchill, Dr. Knight told of the growth of the fund and the £1,000 goal which, it is hoped, will soon be reached. She read out the long list of donors, and emphasized the fact that there was no time like the present for adding to it. Miss Alix Minnie Clark also presented Mrs. Despard with a basket of beautiful roses on behalf of Mrs. Courteney Scott, of Pennant Hall, Abermule, Montgomery Boroughs, and other flowers were given by the Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, expressed her heartiest and heartfelt thanks for the birthday gift, and deep appreciation of the honour done to her, and immediately handed back the cheque to the hon. treasurer, declaring that it could not be in better hands. She recognised the sacrifice made in collecting a sum of more than £400, and told of the many ways in which money is required for the work of the League. She rejoiced in the formation of a new Branch—Thornton Heath—as a birthday present, arising out of a stormy meeting. Speaking of the great gathering of women from all nations at Budapest, Mrs. Despard said she was impressed by the continual declaration made to English Suffragists: "When you win, we shall win!" This confidence was stimulating and encouraging, as also the continued evidence that the country, including the great body of workers, is more and more in favour of Woman Suffrage. "We must not slacken our efforts; we need still more money and more personal service to gain our first victory—the vote, which will open so many doors, and is not far off—then we shall go on from victory to victory."

"An evening of artistic delight." This was the strongly expressed opinion of the great gathering of friends who seemed reluctant, even at a late hour, to bring so enjoyable an evening to a close. With such artistes, this is just what we expected. Madame Ferria delighted everyone so much with her songs that she had to respond to the insistent demand for an encore. Baroness M. Grippenberg, who comes from Finland to England with a fine reputation as a true and original artiste, amply fulfilled all expectations by her beautiful dances. To Rachmaninoff's "Prelude" she represented a captive struggling to be free from her chains; to the characteristic music of her own country she gave a dance of sadness, a dance of joy and of spring.

Her graceful, agile movements showed the exquisite working out in original fashion of beautiful ideas, and in thanking her for her splendid help we can only wish her still greater and greater success in her well-chosen career. Mr. Harrison Hill, whom we welcome as a champion of our Cause, put his inimitable services at our disposal once again, to the keen delight of all, and after much humour and skill at the piano, including a "Gruel Song," and how Handel might have written "Jack and Jill," made the occasion memorable by a birthday gift of birthday verses, as follows:—

Our Own Grey Ladye.

Air, "The Fine Old English Gentleman."

[The tune is splendidly inappropriate, for the subject of the verses is not English, is not a gentleman, and most certainly is not, and never will be, old.—H. H.]

There's a splendid Irish lady

Who belongs to all the world,
She's known and lov'd where e'er the flag
Of freedom is unfurled.

They love her out in Budapest,

They love her out in Prague;

To us she is a glory,

To McKenna she's a plague!

For she is our own Grey Ladye,

And it is her Birthday Eve.

However many years she's lived

I neither know nor care,

But she doesn't look the half of them,

She's always young and fair;

And whether she is twenty-five

Or whether she's two score,

However many years she has,

God give her many more!

For she is our own Grey Ladye,

And it is her Birthday Eve.

You give her birthday presents,

And she gives them back to you,

With all her blessings on them,

And all that's sweet and true;

She'll win that birthday present

For which we all must strive,

Aye! she'll win the Vote for Women,

As sure as we're alive!

For she is our own dear Ladye,

And it is her Birthday Eve.

HARRISON HILL.

The climax of the tribute came when Professor Inayat Khan, the distinguished Indian musician and Sufi philosopher, chanted a sonorous blessing on Mrs. Despard. With philosophical interpretations he gave a Song to the Dawn, a Hymn, and a Song of the Flute, expressing the desire of the soul for freedom amid the suffering of material conditions. To all our friends and helpers, including Mrs. Huntsman and Mrs. Harbord, to name but two, we express our truest appreciation of the charm and creature comforts of a memorable evening.

MESSAGE FROM MRS. DESPARD.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW-MEMBERS,—As it is impossible for me to acknowledge personally all the generous contributions to my Birthday Fund, the kind messages of congratulation and goodwill, and the loving work and strenuous energy that have been thrown into the preparation and carrying out of our festival, I am trying, through the medium of THE VOTE, to express what cannot really be given in words—my sense, not so much of gratitude, as of love and appreciation.

As I stood before you last night, dear friends, trying and, I know, failing to say what was in my mind, there came over me a strong impression that, after all, there was little need for many words. You and I and the many absent friends who belong to us—the many more who will belong to us by-and-by—are actually one. Here and there, on various occasions, it is the honour and privilege of one and another to represent you and the great Cause for which we stand. Last night, as at other times, we have felt with great joy and gladness, that it is our League, that it is our Cause (the cause of womanhood, presently to be recognised as the cause of humanity) which is being honoured, and the conviction that this is so gives us courage and hope.

As a festival, I keenly enjoyed last night's entertain-

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, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, by the *First Post on Tuesday Morning*.

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