

The Common Cause,

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Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

Notes and Comments.

Two Majorities.

The Parliament Bill, with all the weight of party, all the advantage of whips and machinery, has passed the Commons (whose privileges it is supposed to be maintaining and who might therefore be presumed to have a special tenderness for it) by a majority of 121. Ten days previously, the Conciliation Bill, non-party and opposed by the Prime Minister, passed its Second Reading by a

Silent Gratitude.

People are speaking glibly enough of the Insurance Bill as not introducing any new taxation, but of course this is only true if we restrict the term taxation very much. As a matter of fact the Bill puts a heavy tax on the worker, of the nature of an income-tax on earned incomes and a heavy tax on the employer also. As Mr. Lloyd George said in the House last week, "It is said 'Let's go to the State,' as if taxes were like the gentle rain from heaven coming down from somewhere without anybody interfering or putting his hand into his pockets.



The Anti-Suffragists in Looking-glass Land.

"Well, in our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else—if you ran very fast for a long time, as we've been doing."
"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

[The Anti-Suffragists are pleading that the country has not been sufficiently consulted, although the question has been before the country since 1866, there have been seven Second Readings and last year there were from 200 to 300 suffrage meetings a week for many weeks and this year some 70 town and district councils have petitioned for the Bill.]

majority of 167; and this was the seventh time that the House of Commons has passed the Second Reading of a bill to give votes to women.

The Cabinet and the Bill.

As we go to press, the fate of the Conciliation Bill in this session is probably being decided. On the 24th is the Cabinet meeting at which it is understood some decision will be arrived at and the result may be known on Wednesday night. Those who have worked their hardest will feel they have earned the reward of having moved others. Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Lloyd George ought to be able to help us.

It is forgotten that all those clouds of taxes have to evaporate out of the taxpayers' pockets to begin with."

Consequently we see all the "vested interests," the doctors and the Friendly Societies, putting in their claim to be heard and all the various sections of men who will find that the tax presses heavily on them or that their business suffers somehow; only the women, who are chosen out for such differential treatment, are not articulate and the tendency of the Press in general seems to be to express astonishment that, actually, women should have come into the scheme at all. We are told that it is quite wonderful that maternity benefit should be even contemplated and women are being adjured to put their

hands together and render thanks for even the smallest acknowledgment of the great debt which the nation owes to them for their share in replenishing the generations.

"The Best of Her Sex."

It is very difficult to see on what grounds either of justice or expediency a girl of the working classes is to be taxed for sick insurance as long as she remains unmarried and works for wage and as soon as she marries and becomes incapable of earning (as is frequently the case) she is to lose all the benefit of her previous insurance. If the work she can do in the home is of the value which we are always being told it is (when people want to prevent married women from earning wages) surely her health should be protected in the interests of the nation. Either her husband ought to be compelled to insure her, or the State ought to shoulder the burden of her insurance. It strikes us as both cynical and short-sighted to say in one breath that the married woman's place is in the home and that you will only protect her if she goes out of the home. Any practical difficulties would be overcome if it were realized how far such cynicism would lead one. If it is necessary to introduce compulsory and state-aided sick insurance for a man himself, how can anyone have the effrontery to ask us to believe that a man need not be either compelled or helped to insure his wife?

Even if men had not the vote they have their great unions; doctors, insurance offices, employers and employed can all speak in corporate capacities. Only wives and mothers have no Union to speak for them! Then at least should women have the vote wherewith to voice the woman's point of view.

More in Sorrow than in Anger.

There is to be a "Coronation meeting for men only" in the Queen's Hall, presided over by the Lord Chancellor and addressed by the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London. The result, it is hoped, will be a "quickening of the sense of responsibility, followed by the corresponding determination of rendering personal service." The "Spectator" has some touching reflections on the effect which so much nobleness may be expected to have on women, "whose vision of English manhood has become distorted." It is somehow to restore the "co-operation and harmony of the sexes" which have been so sadly disturbed by "the present women's movement." How one meeting in the Queen's Hall for "men only" is to accomplish this wonderful feat the "Spectator" does not explain. Are we to suppose that women already possess all the necessary "sense of responsibility," that they do not need to resolve to "render personal service?" If so, how does the present lamentable "bias against men" arise? Cheer up, Mr. Spectator! It isn't Coronation meetings that are needed to introduce the sexes to each other! We have a very shrewd idea of what our men-folk are like and the great mass of them have a vast deal more common-sense and sense of humour into the bargain than you, sir!

A Hard Saying.

Lord George Hamilton has again provided us with some puzzlers. He is reported to have stated, on the authority of the head of the Census Department, that a little over 2,000 women evaded the census. Since there are about 10 million adult women, this meant, pursued Lord George that there was one suffragist in every 500 women! (Is it possible he can really have been so silly? Well—our reporter was not there and we have this on the authority of the "Evening Standard"). Would the 499 women, he asked, "submit to be bullied" by the 1? (Perish the thought! Rather let them take to physical force!)

But Lord George is then reported to have said (can it really be true?) that he "looked forward with considerable alarm to the entrance of women into the House of Commons." Why didn't somebody ask him how they were to get there? If all women were enfranchised (which of course they would be!) and if the Antis are as 499 to 1, how, oh how is the bold bad woman candidate

to get elected? Even if all the men voted solid for her they couldn't do it, physical force and all. Will no one explain?

The College of Surgeons and a Woman.

Miss Eleanor Davies-Colley, M.D., B.S., Lond., house-surgeon to the new Hospital for Women, London, has passed the primary examination in anatomy and physiology for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Miss Davies-Colley is the first lady to pass this examination.

Riding Rough-shod.

The Stoke Newington Borough Council recently passed a by-law prohibiting roller skating on public footways. The Home Secretary tried to get them to withdraw it and failing, has now intimated that he has "thought it necessary to take steps to procure an Order in Council disallowing it." One would have supposed that so domestic a matter might have escaped the meddling of a Cabinet Minister. Modern conditions are getting harder every year for the old and the infirm and the nervous and one would have supposed that a Borough Council might have been allowed to protect its foot passengers without this officious interference.

Votes or Pious Opinions.

A correspondent writes to tell us of some Anti-Suffragists who developed the notion of a National Council of Women, to which matters concerning women and children were to be referred. This is a very old idea. As a useful adjunct to the vote and a means of further organizing and educating women, we can conceive such a council might have its uses; but as a substitute for the vote, it is worthless. For one thing, it is impossible to pick out matters concerning women from matters concerning men. For another it would be much more definitely setting women against men than anything suffragists have ever proposed. But the biggest objection is that it does not give us what we ask at all, that is the power to choose the men who shall make and administer our laws. The Antis who think a Council of women would be a sop to suffragists have not begun to understand the A.B.C. of our demand. We do not believe in separating and antagonizing the sexes, as we should do by setting up a House of Ladies. We believe in community of interests and efforts.

Women Magistrates for Children.

An excellent amendment has just been adopted to the New French Law affecting the trial of offences committed by children under thirteen years. It permits women lawyers to act as magistrates on these occasions, and will probably also allow them to wear the official ermine-trimmed robes now worn by male magistrates. This law is regarded as the thin edge of the wedge in France where it is estimated that women will shortly be made eligible for election as magistrates.

Standing Matter.

The "New York Evening Post" suggests that every telegraph editor in the country must have had special instructions to add, after every election report from every place where women have a vote, "The outcome of the election is attributed largely to the votes of women." It is indubitably a safe thing to say and seems somehow to transfer responsibility agreeably from Adam to Eve on the lines of the good old tradition.

Reason and Force.

In the discussion which took place before Convocation of London University recently, Dr. Heber Hart referred to the "physical force argument" as "perhaps the only solid argument against women's suffrage." Dr. Hart is coming on, for he once wrote a whole bookful of "arguments." Dr. Sophie Bryant was, however, well up to him. She said that sovereignty did not rest on force, but on "reason backed by force," and it was the women's need for this backing to their reason which gave point to the women's demand.

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

MORE REASONS WHY WORKING WOMEN NEED THE VOTE SOON.

Mr. John Burns and other persons often express much concern about married women working in mills. It is of course a much vexed question, and this page is not written to express any opinion as to whether it is right or wrong for married women to work. It is written to explain how things stand about it at present.

1. *Why does Mr. Burns want to stop married women from working in textile mills?* Because, as he explained one day, they interfere with men's work in those mills—with

"THE MEN'S MARKET,"

he said. He is not worried, apparently, about the health of married charwomen, washerwomen, pen-makers, paper-folders, etc.—only about the textile women, who are better paid (in Lancashire) than any other women who work in factories. Men are NEVER charwomen. It is not about the health of the race, therefore, he is anxious, but rather about the market for men's labour, so that men's interests will be considered in this matter, but not women's.

2. *Why do married women work?* If we look at the evidence of Miss Anderson (the Factory Inspector) on this point—given to the Royal Commission on the deterioration of the race—the first reason she gives is the DESERTION of their husbands. The next is the SMALL WAGE many men earn from many reasons, of which bad health is one. The wife must supplement the man's wage with her earnings, so that the children may be properly fed. If she has to work, a textile factory is

A BETTER PLACE

to work in than some small "sweating" laundry, or some cold stone-floored buildings where she has to scrub on her knees all day for a miserable pittance. Her own health and her baby's health suffers more with char-work than with factory work. Ten hours only may she work in a textile factory. There is practically no limit to the hours of char-work.

3. *Does factory work cause infantile mortality?* More, that is to say, than anything else in working mothers' lives? If we turn to a report written in Bradford not long ago by a lady sanitary inspector, we find she says the primary cause of infantile mortality is BAD HOUSING; next, she gives BAD FEEDING. This is the same in Miss Anderson's report. In some of the agricultural districts where the housing conditions are horrible, the death rate amongst infants is terribly high.

In some of those manufacturing towns where the death rate is high, the women do not work to any very large extent, in factories or workshops.

Now,

WHEN WOMEN HAVE THE VOTE,

the housing question is one of the very first problems they will grapple with, and at the same time they will turn their minds to instructing women in the proper care and feeding of their infants far more than they do, even now.

A meeting was held one day in a working women's club, at which a Trade Union official described to the married women

HOW SPLENDID IT WOULD BE

for them not to work, but to live at home and mind the babies peacefully. They were poor women, in Yorkshire, where textile wages are lower than in Lancashire. They were delighted at first, and a peaceful look crept over their tired faces. Presently a woman raised a question: "Should we be able to earn a bit when t'money wur short? And should we have to ask our 'usbands for every penny, more nor we do now?" The whole meeting became uproarious when the man said "No they couldn't earn anything except with taking in 'a bit of washing and such like,' perhaps."

"I earn to give t'babby a bit more when my old man's working short."

"Mine never brings me more nor two-thirds of his wage; how can I keep t'house going on that?"

"T'mill's better nor charing," and so on. These women must

NOT BE LEGISLATED FOR

any more than working men are legislated for. They must have a vote.

THIS WEEK'S STORY.

An old man's opinion of women:—"I couldn't get on wi'out my missus. We've worked in t'mill together, and we've brought up t'childer together, and she knows as much about it all as I do. Them men i' Parlyment don't know much about women, seemingly! Why, they're right afared on 'em, so it looks to me!"

THIS WEEK'S MOTTO.

"I've a right to speak."

"There's folks as thinks a woman fool enough to stan' by an' look on while the men sign her soul away; I'VE A RIGHT TO SPEAK, for I make one quarter o' the rent, and save another quarter."

MRS. POYSER.

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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

Contents.

	Page
Cartoon	115
Notes and Comments	115
The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage	115
Men's Rights and Women's Duties	116
Thoughts for Ascension Day	117
In Parliament	118
The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies— From Headquarters	119
The Parliamentary Situation	120
Treasurer's Notes	120
Press Department	121
International Woman Suffrage	121
Receptions at the Portman Rooms	122
Procession Work	122
Federation Notes	122
Letters to the Editor	123
Work of Societies in the Union	124
Forthcoming Meetings	126

Men's Rights and Women's Duties.

"That this House declines at present to provide money for the payment of members of Parliament because it would involve taxing the women of the country to pay for the services of members in whose election they have no vote."—(Text of a resolution of which Mr. W. S. B. McLaren gave notice on May 19.)

On Tuesday 16th May, Mr. Lloyd George introduced his budget. There is a surplus of some 5½ millions and after adding £2,357,000 to the Sinking Fund, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to allot about 1½ millions to sanatoria, ¼ million to the Uganda railway, 1½ millions to the Development Fund (small holdings, light railways etc.) and ¼ million to—the payment of Members of Parliament.

Proposals for the raising and spending of public money by Parliament have always, and rightly, been those for which it has been thought most necessary to get the hearty sanction of the people. For centuries, we find that the granting of "supplies" to the Crown was the one power of which the people was most jealous, because it was the power without which all other power was useless. Coming to the present day, we find the quarrel between the Lords and Commons in its essence the same as the old quarrel between the Crown and the People. The Lords maintained that they had a right to throw out the Budget. The Government insisted upon the right of the popular House to deal with finance; Mr. Churchill declared that it was "finance and finance alone" which controlled affairs and every member of the Government maintained that it was essential for good government that this control should be in the hands of an elected body, representative of those from whom the financial resources were derived.

Now it is this whole theory of "popular" control which we women suffragists maintain and we maintain moreover that we understand it in its true sense and that the members of the Government who are denying us votes are flourishing a principle which they do not

act upon. We contend that even with a supreme House of Commons as at present constituted, there is not,—no, not even theoretically,—any "popular control," because not a woman in the land can say how she wishes the taxes assessed or how she desires the revenue to be spent. Control over finance is the most important of all control because it means effective power to decide policy; and it is just that those who pay to fill the coffers of the state should share in the Government of the state.

All financial questions therefore raise in an acute form the question of the present ignominious and barbarous position of women. But the proposal to pay salaries to Members of Parliament raises the question in a form more obnoxious and insolent than any other. Why? Members of Parliament are sent to Westminster as representatives. It is proposed that they should be paid salaries for the work they do. The work they do is to represent men, but women are to be taxed as well as men to pay them for this work. They do not represent women; they do not profess to do so. They are not amenable to women at all. In election times it is the commonest experience to find that meetings are "for electors," that questions are invited "from electors only."

The proposal to pay Members of Parliament will involve the Exchequer in a trifle of a quarter of a million and where so many millions are spent upon other matters it may seem to the unimaginative that we are making a fuss about a trifle when we say this proposal is the culminating insult. But it will seem so to the unimaginative only. To require us to pay for men to misrepresent us is surely insulting and degrading us. If we do not protest against it, we shall be admitting ourselves very considerably lower than free English folk. To quote Mr. Churchill's ironical description of the Lords' pretensions: "They have offered to save us all the trouble and worry and vexation and anxiety of governing ourselves. The only thing they do not offer to take over is the expense. But everything else is to be done for us. We put the penny in the slot; they do the rest." And he proceeded to ask whether government was really to be "put into the power of a knot of perfectly ordinary, unrepresentative and highly prejudiced persons, who claim the right to rule us by divine authority; who claim the right to say—in their lordly wisdom, amenable to no one, permanent, irremovable, beyond the reach of any protest that we can make—to say what is good for us and what is not?"

We are glad to know that the House of Commons realizes the injustice and the danger of such a situation. A very large majority of the Members do not wish to be unrepresentative of the women of the country. They are willing and have been willing, ever since 1886, to owe their election in part to women; we imagine that they regard the average woman as being as sensible and as moral as the average man and they would like to feel themselves in closer touch with that home life with which they are more and more bound to interfere. The average member of Parliament is very much like the average Englishman and if he is not likely to excite himself much about woes he does not feel and burdens he does not bear, he does not at all like having the rôle of "big bully" thrust upon him and we expect that he will see,—when it is pointed out to him,—how monstrous it is to make women pay his salary when they have no voice whatever in his election.

The very circumstance which has precipitated the carrying into effect of what has been a merely academic proposal brings to light the strong case for enfranchising women immediately. For what is it that has spurred the Government on to introduce the Payment of Members this session? Everyone knows that it is the difficulties raised by the Osborne judgment; it is the fact that three judges have decided against the using of Trade Union funds for the payment of Labour Members of Parliament. Mr. Osborne objected to have any portion of the sums subscribed by him for trade and benefit purposes expended to pay the salaries of Members of Parliament who misrepresented him. Mr. Osborne and those who felt like him had one advantage over the women, whose money is taken in just the same way; for he could at least vote against the Labour Candidate! The griev-

ance is the same, only ten times aggravated in the case of the women. Their money is taken, forcibly taken, and expended on policy and legislation and administration of which they may totally disapprove and which is, in any case, carried out without that knowledge and sympathy of the needs of women which direct representation alone can give.

We wish to express no views whatever upon the merits of the case for or against payment of Members. We only wish to point out that, whereas it is proposed to relieve Mr. Osborne and those who are of his way of thinking, by spreading the cost of Members' salaries over the whole of the tax payers of the country, it gives only to the male tax payers the right to demand value for the money expended in representation. Of other expenditure it is possible to say that women get some share. Women profit by the maintenance of law and order and so forth. But in representation they have not so much as their share of a single Member and yet it is proposed to tax them for the commodity which men alone enjoy.

This is why we are indignant. There is not a lover of liberty the land over who will not understand and back us in our protest.

Thoughts for Ascension Day.

(The following was an address by Rev. F. A. M. Spencer, at a service held under the auspices of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, 5th May, 1911, at St. Peter's in the East, Oxford. We think it appropriate for 25th May.)

HE SHALL SEE OF THE TRAVAIL OF HIS SOUL,
AND SHALL BE SATISFIED.

Isaiah liii, 11.

It is with some trepidation that I stand to address you here to-day. I feel that I have before me an audience of which the members hold various views upon the common object of our desires and our prayers—women's suffrage means different things to different individuals; and furthermore, it is an audience, I believe, composed of members of various religious communities, holding divergent views, while even within one religious community theological opinion and religious feeling may be hardly less divergent. I therefore crave your indulgence if to some I seem to omit what you would earnestly desire to be said and if to others I seem to say more than you desire. I beseech you, considering the nature of my task, to pardon both my shortcomings and my excesses.

Let us put the reason for our belief in women's suffrage thus: The state is an organic whole. Accordingly the life and work of each individual in the state is affected by the government of the state. Now it can be definitely shown that women's life and work is adversely affected by the fact that they have no direct influence in the government of the state. Women are hampered in what they are and what they do by the fact they are debarred from their share in the control of the organic body of which they are members. The evil resulting from their lack of power in government takes three notable forms: (1) They are in a weaker condition for fighting their great enemy, namely lust, which would degrade and enslave their bodies. (2) They are hampered in the fulfilment of the great task, the bearing and rearing of children. (3) They are debarred from the full exercise in the government of the state of that humanising and sympathetic influence, for which, as a sex, they are distinguished. Do we inquire how the demand for women's suffrage is a religious demand? It can be shown that the lack of the vote for women is a cause for the abuse of sex, for the hampering of motherhood, for the restriction of the power of love. The demand for women's suffrage is a religious demand because sex is sacred, because the child is sacred, because love is sacred. The women's suffrage movement is a religious movement because it concerns human life in its heart and essence, human life in what it is, and in what it aspires to be. Yea, the cry of 'votes for women' is a holy cry because life is holy.

Surely this constitutes a common religious ground for women suffragists. The battle against the condition of society which sets a premium on vice and makes it

humanly impossible for some to live a chaste life, which renders it impossible for many mothers to perform their work adequately, which restricts the power of woman for good,—this battle must appeal to all people of all creeds and religious views, however diverse, that hold a respected place in civilized mankind of to-day.

Such, at any rate, is the answer that springs immediately to our lips at any doubt thrown upon the religiousness of women's suffrage or upon the community that may exist between women-suffragists of various religious opinions and organizations. We know enough nowadays so to think and so to speak, from our principles of brotherhood and of war against evil and of progress. But I would like, if possible, to take you a little further and deeper.

Women's suffrage may have been for many of us a way to a new standpoint, from which we have gained a view of the world, more real and more awful, than what we had before. It has been a path for us to a position whence we have caught a glimpse of hell, and that glimpse haunts us and will haunt us. That is part of the value of the agitation. It is not the only road to reality in modern life,—social reform, clergymen's work, physicians' work, poetry, philosophy—each of these may lead us towards a vision of the awful truth of things. Women's suffrage affects some in this way who would remain unaffected by the other agencies of enlightenment. We may espouse the movement for a variety of reasons, reasons of different degrees of worth and worthlessness, truth and falsity,—but we are drawn on to reasons of more worth and truth, and therewith to behold the pain and shame of the world.

To think that our civilization involves such marring and spoiling and degradation of sweet and lovable human life! Three pictures pass before our eyes: The darling children we would play with and fondle all day to our delight; those young women, one after another, endlessly parading the streets of London as the evening falls, with that look of oh! such pitiful defiance on their faces as if to brazen it out against those who condemn them, but with heart within not yet dead, and still with a secret hunger for human affection and pity, if it only could come to them in the right way; those still forms lying side by side in the beds ranged in order in the hospital ward, of those dying there very patiently of loathsome disease, yea, so patiently in their loneliness—for of friends and kindred have they none to hold their hand or imprint on their cheeks the kiss of farewell. But this threefold picture has another side, lives deliberately and with pains educated to shun all contact with evil, to maintain a pure isolation from the wickedness of the world, and, upon basis of this negative morality, to aim at excellence in social status and appearances and pleasing accomplishments. The sort of thing I am referring to is the upbringing which makes a woman to be more distressed about a breach of etiquette or an ill-fitting or shabby dress than about the lot of the other women. The picture of a life in which, the real serious distresses being avoided, convention and fashion take the place of morality and charity, in which the moral sense is attached to the fulfilment and breach of custom and etiquette, this picture is but the other side of the former and grimmer one. For my own part, I confess, I cannot get away from the connection; the one side of life straightway suggests the other. The two are indeed part of one system of evil. I think history shows that a corrupt society and the tyranny of grotesque fashion and convention go together. And a little reflection will reveal to us the inward union. For this substitution of convention for morality, of fashion for the passion for humanity, means, for one thing, that people will live and work in order to obey and fulfil the convention and the fashion, and let the safety and good of tender, innocent lives take their chance. It means that class is violently opposed to class, so that the poorer are tempted to be equal with those who despise them at any cost, even of that of their honour. It means an external standard and test of excellence, so that, to be all right, the chief requisites are a fashionable dress and delicate manners. It means the atrophy of the moral nature, so that people can no longer feel and know what is good and what is bad. It means an attitude of self-righteous

rebuke on the part of those who have been brought up in this sheltered and guarded manner towards those who never had a fair chance to preserve their honour. It means above all the quenching of Christian love that, uniting soul to soul, is capable of overcoming all the forces of evil. I said the picture of so-called upper-class society suggests another and grimmer picture, as being but the other side of the same evil condition of civilized mankind. But is the first picture really the worse? Which side of the sin will call forth the severer divine judgment. The prostitution of the moral nature to fashion is, I deem, intrinsically the more vile.

But I ask you to come with me yet further along this path. Looking at the suffering and degradation of human life that is ever going on and on about us, and looking at the great falsity that permeates the social order, on account of which mighty falsity this suffering and degradation is allowed to be,—looking at all this, we feel an awful horror seize our hearts, a dread paralysis, as at some Gorgon-head. To see how that lie, which distorts mankind, has the power to ruin and degrade so much sweet innocence—to force it down undeservedly and irremediably beyond the pale, and how we and all about us are in the grip of that lie and must dance to the tune it calls!

Aye! But there is deep ingrained in the bedrock of human experience an ideal and principle which is in opposition to all that: "His visage was so marred more than any man's, and his form more than the sons of men . . . He was despised and rejected of men . . . He was led as a lamb to the slaughter." Before the awful beauty of that ideal—the visage so marred, to be despised and rejected of men, to be led as a lamb to the slaughter,—that great lie of fashion with its glitter and pomp seems to shrivel. And here is an ideal in humanity of becoming marred and despised and ill-treated, so as to put the arms round that other marred and despised and ill-treated life, and with a kiss to raise it up again.

And so we are drawn to throw ourselves in a passion of devotion at the foot of the Cross, to embrace it and make it part of ourselves, and to go forth and live it out in the world. For in the spirit of the Cross we can defy fashion and can draw that poor bruised life up again to health and love.

I began by speaking of votes for women and I have come to speak of the Cross of Christ. The connection consists in the fact that women's suffrage is an outcome and a presage of a great movement for the purification and uplifting of humanity on the part of women; and any great movement of that kind must be actuated by the spirit of the Cross. It is the spirit of self-sacrifice for humanity—of voluntary self-degradation, of defiance of the world's standards of high and low, noble and mean, of pity, of love, of trust in great spiritual forces of which human beings are the agents. Now the political enfranchisement of women will be a stimulus and a preparation for this great work of womanhood in the future. Woman will have to defy the false morality of avoiding all contact with evil and aiming at superficial correctness and excellence, and to stoop and demean herself for the sake of the oppressed. Do you know that allegory of Olive Schreiner's beginning "I thought I stood"? Woman goes to arraign man before God for having wounded and abused her sister; and she claims that the kingdom be taken from him and given to her, since his hands are bloodstained and hers are pure. But God calls her to show her feet, and behold they are red as with the winepress. And she urges as an excuse that she had to pick her way for fear of soiling her robe with mire. And God says "On what"? And she departs, goes and raises up her stricken sister, and comes with raiment stained with mire. But the mire glows as gold in the courts of Heaven. I have heard respectable people affirm that a class of prostitutes is requisite for the safety of other women. But I shrink from the thought of a woman so craven and mean as to allow others to undergo all the violence and suffering and shame, sooner than take a share of it herself. And consider, a bad economic and social organism may cause true slavery, or real degradation of one's fellows to the basest uses against their will, even though it be not

technically slavery and compulsion.

The development of woman is closely intertwined with the other great movements making for human salvation. I look to the rising womanhood that I see about me to stand up and battle valiantly against the forces of evil, and to mightily forward the growth of humanity towards the Kingdom of God. In some wonderful way this woman's movement makes for the goal of human progress foretold by Christ Himself: In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, neither can they die any more, but are as the angels of God in Heaven,—the end of death and birth and sex, external life in the Kingdom of God. But I say you will have a hard struggle. The forces of evil will rise up against you and attack you when they are attacked. They will assume various guises of guile and deception. You will suffer, you will be humiliated, you will seem to fail, you will be discouraged; each and all must pass through her Gethsemane and Calvary. But in the end ye shall see of the travail of your souls and shall be satisfied. Take the Cross, the universal spirit of self-sacrifice, which is the most wondrous thing in humanity, to your hearts and you cannot but conquer. And if you doubt how to help and what work to do, believe that all imbued with the Cross will know and be guided. And in that spirit you will find the core and truth of all religion; and all your doubts and divisions will vanish away. Ye shall know the truth and be at one. The work before you will tax all your strength of intellect and will and love. You will need more than a man's strength, more than a woman's gentleness. But the Spirit of God will breathe into you, and nothing shall be able to withstand you.

We are assembled now in the early days of the growth of womanhood to supplicate for the passage through Parliament of a bill for the political enfranchisement of women. Prayer? Yes, those who have consecrated their lives in the spirit of the Cross to the redemption and perfection of humanity are sources of spiritual force going forth to guide the wills of human beings throughout the world. For soul is linked to soul mysteriously in the unseen world of spirit. Your prayers will be effective in so far as they arise from souls devoted in the spirit of the Cross to accomplish the will of God.

Hereafter we and those that follow us will look back on this year and this day as of mark in the growth of womanhood, which will be more advanced, but of which the end will not be yet. They will see the long struggles culminating now, to be succeeded by mightier struggles and more extensive victories, leading on to even greater glories in expanding humanity in the future, till the Kingdom of God be come.

You have before you, my friends, difficulty, hardship, danger, suffering, self-sacrifice. But though for a while you fail, you will at last prevail; though you are smitten down, you will rise. Believe in your divine work and mission! Ye shall see of the travail of your souls, and shall be satisfied. Be of good courage, for God is with you!

In Parliament.

THE PARLIAMENT BILL.

On Monday 15th May, the Parliament Bill passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 121. In the course of a speech pointing out the effect the Bill would have, Mr. F. E. Smith said:—

Female suffrage provided another illustration. Upon that point he had always been proud to consider the Prime Minister as his leader rather than the right hon. gentleman below him. He had heard the Prime Minister develop cogent arguments to show that neither the electorate nor indeed the women of the country desired female suffrage. With that view he agreed. Yet a moment's reflection on recent division lists in the House would show that there was a majority in favour of female suffrage, and that there was a similar majority in the last House of Commons. No one would dispute that if the Prime Minister were to give facilities (which he was not likely to give) for full Parliamentary consideration female suffrage in this Parliament would be carried into law. How did they reconcile these circumstances with the claim that the constituencies did not desire female suffrage? The Home Secretary had stated that the Referendum might be an admirable method of ascertaining the views of the nation on female suffrage. But Clause 2 was either adequate or inadequate as a criterion or method

of ascertaining the wishes of democracy, so that the Home Secretary's proposal was a destructive criticism of Clause 2.

In winding up the debate, Mr. Churchill concluded with these words:—

The time was surely come when this country should clear off its arrears, and when the outworn controversies of the Victorian period should be honourably settled, and when the House of Commons, freed from the tyranny of congested business, freed also of the partisan veto, might turn with all its strength to those problems of social, national, and Imperial organisation on which the welfare and future of our country depended. It is, said Mr. Churchill in conclusion, in the name of progress and of unity we demand, and we shall most certainly secure, the passage of this Bill.

THE BUDGET.

On Tuesday May 16th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in the Budget. He stated that there was a surplus of £5,607,000 of which he proposed to allot 1½ millions to sanatoria for consumption, ¼ million to

Uganda, 1½ millions to the Development grant, and £2,357,000 to be paid into the Old Sinking Fund. He pointed out that expenditure on the Navy had in the three last years gone up £12,204,000 and the total figure is £44,392,000. He pointed out that the National Debt had been reduced by 70 millions during the six years of this administration. The new items of expenditure he proposed were the £50,000 estimated for the Insurance Bill and £250,000 a year for the payment of Members at rate of £400 a year.

ENGLISH WOMEN MARRIED TO ALIENS.

On the 19th May a Bill to amend the Old Age Pension Act was read a Second time, the Government intimating that they intended to introduce a similar one. One of the provisions of the Bill read on Friday was that a woman who is a British subject by birth shall not be disqualified on the ground that, having married an alien, she has ceased to be a British subject.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).
President: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. ACERBACH.
Hon. Secretary to Press Committee: Miss EMILY M. LEAF.
Secretary: Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

Executive Committee.

Last week Miss Emily Leaf (Hon. Secretary to the Press Committee) and Miss I. B. O'Malley (Hon. Secretary to the Literature Committee) were co-opted members of the National Union Executive Committee. Both these ladies have been working in these departments with the utmost energy and the Union is greatly indebted to them for their valuable services.

From Headquarters.

THE PROCESSION.

As many Societies have expressed disappointment that no meeting is to be held on June 17th, the Committee have decided to arrange an informal meeting in the Portman Rooms after the Procession. The largest room will seat about 700, and speeches will be made there as soon as processionists are able to reach the hall. Those whose trains do not leave until late will be able to remain as long as they wish, and it is proposed to serve light refreshments throughout the afternoon and evening.

In the early part of the afternoon an informal reception will be held in the Portman Rooms, and both before and after the Procession members of the Executive Committee will be there to receive processionists.

As the time is now very short all Societies should be working hard to arrange for large contingents in the Procession. We hear that there is much enthusiasm in the North of England, and that many of the Societies are bringing parties of working women. The Nottingham contingent is to include a party of sweated lace workers.

Everything looks hopeful for the future of our Bill; if this should be, as we all earnestly trust, the last occasion on which we hold a suffrage Procession, let us do everything to ensure that the National Union is worthily represented.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The inclusion of the payment of Members in this year's Budget has not been allowed to pass unnoticed from the women's point of view. All suffragists will have welcomed the motion which Mr. Walter McLaren has placed on the notice paper of the House of Commons, (see page 116). That such a protest should come from within the House is eminently satisfactory. In the

meantime, Mrs. Fawcett has written to the papers on the subject and the Literature Committee is publishing a leaflet which will be ready as soon as possible. We want the Government and the public to realise that while many of us feel strongly on the subject of taxation for any purpose of women who are unrepresented, we are moved to indignation at the proposal to spend the money on the payment of members in whose election we have no vote. The Government is making our position more intolerable every day: the least they can do is to grant facilities at an early date for the Conciliation Bill.

RECEPTIONS AT PORTMAN ROOMS.

The last of the series of joint receptions held at the Portman Rooms will be over before this issue of the paper is published. It is hoped either now or later to hold another series on the same or other lines, and an announcement will be made in due course.

SUMMER CAMPAIGN.

The next few months will afford a splendid opportunity for propaganda work in holiday resorts. Members of the National Union who can give any part of their time to suffrage work are asked to send their names and addresses to the office and to mention where they are going. We also want a list of those who could work if part or whole of their expenses were paid, and another list of those who will lend cottages or give hospitality to suffragists.

We have some arduous work to accomplish before the holiday season, but we must be prepared when it comes, and should be glad to receive names and addresses as soon as possible.

The Procession.

The National Union section of the Suffrage Procession on June 17th will line up in Whitehall Place and Whitehall and will be approximately in the middle of the Procession. THIS SECTION WILL FORM UP AT 5 AND START ABOUT 6. We have received enquiries as to the correctness of our statement to this effect last week. Different sections in this gigantic Procession will START AT DIFFERENT TIMES and the above times are those of the NATIONAL UNION CONTINGENT.

The Parliamentary Situation.

The Prime Minister will receive the Deputation from the Committee of Liberal M.P.s in favour of Women's Suffrage after the Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday, May 24th. His reply to the deputation's request for facilities for the Conciliation Bill will therefore not be publicly announced in time for publication in this week's "Common Cause." Meanwhile the Societies have been carrying on work in the constituencies in support of the demand for facilities. I have received the following names of Members of Parliament in favour of the Conciliation Bill who failed to find pairs on the Second Reading: Mr. J. W. Logan (Harboro'), Sir Alfred Mond (Swansea), Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh Central), Mr. John Wilson (Durham), and Mr. G. H. Roberts (Norwich). Owing to illness Sir James Yoxall (Notts.), Mr. John Wadsworth (Hallamshire), and Mr. Harry Nuttall (Stretford), were unavoidably absent on the division. Sir John Jackson (Devonport), and Mr. Richard Hazleton (Louth) were abroad.

EDITH PALLISER.

The Division List and Pairs.

MR. SIDNEY ROBINSON (Brecon) and MR. COURTHOPE (Rye), although they did not appear in the official list of pairs, had paired in favour of the Bill.

VISCOUNT LEWISHAM (West Bromwich) was unpaired by an oversight and states that his views have not changed since last Parliament, when he voted for the Bill.

MR. ROBERT CAMERON (Houghton le Spring) favourable, was unable to get a pair.

Treasurer's Notes.

I am much obliged to those Branch and Federation Treasurers who have supplied me with the information for the subjoined list of amounts, which have been spent by our local societies in different parts of the country during the past few months. I hope all Treasurers will follow suit and will make a habit of sending me similar information as regularly as possible. Now that the details of the organisation of our Section of the great Procession on June 17th, have begun to be worked out, it is possible to see what a great undertaking this is going to be. Apart from the engaging of extra office-staff and accommodation, think of the many other items of expenditure that this procession will involve before ever our members can gather together in their thousands on the 17th. There are the bands and decorations, the printing of handbills and circulars, postage on all the notices that have to go out in all directions and on all the vast correspondence that the work entails! Then there are the calls of the weaker societies who want to take part but cannot do so without financial assistance; we would like to assist them all, if only we could afford to do it.

All this exceptional but necessary expenditure will have to be met and the response to our appeal for the Procession Fund must be great indeed if the ordinary work of our Union is to go on unchecked and unhampered by want of money. The money must be found. Our old supporters, I know, will again stand by us, but will not our new members come forward also and help to take their share of this heavy cost? We have already received some welcome contributions to our Procession Fund, of which I shall hope to publish a list in next week's issue.

HELENA AUERBACH.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL FUND.

MAY 11th TO MAY 19th, 1911.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1910 ...		812	3	3½
Subscriptions—				
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.		10	0	0
Miss Hardcastle and Dr. Ethel Williams (quarterly)		3	0	0
Mr. David Richardson (quarterly)		2	0	0
Donations—				
Miss C. E. Butler		0	2	0
Mrs. Le Lacheur		10	0	0
Miss F. A. Le Lacheur		5	0	0
Mr. T. Ritchie, J.P.		0	5	0

Affiliation Fees—		£	s.	d.
Warwick and Leamington W.S.S.		1	5	0
St. Andrews W.S.S.		0	15	0
Kirkcaldy W.S.S.		0	7	6
Birkenhead W.S.S.		1	17	6
		£846	15	3½

FOR SPECIAL WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCILIATION BILL.

MAY, 1911.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged		1,082	10	11
Mrs. Kiteat		0	10	0
Miss Davenport Hill		5	0	0
Miss R. Hovey		1	0	0
Miss Lamport		2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gray		2	0	0
Delegate, Burton-on-Trent W.S.S., May 3rd		0	13	9
—Saved on railway fare		2	10	4
Collection, Reception, May 17th		£1,106	5	0

AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY SOCIETIES.

		£	s.	d.
Portsmouth W.S.S.—September to April		75	12	2
Brighton and Hove W.S.S.—January to April		58	9	10½
Winchester W.S.S.—January to April		13	3	7
Cuckfield W.S.S.—January to April		27	6	6
Norwich W.S.S.—January to April		19	7	1
Weybridge W.S.S.—January to March		12	4	0
Farnham W.S.S.—January to March		14	5	11
Worthing W.S.S.—March and April		15	6	11
York W.S.S.—April		4	1	0
		£239	17	0½

TOTAL OF ANNUAL RECEIPTS.

		£	s.	d.
Redhill, Reigate and District		127	12	8
Portsmouth W.S.S.		175	15	9
Leeds W.S.S.		128	16	1½
Exeter W.S.S.		71	7	2
		£503	11	8½

COLLECTED BY FEDERATIONS.

		£	s.	d.
Manchester and District—February to April		189	16	7
West Lancashire, etc.—October to April		70	3	9
N. and E. Ridings—Balance from 1910		35	13	11
January to April		4	1	3½
Surrey, Sussex and Hants.—January to April		17	17	7
		£317	13	1½

HOT WEATHER SHIRT



(as sketch), in white muslin, new smart shape, trimmed embroidery, and fine gupure, with fashionable wide-pleated frill edged Valenciennes lace. Stocked in five sizes, viz., 13, 13½, 14, 14½, and 15in. neck.

7/11

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street, London, W.

Press Department.

A growing interest in the Press on the subject of Women's Suffrage is apparent from the marked increase of newspaper cuttings which has been received during the last fortnight. Most valuable assistance in the office has been given us by Miss Holborn and Miss Jamieson in dealing with the record of papers.

Besides the London papers mentioned in a recent issue, the *Daily Chronicle*, the *People*, and some notable provincial dailies should be added as favourable to Women's Suffrage.

Daily Chronicle.—"The best thing in yesterday's debate on the Bill, was said by Mr. Ellis Griffith. He does not relish the support of those who, while favouring Women's Suffrage in principle, are yet too generous to give us what we want, and too anxious to give us what we can't get!"

The People.—"For my own part I would like to see the Unionist party as a whole, take up Women's Suffrage."

News sent out from London has been reported from various parts of the country through the Provincial Press. The Newcastle *Daily Chronicle* and *Daily Journal* have been specially genuine in supporting the Bill.

Newcastle Chronicle.—"We hope that the Bill will pass into law. We certainly believe that Woman's Suffrage would tend to sweeten social life and humanize British politics."

The Newcastle Daily Journal.—"Final concession seems as inevitable as any other consequence of National Culture. But we should not feel so comfortable if women had reason to think that their cause was being played with—yielded in principle, but denied in practice—as a matter of party tactics."

E. M. LEAF.

Hon. Sec. to the Press Committee.

The Common Cause.

COMMON CAUSE WEEKS.

Last week was our week in Birmingham and the results in advertisements were highly gratifying. We understand that the local sales of the paper were equally so and we hope that this will result in a large increase of regular subscribers in Birmingham.

Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

There has been a great deal of shifting about of delegates, largely because the critical situation in England made many suffragists unwilling to be away. Mrs. Philip Snowden has now consented, after all, to go and she will speak at the public meeting and Mrs. Swanwick will remain in England and walk in the Procession.

Among the delegates are: Miss Palliser, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Frank Marshall, Miss Catherine Marshall, Miss J. C. Harrison, Miss

WHY WEAR HEAVY Eyeglasses & Spectacles?



When Preston's Noted Rimless Eyeglasses and Spectacles are to be had at prices within the reach of all. They reveal the natural beauty of the eyes, and lend an air of refinement to the face.

Eyeglasses from 5/6. Spectacles from 10/6. Made in Steel, Rolled Gold, and Gold.

Write or call for Booklet, "Imperfections of Vision," and mention this paper.

PHILIP A. PRESTON, Eyesight Specialist,
130, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Alice Zimmern, Miss Gittins, Miss W. Coit and Mrs. Durand. The list of alternates which includes Mrs. Studdard, is not complete and anyone willing to serve as an alternate should communicate at once with the Secretary, 14, Parliament Chambers.

PROGRAMME OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION.

Sunday, June 11th.

Rev. Anna Shaw will preach in the Church of Gustava Vasa at 3.30 p.m.
There will be opportunities for excursions in the environs of Stockholm.

Monday, June 12th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon: Royal Academy of Music. Presentation to the Alliance of international banner. President's address. Adoption of melody for International Hymn.
Evening: Reception at the Grand Hotel Royal. Short speeches. Cantata with words by Sigfrid Leijonhufvud and music by Elfrida Andrée.

Tuesday, June 13th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Evening: Public meeting at the Royal Dramatic Theatre. Speakers (invited by Sweden): Anna H. Shaw, U.S.A.; Vida Goldstein, Australia; Dr. Augspurg, Germany; Rosika Schwimmer, Hungary; Selma Lagerlöf, Sweden; Annie Fürühjelm, Finland; Mrs. Snowden, Great Britain.

Wednesday, June 14th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon and Evening: Visits to the Northern Museum and Skansen. Open-air meeting, speaking chiefly in Northern languages. Processions of women in national costumes; national dances, etc.

Thursday, June 15th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon: Sightseeing. Excursion by motor-car to the Royal Palace of Drottningholm.
Evening: Public meeting at the People's House. Chiefly Northern languages.

Friday, June 16th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel. Sightseeing.
Evening: Official dinner at Hasselbacken.

Saturday, June 17th.

Morning: Business meeting at the Grand Hotel.
Afternoon: Sightseeing. Meeting at the Y.W.O.A. Swedish and foreign speakers.
Evening: Excursion to Saltsjöbaden. Farewell dinner tendered by the Stockholm W.S.A.

Sunday, June 18th.

Excursion on Lake Maelar to Gripsholm.

London Society.

MEETING FOR WORKING WOMEN.

We hope that everyone is doing the possible and the impossible in making the meeting on Friday June 2nd a great success. It is, as announced, for working women, at 8.30 p.m., in the Queen's Hall. There is no reason whatever why work for this meeting should interfere with work for the Procession. On the contrary: the one should very materially help the other. Lady Frances Balfour is to preside and Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Lansbury are among the speakers.

ALICE S. KINKEAD, Worker in Metals and Enamel.

23, Clareville Grove, Onslow Gardens, London, S.W.

PERSONAL ORNAMENTS,
CASKETS, SPOONS, &c.

Buttons, Pendants, &c, in Enamel of "Society" Colours.

BE LOYAL

SUPPORT WOMAN'S WORK AND THE EMPIRE.

Georgina Metherell's

MARMALADES, PRESERVES, OLTRUBANA and TABLE DELICACIES are made from fresh West Indian Fruits (Grapefruit, Limes, Bananas, etc.), with Pure Cane Sugar. They are made from Original Recipes by a member of "THE WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INTERNATIONAL UNION."

Assorted cases of 1 doz. jars, 8s., carriage paid, London and suburbs; country orders, 1s. extra.

Georgina Metherell,

THE ROSEAU VALLEY FRUIT CO.,
46, SWAN STREET, LONDON, S.E.

Public Receptions at the Portman Rooms.

The fourth joint reception of the National Union and the London Society took place on May 17th. Mrs. Auerbach from the chair dwelt on the momentous crisis through which our movement is now passing, expressing the hope that this may be the "last lap." The Government must act, for our Bill has a mandate from the country more truly than the "payment of members" scheme. There is behind the claim of women for enfranchisement the great economic force which has pushed them into the labour market, and that great moral force, the force of evolution.

Mrs. Swanwick described the proposed payment of Members as "the last straw." She said that Members were sent to Parliament to represent the people and then analysed the speeches of several of the Anti-Suffrage Members on May 6th to show how they misrepresented women. She spoke of the great hopefulness of the present position of our Bill and urged her hearers to make favourable Members feel the support which it had in the country.

Passing on to the Procession on June 17th, Mrs. Swanwick dealt at length with the reasons for and against joining in it and urged her hearers to co-operate heartily with the National Union, since Mrs. Fawcett and the Executive had decided to accept the invitation of the W.S.P.U. The National Union had some 25,000 members. It was not possible that they should all think alike, but it was in the highest degree desirable that they should show that all the Suffrage Societies asked the same thing. The invitation had been received late and it was necessary to put up with many inconveniences in order to join; but the reason for joining was a big one and she begged them not to let a whole crop of little reasons stand in the way. The provincial societies were bringing up their hundreds at great expense and effort; they must rely on London and the Home Counties to provide the thousands.

Miss Bompas urged very strongly the claims of the Working Women's meeting at the Queen's Hall on June 2nd and said that she hoped, besides the organized bodies of women, that individuals would do what they could.

The note of Miss Rathbone's speech was the moral value to women themselves that the vote will be in widening their outlook and strengthening their sense of responsibility as citizens. Have they not responsibilities to those outside their homes, and is it not right that they should realise this and not have their civic virtue atrophied by being taught to cultivate only the "domestic virtues?"

Mrs. Rackham gave a scathing criticism of the "Times" attitude, with its absurd argument that the majority for our Bill was "hollow" because the members voted against their consciences, and yet that the cause is unpopular in the country. Why should men vote against their consciences for an unpopular cause?

Procession Work.

SPECIAL TRAIN.

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FEDERATION has chartered a special train exclusively for Processionists. The time-table is as follows:—

	a.m.		a.m.
Colne	dep. 8.25	Bolton	dep. 9.42
Nelson	" 8.30	Manchester (Vic.)	arr. 10.10
Burnley	" 8.40		dep. 10.15
Accrington	" 8.58	Stockport	" 10.40
Blackburn	" 9.12	Crewe	" 11.18
Darwen	" 9.22	Euston	arr. 2.40 p.m.

The fare will be 11s. return from all these stations. It has been impossible to arrange for a luncheon car on this train, so members are recommended to bring food with them.

The special train will leave Euston on the return journey about midnight, arriving Manchester (Victoria) about 5.30 a.m. Arrangements have been made for the refreshment room to be open, and for the train to stop at Victoria long enough to allow those who are returning to Colne and intermediate stations to breakfast. Motor buses will be at Victoria Station, Manchester, at 5.30 a.m. to convey members to the different suburbs. For those who are unable to leave Manchester until after nine o'clock, arrangements have been made with the Victoria Hotel, Deansgate, for passengers to rest there, and table d'hôte breakfast will be served at 2s. 6d. per head. As the committee are making every effort to ensure a comfortable journey, they hope that the response will be even greater than on past occasions.

Federation Notes.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

FORMATION OF TWO NEW SOCIETIES.

Mrs. Colgate Thomas and I spent the last week in April breaking quite new ground at Maccynlleth in Montgomeryshire. We went in some trepidation, as three members of the W.S.P.U. attempting to hold a meeting there had been mobbed, and were obliged to leave the town without doing

any work. Directly we were able, however, to convince the inhabitants that we were non-militant we were treated with the utmost kindness, and we found practically everyone in favour of the Bill.

Besides arranging a meeting we got up a memorial to Colonel Pryce Jones, the memorial being signed by thirty of the most prominent Conservatives (seventeen of which were obtained by Mrs. Thomas at Llandiloes in one day).

I was able to pursue Mrs. F. A. Steel to Aberdovey, where she has a seaside residence, and get her promise to speak at the meeting, which proved a great success. Dr. Davies took the chair, and after I had proposed and Mrs. Steel had seconded the resolution, several local gentlemen spoke, and one made what seemed to be a most amusing speech in Welsh. The resolution was carried with one dissentient, and there is every prospect that with the help of the Aberdovey Society Machynlleth may soon start a Society of its own.

We have also hopes that the District Council will be induced to pass a resolution in favour of giving further facilities to our Bill. I ought to add that I had most kind letters from Colonel Pryce Jones, who has always voted in our favour.

The Liverpool Society has been responsible for Wrexham, where Miss Thompson spent a week in organising a meeting and in getting members to start a society. The meeting was a great success, and Mr. John, member for West Denbigh, made a special journey from London in order to take the chair. The resolution was proposed by Miss Maude Royden, seconded by Miss Eleanor Rathbone and carried unanimously. A large number of names were given in and a society is in process of formation.

May I once again appeal to the societies in our Federation for more funds?

We have been responsible during the last six months for the formation of ten new societies and have induced sixteen City, Town or District Councils to pass resolutions in favour of our Bill.

C. LEADLEY BROWN.

N. and E. Ridings of Yorkshire.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT MALTON.

A Society has been formed with thirty members at Malton by Mrs. Merivale Mayer. The secretaries are Miss Janet Brooke, and Miss Holt, St. John's House, Malton, and the treasurer is Mrs. Brooke, Slingsby Rectory, near York. A committee was formed and officers elected at a meeting at The Elms, Norton, on May 6th, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Mayer for her earnest efforts in organising the branch.

RICHMOND DIVISION.

Under quite exceptional difficulties Mrs. Merivale Mayer held a meeting in the Market Place at Richmond, Yorkshire. With every promise of failure in a place thoroughly unprogressive and in which Women's Suffrage was unheard of and unknown, Mrs. Mayer, unable to obtain a chairman, held a most successful meeting. Pitching her flag in front of the King's Head Hotel, the windows of which were used by gentlemen as private boxes, the meeting grew to large dimensions, numbering nearly 500, and at the end many begged to know when there would be another. Mrs. Mayer sold all the papers she had, and gave away leaflets. The resolution was carried *nem. con.* This result in a division hitherto untouched, and in which we were assured it was a hopeless and useless task to attempt anything, is very encouraging. It is the last division in our Federation to receive our message.

West Riding of Yorkshire.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT GOOLE.

Miss I. O. Ford addressed an excellent and well-attended meeting here on April 27th, Mrs. Richardson (Hull) in the chair. The keenest interest was manifested, and many new members joined. A flourishing society (hon. secretary, Mrs. Parker) is now formed, which will be enrolled in the West Riding Federation. A first-rate programme is being arranged for the summer.

Local Councils and the Bill.

The Lambeth Borough Council has passed a resolution asking for facilities for Sir George Kemp's Bill.

The Brixton Borough Council has passed a resolution by thirty-one votes to four asking for facilities for the Bill.

Lincoln City Council has declined to pass a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill. A sympathetic little article in the "Lincoln Chronicle" makes a little gentle fun of the Council because though "individually there are a great majority in favour of the Bill, corporately they are coy and shy." It is stated that 16 out of 24 signed a declaration in support of the Bill.

Cardiff Progressive Liberal Women's Union.

This Union has now a membership of over 100 and is starting a series of ward meetings.

Letters to the Editor.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence columns.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

Will you allow me to add a comment to that of Mr. Charles Peach, quoted in your last issue, on the opposition of the Women's Liberal Federation to the employment of married women as teachers?

I have been the headmistress for the last twenty-five years of a public school for girls, mostly belonging to the so-called lower middle class, and I have seen over and over again the ill-effects of married women having occupations, such as shop-keeping or teaching, outside their homes. They may try not to neglect their families, but in nine cases out of ten the children suffer, either morally or physically. No one expects a man to be able to carry on two professions efficiently at the same time, and surely it is not more impertinent for a public authority to decline to employ a married woman as a teacher than it is for the governors of a grammar school to forbid a clerical headmaster to hold a cure of souls. It is time we recognised the fact that to manage a house and bring up children well is an occupation demanding all the energy and skill that a woman can possess, and marriage under circumstances which do not allow the wife to make these duties her first concern is to be discouraged at all costs.

There are undoubtedly many cases of widows and wives with invalid husbands who are compelled to act as bread-winners, but such cases do not touch the principle that such necessity is bad for the family, and hence an evil for the community at large.

As a matter of fact our correspondent does apparently expect a married woman to carry on the work of "two professions" only she insists that they are to be unpaid. A woman who is paid for teaching can afford to pay another woman to cook and clean and sew for her. A woman who is compelled to stay in the home is obliged to cook and clean and sew, herself. If she teaches better than she cooks it seems to us a waste of capacity to compel her to cook. Also, her husband will not get such nice dinners.—Ep. "C.C.]"

HASLEMERE AND DISTRICT ANTI-SUFFRAGE CANVASS.

Your issue of May 4th contains a letter from Mrs. Dixon, of Witley, in which she misquotes and mistakenly criticises our Women Occupiers' ancient poll of 1910. You yourself have accepted Mrs. Dixon's statements without examination; she has not verified her references. The upshot is that you have been misled into publishing a tissue of untruth. For my warrant in making this assertion I refer you to the following authorities:—(1) To the registers of the parishes polled, viz., Haslemere, Shottermill, Grayshott, Fernhurst, Lynchmere and Hindhead. There you will search in vain for "M. A. Marshall, a voter," who according to Mrs. Dixon, was omitted from a poll we declared to be complete. There is no such voter.

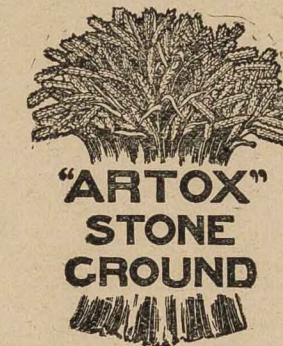
(2) To the "Farnham Herald" of July 16th, 1910, where you will find the poll (N.B., with error of 7 for 6) and my account of its bases. To this, as her authority, Mrs. Dixon also refers. If you compare her words with mine, you will find not only that she has exactly reversed my statements, but by insertion of a "then", has made a *suggestio falsi*. I send you also a copy of the printed letter in which the poll first appeared; it was sent to the House on May 11th, 1910, jointly signed by my late colleague and myself, a fact determining me now to re-assess its reliability.

(3) To the "Farnham Herald" of Jan. 21st, 1911, where you will find our latest poll. As you have allowed attack upon our dead poll, you will in fairness give space to print our live one. Its figures are:—Register total, 427; Anti-Suffragists, 185; Suffragists, 90; signed neutral, 80; Balance of the Register, 72. Anti-Suffragist majority 95. This poll was "examined on the documents and found correct" by Commander A. R. Stock, R.N., and Mr. Cecil Wray, both of Grayshott. Mrs. Marshall and other local suffragists can assure you that we invited suffragist co-operation in the count. The returns of one parish, Midhurst, which it includes, have been doubly attested, the second time by two suffragists, one of whom had voted for the Bill of 1910.

ANNETTE S. BEVERIDGE.
(Hon. Sec. Shottermill Centre and Haslemere Branch Anti-Suffrage League.)

May 17th, 1910.
[The passage in Mrs. Dixon's letter ran as follows:—
"M. A. Marshall, a voter, had not been approached in any way, and enquired of 20 other voters at Shottermill, and found that none of them had been polled either. Mrs. Beveridge, the Hon. Sec. of the Shottermill Anti-Suffrage League, who had compiled the Anti-Suffrage figures for Haslemere district, of which Shottermill is a part, then admitted in a letter to the paper on July 16th, 1910, that "something had been assumed" as to the opinions of the ratepayers, and that she had counted as Anti-Suffragists (without asking them) those who had ever been known to have signed an Anti-Suffrage petition, or had expressed Anti-Suffrage opinions."]

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West Heath School, HAMPSTEAD.

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[ESTABLISHED 1897.]

The school is happily situated, and attention should be drawn to its special advantages in this respect. It is no doubt considered ideal for a school to be in the country, but in the part of Hampstead where West Heath School stands, many advantages of the country are present, while those of the town, which can be turned to good use for children, are at hand.

The school has a large playing field; good well-treed gardens; is near to a quiet part of the heath, and itself faces across open country towards the Harrow Weald. It thus finds a freedom which many schools actually in the country cannot compass in these days of golf, motor-cars, and game-preserving. At the same time, the advantages of having the British Museum, the Zoological Gardens, the Natural History Museum, historical buildings, beautiful pictures and sculpture (to mention only part of what is available), within easy access for the visits of a class, are of incalculable value in the education of the children.

Particulars from the Principal.

Reference is allowed to THE REV. CANON SCOTT-HOLLAND, D.D., 1, AMEN COURT, ST. PAUL'S, E.C.; and DR. JANE WALKER, 122, HARLEY STREET, W.

Comparing it with Mrs. Beveridge's letter in the issue of July 16th, we find Mrs. Beveridge wrote:—

"I should like to say a few words about the method of our two polls. In neither has any Anti-Suffragist been counted in without a personal voucher for opinion, given either by signature to one or other of our petitions, or by letter to myself. Suffragists have been counted in on the warrant of known public position and action as Suffragists, of letter to myself, and of report from those who helped us in the canvass. Something, indeed, has been assumed as to the opinion of a few wives of Suffragist voters, in so far that we did not press inquiry as to their views. Here our returns may not be correct; the mistake, if any, is against ourselves."

We do not regard Mrs. Dixon's as an accurate account of this letter, and we willingly publish the correct quotation.—Ed., "C. C."]

MRS. HASLAM AND THE DUBLIN CORPORATION.

It must have thrilled the heart of every Suffragist to read the account of the Lord Mayor of Dublin carrying personally to the Bar of the House of Commons the Dublin Burgesses' petition for Government facilities to pass the Women's Suffrage Bill. But it was a great disappointment that you at least did not record that it was Mrs. Haslam who educated the Burgesses of her native town, and who suggested the mission of the Lord Mayor. Gratitude to pioneers ought not only to be felt but expressed by Suffragists. She and her husband, the oldest active workers in the movement, are coming over to lead the Irish contingent in the procession of June 17th. Meanwhile she is looking for apartments in Westminster.

C. C. STORES.

THE PROCESSION.

May I suggest that the members of the N.U.W.S.S. who are going to take part in the great procession on June 17th are asked to learn "The March of the Women," by Dr. Ethel Smyth, in order to join in singing it with the members of the W.S.P.U. Do you not think that it would make the procession more impressive, and show the onlookers that although we belong to different societies, and work with different methods, yet we are all comrades working for the same end?

GWLADYS A. ROBERTS.

Lockwood Avenue, Poulton-le-Fyde, May 15th, 1911.

Work of Societies in the Union.

EASTERN FEDERATION.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Thursday, May 4th, a large and most successful meeting was held in the Guildhall in support of Sir George Kemp's Bill. The meeting was organized jointly by the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association and the University Men's League for Women's Suffrage. The gathering was remarkably representative. In the hall, on the platform, and among the speakers were men and women of all political parties, all creeds and conditions. Mrs. Heitland, who most ably took the chair, remarked that the one and only thing in which the great majority of those present seemed to be agreed was that the time had now come for breaking down the artificial sex barrier. Speeches were made by Mrs. Nevinson, Professor E. C. Clark, the Rev. E. C. Child (Headmaster of the County School for Boys), Mr. Clifford Allen, of Peterhouse (president of the University Fabian Society), Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and Mrs. Rackham. The audience was remarkably earnest and attentive. A resolution in support of the Bill was passed, and was wired to the Prime Minister, and to the local M.P.s., to whom already many letters had been addressed by their constituents and others, urging them to vote for the Bill. On the platform were some sixty or seventy persons of leading in the town and University. Sir Charles Rose (M.P. for East Cambs.) and the Hon. E. S. Montagu (M.P. for West Cambs.) wrote regretting their inability to be present at the meeting and expressing their earnest hopes for the success of the Bill.

HITCHIN AND DISTRICT.—During the past month our energies have been directed towards pressing for facilities for our Bill. To this end we were to have had a large meeting in Hitchin during April, but finding that the C. and U.W.F.A. were about to hold one there, we gave up ours and helped them with their meetings both at Hitchin and Stevenage. The C. and U. meeting at Stevenage on April 22nd, addressed by Lady Betty Balfour, gained us two members. The Hitchin meeting on April 28th was addressed by Miss Vida Goldstein and Lord Robert Cecil, both of whom made excellent speeches. Partly as a result of these two meetings, three Conservative ladies took part in a deputation to our member, Dr. A. P. Hillier (Conservative) on May 1st. Three meetings for associates have been held during the month, and six associates have been enrolled. These meetings are at present a new departure, and it is confidently hoped that many working women will join in this way. Several of our members, besides the two accredited delegates, attended the convention on May 3rd, and we are now busy with preparations for the June procession.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT.—A meeting was held at Baldock on April 26th, the chair being taken by the Rev. H. Cubben. An excellent address was given by Miss Maude Royden. A resolution in favour of Woman's Suffrage was passed, with one dissentient. The proceedings ended with the play, "A Change of Tenant." On April 29th a very successful public meeting was held in the County Council School. The room was full, and all present listened very attentively to Mrs. Rackham's clear address, and to the Rev. Henry Moulson, who spoke of the unequal laws for men and women. Mr. Wolverley Fordham was in the chair, supported on the platform by Mrs. Wolverley Fordham and Sir George Fordham. The latter proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, and the resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Bill was unanimously passed.

NORTH AND EAST ESSEX.—A meeting was held at Heybridge on April 24th. A large and sympathetic audience attended, chiefly consisting of working-men. Mr. H. W. Gill, of Maldon, presided. Miss K. M. Courtauld, of Knights, Colne Engaine, proposed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill, and gave a thoughtful address on the subject, pointing out the position of women in the past and their gradual advance in all departments to the present day. Women were now distinguished in education, medicine, and science, and doing useful work as doctors, nurses, and Poor Law Guardians; but all these attainments had only been won after years of struggle. The speaker dealt with the usual arguments for and against the enfranchisement of women, and gave reasons in favour of the cause, especially as regards the improvement of underpaid workers. The resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Reynolds Brown, J.P., of Maldon, in a breezy and vigorous speech, was carried unanimously.

NORWICH.—Under the auspices of the Norwich Society, Miss Geraldine Cooke carried on a campaign in East Norfolk for some days just prior to May 5th. A public meeting was held in Brundall (the first Suffrage meeting ever held there). It was well attended, and well reported. Miss Cooke spoke for an hour and a quarter to a most interested audience. A resolution calling on Sir R. J. Price to support the Bill was passed, with only one dissentient. Miss G. Cooke also spoke at two meetings (not public) at North Walsham. A small library has been started at Norwich, chiefly for the use of members of the Speakers' Class. The Speakers' Class continues to meet every three weeks.

KENT FEDERATION.

SEVENOAKS.—The annual general meeting was held on April 5th, when the hon. secretary (*pro tem.*), Miss M. Hemmant, presented her report. The president, Mrs. Lucy Deane Streetfield, was re-elected, as were also the vice-presidents and executive committee. An account of the work done and the meetings held during the year was given and the financial report rendered, which showed that there was a small balance in hand. Amongst the most interesting of our accomplishments is the organization of a Debating Society, which has proved a great success. The various subjects chosen for discussion—all more or less closely relating to the extension of the franchise—have already been recorded in these columns. The Urban District Council has not yet passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, but an active member of our Society has taken the trouble to find out, by applying individually to the members, what support we might expect if we asked for such a resolution, with distinctly encouraging results. A public meeting was held on April 24th to support the Conciliation Committee's Bill. The chair was taken by H. C. Gutterage, Esq., who confessed that the last time he appeared at a Suffrage meeting he had spoken in opposition. This was some years ago, and he had since become convinced of the absolute justice of the demand for women's enfranchisement. Mrs. Rackham then addressed the meeting in her usual able way, and moved the resolution asking for facilities for the Bill. She reminded her audience that it was thirty-one years since the first Women's Suffrage Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons. The resolution on being put to the meeting was carried, with only one dissentient. It was forwarded to Mr. Asquith and also to Mr. Forster, the member for the Sevenoaks Division.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—On May 9th the Actresses' Franchise League gave a most successful performance at the Opera House. The audience was most enthusiastic, and Dr. Ethel Smyth's "Women's March" was encored. The most prominent local photographer asked permission to take flash-light photographs of the last play, which were reproduced in all three local papers, accompanied by a very appreciative criticism. Tea was served after the performance at the Suffrage Shop, and everyone voted the experiment a great success. Petitions signed by influential residents have been sent to the Councillors, asking them to pass a resolution in favour of granting the vote to women but the opposers on the Council voted against it.

NORTH-EASTERN FEDERATION.

Under Miss Gordon's guidance, the outposts of the Federation are being steadily advanced. Barnard Castle, which is somewhat remote and difficult, is being revived, and Chester-le-Street is just on the point of coming into life. At both places public meetings have been addressed by Miss Gordon. There was an excellent meeting at Chester-le-Street in the Mechanics' Institute, over which Mrs. Black presided. Miss Bury, Miss Fenwick, and Mr. W. Foster, all of Newcastle, also spoke, and fourteen members joined. On May 17th a deputation of women ratepayers, organised by the Tynemouth Suffrage Society, waited upon the Tynemouth Town Council to ask it to consider a resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill. Miss Moffat spoke on behalf of the deputation, and Councillor J. H. Tebb moved the resolution, which was seconded by Councillor Gregg. The Council, however, got into difficulties with their methods of procedure, and finally an amendment was moved and carried that the question be adjourned until the next meeting of the Council in committee. The hard unseemly work which the managing of such a resolution requires was done mainly by Miss Bury, to whom the Society owes a great deal in a great many ways. It is to be hoped that with the feeling of the Council so clearly in favour of the Conciliation Bill, mere questions of order may not wreck the resolution entirely.

DARLINGTON.—A meeting was held in the Temperance Institute on May 3rd. The Rev. G. R. Goodall presided over a large audience, which listened appreciatively to Miss I. O. Ford, who gave a most capable and witty address.

GATESHEAD.—The April monthly meeting, at which Mrs. Warden presided, was held at Mrs. Hutchinson's. Short papers on prominent Suffragists were read by Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Warden, Miss Flora Hutchinson, Miss Lowery, and Miss Johnson. On May 4th a public meeting was held in the Bewick Hall. Mrs. J. T. Dunn occupied the chair, and Miss I. O. Ford gave an invigorating address, which won four new members.

HEXHAM.—On the afternoon of May 3rd Mrs. Pumphrey gave a drawing-room meeting, which was addressed by Miss Low; and in the evening a public meeting was held in Stocksfield, at which Miss Low, Miss C. M. Gordon, and Mr. Howson spoke. On May 4th a meeting was held in Verrall's Café, Hexham, at which the speakers were again Miss Low and Miss Gordon. The Rev. Martin Johnson was in the chair. As a result of these meetings nine new members joined. On May 11th Mrs. Graeme Thompson had a meeting of members, at which Mrs. Walton gave a paper.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—During the first week in May a series of drawing-room meetings were held, which were all addressed by Miss Alice Low, whose thoughtful speeches and quiet enthusiasm won her many friends and converts throughout the Federation. Miss Davies very kindly lent her studio for a meeting at which Miss Gordon took the chair, and at which six new members were gained. At Forest Hall Mrs. Mackenzie gave a drawing-room meeting; and on the evening of the same day the committee of the Newcastle Society held a reception at the office, and there were nine new members added at the end of the day. The office was again used on the 5th by Mrs. Patterson and Miss Ericsson for a drawing-room meeting. Mr. Ericsson presided, and two new members were enrolled. On May 6th a public meeting was held in Barras Bridge Assembly Rooms. Dr. J. T. Dunn took the chair, and speeches were made by Miss A. Maude Royden, Mr. Mirrlees, Miss A. Low, and Miss C. M. Gordon. More than 250 people were present, and fifteen members and five associates joined the Society. The committee is now hard at work organising a procession for June 10th. It is hoped that every member in the Society and in the Federation will feel individually responsible for the success of that demonstration.

SHILDON.—On May 3rd a very successful meeting was held in the Friends' Meeting House. Miss I. O. Ford was the speaker, and she charmed the whole audience. The chair was taken by W. Watson, Esq., J.P., and speeches were made by Mrs. Hey, Miss Galloway, Mr. Tilloston, and Councillor Morton. Eleven new members joined, and "Common Causes" sold well.

SUNDERLAND.—On April 27th Mrs. A. Low addressed two drawing-room meetings—one given by Mrs. Jaques (chairman, Mrs. Johnson) and one by Miss Milbanke (chairman, Mrs. Shelley). Several people joined, and in addition seed was sown that bore twenty-one new members were obtained. Councillor J. S. Nicholson presided, and the speakers were Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. Mirrlees, Miss C. M. Gordon, and Councillor W. Robinson. The meeting began favourably, for one of the first things the chairman did was to read a telegram from Mr. Frank Goldstone, M.P., announcing the result of the debate, and the whole audience, together with the speakers, became so enthusiastic that it proved the best Suffrage meeting Sunderland has ever had, and was well reported in all the local papers. In addition to propaganda meetings, a very successful entertainment was given on April 29th in the Girls' High School merely to raise money. It was arranged by Mrs. Grimshaw and Mr. Percy Greenwood, and the thanks of the Society are due to them for all their trouble.

LYNNE.—A public meeting was held on May 2nd, at which Miss I. O. Ford made a most attractive speech. Miss Gordon also spoke, and Alderman Mason gave a convincing speech from the chair. Seven members joined.

WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION.

BATH.—A successful entertainment on Easter Tuesday at St. Mary's Church House resulted in a balance of £4 10s. for the funds of the Federation. A musical programme was followed by a witty speech from Mr. H. Crawford (Younger Suffragist), and the programme ended with a performance of "How the Vote was Won." Coffee and sweets sold well. Every man who signed the Voters' Petition of January, 1910, has been asked to write to his member, requesting him to support the Conciliation Bill in all its stages. Judging from the response of those whom we asked personally, our local members must have been deluged with letters last week.

BISHOPSTON.—On April 19th, 1911, a successful musical and dramatic entertainment was given in the schoolroom. Songs by the Misses Walters and Milson and the Rev. W. Rogers, a piano solo by Mr. Nott, and two clever character sketches from Dickens by Mr. Down, were followed by a capital performance of "How the Vote was Won." Under the able direction of Miss Walters, stage-managed by Mrs. Pobjoy, and acted by the Rev. Rogers, Messames Priddle, Verbergst, and Moore, the Misses Fowler, Moon, Pobjoy, and Bolt, and Mr. Gardner—local amateurs—the well-known comedy went with much spirit, provoking a hearty vote of thanks to all concerned. During the interval Miss Tanner gave a much-appreciated Suffrage address.

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BRISTOL.—At a public debate in the Co-operative Hall, Bishopston, on May 10th, Mrs. Hicks ably defended the claims of women to the vote on the ground of the change in the economic world, and the need for women's influence in legislation. She was opposed by Miss Price, who admitted the need for our influence in social reform, but drew the line at the vote, because men stood for the material and women for the moral and spiritual side of life. She was supported by Miss Hobbs, Mr. Cross, Mr. Daniell, and Miss Johnson supported Mrs. Hicks, and a resolution in our favour was carried, with only five dissentients. A cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wood for presiding, and to Mr. Cates for his kindness in arranging the debate. Four well-attended working parties, with Mrs. Cross, Miss Major, Mrs. Hicks, and Mrs. Barrell as hostesses, and one practice debate between Miss Chate and Mrs. Senington (Miss Brownlee in the chair), on the "Egobism of the Modern Woman," have taken place. Miss Ley's interesting lecture on "Re-incarnation" brought in 7s. 6d., and Miss Tanner's "Hour with Browning" 7s. for Federation work. Batches of letters and telegrams to M.P.s. (fourteen wires sent off in one afternoon to Mr. Birrell alone), and an attempt, as yet unsuccessful, to induce our Town Council to go the way of all sensible Town Councils, complete the sum of Bristol's month's work.

CHELTHAM.—At the by-election we supported Mr. Agg-Gardner, the better Suffrage man of the two candidates. Two drawing-room meetings, one indoor and five outdoor gatherings were held. Our reception was friendly from both men and women; and many talks with Liberals, who came to discuss our policy in supporting the Conservative candidate, gave us good opportunities of explaining our non-party attitude. One of the drawing-room meetings was held, by kind invitation of Miss Heath, at Wellesley Court. Mrs. Swiney presided, and Mrs. Davies's excellent speech resulted in the conversion of practically all those present not already members of our Suffrage Society. As one result of our by-election work twelve new members have joined our branch in Cheltenham itself; while at Winchcombe, a little place visited during Mrs. Davies's stay, five names were taken with a view to forming a branch there in the near future. Miss Mills took the chair, Mrs. Davies spoke, Mrs. Gatty supported, and a resolution in favour of our Bill was passed, with only five dissentients. A collection of 7s. 9d. was taken.

CLEVELAND.—By kind invitation of Miss Lloyd, a fairly well-attended afternoon meeting was held at the "Somerset Weavers" on April 26th. Miss Williams, of Bristol, supported by Miss Lloyd and Miss Ling, was the speaker. An interesting and useful discussion followed. One new member joined, and several of the audience owned to being more interested in the question than before.

FROME.—A meeting held at the Temperance Hall, Frome, on May 12th was well attended by an interested audience. The chair was taken by Mr. Harvey, editor of the "Somerset and Wilts. Journal." He opened the meeting by reading a letter from the member for the division, Sir John Barlow, expressing his pleasure at a meeting for Woman's Suffrage being held in Frome. Mrs. Nairne, who spoke about the Conciliation Bill, was followed by Mr. Rogers, the Bristol secretary of the Men's League. He gave an able speech on the Parliamentary aspect of the Bill and the action of the Liberal women at Cardiff. Miss Wheelwright, secretary of the Federation, appealed earnestly to Liberal women to bring pressure on the Government. A resolution to forward the thanks of the meeting to Sir John Barlow for his support of the Bill was unanimously passed.

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE FEDERATION.

BARNSELY.—On the 3rd April Mrs. Merivale Mayer addressed a good meeting of about 300 Liberal women. Miss C. Wray presided. A resolution, urging the Government to pass the Conciliation Bill, was passed unanimously, and was forwarded to Messrs. Asquith, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, and Sir Joseph Walton, M.P. On the 4th April a jumble sale was held, and a sum of £12 clear was realized.

BRADFORD.—Mrs. Cowmeadow began duties as organiser of the West Riding Federation in Bradford on May 1st. During her stay of a week three open-air meetings were held, the chair being taken by Mrs. Bauer, Rev. R. Roberts, and Mr. A. Craven respectively. Resolutions in favour of the Conciliation Bill were passed at the meetings held 2nd and 6th inst. On May 9th, "How the Vote was Won" and "Change of Tenant" were performed, through the kindness of Miss I. O. Ford and Mrs. J. E. Thornton (of Leeds), who presented the plays, which were enthusiastically appreciated by the audience. Madame Eddison sang beautifully "The Awakening."

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and Mrs. Thornton recited "Woman This and Woman That." Miss Ford gave a most interesting address in the homely language of the poor woman tenant in the play, which had a most wonderful effect upon the audience. A vote of thanks was moved by Miss M. Illingworth, seconded by Rev. R. Roberts. Mrs. Cowmeadow also addressed the Adult School.

LEEDS.—At the quarterly meeting of the representatives of Societies in the Federation, held here on May 11th, the following resolution was passed, and forwarded to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Lloyd George: "That in view of legislation which particularly affects women in the State Insurance Bill, facilities should be granted as a matter of great urgency for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill this session." The members of the Leeds Society meet on Wednesday, May 24th, at the Y.M.C.A., to arrange about the London procession.

WAKEFIELD.—On April 24th Miss Maude Illingworth gave an excellent speech on Women's Suffrage to the Women's Liberal Association at the Liberal Club, Mrs. Bonner in the chair. The Conciliation Bill was explained, and a resolution urging the passing of the Bill into law this session was sent to the Prime Minister, and also to Mr. Marshall, the M.P. for the constituency, who promises to support the Bill. A fortnight's special campaign, commencing May 8th, is being conducted by the organizer (Mrs. Cowmeadow), and, up to date, thirty-three new members have joined. Garden meetings have been successfully held by Mrs. Atcherley and by the Mayoress; and a "White Elephant" tea, which realized £1 16s., by Miss Beaumont. Very successful drawing-room meetings have also been given at Horbury and at Normanton, by Mrs. Charlesworth and Mrs. Johnson respectively. Mrs. Cowmeadow has addressed the Women's Liberal Federation; and, at a public meeting held in the Church Institute, she and Mr. F. Stanton Barnes made most excellent speeches in support of the usual resolution, which was passed unanimously. In the unavoidable absence of Councillor E. Lodge-Hirst, the Rev. H. T. Davies kindly took the chair, and spoke earnestly and hopefully of the justice of our cause. Mrs. Cowmeadow is canvassing the City Council, and we hope it will pass our resolution.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- MAY 25.
Wolverhampton—St. Peter's Institute—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Ring; Mrs. Highfield Jones (chair). 7.30
Manchester—Didsbury—Mrs. Wood's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Ashton. 4.0
Kendal—Natland—Miss A. M. Royden. 3.30
Manchester—Withington—Mrs. Creak's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Robertson. 4.30
Hyde—Market Place—Miss Robertson. 8.0
Ossett—Conservative Club—Primrose League—Mrs. Cowmeadow. 8.0
Bristol—Temperance Hall, Thornbury—Miss J. Baretta, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, and others. 3.30
Wallasey and Wirral—Marine Park, New Brighton—Open-air Meeting. 8.0
MAY 26.
Bolton—The Girls' Club—Miss Robertson. 8.0
East Grinstead—Queen's Hall—Debate—J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., v. A. Machonachie, Esq. Chairman, C. H. Everard, Esq., J.P. Admission, 1s. and 6d. 3.20
MAY 27.
Manchester—Recreation Rooms, Ancoats—White Sale, in aid of Procession Funds. 3.0
MAY 29.
Salford—Oldfield Hall—Miss Robertson. 8.0
Birmingham—Severn Street—Women's Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Cadbury)—Mrs. Ring. 3.30
MAY 30.
Altrincham—Mrs. S. O'Hanlon's Garden Party—Miss Robertson. 4-6
Rochdale—Reform Club Assembly Room—Miss Robertson. 7.0
Rochdale—Town Hall Square—Miss Robertson. 8.0
Bristol—111A, Whiteladies Road—Lecture, "Life at Girton"—Miss Aldes. 5.0
Birkenhead—2, Park Road South—"Bring and Buy" Sale, and to advertise the Procession. 3-6
Birmingham—Labour Club; Saltley—Women's Labour League—Mrs. Ring. 8.0
Burnham—The Pavilion—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Dr. Morris, Mr. Spencer. 8.0
MAY 31.
Bristol—St. Ulrich, Downs Park West—Working Party. 3.0
Knutsford—King's Coffee House—"At Home"—Miss Robertson. 3.0
JUNE 1.
Wigan—Market Square—Miss Robertson. 8.0
Birmingham—Grand Hotel—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson; Mrs. Osler (chair). 4.45
Rugby—Large Co-operative Hall—"Women's Suffrage from the Imperial Point of View"—Mrs. F. A. Steele. 8.0
Leamington—Birch's Music Rooms—Franchise Club. 3.0
JUNE 2.
Ashton-under-Lyne—Market Place—Miss Robertson. 8.0
JUNE 8.
Sutton Coldfield—Allerton, Lichfield Road—Garden Sale. 3.0
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. 5.0
LONDON.
May 25: Blackheath, St. German's Lodge, Shooters Hill Road, "At Home," Miss Helen Ward. 4.30
May 26: Hackney, Town Hall, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Abbott, Dr. W. F. Cobb, Chair, Mayor of Hackney. 8.0
S. Kensington, Mrs. Hogg's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Gadsden, Miss G. Dykes Spicer. 3.30
N. Kensington, Horbury Rooms, Miss C. Corbett, Rev. Hugh Chapman, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq. Chair, Miss Frances Sterling. 8.30
Surbiton, St. Andrew's House, "The Care of Defective Children," Mrs. Homan. 8.30

- May 27: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Abadam. 8.0
May 30: International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W., "The Repertory Theatre," Miss Horniman. 8.30
May 31: Ealing, Victoria Hall, Mrs. Fawcett, R. F. Cholmeley, Esq. Chair, Major-Gen. Sir A. Turner, K.C.B. 8.0
June 7: S. Paddington, Kensington College, Bayswater, Miss G. Lindo Henry, Miss C. Corbett, B.A. Chair, Mrs. J. Munford. 3.30
- SCOTLAND.
May 26: Edinburgh, Oddfellows' Hall, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss I. O. Ford. Chair, Miss S. E. S. Mair. 8.0
May 27: Peebles, Chambers' Institute, Papers by Rev. J. Murray and Mrs. W. C. Ker. 2.45
June 2: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home," "Vigilance Work and Its Relation to the Vote," Mrs. Hunter. 4.30
Edinburgh, Church Hall, Blackhall, Miss Alice Low, Dr. Elsie Inglis. Chair, J. Taylor, Esq., M.A. 8.0
June 3: Peebles, Chambers' Institute, Cake and Candy Sale. 2.0
June 9: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home." 4.30

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