

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. IV. No. 97.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"Trust Asquith!"

We do. If it was Mr. Lloyd George who saved the situation for the Prime Minister with the railway men, it is the Prime Minister who has saved the situation this week for the women, and discredited Mr. Lloyd George's mean attempt to make the way easy for any other Woman's Bill to take the time expressly given to the Conciliation Bill. We thank the Prime Minister for his explicit declaration, and hope that the Chancellor will have no further opportunity to arouse such distrust of the Government's promise as to drive women again in sheer desperation to open revolt.

The Referendum—A Clinching Argument.

To say, as one hundred and twenty-four Members of Parliament have done, that the question of woman's enfranchisement was not before the country at the last General Election, is to show a wilful blindness to facts of which even *The Times* is not guilty, for that organ, by no means sympathetic to the Cause, pointed out that it was one of the issues before the country. Acting on Mr. Asquith's definite promise for facilities for a Woman's Suffrage Bill if his party were returned to office, pledges were taken from candidates at the last General Election, and a large majority of those who are now Members declared themselves in favour of woman suffrage. Why, we may well ask, should women be called upon to submit to the Referendum when no such test has ever been enforced upon men on any occasion of the extension of the franchise to them? The Government, opposed as it is to the principle of the Referendum, could not grant it for the women's Bill and refuse it for the Home Rule Bill, yet seven Irish Nationalists and twenty-two Liberals signed the memorandum. Mr. Gladstone himself put the matter so clearly and strongly with regard to the vote of the agriculturists that we may well quote it here, although it appears again in the admirable letter, to be found in another column, which our well-known member and worker, Miss Eunice J. Murray, sent a day or two ago to *The Glasgow Herald*: "It is a matter of indifference to me whether two men or two million desire the vote; if two men desire it, and can prove their right to it,

it justifies me in giving it to all." If men had waited until all men, or even a large majority, expressed a strong desire for enfranchisement, they would not have been in a position to command the consideration and respect shown by the authorities in dealing with the Labour leaders in the railway strike. Voteless women cannot command the same consideration.

Women's Wages.

In America, as well as in our own country, the cry goes up against the miserable wages paid to women workers. Although in the United States women find a fairly speedy redress of many of their grievances—if only they will not ask for votes!—as Mrs. Chapman Catt told us recently, yet the chivalry of American politicians has not gone so far as to secure for the woman worker fair conditions and pay. The American Women's Trade Union League has still plenty of work to do for the voteless woman toiler. Statistics of our own country show a still more appalling picture. We have had stern facts driven home lately by Bermondsey. The latest returns of the Board of Trade with regard to wages and hours in the metal and engineering trades emphasise the disastrous position of women workers. What can we say to such figures as the following, showing the average earnings for those who worked full time?

	s.	d.
Men	33	11
Lads and boys	10	4
Women	12	8
Girls	7	4

Take another set of figures, dealing this time with such work as the manufacture of needles, fishing tackle, nails, screws, nuts, gold, silver, electro-plate, jewellery, in which a considerable proportion of workers are women and girls:—

Industry.	Men.	Women.	
	s. d.	s. d.	
Gold, silver, electro	36	6 .. 13	1
Jewellery	38	0 .. 13	6
Nails, screws, nuts	31	0 .. 11	2
Needles, fish-hooks	31	9 .. 12	10

These are facts which should be burned on to the hearts of all Suffragists, for, despite what is said to the contrary, the possession of the vote is a gigantic lever for securing improved conditions, as the railway men and their leaders have recently proved. Women workers must be organised, and all women must realise the responsibility resting upon them to use the vote, when it comes into their power, in such a way as to prove its economic as well as political value. The Government of the day is realising the value of men's organisations, and in deciding to be more fully represented at next week's Trade Union Congress at Newcastle shows a new recognition of the importance of this Labour Parliament of men. The lesson must not be lost upon women.

Long Hair and Short Insight!

A woman's hair was held by men of ancient days to be her glory; modern Russian men declare that the accompaniment of this glory is short insight! It was a convenient excuse when Russian women were asking for the vote. From Persia, too, we learn that woman's intelligence was ordained of God to be inferior to man's, and although she may have rights, one of them is certainly not to deal with politics. It seems that short insight goes also with short hair!

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON."

Telephone—15143 CENTRAL.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DISFARD. Hon. Treasurer—Miss C. V. TITE
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Hon. Departmental Officers—

Political and Militant Department—Mrs. HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.
Publishing Department—Mrs. SNOW, Mrs. EILEEN MITCHELL.
Press Department—Mrs. HARVEY, Brackenhill, Bromley, Kent.

CONCILIATION BILL NEXT SESSION.

The distrust aroused by Mr. Lloyd George's replies to Mr. Leif Jones in the House of Commons has been allayed by Mr. Asquith's reply to the Earl of Lytton. As we supposed, Mr. Lloyd George had not been instructed by the Prime Minister, and this meant attempt to break the truce will make us more than ever suspicious of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he poses as a Suffragist.

Our warm thanks are given to the Earl of Lytton for his prompt action in writing to Mr. Asquith as follows:—

August 17, 1911.

DEAR MR. ASQUITH.—After your very cordial and explicit letter to me of June 15 last I did not imagine that I should again have to trouble you on the subject of facilities for the Women's Enfranchisement Bill next Session. But the question raised by Mr. Leif Jones in the House of Commons yesterday, and the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has aroused all the doubts and misgivings which had been completely set at rest by the assurance contained in your letter to me of June 15, that "the Government are unanimous in their determination to give effect not only in the letter but in the spirit to the promise in regard to facilities made before the last General Election." Ever since I received that letter I have been able to assure any of my friends who doubted the fact that whatever might be your views on the merits of Woman Suffrage, you would abide by your pledges given as head of the Government that this question should at any rate receive straightforward treatment in the present Parliament.

May I remind you briefly of the history of these pledges? (1) You stated on behalf of the Cabinet in the House of Commons on November 22, 1910, that "the Government will, if they are still in power, give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a Bill which is so framed as to admit of free amendment."

This pledge referred to no particular Bill, and to no particular session, and was criticised, you will remember, on that very account.

(2) On May 29 this year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to a question put by Lord Wolmer, referred to the previous pledge made before the election, and added: "The Government recognised that the Bill, which was read a second time the other day, satisfies the last-mentioned condition, and that consequently it is their duty in this Parliament to give the promised facilities." He then pointed out that, owing to the conditions of business, they could not allot to the Woman's Suffrage Bill this year such an amount of time as its importance demands," and concluded with these words: "They will be prepared next Session, when the Bill has been again read a second time, either as the result of obtaining a good place in the ballot, or (if that does not happen) by the grant of a Government day for the purpose, to give a week (which they understand to be the time suggested as reasonable by the promoters) for its further stages."

This statement was quite definite on the two points which had previously been considered unsatisfactory, that is to say, it was a promise of time for the consideration of a particular Bill (the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill, which had already been read a second time by the House of Commons) in a particular Session (next Session), and it was accordingly received with much satisfaction by the advocates of Woman Suffrage.

Some doubts were still entertained as to the precise interpretation to be placed on the time promised, and those doubts were cleared up by your letter of June 15, but neither in that letter nor in mine of June 1, to which it was an answer, was there a question of any Bill other than that promoted by the Conciliation Committee on whose behalf I had written to you.

In the House of Commons yesterday the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the promise of facilities would apply to any Bill which fulfilled the conditions originally laid down by the Government, provided that it had been read a second time by the House of Commons, and this has given rise to the misgivings to which I have referred, and which are expressed by *The Manchester Guardian* this morning, where it is stated in a leading article that "it would be a shabby trick were the Government, merely on the ground that one Bill had had luck in the ballot, and that another had not . . . to filch the opportunity which everybody understood the Government to have promised for the Conciliation Bill next Session."

I do not share the misgivings, because I have implicit faith in the intention of the Government to fulfil the promise made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on May 29, and confirmed by you in your letter to me of June 15. Nothing, however, can set them at rest but a statement from you as head of the Government. May I, therefore, have your authority for saying that whatever other Bill dealing with Woman's Suffrage may be introduced into the House of Commons next Session, nothing will relieve the Government of their undertaking to give to the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee (a) a day for its second reading should it fail to secure a place in the ballot (b) "a week" (as interpreted by your letter to me) for its further stages, if it should pass its second reading?—Believe me, yours sincerely,

LYTTON.

To which Mr. Asquith replied in the following unequivocal terms:—

"My dear Lytton,—I have no hesitation in saying that the promises made by, and on behalf of, the Government, in regard to giving facilities for the 'Conciliation Bill,' will be strictly adhered to, both in letter and in spirit.—Yours sincerely,
"H. H. ASQUITH."

After this clear pronouncement we can continue our "Conciliation Bill Campaign" with renewed energy.

Anti-Suffrage Attack.

A less serious attack has been made by some anti-Suffragist Members of Parliament who have requested Mr. Asquith to submit Women's Suffrage to a Referendum in the following terms:—

We, the undersigned Members of the House of Commons, desire to approach you with the earnest request that the Government may take steps to ascertain the views of the people before there is any imminent prospect of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill being passed into law.

The great change proposed in this measure has never even been considered, much less approved by the electors, and we submit that it would be in the highest degree unconstitutional to further the passage of this Bill into law until the principle of the change has been referred to the people and accepted by them.

We desire to point out that the anxiety of the Suffragists to obtain further facilities for their Bill is clearly due to the fact that they are afraid of the people and desire to use the machinery of the Parliament Act in order to carry Women's Suffrage without reference to the electors.

Contending as we do that the great majority both of men and women in the United Kingdom are opposed to Women's Suffrage, a contention in support of which a large quantity of evidence has already been submitted to the House and the country, we confidently appeal to the Government not to commit themselves to supporting the Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

The names of the Members who have signed this letter are as under:—

T. C. Agar-Robartes (L.), George W. Agnew (L.), William R. Anson (U.), M. Archer-Shee (U.), Josceline Bagot (U.), H. T. Baker (L.), Balcarres (U.), Stanley Baldwin (U.), F. G. Banbury (U.), H. Barnston (U.), John N. Barran (L.), A. B. Bathurst (U.), Charles Bathurst (U.), Gervase Beckett (U.), Leonard Brassey (U.), J. Annan Bryce (L.), J. F. L. Brunner (L.), W. Burdett-Coutts (U.), W. R. Campion (U.), Edward Carson (U.), John Cator (U.), H. S. Cautley (U.), Evelyn Cecil (U.), R. G. W. Chaloner (U.), Astor Chamberlain (U.), Henry Chaplin (U.), H. Craik (U.), Henry P. Croft (U.), Dalrymple (U.), David Davies (L.), Charles H. Dixon (U.), William Doris (N.), Arthur Du Cros (U.), J. Hastings Duncan (L.), B. Eyres Monsell (U.), G. D. Faber (U.), J. P. Farrell (N.), G. Fetherstonhaugh (U.), Val Fleming (U.), Moreton Frewen (N.), George A. Gibbs (U.), J. Gilmour (U.), John Gordon (U.), J. L. Grant (U.), John Gretton (U.), Walter Guinness (U.), Rupert Gwynne (U.), W. Hall Walker (U.), Angus Hambro (U.), Claud J. Hamilton (U.), Laurence Hardy (U.), R. L. Harmsworth (L.), E. Haviland Burke (N.), Helmsley (U.), A. G. Henderson (U.), Ivor Herbert (L.), T. E. Hickman (U.), M. H. Hicks-Beach (U.), Clement Hill (U.), J. W. Hills (U.), Gerald F. Hohler (U.), J. F. Hope (U.), Rowland Hunt (U.), Ernest Jardine (U.), Kerry (U.), John H. M. Kirkwood (U.), G. R. Lane-Fox (U.), Arthur Lee (U.), Maurice Levy (L.), George Lloyd (U.), Oliver Locker-Lampson (U.), M. Lockwood (U.), Walter Long (U.), John B. Lonsdale (U.), W. J. MacCaw (U.), H. J. Mackinder (U.), Donald Macmaster (U.), R. J. McMorde (U.), H. Manfield (L.), James Mason (U.), John T. Middlemore (U.), Charles T. Mills (U.), P. A. Molteno (U.), W. A. Mount (U.), G. Parker (U.), William Pearce (L.), W. Peel (U.), W. Frank Perkin (U.), R. J. Price (L.), A. Priestley (L.), W. Pringle (L.), Herbert H. Raphael (L.), J. F. P. Rawlinson (U.), M. Roddy (N.), John Roche (N.), Ronaldshay (U.), Lionel de Rothschild (U.), Edmund Roysds (U.), J. Rutherford (U.), Stuart M. Samuel (L.), George L. Sandys (U.), Leslie Scott (U.), Samuel Scott (U.), F. E. Smith (U.), Harold Smith (U.), John R. Starkey (U.), G. Stewart (U.), Arthur W. Soames (L.), Edmund Talbot (U.), Alexander Thynne (U.), Alfred A. Tobin (U.), Tullibardine (U.), Valentin (U.), A. Ward (U.), C. E. Warde (U.), J. Cathcart Wason (L.), Archibald Weigall (U.), R. Williams (U.), Winterton (U.), A. Stanley Wilson (U.), Edward

Wood (U.), Samuel Young (N.), Wm. Young (L.), G. W. Younger (U.).

We print the names of the Members so that W.F.L. members in their constituencies may take steps to bring about a change of attitude, if possible.

The 124 Members include 95 Conservatives, 22 Liberals and 7 Nationalists.

Mr. Asquith had already replied to a similar question put by Captain Faber on July 25, who asked whether, with a view to ascertaining the views of women on their desire to have the Parliamentary vote, he would cause the Referendum to be used amongst women only with that object. Mr. Asquith replied: "The course suggested by the hon. Member would require legislation which I am not prepared to propose." It seems unnecessary to add anything further, but at least the attempt shows that the anti-Suffragists are as convinced as we are that the prospects are excellent for the passing into law next Session of the Conciliation Bill.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

A DELIGHTFUL SCOTCH COMEDY.

I have had the pleasure of being present at a performance of *Bunty Pulls the Strings* at the Haymarket, and I strongly recommend readers of *THE VOTE* who want a good laugh, and a wholesome one, to see it without delay. It is not only the laughter-moving quality of the play, it is its humanism and its sound common-sense that make it so refreshing. Not a Suffrage play—there is no word of the Suffrage from start to finish—it is yet a woman's play, in that, by many clever and witty touches, it shows us the true inwardness of the Woman's Movement. It is also admirably played, every member of the company of our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Graham Moffatt, enters with fine naturalness into the spirit of the comedy, and, being Scotch, the accent is not that of amateurs.

The incomparable Bunty, played by Miss Moffatt, is heroine of the story. She is the daughter of Mr. Biggar, proprietor of the village shop in a rural district of Scotland, and one of the elders of the village kirk: a widower and a person of high respectability. One son, Rab, a young man, kept in close subjection by his father, and full of aspirations for the large life of Glasgow, lives at home. We are introduced to them on a Sabbath-day morning. The blinds are down, for it would not be decorous to let in the full sunlight on the Lord's Day. Rab is studying that wonderful thing, the Scotch shorter catechism, as ordered by his father, till the break-jaw words irritating him, he flings the book aside, and is mildly reproved by Bunty. Mr. Biggar now comes in with stern reproof. Rab declares passionately that he will stand it no longer, and threatens to run away to Glasgow; and the father, in a scene which has considerable pathos, tells the sad tale of his elder son's ruin. Led away by gambling and other city vices, he had robbed his employers, and Mr. Biggar had seriously crippled himself to save him from disgrace. This silences Rab for a time.

A visitor has arrived—a Miss Simpson. It appears that, some time before, she had placed certain money in Mr. Biggar's hands for safe keeping. She has come to demand its immediate return, offering as an alternative—and here the situation becomes delightfully humorous—that, when Bunty leaves him to get married, he shall engage her as housekeeper, either paid or unpaid. As Mr. Biggar has taken part of this money to pay his son's debts he can only fence with Miss Simpson. He will think over it. The Sabbath is not a day for bargain-making.

Bunty, we learn, is engaged to Weelum Sprunt. He is very pious, for already at twenty-nine he is an elder of the kirk. He is diffident, shy and deeply in love with Bunty, who, gentle and unassuming as she is, manages him and all the other men folk admirably.

It is a great and withal a troublous day for the young elder. For the first time he is to stand by the plate at the door of the village kirk and receive the offerings of the faithful, and he comes in to the Biggars for help and encouragement. Bunty rallies him; she wouldn't mind taking the plate. Upon which a stern rebuke from her father, "Who in their senses ever heard of such a thing as a wumman holding the plate?"

"Hoots," says Bunty. "I'd do it easy enough."

The second act has for its setting the outside of the village kirk.

The time is mid-Victorian—the era of crinolines, bonnets, severe pictism, paternal domination, and general discouragement of the unconventional. Bunty's lover, awkward and nervous, is at his place. Ladies with voluminous skirts, in crude colours, small jackets and tiny parasols, pass, deposit their small coins and disappear within the porch. The sexton rings the bell—no minister appears. The young elder is becoming more and more nervous. At last comes Bunty. To her he appeals. What is he to do? She tells him to run and find the minister. He is a stranger. He may be ill, or he may have missed his way. But how can he leave the plate? "Oh!" says Bunty, "it's all right wi' me."

He starts running, and she recommends that two or three elders be found to consult in the vestry. Meanwhile, to the scandalisation of the folk, she stands by the plate. Her father arrives horrified. But she persuades him that the occasion is critical, and that he must say a few words to the congregation. To those who protest, Bunty has her answer. "Hoots!" she says, "Everything's a scandal, sae long as it's unusual."

Meanwhile dangers are assailing the house of Biggar. Miss Simpson, having heard, through eavesdropping, that her money has been spent, and that Mr. Biggar is not disposed to take her on as housekeeper, wishes the village policeman to arrest him. The minister is ill, and cannot fulfil his engagement; Rab, goaded beyond the limits of endurance by his despotic father, runs away, and Eelen Dunlop, an old lover of Mr. Biggar's whom he had deserted through a prudent fear of not being able to support a family, reappears.

I leave my readers to find out the *dénouement* for themselves, only saying that it is clever little Bunty who straightens out everything. We see her last in confidential discourse with her faithful, clumsy lover. "You foost tak' me and manage me, Bunty," he says. "They'll call me hen-pecked, but I glory in my shame." C. D.

WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE.

Farming in Canada.

"The woman who never looks back" is the name given to Miss "Jack" May, who is now busy with her first harvest on her own farm near Calgary, Canada. Miss May did not begin life in a new country without due preparation. She was always fond of outdoor occupations, and, discovering that her particular ambition was farming, she took service with a farmer in Kent after a course of training at the Swanley Horticultural College. She did every kind of farm work, and then gained further experience in flower and vegetable growing. Last winter she applied to the Canadian Pacific Railway for one of their "ready-made" farms in Alberta; she was able to show that she had practical knowledge of all farm work, from farm hand to manager; it is not surprising that her application was successful. Her practical mind has evolved a suitable dress for her work. She wears a cloth skirt reaching to the knees, long brown leather leggings, and a coat, long or short, according to the weather. Miss May's enterprise deserves success.

THE women of New Zealand secured the franchise by a majority of only two votes. Now it is doubtful if in the whole house there would be two members to oppose it.—*Sir Joseph Ward*, Premier of New Zealand.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN PORTUGAL.

THE VICTORY OF DR. ANGELO.

Readers of *THE VOTE* are already aware that in Portugal a woman has not only insisted upon her right to be registered as a Parliamentary voter, but has obtained a legal decision in her favour. It remains to be seen whether this test case will establish the right of Portuguese women to political equality with men, and whether the newest Republic will set a fine example to older States in enfranchising its women without further struggle. If so, the name of Dr. Carolina Beatriz Angelo will be honoured in Portugal and throughout the world as a victorious leader in a great Cause.

We are now able to give details of the story, which makes reading of keenest interest to all Suffragists. The Census enumerator may be regarded as the agent in bringing things to a climax. Filling in the paper, Dr. Angelo described herself as a person entitled to a vote. She might well do this, for she is a physician, a widow, and the head of a family. The Portuguese law declares that the rights of Suffrage belong to all "Portuguese who know how to read and write, are taxpayers, and heads of families." The enumerators, however, would not accept Dr. Angelo's views of the case because she was a woman; but, nothing daunted, she brought the matter before the courts.

The decision of the judge was one which all Suffragists will welcome for its common sense; it recognises that women who fulfil the duties of citizens should enjoy the rights of citizens. Judge De Castro observed that the law explicitly provides that any woman marrying a Portuguese citizen becomes a citizen. It is to be hoped also that the law also includes women as citizens, when they pay taxes and do work for the State, quite apart from the question of marriage. In the course of his judgment, De Castro observed:

It is a manifest error both of fact and of law to maintain that there are no women who are heads of families, like the petitioner (Dr. Angelo), who, living with her minor daughter and her servants, is really the head of the family, and as such cannot be excluded from the list of voters, without a decisive act of legislation excluding her, since the wording of the law is explicit. If the law makers had wished to exclude women they could and should have said so, thus closing the door which they have left open with so much liberality and justice.

The law makers of the world's newest Republic have placed it on a level with the most civilised governments, such as a part of the States of America, and Australia and Scandinavia, the true advance guard in the crusade of civilisation.

Judge De Castro is evidently a keen observer of the Woman's Movement in other countries, and he holds that the participation of women in public life has a high civilising influence. To quote again from his judgment, the following words give some idea of his opinion in this respect:—

Soon justice will crown the veritable crusade of the Suffragists in France, England, Germany and Italy. The granting of the vote to the women of all civilised countries is only a question of time, since this concession is plainly in accordance with justice and for the general interest.

It has been proved that the participation of women in the public life of the nations has the highest civilising influence, for the elections in which they take part become more orderly, and the vice of alcoholism has been lessened.

The women of our own country have, and always have had, a large influence on the elections, although they have not the ballot. This gives them power unaccompanied by responsibility, which is always dangerous, as is the case with all occult powers.

Summing up the case for Dr. Angelo, the Judge laid stress upon the absurdity of excluding her from her just rights because she was a woman:—

To prevent a woman, even an exceptional woman like the petitioner, from voting and taking part in public affairs, solely because she is a woman, is flatly absurd and unjust, and in conflict with the ideas of democracy and justice proclaimed by the Republican party. The petitioner, having all the qualifications required for voting, cannot

be arbitrarily excluded from the registry of voters, for, where the law makes no distinction, the judge cannot make any. Therefore, in accordance with the true principles of modern social justice I decide that the petitioner is in the right, and I order that her name be placed on the list of voters. Let it be done.

Discussing the case, which, of course, created a great sensation, the judge is reported in the *Lisbon Times* as saying that the influence of women voters at an election would change the turbulence and drunkenness with which they were often accompanied. The franchise would give to women themselves an open and direct influence which is much more honest than the secret and cajoling influence which the "Antis" of both sexes vaunt so much. Said this robust Portuguese judge:—

When I visited the Azores (and I think it is the same everywhere), there was one town where all the political power was in a woman's hands. It was she who nominated the officers, assigned their duties, chose the municipal council and controlled the votes. At Traz-os-Montes I found much the same state of affairs. In all countries woman has always had influence—a secret influence, it is true; but it is she who guides and directs the course of public affairs. Do you suppose, when I was actively engaged in politics, I did not constantly ask men for their votes? I ended by asking women for their support also, and it was much more effective. Well, this secret influence of women ought to be destroyed, and they should be given freedom to act openly and frankly. It is more honest. An educated woman has a right to take part in the public affairs of her country. Indeed, no one can legislate for women and children better than she.

My decision, he added, should cause no surprise, for the law of the Republic does not forbid women to vote and hold office, and if in other countries these rights have not yet been granted them, they soon will be, since it is not only in accordance with justice, but also for the public good.

It is interesting to know that at the head of the Portuguese Woman's Rights Association is Dr. Angelo, and the first secretary is Madame Anna de Castro Osorio, daughter of the judge who made the famous decision. Madame de Castro Osorio is a well-known novelist and a journalist, who has worked with her father since she was sixteen. The Association has published an interesting pamphlet under the title of "Woman Suffrage in Portugal," which gives an account of the movement and of the victory of Dr. Angelo. The judge is acclaimed as a progressive and highly educated man who was in favour of equal political rights for women long before the question was raised in the courts. He was present at the interview when Dr. Theophilo Braga, President of the Portuguese Republic, received a deputation of women asking, in the name of the Republican League of Portuguese Women, for the enfranchisement of qualified women. The President spoke strongly in support of the wishes of the deputation, declaring that victory would come in spite of all opposition.

It was a serious disappointment that when the suffrage law was published, women—in the usual company of idiots in such documents—were left out; protests resulted in the inclusion of soldiers and sergeants, but no women. It was then decided to test the matter in the courts, the result being the complete victory of Dr. Angelo.

There is no appeal from the decision of the judge, but it would be possible for the Portuguese Parliament to change the law and to prevent the enfranchisement of women. The Portuguese Suffragists, however, believe that the present law will be allowed to stand. They have the support of the President of the Republic, of the Finance Minister, of the Minister of Justice, and others whom they believe influential enough to overcome all opposition. They are prepared, in case of opposition, to resist any effort to deprive them of their enfranchisement. The badge of the Portuguese Suffrage Association is three white carnations. The conclusion of the story will be of supreme interest to Suffragists of all countries, and if, as seems probable, success remains with the women, Portugal may be congratulated on its wisdom in giving women a share in the great task of building up its future history.

THE CAUSE IN THE WORLD.

One of the interesting Suffrage publications which we welcome every month is *Jus Suffragii*, the organ of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, edited by Martina G. Kramers, and published in Amsterdam (92, Kruiskade). Its contents are largely in English, but German, French and other languages are often to be found, for the paper gives Suffrage news from all countries. Great Britain is allotted a large share of space in the current number, and Mrs. How Martyn reports the work of the Woman's Freedom League. Recent news from Russia includes the wise legislation which gives women teachers the same salary as men and the same right to old age pensions. Women have also obtained the municipal franchise; the Progressive group in the Duma desired to grant not only municipal votes to women, but eligibility to municipal office. The Conservative deputies opposed the Bill on the ground that Adam was created first, and Eve only as his helpmate; also that women had long hair and short insight! Parliament passed the Bill with eligibility to Municipal Councils, but not to administrative functions. A keen Suffrage campaign is being carried on in Hungary, in spite of the hot weather, and the enthusiastic workers glory even in the opposition evoked, because, whether for good or for ill, the movement is talked about in such cities as Budapest and at the favourite watering places. The next conference of the Alliance will take place in Budapest. The words of Dr. Thekla Hultin, well remembered for her splendid speeches in London and the provinces on behalf of the Women's Freedom League about three years ago, as to the result of the enfranchisement of women, deserve quotation: "Every country, by giving its women full rights of citizenship, will double the number of its defenders in every struggle for freedom and justice."

Two practical contributions deal with Press calumnies and misstatements and suggestions how women can influence the Press. Dr. Käthe Schirmacher advocates organisation by local Suffrage Societies for the supply and control of Suffrage news in local papers, and, in case of refusal, the preparation of lists of subscribers who will withdraw their support. Madame Zeneide Mirovitch, in protesting against the harm done to the Women Suffrage movement by misrepresentation in the Press, declares that among the treacherous friends of the Cause is a Russian journalist in London "who has quite misled public opinion in Russia with regard to the women's militant movement in England, which he always tries to represent as a ridiculous farce." The editor of *Jus Suffragii* welcomes the suggestion of Madame Mirovitch that, taking advantage of the enlargement of the paper, misrepresentations in the Press should be published in its columns with refutations from Suffrage workers.

THE WOMEN OF IRELAND MOVE.

It is welcome news that the Women Suffragists in Ireland are uniting to forward the Cause. At a meeting held recently in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, Irish women from all parts of the country gathered, under the presidency of Mrs. Cope, of Drummilly, Armagh, to discuss the matter. On the motion of Dr. Walkington seconded by Mrs. Hobson, it was resolved that a Union, of Women Suffragists in Ireland be formed "with the object of extending the franchise to women, and of furthering legislation favourable to women." A provisional committee was formed.

"COLONEL ANNE," an ancestor of The Macintosh, was a militant in the days of "gallant Prince Charlie"; her record gives the lie to the statement that women ought not to have the vote because they cannot fight. She was one of the hardest fighters at Culloden, to which battle she went disguised in a kilt. She had the endurance of three soldiers and the daring of a hero. The Duke of Cumberland, according to the old story, said she was the most daring soul he had ever met. He told her husband to look her up.

HOLIDAY IMPRESSIONS OF FRENCH WOMEN.

We really went to see Paris, but our liveliest recollections are of the Frenchwoman. Everywhere she aroused our admiration. At Havre she examined our portmanteaux with far more dispatch and courtesy than the pompous men officials displayed at Southampton on the return journey. We discovered her early in the morning neatly dressed in short skirts and with well-arranged hair, sweeping roads; she drove us in a taxi as dexterously as any of her men colleagues; she always sold us papers from the kiosks, although my father found it difficult to forgive her for offering him the Continental edition of *The Daily Mail* at 1½d. and insisting on making a charge of 3d. for *The Daily News*. He is still puzzled because he could not make her understand that *The New York Herald* was not an equivalent for *The Daily News* when no copies of the latter were available. But the women who sold us peaches from barrows at three sous each, and delicious melons at double that price always restored his good humour. Wherever business was to be done, we found Frenchwomen, many of them excellent linguists, ready to transact it with charming courtesy and intelligence. The French work-girl is a joy to behold. No matter what she does or where she goes, she never looks dowdy or dirty. Her skirts are not frayed at the end, and she always has a clean and dainty underskirt. Everyone seems to live out of doors in the summer, working men's wives, middle class women, and children throng the public gardens morning, afternoon, and early evening. Here they help each other with their needlework, and their conversation is of the brightest. Tennis, diavolo and bowls are evidently favourite games with French girls, who take part in them with perfect grace. August 14 being a *fete* day, crowds of men, women and children, laden with bottles of water and wine (which does not inebriate), yard lengths of bread, and bags of other provisions, early betook themselves by riverboat or tram to St. Cloud, Suresnes, or different parts of the Bois, and there picnicked. They brought the whitest of cloths to spread on the grass under the trees, and afterwards played blind man's buff, rounders, and other old-fashioned games in the most light-hearted manner. In France some things are managed much better than they are in England. The authorities there do not encourage men to go alone into public-houses and leave their wives and children outside. Men take their wives and children with them to drink and have an evening meal at some of the innumerable restaurants where tables are paced out of doors, and no one ever seems to get drunk or to behave badly. Here Frenchwomen show themselves quite cosmopolitan and rarely fail to make some friendly remarks to other women, whatever their nationality, sitting near them. Here also women—French, American, English or German—can and do, come alone to dine without fear of unpleasantness. Frenchmen, we noticed, treat their women with great respect. A Frenchwoman, too, recognises her own value. She is not merely a domestic drudge, but her husband's partner in business considerations and his comrade in other matters. The other morning a middle-aged man and woman walked through the Luxembourg Gardens on their way to work. They were going hand in hand. They did not look ridiculous. A Frenchwoman never does look ridiculous. She knows her genuine worth, and with simple dignity maintains it.

F. A. U.

VITAREGIS
THE CELEBRATED
Sulphur Aperient Water
Removes and prevents Rheumatism,
Neuritis, Gout, and other Uric Acid
Troubles.
OF ALL CHEMISTS.

EXCELLENT
FOR THE
COMPLEXION.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE, Mrs. M. H. FISHER.

SATURDAY, September 2, 1911.

TRADE UNIONISM & THE VOTE.

Not the least remarkable event in the stormy social and political crisis through which we are passing is, as we have tried to show, the sudden and perfectly spontaneous uprising of thousands of women-workers in London. For, let it be clearly understood, the "National Federation of Women Workers" did not call the workers out. It has no special centre in the district where the strife began. The workers in firm after firm appealed to the Federation, told the Committee their grievances, were enrolled as members, and then, with only very few exceptions, acted together as loyal comrades under trusted leaders.

In our last issue an outline of the struggle, with some of its incidents, was given. Our object now is to point out its political significance, and to show how it brings all women face to face with responsibilities which, in the past, they have disastrously neglected.

The political significance! Many of our opponents who have argued that the political enfranchisement of women would not raise their economic status, will accept what has been happening as a further proof of their contention. Men and women have been laying down their tools of trade together—the men in hosts, the women in comparatively small numbers. If political representation could secure economic independence, why do the men resort to such difficult and even dangerous expedients?

To which we answer—first, that the man-worker is only beginning to understand the value and power of the ballot; and, secondly, that his position now, as even the latest events in the labour war have proved, is far more stable than it was in 1819, when Shelley, stirred deeply by the Peterloo massacre in Manchester, wrote his "Mask of Anarchy." Why? Here is a quotation from a Liberal paper last week, which clearly indicates the source of the man-workers' power. It occurs in a relation of the events of Saturday, August 19: "Politically it was obvious, in view of the attitude of the Labour Party, that the Government would fall during the autumn session, if the policy of batons, bayonets and bullets continued over the week-end."

Those who run may read. Surely it must be obvious to all that the political power of male Trade Unions had much to do with the rapid change of policy on the part of the Government. But no one can have studied the economic history of Britain during the last fifty years without seeing the grave differences between men-workers who have the power of the vote, and women-workers who are voteless. The hours of work, the rate of pay, the conditions generally, are, in the case of men, far in advance of those of women; also (and this has a great significance), while the women-workers' status remains where it was, or only changes very little, the position of men shows a distinct and a progressive betterment. The railwaymen are claiming, justly, that their grievances shall be considered. Who hears anything at all of the women employed by the railway companies? If they were represented, surely some word would be spoken for them.

In the schools, in the Post Office, in the Civil Service, women, doing the same work as men, have much smaller salaries; and this is the general rule in all industries where men and women are working together. We have a notable illustration in the cotton trade, where women's deftness of hand makes them peculiarly valuable, and which is considered, for them, one of the best-paid industries. Yet the average pay is fourteen shillings a week—less than that of the unskilled man-worker.

Although these facts cannot be refuted, it may be argued that the higher wages of men are due—first, to their powerful Trades Unions; and, secondly, to the assumption that men have wives and families to support.

A good answer to the first argument is that such powerful Trades Unions as the Textile Weavers and the National Union of Teachers have a large proportion of women-members. The latter union contains no less than 40,000 women, has a woman-president, and yet has failed to establish equal pay for equal work.

With regard to the second argument we answer without hesitation that it has a false basis. Boys receive higher wages than girls; widows are not put on the same scale of payment as men; employers, either public or private, do not, so far as we can learn, in making arrangements with their workers, enquire as to the home responsibilities of the persons asking for work. This claim that men should be paid more than women because they are bread-winners is a shoddy sentimentality that should be swept away. It is worse than stupid; it is dangerous, because it fosters the fatal error that women are, and ought to be, economically dependent upon men; and that such work as they are permitted to do, we presume for the convenience of men, should be done by permission, and strictly regulated.

Even to write such words makes the gorge of a woman rise and her heart swell with indignation. But let anyone who has noted some recent industrial legislation, or who is aware of what is being planned by certain statesmen, dare to say that it is not true!

It should also be generally known that in countries where women have secured the vote the stupid illusion of bread-winning man has vanished, and business considerations have determined that the wages should be paid for work, not sex.

A clever American, whom I once knew, an employer of female labour in the days before the woman's movement had grown strong, when asked if women were as effective as men, answered, with his inscrutable smile: "I really don't ask whether my workers are men or women. It doesn't interest me. I get the best I can, and I pay them well, and my business is going ahead."

Let it be understood that we do not depreciate Trades Unions. On the contrary, we believe in them; indeed, it is our strong desire that the women-workers of the country shall, as speedily as may be, organise themselves in unions and federations, for these will form the machinery through which they can make the vote effective. Has it not been so with men? We have it on the authority of such a recognised political economist as Mr. Sidney Webb, that since their emancipation the wages of the men-workers have increased from 50 to 100 per cent., and we know that a still greater rise is imminent. During that time the wages of the woman-worker have remained practically stationary.

It may be said that although small gains have been obtained, the position of the hand-labourer is still practically serfdom. This we will not attempt to argue out. We would merely ask: Has the man-worker made the best possible use of his political weapon?

There can be but one answer. He has not. Oftener than not he has been the victim of illusions. Over and over again, like the dog in the fable, he has sacrificed substance for shadow, while, until the passing of the "Corrupt Practices Bill," bribery and corruption flourished so shamelessly that every vote had a recognised monetary value.

It is our hope and belief that when women obtain the vote, their practical instinct will prompt them to make a wiser use of it.

There is another point to be considered. The mere possession of the vote, by the political status it gives to the possessor, commands respect.

The recent labour troubles illustrate this. Nothing has been more remarkable in the late strikes than the respect shown by Cabinet Ministers to the men's leaders and the Labour Party in Parliament. No such con-

sideration was shown to the women-strikers. If a politician consents to receive a deputation or to ask a question in the House, it is done, not as acknowledging a right, but as granting a favour.

In view of all this, and bearing in mind the agitation that has begun amongst the women-workers, but which has not yet, by any manner of means, run its course, what should the attitude of women-suffragists be?

I answer unhesitatingly that what we have first to do is to grasp more firmly than ever the fact of our deep responsibility. This should appeal to all women.

We have read, we have heard, perhaps some of us may have known something about the lives of those sisters of ours who are working to provide us with many of the things, the use of which has become like second nature to us—biscuits, chocolates, cakes, sweets, mineral waters, jams. We buy them; we place them on our tables; many of our children are taught, before eating, to say their little grace. Their grace! Ah! we need to teach ourselves, and to teach them, another sort of thanksgiving; and, with it, we who have grown up in the midst of these horrors, and whose eyes have been holden so that we have not perceived them, a prayer for pardon. For we are verily guilty concerning our sister.

It needs an uprising like that at Bermondsey, with its appalling revelations, to make us even faintly realise what is going on around us, or at what a costly price our luxuries are bought.

But, having realised, shall we not, must we not, work, strive, agonise—for such law, such consideration, such justice, as will give to women's work its true value, and make it possible for her, as well as for her brother, to lead a noble, human life? C. DESPARD.

ON THE LIBRARY TABLE.

AN IMPROBABLE COMEDY.*

The Master of Mrs. Chilvers is certainly an "improbable comedy." We have Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's word for it, and one cannot help agreeing with the author's descriptive sub-title of the play recently published in book-form by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin.

When it appeared upon the stage in the early part of this year, there was a rush of "first nighters" to see it. The public took it for granted that Mr. Jerome, who had been seen and heard upon Suffrage platforms, had written a Suffrage play. Some of them came away disappointed; others, with a curious sort of diffidence of their own powers of judgment, and with a perplexed and confused idea at the back of their brains that, if Mr. Jerome had not clearly preached Suffrage, he had meant to do so, said that it was "very clever, and just what they would have expected of a humourist like the author of 'Three Men in a Boat.'" Such a pious expression of opinion, of course, committed them to nothing. A few of the critics—and one or two who ought to have known better—really accepted the play as a brief for Woman Suffrage, and utterly failed to discern what ought to have been patent to any unbiased observer, that *The Master of Mrs. Chilvers* was evidently written with the author's tongue in his cheek.

The fact that Mr. Jerome was "poking fun" at some of us seems to have been realised by a small minority who, no doubt, excused him on the plea that there is no harm in laughing at individual exponents of a cause, so long as one is in real sympathy with the cause itself. Writing from the reviewer's point of view, I am not, of course, concerned here with the impression the play made—or may not have made—upon the public. Reading it in cold print, one is not in the least confused by the battledore and shuttlecock methods of argument which the Suffragists and "antis" engage in during the four acts of the play. Mr. Jerome evidently thinks there is something to be said for Woman Suffrage from

* "The Master of Mrs. Chilvers: An Improbable Comedy." By Jerome K. Jerome. (T. Fisher Unwin. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

the point of view of poetic justice. Like many other persons who, from the accepted platform of man's august supremacy, have voiced an indulgent—a very indulgent—sympathy with women's industrial and political aspirations, the author appears to express through his play the opinion that no one can logically deny that women are entitled to vote—or even sit in the House of Commons; that man's sense of justice will possibly and probably lead him into the generous granting of these privileges (?), but that when the inevitable happens—God help us!

It may be argued that the writer of a play does not identify himself with the opinions of his characters. This, of course, is true; but when a play is written on a subject like Woman Suffrage, which is not an academic question, but one which has been engaging the attention of the whole country during the past six years, and which has been fraught with political interest and excitement, serious official action, and great human suffering, then it may be taken for granted that the author intended to convey some sort of moral—to do something more than merely raise a laugh—otherwise it would be no laughing matter.

The plot turns upon the Parliamentary candidature of Mrs. Annys Chilvers, honorary secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Franchise League, who is opposing her husband, Geoffrey Chilvers, in a bye-election contest. Geoffrey, who is President of the Men's League for the Extension of the Franchise to Women, is, we are told by Mr. Jerome, "like many other good men in sympathy with the Woman's Movement, not thinking it is coming in his time." The unexpected happens. Mrs. Annys is elected Member for East Poplar, but at the last moment, and evidently about an hour after her election, she discovers that she is to become a mother. The heavens do not fall. Mrs. Annys, instead, gracefully retires in favour of her husband, and the curtain falls on a happy and reconciled pair.

The situation is very thrilling; at any rate, it is very "Jeromesque." The husband has regained his mastery, and can afford to kiss and croon over his wife, and to reassure her by patting her on the back when she whispers: "It's only fair to warn you, when I'm strong and can think again, I shall still want the vote."

Although Mr. Jerome sets out by calling his comedy "an improbability," one cannot get away from the conclusion that he is trying—albeit in a somewhat clumsy way—to teach Suffragists a lesson. They may go so far, but they must not go too far. He cannot disconnect Woman Suffrage from sex antagonism and Elizabeth Spender, the honorary treasurer of the W.P.F.L., who sometimes talks sense, and sometimes nonsense, who flouts the men and holds them up to ridicule, and who is represented as a tall, thin woman, with severe features, primly-arranged hair, wearing the inevitable "tailor-made" and plain black hat, is intended, evidently, as the "awful personification" of this sex antagonism.

Some of the characters, it must be admitted, give expression to sentiments which only those heartily in sympathy with the true and inner meaning of the Suffrage movement could be expected to utter; yet, somehow, the sentiment of sympathy throughout the play does not ring true. *The Master of Mrs. Chilvers*, in my opinion, is excellent propaganda for anti-Suffragists. If it is intended as a Suffrage play, it is a case of "save us from our friends!"

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

The August number of *Jus Suffragii*, which is particularly interesting, can now be obtained from this department, price 4d. Also the Presidential Address delivered at Stockholm to the Sixth Convention of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 1911, by Mrs. Chapman Catt, price 1d.

EILEEN MITCHELL.

ONE of the most useful ways in which you can help us is to get your newsagent to display a poster of THE VOTE every week.

THE YOUNG IDEA. A MODERN LOVE STORY.

BY C. DESPARD.

CHAPTER II.

To these two young people—Mary and John—the next was a difficult day. Mary perhaps was the calmer of the two. For, acting on her father's advice, she had made up her mind; she knew that John would put to her the most momentous question man can put to woman, and she knew how she would answer it. In the depths of her soul she thanked her wise father for not having allowed her to be taken by surprise. Nevertheless, her business, which was taking short-hand notes from the head of a great commercial firm, seemed unusually difficult, and she was glad when she was released.

Her hours were from ten to one. It was a brilliant day in early spring, and she enjoyed a smart walk from Fleet Street to Charing Cross. There she lunched and then spent an hour at her club, reading papers and discussing politics with some friends in the Suffrage movement who were present.

Once or twice she wondered why the day seemed so long.

She would have been amused, perhaps compassionate, had she known how very much longer it seemed to John. Indeed, he had not been himself all day. His junior could not understand what ailed him. "That irritable!" he said, later. "Absent, too! Why, if I hadn't reminded him of things—and left to the minute."

John's minute was later than Mary's. He left the office, when no special business detained him, at five.

A little after six he was at the door of Mary's home. He had bought some beautiful white lilies on the way; but he did not like to take them to the study. He offered them to Mary's mother, whom he met in the little hall, and asked her to put them on the supper-table. She thanked him, and opened the door of the study. "You will find my husband there, as usual," she said.

Mary was helping to lay out the supper-table. She, too, had bought flowers—Neapolitan violets and sweet Roman hyacinths. "Oh!" she cried, as her mother came in with the lilies. "How lovely! Where did they come from?"

"John brought them for the supper-table he said. It was very thoughtful and kind of him."

"But very extravagant," said Mary, smiling. "Is he with father now?"

Before there was time for a reply, Mary's father walked into the dining-room.

"Mary," said he, coming straight over to his daughter, and kissing her on the forehead, "John is waiting for you in the study."

"But I thought—" began Mary, flushing painfully.

"Yes, I know, dear," interrupted her father. "But John wishes to see you alone. And I think, after all, it is better so."

"Very well," said Mary; and, after waiting a moment to recover her composure, she walked calmly out of the room.

When she had gone husband and wife looked at each other. The joy of their own betrothal flashed into their minds; and during the silent embrace which followed, each breathed a prayer for Mary's happiness.

Time passed. The supper-table was laid, John's lilies making a brave show. Scarcely a word had been spoken since their daughter had left the room; and every moment they expected a radiant young couple to walk in and announce their joy. But the minutes went by and still they did not come.

At last a man's hurried footsteps were heard, followed by an impatient tugging at the hall door, then a loud bang, whose reverberation shook the house. It could mean only one thing, surely! There was, however,

no time for futile speculation, for almost immediately Mary entered the room—alone.

A red spot burned conspicuously in each cheek, her eyes were brighter than they had ever been before. Never had she looked so handsome.

"He's gone—for good," she cried, almost gaily. "And now let us begin supper, for I'm desperately hungry."

"Very well, dear," said her mother, tactfully; and the three sat down to the table.

Not until the meal was over was broached the subject uppermost in their minds. Then Mary, pushing back her chair, and turning sideways, began almost defiantly:

"Of course you want to know what happened?"

Not liking the tone, neither parent replied; and Mary continued in a voice which she tried hard to make matter-of-fact.

"He said he loved me"—bitterly—"and asked me to marry him. I was quite honest with him. I said I cared for him, and had done so for a long time—probably before he had begun to think of me in that way."

"Then why," said her mother, "did he go away?"

Mary laughed. But the laugh was not pleasant to hear.

"Our views with regard to wifehood differed. John prides himself on his modernity. His ideas in general are very broad; in particular they are extremely narrow. . . . When I told him I should expect to retain my economic independence after marriage he stared."

"I don't wonder, dear," gently interpellated her mother. "Such a thing never entered my head, and nobody ever had a happier marriage."

"But Mary is quite right," said her father, after giving his wife a loving smile. "It's the principle one should think of."

Mary glanced gratefully at her father, but quickly looked away again.

"When I pointed out to him that the household duties I should be expected to perform would take up a great deal of my time, and that time so spent had a monetary value, he quite agreed."

"Well, then?" interrupted her mother.

"Then I said I should, of course, continue the membership of my club. And that"—with perfect composure—"was fatal. . . . John doesn't believe in married women having clubs. I asked if he intended to give up his club when he married, and . . . oh, you should have seen his face! It really was too funny. In spite of his modernity, John is delightfully early Victorian. That, he said, was quite a different matter. Masculine selfishness always is, but he said it was babies."

Mary's mother looked shocked; but catching her husband's eye, which enjoined silence, she said nothing.

"I told him that I loved babies—that I hoped we should have some; but that I did not intend to let even babies take up the whole of my time. If there was any special reason to keep me at home—illness, for instance—I should, of course, not dream of leaving the house. Otherwise, if I wanted to go to my club I should go. Not every night; perhaps not once in a fortnight. But in any case there must be no restraint upon my liberty of action. He tried to make me see what he called 'reason'; which turned out to be neither more nor less than the point of view of the average man upon any question which threatens his own domination. And when I made a gentle, but firm, stand upon the subject I had raised, he said something about 'unwomanly' and 'unnatural,' and flung himself out of the house."

"My dear, you could expect nothing else," said her mother. "Men are men."

"And women are women," finished her daughter, bitterly. Whereat her mother, deeply offended at what she considered Mary's untimely levity, quietly left the room.

But Mary's flippancy hid a sore heart. The

account she had given of her conversation with John, though perfectly true in substance, did not convey the true atmosphere of that very momentous interview. Her manner throughout, though instinct with real dignity, had been so deeply affected by the love she felt for the man before her, that he was deceived into thinking her nature more pliable than her words warranted. When, after much persuasion, her determination still remained unaltered, his manly pride insisted that he should be at least equally firm, and so he had taken an indignant departure.

"What do you think, father?" said Mary, when they were alone.

"I don't see how you could have acted differently. But I am disappointed in John. And," stroking her hand fondly, "I hope you will not be very unhappy, darling."

"Oh, no," she returned, quite cheerfully. Then, kissing her father good-night, she ran off to her own room.

Once there, her tears fell unrestrained and she did not attempt to check them. She knew it was better they should come. After that night, Mary made a solemn pact with herself, she would forget, as far as was humanly possible, that she had ever known John. As her father had said, marriage should not be a question of personal happiness merely. There was the new world to think of. And if, in planting the banner of womanhood high, she had been hurt rather badly, that was merely the fortune of war. Freedom's dawn would break presently and be all the brighter for the present darkness.

Mary kept her word. In the days that followed, her energy was indefatigable. She rose earlier than usual, and spent every moment of the day as strenuously as possible. Her manner to her mother was gentler than it had ever been before; her gaiety became so infectious that she was in danger of acquiring a reputation for wit. That Cupid had aimed a poisoned arrow at her heart, and that it had struck deeply, nobody ever suspected.

And John? What of him? His manly pride having been deeply wounded at the way in which Mary had received his declaration of love, he was unable for a day or two to feel anything keenly but indignation.

But John's temperament was naturally calm. His anger quickly evaporated, only, however, to give place to the more painful feeling of hopeless love. Yes, that must be it. Mary did not love him, or she would never have made such preposterous demands. He must put her out of his head once and for all.

That, however, he found to be no easy matter. In spite of his resolve, Mary was continually in his thoughts.

The pain at his heart grew fiercer. People began to comment upon his altered appearance. His chief spoke to him kindly, and suggested a holiday—a sea voyage might set him up, for anybody could see that he was not in his normal health.

That was the last straw. Being a prudent man, John faced the matter squarely. For the hundredth time he went over in his mind his last interview with Mary. He examined her arguments in the light of reason, and admitted, this time ungrudgingly, that they were unanswerable. He had known it, of course, all along; but—At this point in his reflections John's face burned. Being constrained to admit that the assumption of masculine superiority was absolutely untenable, and that it had doubtless originated in a lust for power, was not pleasant thinking.

The next step was to see Mary. But perhaps she would refuse to see him? He remembered how he had left her that night, and felt humbled to the dust. He conjured up her face as he now knew it had looked, though at the time his pride had blinded him. Her sweet eyes had shone with love, though she had never faltered in her high resolve. And the banner of her cause had remained where she had planted it—unsmirched and fluttering freely.

John hid him to his desk. In a long letter he poured

out his soul to the woman he loved. Nothing was kept back. He told what a bitter fight he had waged with the unworthy pride that was at last laid low. This, and much more, ending with a passionate plea for forgiveness.

He went out and posted his letter. Then, as it was nearly midnight, betook himself to his bed. But not to sleep. During the long night hours there was only one thought uppermost in his mind: Would she forgive him? And if not—?

He rose early, though he dreaded the hours that must pass before it was possible to receive an answer to his letter. If she wrote by return he would get it when he came in that evening from the office.

All the way up to town the thought that had kept him awake during the night continued to beat itself into his brain.

When he arrived at the office a telegram awaited him on his desk. With unsteady fingers he tore it open and read:—

Supper as usual at eight.—MARY.

He glanced furtively round the empty room, then, lifting the paper to his lips, ejaculated a fervent "Thank God!"

THE PERSIAN PARLIAMENT SHIVERS!

The very mention of the right of Persian women to the vote made the Persian Parliament shiver a few days ago, but if only Persia is allowed to work out her own salvation without outside interference, a different attitude with regard to women may be expected. The country is emerging from religious as well as political tyranny, and a wider, truer interpretation of the Koran is the characteristic which marks the significant progress now to be observed among Moslems in whatever country they are found. We recently published the particulars of an offer made by a Mahomedan reformer to anyone who could prove that the Koran or the traditions of the prophet sanctioned the custom of the seclusion of women. The Moslem world is moving away from its old and narrow attitude, and the incident in the Persian Parliament is specially significant, even though the assembly, including the religious leaders, turned in horror from the bold suggestion that women should have votes.

Yet the suggestion was made and strongly advocated by Hadji Vakil el Rooy, a deputy who takes his duties very seriously. He appealed to the religious leaders to support him, but was told that women are the weaker sex, and, having less intelligence than men, should not meddle with politics. Even the President asked that the official reporters should take no notice of the incident. All honour to the courageous deputy who dared to champion the woman's Cause; the strength of the opposition is the measure of his daring. It is only a question of patience and perseverance. Persia is endeavouring to find herself; she will discover that she only finds herself truly when she realises that the nation includes women as well as men.

WOMEN IN TEXAS.

The women of Texas are said to be rapidly falling into the ranks of the advocates of votes for women. In one Texas city, it is pointed out, all the male property owners were consulted before certain improvement bonds were voted upon, but not a single woman was consulted, in spite of the fact that several of the largest taxpayers were women. In another city, before laying car tracks along certain streets, the consent of all the men owning property was gained. The women property owners were unnoticed until the time came for a tax assessment.

These Texas women also pointed out that it is the custom for the wife or daughter of a business man to go to the collector's office to pay the taxes of her father or husband. In doing this she stands in line with the Mexicans, negroes, and any and all who come. The women ask why, if it is degrading for a woman to go to the polls, where she will be thrown in with the same motley crowd, no objection has been found to sending them to the collector's office?

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SELL?—If so, advertise it in our Bargain Columns. You will thus be doing yourself and the Cause a good turn.

HOLIDAY CAMPAIGNS. THE CARAVAN.

On Monday, August 21, we walked over to Boreham to visit Miss Aves, an ardent supporter of the cause. We were driven back to Chelmsford by a keen W.F.L. member, Miss Hodgson, who runs a fruit farm at Boreham. She also came to tea with us in the van on Monday, when our Ingatstone friends came over too, and supported us once again at our evening meeting. It was not a big audience, as we were prohibited from chalking the pavements, and there were but few people about when we "town cried" the meeting in the morning. Also it was a stormy evening. However, those who gathered round were interested, and gave well to the collection.

We moved on to Witham on Tuesday morning, and soon got a nice pitch in a meadow belonging to two ladies who said, "They did not believe in the militant methods, but that was no reason why we should not live in their field!" We had a very good meeting that night for such a small place, and though the boys made themselves a nuisance, after their manner, we got much sympathy from the grown-ups; next night the police kept the youthful portion of the audience in better order. On Thursday afternoon we had a delightful surprise. The Misses Rock, our W.S.P.U. friends from Ingatstone, came over to see us once more before we got too far afield for them. Miss Chappelow, another W.S.P.U. member, had ridden over from Hatfield Peverel the night before, and also came again that evening. They all arrived laden with delicacies for the caravanners—fruit, honey, home-made jam and cakes, biscuits, bottles of coffee and limejuice; also two baked puddings, all of which were very welcome additions to our larder. At the meeting these three benefactresses acted as preservers of the peace so effectually that the little hooligans were literally removed bodily from the meeting, much to their dismay! On Friday morning we moved on to Mark's Tey, but finding it had only 650 inhabitants scattered over a wide district, we left a copy of THE VOTE at each cottage, and decided to move on to Coggeshall the next day.

Miss Lily Elderton joined us on Friday night and remained with the Van on Saturday whilst Miss Sidley and I proceeded to Coggeshall. It was very lucky that she was in charge on this occasion, instead of the Van being left to its fate as usual, for in starting out of the field of stubble where we had pitched, the horse fell down in a furrow, and broke one of the shafts. Miss Elderton was able to give some valuable advice to the men who valiantly came to her assistance in this emergency. Thanks to their timely aid, the shaft was bound up sufficiently for the journey, and as the horse was very quiet and sensible, he did not get injured by the splintered wood, before they could get him on his feet again. It being Saturday all the men seemed to have gone to Colchester, and nobody was able to give us permission to occupy a meadow. However, at last we found one woman willing to take upon herself the responsibility! We are now pitched in a very nice field on the Braintree road, and are much in evidence, arousing great interest among the motorists and others. The townspeople are most friendly and interested. We were obliged to chalk our meeting before obtaining the requisite permission to use the Market Hill, but when the controller of the square returned, he came to our meeting and was most gracious and affable. In fact, we had a complete bodyguard round our waggon of "all the principal Liberals of the place" (as I was told afterwards) who were very enthusiastic in their praise of Miss Sidley's speech, although she waxed eloquent over Mr. Lloyd George's delinquencies and Mr. John Burns's insincerity! We had a very large audience, and the police were excellent at keeping order when one or two men attempted to create a disturbance. We are very pleased with our reception here, especially as this is the first "Votes for Women" meeting ever held in Coggeshall! We were informed beforehand that political speakers have even been rushed into the river here when they did not meet with the approval of the crowd! We are looking forward to some more good meetings here next week, before we leave for Braintree.

BROADSTAIRS.

Broadstairs, during the month of August, has been full of sunshine and the suffrage question. Mr. Simpson, of the Men's League, very kindly gave up a part of a brief holiday to address the crowds of pleasure-seekers upon the sands. His most interesting speech was received with great attention, question time being prolonged and lively. THE VOTE has been sold daily on the Jetty and elsewhere, and many regular customers obtained.

Last week we were delighted to welcome Mrs. How Martyn. Her summary of the arguments for Votes for Women was greatly appreciated by an interested audience upon the sands, many of those present being sympathisers, who seized the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the subject. Before returning to town the same evening Mrs. How Martyn spoke at a second gathering in the High-street. Collections were taken and many copies of THE VOTE and pamphlets sold. Most welcome support has been given by a number of our members and friends from Margate and Ramsgate.

I should be very glad if any sympathisers intending to visit Broadstairs or already arrived, and willing to help, would write to me at the office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, or at Eagle House, Broadstairs. E. KNIGHT.



FOR
EARLY
AUTUMN.

WILLIAM
OWEN

WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.



SMART VISITING
COSTUME, in Navy
Suiting, Coat piped
Cerise, with Oriental
Trimming on Collar,
and lined White
Satin. The Skirt is
the newest shape,
with loose panel
back, and trimmed
Black Buttons.

£5 15s. 6d.

"The Durlleston."

SELECTIONS
SENT ON
APPROVAL.

WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.

AN ANSWER TO THE "ANTIS."

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested to see how ably a member of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Eunice J. Murray, a valiant fighter for the cause, dealt with the suggestion of a Referendum on the Women's Bill. The following letter from her appeared prominently in *The Glasgow Herald* a few days ago:—

"Surely the 124 members of Parliament who have signed the letter addressed to the Prime Minister, a copy of which is to be found in your paper of to-day, have not seriously considered the Suffragist's demands for the immediate passing of the Conciliation Bill. They say: 'They desire to point out that the anxiety of Suffragists to obtain further facilities for their Bill is clearly due to the fact that they are afraid of the people, and desire to use the machinery of the Parliament Act in order to carry Women's Suffrage without reference to the electors.' May I point out that the anxiety of the Suffragists to have the Bill made law is that they are weary of asking for justice? They are weary of laying their case before the people. In each Parliament since 1868 Woman Suffrage Bills have been discussed and voted upon. In every Parliament for the last twenty-five years these Bills have passed by large majorities, and now we are only asking in Mr. Asquith's own words that 'the will of the people shall prevail.' The people elect the Members of Parliament; the majority of these have declared themselves in favour of women's suffrage, and our demand is Let the will of the people then prevail.

"These 124 members in their letter go on to say 'that the majority of men and women in the United Kingdom are opposed to women's suffrage.' They have not proved it. This year in the streets of London, seven miles of women walked five abreast asking for the vote and for the passing of the Conciliation Bill. Beside them paraded twelve sandwichmen bearing the legend 'Women don't want the Vote.' 'Don't they?' shouted one man; 'let them prove it; looks to me as though they did.' Yes, women want the vote, and mean to have it; but let me point out that mere numbers prove nothing. How many men would be voting to-day had they waited for every man to be unanimous in his desire for an extension of the franchise? A reform is granted, not when every one is clamouring for the reform, but when a sufficient number are determined to have it. Thus the University doors were opened to women, not because every woman in the land sought admittance, but because some were resolute in their determination to enter its portals. The slave was freed not when every slave cried for freedom, but when the minority were willing to sacrifice all to win freedom for the rest.

"As regards the vote, the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone, when enfranchising the agricultural labourer in 1834, declared, 'It is a matter of indifference to me whether two men or two million desire the vote; if two men desire it and can prove their right to it—it justifies me in giving it to all.' On another occasion he declared—'If they don't want the vote, all the more reason for me to force it upon them. The vote is the greatest education a person can have, and if they don't want it they ought to have it in order that they may realise their duty as citizens of their country.'

"The 124 members end their letter by appealing to the Government not to commit themselves to supporting the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. May I end my letter by appealing to the Government to help us? Let them put their own Liberal principles into practice, and let them remember, in the words of Macaulay, 'Happy is the Government which anticipates the wishes of the governed, which concedes a right before it is wrested from them.'—I am, &c., EUNICE J. MURRAY."

A WOMAN INSURANCE BROKER.

Miss Ida Blanchard Lewis, of New York, is a successful insurance broker. Like many business men and women, she began as an agent for an insurance firm, being occupied in its affairs through the day, and studying the working methods of insurance companies during the evenings. "I decided to dare further," said Miss Lewis, "and finding that there was no woman broker in New York, no insurance department controlled exclusively by women, and being a Suffragist, and seeing a fair amount of business waiting for me, I began my career as a broker. I have never regretted it, though my working day has anything but an eight-hour limit." Miss Blanchard finds that women are increasingly anxious to give their patronage to other women.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JULIA WARD HOWE

The Rhome Council of Italian Women recently held a meeting in Rome in memory of Julia Ward Howe. *The Christian Science Monitor* says: "Some day, when her life is seen in its true perspective, she will doubtless be honoured more than she was during her life, or is now, for her principles and her deeds in connection with hospitality shown to emigrants from Europe to America. She opened her heart and home to Italians, Greeks, Armenians and Syrians. Consequently the fame of her has gone abroad in a unique way. The Italian Council of Women could not have evaded recognition of her worth and retained a reputation for gratitude."

BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Anerley and Crystal Palace.—Hon. Sec.: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

All those who would like to spend an enjoyable afternoon and evening at a small cost should come to the Garden Medley next Tuesday, September 5, 3-10 p.m. (if wet Thursday, September 7), at 149, Croydon-road. Tickets 6d. each. Refreshments, home-made cakes, sweets, and fancy articles will be sold at popular prices. Among the attractions are good concerts, amusing competitions, and side-shows; also a ladies' orchestra, which will play at intervals. Last, but not least, the garden will be illuminated at dusk. Will all sympathisers do their best to come if only for a short time, and bring their "anti" friends to show them that Suffragettes can play as well as work? Last Wednesday at The Triangle, Fenge, we had the assistance of Mr. Victor Prout, who succeeded in making a rather frivolous crowd realise the seriousness of the woman's movement. We shall be there on September 6 at 7.30 p.m.

Hamptstead.

A very successful open-air meeting was held at the Flagstaff on Tuesday, August 15. Miss Fennings spoke, and Miss Lucas took the chair. Great interest was shown in the speeches, and at the close of the meeting a number of quite intelligent questions were put. A good collection was taken—thanks to the efforts of the Misses Rochford. Meetings at this pitch are now held only once a month.

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: MRS. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

The meeting in Hyde-park on Sunday was somewhat spoiled by the non-arrival of the lorry. Mr. Kennedy, of the Men's League, who was one of the speakers, proved equal to the occasion, and hunted up a platform. He put the case for the enfranchisement of women from the man's point of view in a very convincing manner. As it had been announced the previous Sunday that Mrs. Cobden Sanderson was to speak, a group of Americans gathered to hear her; her spirited and witty remarks delighted the audience, especially when she observed that the Home Office (emphasizing the word "Home") would be better for a little womanly supervision. The resolution was carried without opposition, and donations sufficient to cover the expenses of the meeting were given. Copies of THE VOTE were eagerly bought.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.—Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

Suffragists in the neighbourhood of Stoke-on-Trent are asked to remember the Church Congress Campaign, October 2-6. In addition to office meetings and open-air meetings (daily at 12 o'clock) there will be a stall of literature in the Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition. Mrs. Conran, Glandown, Hack Wood-road, has kindly offered her garden for an afternoon meeting at Basingstoke on September 6, when the Rev. C. Hinscliff will be the principal speaker. A garden meeting will be held on Saturday, September 16 (3 to 8 p.m.), at 4, Priory-road, Kew, by kind permission of Miss Hartley. This is a special attempt to raise funds for C.L.W.S. headquarters, and Mrs. Clayton, Glengariff, Kew-road, Richmond, will be glad of any help which Suffragists and their friends can give. Arrangements are being made to establish the League in Woking, Chelmsford, and Sittingbourne, where meetings will be held in October.

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.—Hon. Secretary: MISS KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park, N. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MONICA WHATELY, 75, Harcourt-terrace, The Boltons, London, S.W.

All Catholics are invited to join this society, and are asked to communicate with the hon. secretary or treasurer. We shall be glad to have offers of help for our autumn campaign. Funds are also needed. We have a pretty button-badge in our colours—pale blue, white and gold—for sale for the small sum of 2d.; also pamphlets, "The Views of the late Cardinals Moran and Vaughan on Woman Suffrage," published N.U.W.S.S., price 1d., which are especially useful for giving to priests.

The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.—Hon. Secretaries: MISS GLADYS WRIGHT, B.A.; MISS JEAN FORSYTH, 8, Park-mansions-arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W.

We have had a most successful week in Lowestoft and district. Meetings at The Triangle, addressed by Mrs. Clarkson-Swam and Miss Rose Lightman have been greatly appreciated. At Oulton Broad and Corton large gatherings have listened attentively to excellent speeches. Meetings will be held this week at The Triangle, and at the East Anglian Hall, where the Mayor of Lowestoft has promised to take the chair. The canvass of the residents is bringing good results. Next week we hope to reopen our campaign in Mid-Norfolk. Money is still needed to carry on this most important work, and again we appeal to our members and friends to help us during the next few months by generous donations to the £100 fund, and to remember this excellent opportunity of getting new members for our society.

MISS MALECKA: UNDER WHICH LAW?

We are glad to see that a further move has been made with regard to the case of Miss Malecka, and it is to be hoped that Sir Edward Grey will be compelled to abandon the almost hopeless attitude he assumed when he was last questioned in the House of Commons. Mr. Philip Morrell and Mr. Noel Buxton have presented to him a petition signed by one hundred and twelve Members of Parliament of all parties. It is a brief document; it emphasises the outstanding facts of the case—namely, that Miss Malecka is by British law a British subject, that she has now been imprisoned in a Russian gaol for more than four months without trial, that no particulars of the charge against her have been given, and that no date has been fixed for her trial. It is declared that "the time has now come when His Majesty's Government should take all possible steps, in accordance with pledges already given, to secure her speedy trial or release." The Foreign Minister admitted these facts, but he sat down quietly under the decision of the Russian Government that Miss Malecka was a Russian subject. It is exceedingly doubtful how this can be legally proved, but at any rate there is another side of the question. According to British law she is a British subject, and should have the protection which British law affords. When we hear that she may be dealt with by administrative order, and not in open court, and understand that she is still suffering rigorous imprisonment, we are moved to indignation in knowing that British pressure on behalf of a British subject has been so futile. Can we imagine such supineness in the case of a man? A woman, however, cannot bring the direct pressure of the vote. It remains to be seen whether one hundred and twelve Members of Parliament can move two great Governments to deal justly by a woman.

A NOVEL departure in Suffragette propaganda is to be a weekly newspaper printed altogether on the Braille system for the blind, as the movement has a large number of sympathisers amongst persons so afflicted.—*Evening News.*

THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH

Is in complete sympathy with women in their struggle for political, social, and industrial liberty;

It stands alone in religious journalism in the strong line it has taken in supporting the suffrage agitation.

It gives special attention every week to women's affairs, from the feminist standpoint, in a personal column, "From the Turret."

Among the Contributors are:—

Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, M.A.; Rev. K. C. ANDERSON, D.D., Dundee; Rev. Prof. T. K. CHEYNE, F.B.A., D.D., Oxford; Rev. Prof. DUFF, M.A., D.D., LL.D., Bradford; Prof. L. P. JACKS, M.A. (Editor of *Hibbert Journal*), Oxford; Very Rev. G. W. KITCHIN, D.D., Dean of Durham; Rev. E. W. LEWIS, M.A., B.D., Miss MARGARET McMILLAN; Rev. W. E. ORCHARD, D.D.; Mr. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P., and Mrs. SNOWDEN; Rev. J. M. LLOYD THOMAS, Nottingham; Mr. and Mrs. SIDNEY WEBB; Rev. T. RHONDDA WILLIAMS, Brighton.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH

Editor, MR. ALBERT DAWSON. Every Wednesday, 1d.
133, SALISBURY-SQUARE, FLEET-STREET, E.C.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**LONDON.**

Thurs., Aug. 31.—161, Croxted-road, Dulwich, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m.
Tottenham Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 1.—1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee.
West Norwood Fountain, 8 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.

Sat., Sept. 2.—1, Robert-street, 10.30 a.m. National Executive Committee.

Sun., Sept. 3.—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Miss Anna Munro. Chair, Miss Busby.

Tues., Sept. 5.—Garden Medley, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 3 to 10 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 10.—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Miss Nina Boyle.

Sun., Sept. 17.—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Mrs. Tanner.

Sun., Sept. 24.—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

Mid-London Branch "At Home," Caxton Hall, 4 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Tite, Miss Nina Boyle.

Thurs., Sept. 28.—Hackney Branch "At Home," 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

Wed., Oct. 4.—Small Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. G. K. Chesterton on "Female Suffrage—The Last Blow to Democracy."

Tues., Oct. 10.—Highbury Branch "At Home." Mrs. Despard, Mr. H. G. Chancellor.

Wed., Oct. 11.—Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, 8 p.m. S. K. Ratcliffe, Esq., "The New Puritanism."

Thurs., Oct. 19.—Hampstead Branch "At Home."

Mon., Oct. 23.—Herne Hill Branch "At Home."

PROVINCES.

Wed., Aug. 30.—Caravan Meetings, Braintree.

Sat., Sept. 2.—Caravan Meetings, Great Dunmow.

Sat., Sept. 9.—Caravan Meetings, Bishop's Stortford.

Mon., Sept. 25.—Bournemouth, St. Peter's Hall, 8 p.m. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," by Mrs. Despard.

AN "ANTI" VICAR AND "THE VOTE."

An energetic band of VOTE sellers, including Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Thomson, Miss Dickeson, and several small children, did excellent service at the Co-operative Festival at the Hampstead Garden Suburb last Saturday. The anti-Suffragist vicar could not withstand Mrs. How Martyn's appeal, and ventured to buy THE VOTE. Canon Barnett was a willing purchaser. The poster, "Women Strikers" attracted much attention.

MISS NELLIE M. CASEY, in a paper presented at the Convention of the American Nurses' Association, entitled "How One Small Community is Solving its Tuberculosis Problem," said that the ladies of the town had just organised a civic club, which was so anxious to get to work that it had already had a "Clean-up Day," and 800 cartloads of refuse and rubbish were moved outside the town limits to be burnt.—*British Journal of Nursing.*

'SAME AS LAST COALS' Thus writes an Editor to W. Clarke and Son.

William CLARKE & SON,

541, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.
95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.

Phones: 628 North, 1592 North, 729 Western, 565 Paddington, &c., &c.
DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

Stove Cobbles 18/6 Special House 22/6 Best Household 23/-
Roaster Nuts 19/6 Large Kitchen 19/- Silkstone 24/-

Floral Artists to
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

CHARLES WOOD & SON

(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD),
23, HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER
SQUARE, LONDON, W.

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or
Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut
Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Estab. 1850.

232A Road.

Estimates Free.

Window Boxes, &c.