

# The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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MARCH 10, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## The News of the Week.

### The Game of Politics.

There has been considerable shifting and manœuvring for position during the past week among politicians; rumour is busy, and every other man can tell you the exact nature of the political situation, how it is the King, or Mr. Asquith, or Sir Edward Grey, or Mr. Redmond, who holds the key of the position. One thing emerges quite certain — there will be no Reform Bill of any sort before the Dissolution, and there will be a Dissolution soon. How soon nobody can tell, but we must be prepared for one in June, and our policy must be clear and telling, and one to command the enthusiasm of our workers and the respect of politicians. We have heard that a prominent politician has said that our voters' petition made "no effect in the House." We do not believe this is true, but we should say, if it were true, "so much the worse for the House." It has had a considerable effect on the voters, and a still greater effect on the women who worked it. What they have learnt they will not forget, and they will put their knowledge to good use.

### Mr. Geoffrey Howard.

It is always a somewhat doubtful joy to hear of any former friend to the Suffrage taking an official position, for it generally means the subordinating of the justice of our claim to the exigencies of the official position. Therefore our feelings are mixed when we hear that Mr. Geoffrey Howard has been appointed to be the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary (unpaid). We fear Mr. Howard will prove to be like the Young Lady of Riga.

### New Peers.

Other honours for which, for other reasons, we can hardly feel much enthusiasm, are the elevation to the peerage of Mr. Gladstone, of forcible-feeding-fame, and Mr. Ivor Guest, a founder of the Anti-Suffrage League; yet, on second thoughts, perhaps, no two men have really

done more for the suffrage movement—Mr. Gladstone by making the martyrs, whose blood and tears water every great cause, and Mr. Guest, by compelling our friends the enemy to come out into the open and show their poverty.

### Suffragist Members.

It seems almost impossible to arrive at any consensus on the number of Members who can be taken as definitely favourable to our cause in the House. We may take it

that there are far more Members who are really concerned to get the question settled than there ever have been before. We note that Mr. Pethick Lawrence puts the number of those in favour of "the simple removal of the sex barrier" at 446; this is the highest we have seen. Another estimate gave 440 definitely favourable and 70 definitely opposed, which leaves 160 unknown quantities. The National Union is prepared to vouch for 342 favourable, but of course this does not mean that there are not many more who might vote the right way when it came to the point.

### The Council Meeting.

On March 19th the delegates from the Societies must be prepared for an arduous day. They have to hammer out on that day a scheme for perfecting their machine, which has worked

very well so far, but which, with the enormous increase in numbers and business, now needs readjustment. In 1907 there were 33 Societies within the Union; there are now over 120, and some of these (like London and Manchester) contain a large number of subsidiary societies, making something like 180 organizations affiliated in one way or another to the Union. This splendid machine must now be strengthened and stimulated into a fighting force, able to initiate and prosecute a true forward policy. The spirit and the workers are there; we must find the best way to use them.

### Women in Education.

At a recent branch meeting of the Teachers' Guild of Great Britain and Ireland, Professor Sadler, president of the Guild, in opening the proceedings, said: "The vast



THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR.

Photo. by Lafayette.

majority of the members of the teaching profession were women. But women at present had comparatively little direct influence in local administration and no direct voice in law-making. Women's work in education, women's interest in educational policy and in the social legislation which was ever more closely associated with it, seemed to him to be one of the strongest reasons for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, and for their being given a larger share in the administration of public education, both as members of local public bodies and as officers on the permanent staffs of the central and local authorities for education."

### The Twelve Pound Look.

Mr. Barrie's "brilliant little trifle" has a core of truth in it, which is not the truth found by the supercilious "Times." It is not specially calculated to please "the vast army of ladies who are now engaged in pointing out the superiority of their sex over the other"—whoever they may be,—but it is calculated to enforce the lesson that if you attempt to freeze women into matrimony, they will, when they thaw, tend to leak out of it again, in thought if not in deed. Marriage as a trade will gradually become discredited, as other trades open up to women, and we shall see it take its rightful place as a communion.

### Voting by Proxy.

A correspondent writes: The Emperor of Austria has given the suffrage in Bosnia to women landowners and women who pay a certain proportion of taxes, but to exercise the suffrage, the women must appeal for male proxies. This, I fancy, was the mediæval idea of female representation, and it was a struggle between the idea of the Roman lawyer that a woman should have no public functions, and of the feudal conception that all property owners were peers and had a legal right to determine questions of taxation.

### London County Council.

Of the five women candidates two were successful. They were:—Miss H. Adler (Progressive), in Hackney Central, and Miss Susan Lawrence (Municipal Reformer), in West Marylebone. Both are members of the Education Committee. This is not the first time ladies have been elected, but it is the first time they have been qualified to hold seats. In North Kensington 2,724 votes were cast for Dr. Ethel Bentham.

### University Women and the Poor Law.

The Sheffield branch of the Federation of University women has now over sixty members. In pursuance of one of its chief aims, that of promoting the active interest of women in the work of public bodies, the branch decided at a recent meeting to nominate Mrs. J. Skelton Cole for the forthcoming election of the Ecclesall Board of Guardians, in place of Dr. Maud Cavanah, who will not offer herself for re-election. Mrs. Cole's is a strictly non-party candidature, and the honorary secretaries of the Sheffield branch of the Federation of University Women (Mrs. J. A. Green, of 389, Glossop Road, and Miss Musson, of 29, Beech Hill Road) will be glad to receive offers of help in canvassing the Broomhall Ward, from any who would wish to promote the return of a woman to the Ecclesall Board.

### Mr. Belloc's Mind.

Our readers will remember that Mr. Belloc, M.P., having stated that the agitation for Women's Suffrage was "grossly immoral" was challenged to explain and to debate. He agreed to debate, but with a man only and in the presence of men only. Naturally, it is not very easy to get a man who will agree to these very queer conditions, for most men, happily, are of too robust a nature to enjoy anything so exotic. Still, we hope that a really good man champion will arise, since the women are refused a fair and open answer from their traduer.

It is not the women only, however, whom Mr. Belloc has so misrepresented; he said of his own constituents that the men of South Salford would, in the event of women being given the vote, forcibly prevent them from exercising it. This astounding Representative of the People knows as little of the men he professes to represent as of the women he is content to leave unrepresented, for in South Salford the men are friendly and sympathetic to the Suffragists. He appears to have written to Miss Manning that "every passing day makes the subject less and less savoury, and less and less suitable for public discussion," and further, that "it is not pleasant for a man to discuss matters of this kind with women." It would be interesting to look into Mr. Belloc's mind and see what it is there which makes the subject so "unsavoury." Will no man feel the gentleman's bumps?

### "I'll larn ye to be a Woman!"

At a meeting of the Council of the Assistant Masters' Association recently, some curious side-lights were thrown on trade unionism as practised by men against women. The resolution submitted was a double-barrelled one, stating first that women teachers should not be employed in secondary schools for boys, and, secondly, that if they were employed they should receive the same wages as men. If only they would have kept to the second part they would have had justice as well as worldly wisdom on their side; for if women really were worse teachers than men (as some speakers maintained), they would not be employed in preference to men at the same salary.

But the usual confusion of interests and principles prevailed. One man said that "in the interests of the country the earning of the livelihood should rest upon the man." This sort of theoretical maintenance is not much comfort to the material woman, who must eat to live. Another teacher said "it was not their business to fight the battle for women in those schools; they would be quite capable of doing that themselves. This chivalrous gentleman proposes to substitute fighting the women. Another speaker maintained that women's wages must be lower than men's because men were "supposed to maintain wives and families." We have heard this before, and it always seems to us extraordinary that men cannot see that if women are paid less than men they will under-cut men—men cannot have it both ways. If they are "supposed to maintain" women, they should be compelled to attempt it. They would soon find out that it was impossible, and then we should hear no more of such unfounded "suppositions."

Eventually the resolution which was passed, ran as follows:—"That this Council is of opinion that the employment of women in secondary schools for boys, other than in preparatory departments, is likely to be detrimental to the best interests of education," and the seconder cynically remarked that "Preparatory departments only attracted poorly qualified men, and women might fill posts in them better than men." That is to say, by keeping women out of all well-paid posts, you force highly-qualified women, who have gone through an arduous and costly training, to accept low pay. Who shall say now that men do not consider the best interests of women?

Lest we should be misunderstood, we hasten to say that we believe in getting the best teachers of either sex to teach both boys and girls, and in giving them equal pay for equal work. We believe in co-education of the sexes, in a mixed staff of men and women, and in inspection by women as well as by men.

### Our Portrait.

The Lady Frances Balfour, whose portrait we publish this week, is one of two women now sitting on the Divorce Commission. She is a daughter of the late and sister of the present Duke of Argyll, and the wife of Colonel Eustace Balfour. She is President of the London Society, and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.  
ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.  
THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1	9
6 MONTHS	...	3	3
12 MONTHS	...	6	6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to The Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

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 before-hand 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.

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### The Equal Standard.

The present state of the divorce law in England is one of the best examples of the relative importance attached by law to person and to property. It is a commonplace in the mouths of those who defend the present inequality in the law, that this inequality is due to the more serious consequences of a woman's infidelity compared with those of a man's. As Johnson had it, "confusion of progeny" might occur, and a man might not only have to support another man's children, but where there was property, it might actually be inherited by them. The avoidance of such confusion is the ground for the dissolution of the civil contract, and in so far as the contract is civil there is much to be said for such dissolution. But, because precisely the same difficulty cannot arise as a consequence of the husband's infidelity, are there no reasons, rooted in human nature—in considerations of morality and happiness and of the welfare of the race—which make for an equal standard? The civil law is not much concerned with morality, with happiness, or with health and eugenics. It is concerned mainly with property. But is this well? Would it not be better if the law followed the moral sense of the nation a little more closely? And is it not obvious that in this matter the moral sense of women and the point of view of women has necessarily been different from that of men, and that until it also is taken into account we shall not make much progress? It has been, so far, one of the most encouraging features of the commission now sitting that great lawyers and judges have been found to express a more humane view of the marital relation.

But take the average "plain man's" view of the relation, so well expressed by Mr. Justice Bigham: that a man's temptations are greater than a woman's; that his lapses have not the same moral significance because he may continue all the time to "love and esteem" his wife; that a wise wife will overlook her husband's lapses.

Concerning a man's greater temptations there are many truths to be uttered, and their place is not here; but one of those most to be borne in mind is that in all temptations which are the result of the assaults of the

flesh, suggestion is the most powerful of forces. If you are told you cannot, need not, ought not to resist an impulse, and if laws and literature and manners and traditions tell you the same thing, it becomes an obsession and irresistible. If the transgression, when it is spoken of, is invested by some with the romance of a great sin and is treated by others as a sign of manliness; if the injury to unborn generations is scarcely named, or indeed known, and the degradation of womanhood regarded as of small account, the sanctions for the moral law are weak indeed, and the obsession prevails. In far too many preachments to men and boys on "purity" it is assumed and even suggested that the temptation is something quite remarkable, which requires great concentration of mind and will to avoid. A far healthier and more rational line of warning, where warning is needed, would be to show vice in its bare squalor and ugliness and cruelty, while in the main a frank and sane explanation to boys and girls of the functions of sex, the habit of reverence and cleanness from babyhood up, and the provision of ample occupation and interest would clear the air of this enervating miasma and blow away the notion that youths are mysteriously assailed by "temptations" upon which they concentrate their thoughts and energies, ostensibly to fight them, but actually very often to give them a diseased importance.

It is curious to compare the very generally accepted view of the greater temptations which a man undergoes with the fact that to many women their bodies are the only commodity which they possess for which they can command a price to live by. Mrs. Tennant spoke of the tyranny of the tallyman, who gets a working woman into his clutches and makes her yielding the price of knocking off part of her debt; and in factory life we have come across many instances of the vile tyranny of foremen or employers over girls with little power to resist even when they wish. And there are other circumstances, too, in which a married woman may be placed in dire temptation, and those who are so anxious to prohibit the well-paid, well-inspected, recognized work of married women never look down into that dark pit.

Now comes the question of the greater moral significance of a woman's lapse. Mr. Justice Bigham said a man might be unfaithful to his wife and yet continue to "love and esteem" her, and that this was not possible to a woman. We are inclined to think that there is some truth in this, but to our way of thinking it implies an immensely lower standard of morality in the man, since he can so divorce flesh and spirit as to make sexual relations entirely independent of love and thereby degrade himself, his wife (whom he "loves and esteems"), and the partner in his transgression. Women are supposed and expected to be more delicate and modest and fastidious than men, yet a "wise wife" will deaden her sensibility to this outrage; more, she will deaden her sense, haunting and accusing, of that other woman; the other woman is a convenience, she doesn't count; the wise wife will ignore her, and by and bye all will be as before and the man will return to his wife with renewed "love and esteem" for her wisdom in overlooking the other woman. Men flatter themselves that their moral fibre is not weakened by such excursions; that the subtleties and falseness make no marks. Women have been brought up to think those other women a necessity: if this is so, then women must think of them; they can no longer forget them; they must make a place in the world for them, and if necessity calls for them the place must be an honourable one. Women can no longer purchase peace at such a price.

The confusion in people's minds on these questions makes it possible for them not to see how low they place the woman. To the average conventional man woman is all sex; he does not want to be bothered by any humanity in her which should demand her equal treatment on the score of humanity. He says, complacently—

"Man's love is of his life a thing apart,  
'Tis woman's whole existence";

and he does not trouble himself to inquire how much truth there is in the fatuous statement, while he is quite

prepared to maintain that the woman must endure without complaint or redress the defiling and stultifying of that "whole existence." The same man will tell you that the whole aim and object of a woman's existence, her only career, her womanly mission, is to be a mother; yet he will support laws which allow the poisoning of the fount of life and characterize as prudish the attempt to establish an equal standard.

### Divorce and Sex Disability.

The Royal Commission to inquire into the law regulating divorce has raised in an acute form the far-reaching question of equality between the sexes, which is the foundation and vital principle of the woman movement. Nobody who has studied that movement can doubt that it is a revolt against injustice in every variety of form which has resulted from the unequal and inferior status assigned to women by the rulers of the world. It is found most glaringly in the laws which deal with sexual relations, but it is not less galling in the laws relating to guardianship or inheritance and in all that is involved by the doctrine of coverture. But beyond the laws and founded upon them are the customs of inequality which induce men of all ranks to treat their wives as dependent on and inferior to themselves, and in the professional world or the labour market lead to ungenerous and often demoralizing treatment of women by their male rivals. Every man or woman who believes in justice as the foundation of all that is best in national or personal character must rejoice that the question of sex disability has now been forced upon public attention in a manner which must compel a direct and responsible decision.

Nobody has yet been found to say that there should be one law for the rich and another for the poor on the matter of divorce, although many have expressed regret that this should involve a great increase in the number of divorces, which they regard as evil in themselves or contrary to divine law. It is admitted by all that the disability which now attaches to poverty must be removed.

On the other hand one eminent judge and other experienced lawyers of less eminence have expressed their opinion that the present distinction between the immorality of a husband and wife is well founded and ought to be maintained. In other words, they seek to justify and keep unchanged sex disability of a most serious kind in the laws which regulate the marriage contract. I suppose we ought not to be surprised that Dr. Johnson's coarseness of view should be quoted with approval in the twentieth century, because the dominance of man, which has lasted for thousands of years, has always involved some idea of pardonable licence as a privilege of the male sex. What, however, is really satisfactory is the sincere indignation with which this avowal of a common and very widespread opinion has been received. It is, I think, a marked tribute to the elevating character of the Suffrage movement that average men now shrink from publicly upholding a different standard of morality for men and women; and I look upon it as the best augury for the removal of sex disability in every sphere.

When greater knowledge has been acquired of the cruelty which is involved by inequality of treatment in the sphere of morals the present hesitation on the subject is bound to disappear, because the limited and degrading view of cruelty as something necessarily material must yield to the only true and elevating opinion that in a union, which is dependent upon a sense of honour in both parties, a breach of it involves an outrage to dignity which is often the deadliest form of injury.

There is much evidence of this change of opinion in the decisions given in the Divorce Court upon the meaning of legal cruelty, but the coarser and merely material view of things is still unchanged in the Matrimonial Causes Act, which provides separation as the only remedy for the poorer classes in circumstances of almost unspeakable trouble.

It is not an uncommon thing for a wife to seek separation on the ground that her husband insists upon

committing adultery with another woman in his own house, compelling his wife to occupy another room. The husband appears to the summons and pleads successfully that he has never struck his wife or refused to give her a proper proportion of his wages or turned her out of doors, because the law does not recognize a remediable wrong in the fact that the husband prefers to live with another woman even in his wife's own home.

There would be the remedy of separation in the Divorce Court, but the expenses of suing there are prohibitive. A case has been brought to my notice where a husband, the captain of a barge, took proceedings to divorce his wife because he found that she was living with his employer. The case was defended, and, although successful, it actually cost the husband £146, because (owing to the bankruptcy of the co-respondent) he had to pay his wife's costs as well as his own. This meant a loss to him of six years' savings. Now, consider the inequality of treatment in the same rank of life when the wife is guilty of a single act of immorality, possibly under great provocation. The husband takes no proceedings whatever; he simply turns his wife out of doors, without any claim upon him for maintenance or any right to see her children again, although she may have been a hard-working and blameless wife for years. The husband finds no difficulty in starting a fresh establishment, but the poor wife, whose whole life since her marriage has been one of dependence, is often driven by want to a life of shame.

If divorce is brought within reach of the poor and if equality of treatment is established for both sexes, I am convinced that the tendency will be towards a higher standard of morality for both men and women. I do not desire to make divorce an easy thing to obtain, but I do desire to make licentiousness on the part of a husband more difficult. I think that before a divorce is granted there should be a preliminary period of separation, but permanent separations without divorce are seldom unattended by immorality on the part of the man, and can only be regarded as a remedy of despair.

This remedy is cruelly unequal owing to the economical dependence of the wife. The man may live as immorally as he pleases, but the separated wife forfeits whatever allowance she is entitled to by a single act of immorality, though that act may have been brought about by the neglect of her husband to pay what is due for her maintenance. If the proposed equality of treatment is established, the diminution of separations is likely not only to keep pace with but to exceed the increase in the number of divorces, which is looked forward to with so much anxiety.

It should be remembered by those who think lightly of a man's frailty and harshly of a woman's that the immorality is common to both, and there is something pitiable as well as anomalous in our constant talk of "fallen" women and our complete ignoring of fallen men. We speak of our marriage system as monogamous, but, consciously or unconsciously, we maintain a view of sex relations which often involves a secret and degraded form of polygamy. It must not be assumed that wives will readily avail themselves of the remedy of divorce when they have been put upon the same footing as men. There is no compulsion in the matter, and wives of the working-class are for the most part extremely long-suffering and seldom seek the protection of the law before the situation has become practically hopeless. What may be anticipated with certainty is that woman's equality of rights will make a husband think more seriously of his marital responsibilities after marriage, but I hope it will also tend to make reckless marriages less common, and lead to some measure of economic independence being secured for married women.

On another occasion I may deal with the suggested alterations in the ground for divorce and the proposed tribunals for removing the difficulties of expense. My object in this article has been to prove that cruelty and immorality are often the direct consequence of sex disability in legislation dealing with matrimonial offences.

CECIL CHAPMAN.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.  
**METHODS:** By orderly propaganda and public discussion to place the question before the electors that they may press it upon the Members of Parliament. The Union is strictly non-party.

*Hon. Secretary:*  
MISS EDITH DIMOCK.  
*Telegrams:* "Voiceless, London."

*President:*  
MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

*Hon. Treasurer:*  
MISS BERTHA MASON.  
*Telephone:* 1960 Victoria.  
*Offices:* Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### The Executive Committee.

Our good friend, Mr. Philip Snowden, is bestirring himself on our behalf. He is arranging with the other members of the Labour Party who have charge of Voters' Petitions to present them all, if possible, in the open House on the same afternoon. Although the Committee have failed to carry out the same plan with regard to the Conservative and Liberal Members' petitions, these are being presented at the rate of about twenty a day. Needless to say, the Press passes them by practically unnoticed.

The Derby Society are doing all they can to push the cause in the Ilkeston Division during the by-election by holding as many meetings as possible in the short time at their disposal, and Miss Goodman and Mrs. Earp have gone to help them.

Miss Strachey, London Society, 58, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., will be very glad to receive further names of delegates who will require hospitality during the annual meeting. The sooner these names are received the easier it is to make the necessary arrangements.

EDITH DIMOCK.

The agenda for the Council meeting on March 19th is both long and interesting. The scheme of reorganization which a special committee has been considering will come up for consideration and decision. The changes proposed are embodied in a series of alterations to the rules, and there will probably be much discussion on some of them. The most important, probably, are the proposals to do without Quarterly Council Meetings and to establish Local Unions.

There will also be many resolutions dealing with general policy. There has perhaps never been a time when Suffragists have been faced with a political situation so fraught with difficulty. The present uncertainty in the lasting powers of the Government, the probability of a General Election in which the issues will be even more strictly defined than in the last, and a condition of political unrest and impatience, make it more than usually difficult to impress upon the electorate the serious urgency of our demand. It is a time when the first need is for some new line of propaganda—when some fresh wind of enthusiasm is called for to make war against the marked indifference which is the Suffragists' stumbling-block.

MARION PHILLIPS.

### Treasurer's Note.

#### NATIONAL UNION CAMPAIGN.

February 26th to March 5th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Miss M. D. L. Owen	0	2	6
<b>DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS,</b>			
February 26th to March 5th, 1910.			

	£	s.	d.
Miss Olive L. Roe (don.)	1	0	0
Miss Lucie Gregory (sub.)	1	0	0
Miss Gaoghegan (sub.)	0	5	0
Miss E. D. Bertram (sub.)	0	2	6
Miss M. Booth-Scott (sub.)	2	2	0
Hon. Bertrand Russell (sub.)	0	3	6
Lewis Thompson, Esq. (don.)	25	0	0
W. S. B. McLaren, Esq. (sub.)	0	5	0
Mrs. Sim (sub.)	0	5	0
	£30	0	6

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

### Mr. and Mrs. Snowden's New Address.

We are asked to state that Mr. and Mrs. Snowden have removed this week, and their address is now Woodstock Road, Golder's Green, N.W.

### Reception to the President and Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

A reception will be given by Lady Frances Balfour and the Committee of the London Society on Friday, March 18th, at the Great Central Hotel, from 9 to 11.30 p.m., to welcome the President and Council of the National Union.

Short speeches will be delivered during the evening, and Miss Rosabel Watson's Orchestra will give a programme of music. Miss Watson's band is composed largely, if not entirely, of ardent Suffragists who are also excellent artistes, as all who heard them on the occasion of the performance of "Press Cuttings" last season will testify. The Winter Garden, where the guests will be received, will be specially decorated with palms and flowers, and light refreshments will be provided. Delegates to the Council and all Members of Parliament friendly to the cause of Women's Suffrage are being invited, and further tickets, available for members of the general public, are being issued at 3s. 6d. each or four for 10s. (refreshments included). Early application should be made for these to Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

The hotel is in Marylebone Road, five minutes' walk from Baker Street. It can be approached from all parts by tube to Great Central Station, and by omnibus from Charing Cross, Victoria, Paddington, etc.

Further particulars will be announced in "The Common Cause" later.

It is hoped that all who can will be present at this reception, as, owing to the anticipated length of the Council meeting on Saturday, the scheme of Miss Mason delivering her lecture on the history of the movement on that evening has had to be abandoned.

### By-Election.

#### ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

After a short, sharp campaign, polling took place on Tuesday, March 1, and resulted in the return of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Benn, by an increased majority.

All the polling stations were well equipped with our workers practically throughout the day, and the petition bears the names of some 360 voters, being about one-seventh of those who went to the poll. Though in certain parts of the constituency a dangerously rough element appeared to exist, it was kept admirably in check by the tact alike of the police and of our members. At one time three little boys were accorded the greatly valued privilege of seating themselves on the wagonette, and providing some cover when heavy showers of gravel or mud fell upon it. When we asked how they liked the stinging gravel, they gravely remarked, "It isn't very nice; they are a rough lot down here!" Among those not already named who came on polling day are the following, some of whom stood for six or eight hours:—Misses Coker, Cholmeley, Mrs. Fisher, Misses Fitzgerald, Franklin, Gurney Smith, Joseph, Mrs. Little, Misses Moores, Shore, P. Strachey, and Mrs. Walker. Miss Forbes repeated her successes at Bermondsey by providing a wonderful menu for the day, consisting of breakfast, with fish cakes, etc., from 9 to 10, four-course luncheon from 12 to 3, and tea at any time, all for an inclusive charge of 1s. 6d. a head, and all of the best. Her professional notices attracted great attention. "By-elections a speciality," "Credit discouraged," "Cash on delivery." In regard to the last, it may not be out of place to add that donations to defray the expenses of the by-election will be gratefully received by the hon. treasurer or secretary of the London Society at 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

A. HELEN WARD.

### The Edinburgh Petitions.

The Edinburgh National Society organised campaigns and held meetings in twelve constituencies, and took petitions in eleven of these. The numbers were as follows:—

South Edinburgh	1,984
East Edinburgh	894
West Edinburgh	1,268
Central Edinburgh	763
Kircaldy Burghs	1,251
St. Andrew's Burghs	690
Montrose Burghs	1,025
Leith Burghs	3,493
Stirling Burghs	655
East Fife (roughly)	1,709
	13,732

Berwickshire has probably sent a note of the 700 (odd) signatures collected there, and Dundee of its 3,000 and upwards. Dundee was first organised by Miss Lamond of the Edinburgh National Society, the work being afterwards successfully carried on by Miss Crompton.

### The Voters' Petition.

Our friends will have still to have patience before exact figures can be published. Up to the end of last week it appeared that the petition had been worked in between 200 and 300 constituencies, and that the signatures were over 300,000. Sixty-six of these petitions had then been presented to the House, the special arrangements which it was hoped to make for their presentation having been found impracticable.

### Death of Archdeacon Evans.

The Llandudno branch of the N.U.W.S.S. has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of the Ven. David Evans, Archdeacon of St. Asaph. From the time when the Suffrage movement was started in North Wales by members of his family, the Archdeacon was a firm believer in the cause, ever willing to give it his public support. One of the last efforts he made was to appear for a short time to welcome Mrs. Fawcett at dinner in his own house, and she was the last person to whom he spoke outside his own family circle. The members of the Llandudno Suffrage Society sympathise deeply with their President, Mrs. Walton Evans, in her trouble.

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

The second of the series of "At Homes" of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association was held in St. George's Hall, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, on Wednesday, March 2nd. The Countess of Galloway was the hostess, and Lady Betty Balfour presided over a very crowded and enthusiastic gathering. Amongst the speakers were Mrs. Ronald McNeill, Mrs. Robie Uniacke, Miss Luke (Principal of Bedford College), Mrs. Moss, and the Master of the Temple. The third "At Home" will take place on March 16th, when Lady Willoughby de Eresby will be the hostess.

Mrs. Gerald Arbuthnot held a reception at 43, Princes Gardens, on behalf of this Association on March 3rd. Mrs. Gilbert Samuel (Hon. Sec.) gave an account of the work and the aims and objects of the Association, and Lady Betty Balfour and Mr. Gerald Arbuthnot, M.P., addressed the audience. Amongst those present were Lady Edward Spencer-Churchill, the Hon. Lady Shelley, Lady St. Leonards, Lady Shaw, Lady Mary Inverclyde, Lady Edith Ashley, Lady Arthur, Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise, Lady Constance Hadow, Mrs. George Forbes, Mrs. Lonsdale, and Mrs. Kerr-Smiley.

### Irish Branch.

A successful conversation was held on the evening of the 1st March in the Molesworth Hall, Dublin. The guests were received by the Countess of Fingall and Lady Arnott. Interesting addresses on the Suffrage were given by Lady Arnott, the President of the Association; Miss F. Meade, and Miss May Falkiner, Hon. Secretary.

The hall was charmingly decorated, and music and refreshments were interspersed with speeches by Lady Arnott, who emphasised the need for the vote, and Miss Meade, who explained the various existing qualifications. Miss May Falkiner and the Countess of Fingall also spoke.

An interesting discussion then followed, and numerous questions were asked by the guests, which were answered by members of the Committee of the Association. Many new members were enrolled.

### The New Constitutional Society.

Two successful "At Homes" have been held by this society. The first took place at Mrs. Cecil Chapman's, when Mr. Laurence Housman spoke eloquently in favour of the anti-Government policy. The second was held at Mrs. Carl Hentschel's. Mr. Pett Ridge made a delightful speech, and in his inimitable style left no room for doubt as to the efficacy of the method of the new society. Many new members joined, and good collections were made in both cases.

### "To the Sun—Only Giver of True Justice."

Shine forth, thou radiant Orb of Justice, high  
Upon thy throne in the impartial sky—  
Make glad the earth!  
Thou sendest thy munificence, thy heat,  
With generous quality to greet  
Both death and birth.

The source, the centre, thou, of all our life,  
Soothing with thy serene expanse the strife  
That stirreth men;  
Yielding thyself to strong and weak the same,  
The meaneast and the sinfullest may claim  
His share; and when,

Omnipotent, thou sow'st thy golden seed,  
Eyes that have wept and hearts that faint and bleed  
Look up to see

The joyous beauty of thy rays, which team  
With such fair promise in each vibrant beam—  
Security

For happy harvests, fuller pledge of bliss! . . .  
Healer of hurts, that lull'st us with thy kiss—  
Paternal, mild,—

How magical thy touch on Sad or Gay,  
On those whom Age draws falt'ring on their way,  
On frailest child!


Great Sun, imperial, immortal, just—  
In whose full measure we alone may trust  
That equity

Duly be meted out to each and all,  
And that thy gifts, till time doth end, shall fall  
Unceasingly,—

Let doubters learn the law that indicates,  
At every dawn, how Nature vindicates  
An equal right;

Let all behold thou would'st to none deny  
A portion in the precious powers which lie  
In thy pure light!

—GEORGETTE AGNEW.



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### Foreign News.

#### ITALY.

The debate in the Italian Chamber at the end of last month, upon the proposal to give women the municipal vote, must have been quite a thrilling one for Italian Suffragists. The "Corriere d'Italia" in its issue of February 20th tried to suggest that the applause and the sympathy evoked were due to "irony" or "chivalry"; it is not quite clear whether one and the same man is supposed to have been actuated by these conflicting sentiments alternating in the manly bosom, but at any rate, applause loud and long there seems to have been, and the ladies in the gallery (who included such well-known feminists as Teresa Labriola, Sibilla Alerano, Countess Spalletti, and the Marchesa Lucifero) were well content.

The measure was brought forward by Carlo Gallini, "the banner bearer of the democratic left," who made a plain, reasoned speech in defence of the project. He declared himself convinced of its justice and its usefulness.

"It is unjust and injurious that the intelligent woman should not have the right to the vote, while her servant has it; we must, then, make some change, and that quickly." And the speaker mounted back by degrees through Parliamentary history: Minghetti, Depretis, Lacava, Mirabelli, and even Andrea Costa, he said, had treated of this thing. He remembered that lately even the President Marcora reproved Francesco Crispi, who was an anti-feminist, for having forgotten that Italy has numbers of glorious women. (A Voice: "I should think so!")

The hon. member Gallini hoped that the Government would study seriously this great question, and would remove a grave injustice and inconsistency in the law and conduct of life; he concluded by recommending these proposals to the political and judicial wisdom of the House, and he was confident that the hon. member Sonnino, who had shown himself open to conviction with regard to modern ideas, would give to them his adhesion and that of the Government.

"The President of the Council" (the Premier Sonnino), "evidently inspired," says the "Corriere," "by the same sentiment of chivalry," replied. He remarked that in these latter days the intellectual, economic, and social condition of women had changed profoundly, and noted that the transformation had not been followed by a corresponding progress in our legislation, which in this matter was in some respects less liberal than some of the pre-existing legislation of a similar nature. He recognised, however, that the important and complex proposal of the hon. member Gallini was worthy of the deepest study. He therefore, with the admittedly proper reserves, showed no opposition to the consideration of the measure. (Cries of approval.)

The question of votes for women in Italy has been occupying the attention of a Royal Commission since 1907, and a Bill granting to females the right to vote at elections for Chambers of Commerce will shortly be laid before the House. Later on a measure for the abolition of the law of marital consent, without which no woman can hold or administer her own property, even to the extent of small deposits in the savings bank, will be brought forward. It is further proposed to sweep away the legal bar which still prevents women from possessing University degrees in medicine, law, literature, and science, or from exercising their faculties publicly and for gain.

#### FRANCE.

France is on the eve of an electoral campaign, and one of the leaders of the women's movement, Madame Durand, has taken the opportunity to point out how woman's position has altered in France during the past ten years. When Madame Durand founded "La Fronde" just a decade ago, she realised that her countrywomen were scarcely ready to give support to a paper, the object of which was the reform of the women's movement. During this period they have gained the right of taking part in certain local and municipal elections, and are themselves also eligible candidates for the Conseil supérieur de l'Instruction publique, the Conseils du Travail, and the Conseils des Prud'hommes.

Madame Durand is fully aware that there is still much work to be done before her ideal can be realised—namely, that women should actually be members of the "Chambre," but hopes to do much towards furthering the cause by holding orderly open-air meetings during the coming elections.

#### DENMARK.

In course of time a series of questions concerning the Danish constitution have been raised, among them votes for women. The latter has not yet become a partisan question, but the Radicals and Socialists have Women's Suffrage on their programme, and leaders of other parties have shown their sympathy with the cause.

#### ICELAND.

The Women's Suffrage Society in Reykjavik has been engaged in forming a national association. Delegates from the five newly formed societies came to Reykjavik, and a draft for a national constitution was discussed, which was formed after the example of the Swedish national organisation. Three of the societies, and that of Reykjavik, were willing to stand, but three refused. Nevertheless, the national association was founded, and it is hoped that the dissenting societies will soon become members.

### Correspondence.

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 column.

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

#### MISS PHILLIPS' RESIGNATION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—With great regret I read Miss Marion Phillips' announcement of her resignation in last week's "Common Cause." May I ask for a space in your columns to say how much I appreciate the help she has been in local matters, and also the improved organisation she has brought about in the work of the National Union. I feel sure many will share this feeling of loss, and the hope that if it were possible the stars in their course would so rule our affairs that eventually we may have her again at her post.—Yours,  
GIBRALTAR.

#### OUR GENUINE PETITION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Those who read Mrs. C. C. Osler's letter in a recent number may be interested in the paragraph I enclose from the "Sussex Daily News" of February 17:—

"Doubtless in your part of the world the non-militant Suffragettes were pretty busy during the elections collecting voters' signatures for their petition. They could not organise the collection thoroughly everywhere, of course. Moreover, unlike many people who get up petitions, they refused to accept signatures which were not absolutely genuine. I myself, for example (in order to see what would happen), endeavoured to sign the petition in two constituencies in which I do not reside, was cross-examined, and then ruthlessly turned away. Nevertheless, the number of actual electors' signatures obtained, I hear, is at least a quarter of a million. Those politicians who believed there was not much electoral opinion behind the Suffrage movement will have to modify their views."

I may mention that the "Sussex Daily News" always gives very good reports of meetings held to further the cause of Women's Suffrage.  
C. NEWMAN.  
Feb. 20th, 1910.

#### MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—It strikes me as strange that in the controversy with regard to married women teachers no one seems to have pointed out the obvious fact that the doing away of married teachers would be only the first step to doing away entirely with female teachers in the elementary schools.

Every girl expects to marry, and she will certainly not go to the trouble of studying to pass examinations and obtaining a position which she hopes will in the course of a few years be useless to her. Neither will her parents afford her the necessary time and money to attain this position knowing that in the event of her husband being disabled by accident, or delicate, or failing to support her, she will be thrown back on her family with a profession which she cannot use.

The percentage of married women who continue to teach is small—probably only those who are especially gifted and capable in teaching; and therefore it is of great advantage to the schools to retain such teachers, and the smallness of the number prevents them making any appreciable effect on the demand for teachers. The real question is—Is it desirable in the interest of the schools to do away with female teachers? Will the women of England be willing to trust their young children entirely to the care of men and boys? For the female pupil teachers will of course vanish when they cease to be able to prepare for the examinations.

It seems to me that this is essentially a question for women to settle. I can understand that educational committees, being mainly composed of men and mainly elected by men, can contemplate with complacency the commencement of an attempt to place the whole of the teaching in the hands of men; but surely in a profession for which it is universally admitted that women have an especial aptitude this could not be for the good of the schools or ultimate good of the nation.—Yours,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
M. FOLEY.

#### WOMEN'S AMBITIONS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Following with great interest and ever-increasing sympathy the women's movement as much as my time permits, and as much as I can without attending any meetings and without belonging to any society or alliance, I have often been obliged to question myself reluctantly: Is, after four decades of work and struggle, this demand for equal rights for women as for men, as it has now in so many countries formulated itself, still after all premature?

I offer you my misgivings, and also a few suggestions. This is one picture in my mind's eye: Vast numbers of women, mostly young, day by day, early in the morning, hurry







Name of Society. Name and Address of Secretary.

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Wigan.....

Norwich..... Miss EDITH L. WILLIS, Southwell Lodge, Ipswich Road, Norwich.

Nottingham..... Mrs. W. E. DOWSON, Felixstowe, The Park, Nottingham.

Olton..... Mrs. H. SMALL, Orierton, Olton, Birmingham.

Oxford..... Mrs. HAVENFIELD, Winsfields, Headington, Oxford.

Lady Margaret Hall..... Miss RUTH GILES, Lady Margaret Hall, Somerville College, Oxford.

Ramsgate..... Miss L. A. RUCK, Somerville College, Oxford.

Penrith..... Miss MAY LAWRENCE, Newton Riggs, Penrith.

Plymouth..... Dr. MABEL RAMSAY, Wentworth Villa, North Hill, Plymouth.

Pontypridd..... Mrs. PARRY, Eirianfa, Pontypridd, Glam.

Portsmouth..... Miss N. O'SHEA, The Cottage, Cosham, Hants.

Ramsgate..... Miss M. B. SMITH, 3, Royal Crescent, Ramsgate.

Reading..... Miss O. L. COLE, Calthorpe, Reulanda Road.

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Royal Holloway Coll..... Miss M. H. PRATT, Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green, Surrey.

Salisbury..... Miss HARDY, Kincardine, 15, Southampton Road, Salisbury.

St. Helens..... Miss J. E. HOESBURGH, Langdale, Kiln Lane, Seabrough.

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Warrington..... Miss L. F. WARING, Latchford House, Warrington.

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Whitby..... Miss PRINGLE, The Abbey House, Whitby.

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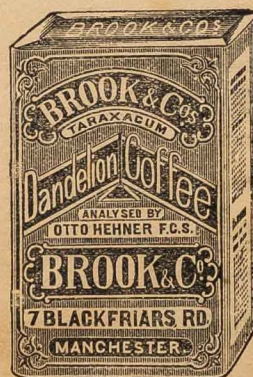
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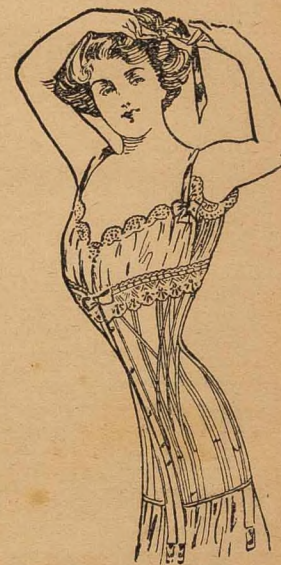


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at 49, RUSSELL SQUARE,  
BLOOMSBURY

(by kind permission of Lady Borthwick),

on Friday Afternoon, March the 18th,  
at Half-past Three.

Tickets at Five Shillings each from

Hon. Mrs. BERTRAND RUSSELL,

94, Ashley Gardens, Victoria Street.