

THE COMMON CAUSE, FEBRUARY 2, 1911.

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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FEBRUARY 2, 1911.

ONE PENNY.



THE CHILD. By Roger Bloch.

Notes and Comments.

The Head of Our Office.

It very frequently happens that certain individuals, just because they are so indispensable and fundamental, are taken for granted, as we are apt to take for granted our food and air. We are quite sure that those who remember what an abnormal year last year was, with a Bill like the Conciliation Bill to work for and two General Elections, and how the National Union has grown so rapidly that it has been impossible to be quick enough in letting down the tucks and adding the breadths necessary for so healthy a child; who know also a little of what it means to carry out a scheme like that of the Federation of Societies; these will appreciate what it means to be Head of the Office in such stirring times, and will join us in the most hearty appreciation of Miss Whitehead's seven months' work in the office.

The New Parliament.

Business this week will be merely formal. Even the excitement about the King's speech is far less than usual, for its contents had been discounted long ago and it seems highly improbable that it will contain any surprises. In the earlier part of the session the Government will probably take all the time, because the Parliament Bill and the money bills press for settlement. After these, however, come the competing claims of other Bills, and it is at present difficult to forecast whether a Plural Voting Bill or a Payment of Members' Bill will be preferred to claims of Unemployment and Invalidity Insurance, Welsh Disestablishment, or Irish Home Rule. One thing we are certain of: the women will not sink their claim to be first heard. One fact we would remind politicians of: it was not so long ago that we were told to wait *only* till the Education Bill was settled; *only* till the Licensing Bill was through the Commons. Where are these Bills now? And will these same "friends" ask us now to wait for justice *only* till all the "reforms" for which men clamour are passed?

By-elections.

The usual crop of by-elections has followed the General Election. Arfon, we understand, is not to be contested, but the contests for Cambridge University and Horn-castle have begun and it seems likely that there will be one in the Forest of Dean.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth's Article.

Differences of opinion have caused a large influx of correspondence on the subject of our publication, but we are glad to note that the great preponderance of opinion is on our side. One of our critics uses the phrase "Creeping to the fore." This conveys the suggestion that we are drifting into some unintended position. We emphatically repudiate such a suggestion. We are not drifting at all. Our action is weighed and considered and intentional and that it is appreciated by many earnest workers is shown by the fact that many have ordered this special number because they wished to disseminate its information.

Chances in Life.

In the Leeds County Court, it was stated in evidence last week, by the plaintiff in the case, a tobacconist, that he paid a girl in his employ 7s. a week, and that her hours were 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and 11-30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. When the judge exclaimed, "Seven shillings!" the tobacconist replied, "Oh, that's nothing if you knew the wages paid in this city."

We know of one tobacconist who remarked, when he was asked if he supposed a girl could live on such a wage, "Of course not. But look at the chances she gets in our business." A woman might call them by some other name.

Nature and Artifice.

We Western women may read with some shame and confusion that one of the most effective pieces of opposition to the work of the "Natural Foot Society" in

China was the ridicule of a popular actor who declared himself a member of the "Natural Waist Society." It is our shame indeed that tight-lacing is entirely voluntary among us, and its gradual abandonment by women of any pretension to beauty or intelligence is one of those small signs which indicate big things. It is a pity that the women who wear hobble skirts and heels three inches high are those who are so much in evidence; they appear, by their love of publicity, to be far more numerous than in fact they are.

A Civic Ideal for Women.

Canon Simpson, now Canon-Designate of St. Paul's, gave an address on the occasion of Founders' Day of the Manchester High School for Girls, in which he spoke to them in rousing terms of their duty as citizens. "We are a long way yet," he said, "from that combination of courage, intelligence, and unselfishness which shall bring about the due co-ordination of social forces. But we are a long way on the road towards it, and, though there are stragglers, we still go marching along. You, I am sure, who attend this High School, know very well that the most civilised young woman is not she who wears sables, rides in motor-cars, and fares sumptuously on Fuller's sweets. You are civilised only in proportion as you are in intelligent sympathy with these ideals."

There are two main reasons why those ancient communities of which I have spoken could not realise that conception of the community which has become your heritage. One is that the work of the world, the manual labour and to some extent the arts, was the portion of slaves. And the other reason was the position of women. High schools for girls are one of the noblest, if the latest, products of Christian civilisation. A true democracy simply cannot tolerate untrained womanhood, because it is bound to admit woman to a recognised share in its public, organised life.

When I hear it said that the proper sphere of woman is the home I confess that I always experience a feeling of resentment. Not indeed that the nurture of the next generation is not the supreme function of women, whether they be married or single. But I protest against the implication, which may too often be detected in such assertions, that the home is in some sort the appurtenance of its virile head, and that its other members are but the etceteras of the household, with which the public community is not directly concerned. The world in which you will be called to play your part is one in which the personality of women has been set free, and in which a new dignity has been given to our very homes by the recognition of the fact that domestic duties are a matter of public concern.

To those who have been reading the Jeremiahs about High Schools and modern girls, we recommend this.

Irrelevant Distinctions.

Rumour has it that there is a proposal on foot to establish an Academy of Women in France. It is a most foolish proposal to perpetuate the silly and inappropriate sex distinction in science, letters, and art, and we hope distinguished women will hold aloof. It would be a blessed thing if books, pictures, music, and scientific papers could all be signed with initials, and judged on their merits entirely. At least one distinguished Frenchman of science says the Academy can ill afford to do without its greatest living authority, just because she happens to be a woman. When matter refuses to respond to a woman's touch, when scientific laws rebel at being discovered by women's minds, it will be time to exclude women from the great *human* fields of research and discovery. To exclude them from the honours they have earned does less harm to the women than to the reputations of men. We often hear that women should "blush for their sex," but, frankly, when we read of these things we may be glad we are not this time on the blushing side.

A French Divorce Commission.

The report of the French Committee on Divorce proposes to place women and men on an equality as regards conjugal infidelity.

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.**"WOMEN DO NOT WANT VOTES,"**

so the Anti-Suffragists tell us; and it is undoubtedly true that many women do not. This is scarcely wonderful, seeing that many of the MEN who have GOT votes will not take the trouble to use them unless they can get a

MOTOR-RIDE

to the poll, and some refuse to use them even then.

Let us admit, then, that SOME women do NOT want votes; but hasten to add that, without doubt,

SOME WOMEN DO.

Indeed, many thousands of women care about it so keenly that they are banded together in societies to try, by every means in their power, to win them. Every week fresh societies are formed; every day more and more women join them.

Take one society alone—the

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

—of which THIS PAPER is the organ. This Union is NON-PARTY and NON-MILITANT. The first of the societies now forming the Union were established 44 years ago (women wanted votes even then, you see!), and ever since it has been growing and spreading. A year ago it had 120 societies; now it has about 240 societies, including branches and local committees. Its membership is between 20,000 and 30,000, and last year more than £20,000 were subscribed to its funds. This does not include the huge sums collected by the militant Suffragists at their meetings: it is the money collected by the NON-MILITANT NATIONAL UNION alone. Does this look as if women didn't want votes?

When, last year, there was a Bill to give

VOTES TO WOMEN RATE-PAYERS

before the House of Commons, the women organised meetings at the rate of more than forty a day between July and December in support of it.

DOES THAT LOOK AS IF THEY DIDN'T WANT VOTES?

WHAT SORT OF WOMEN are they, then, who want the vote?

"A lot of hysterical, notoriety-hunting females," the Anti-Suffragists will tell you. One of the earliest Suffragists was

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Does that description apply to her? Does it apply to MRS. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY, through whose efforts, mainly, the Act was passed which gave married women the right

to possess their own earnings? To Miss BUSS and Miss BEALE we owe our earliest great schools for girls; to Miss EMILY DAVIES the foundation of Girton College; to Miss CLOUGH the foundation of Newnham? All those women were in favour of Women's Suffrage. Those still living—Miss Davies and Mrs. Elmy—are among its strongest advocates to-day. At the General Election of January, 1910, Miss Davies—the woman who made University training possible for women—stood in wind and snow in the gutter outside a London polling-station, asking the voters to sign a petition asking that qualified women should have the rights of citizens.

Is not

THE JUDGMENT OF SUCH WOMEN

as this worth our consideration?

Of all women, perhaps the

WOMEN DOCTORS

know most of the conditions of life—the sufferings and needs of the poor. There are 553 of them; of these 538 have declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage. So there is no doubt that MEDICAL WOMEN WANT THE VOTE.

Lately a memorial was sent to the Prime Minister signed by

HEADMISTRESSES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Again and again the CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN—25,000 of the most intelligent married women of the working classes—have affirmed their desire for the vote.

THE BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION demands it. THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS demands it. Indeed, one may fearlessly assert that practically every body of women organised for social service demands it.

When women do not want the vote, it is, as a rule, either because they are comfortable themselves, and do not realise the difficulties and the needs of those less fortunate; or because they do not understand how the vote would help women to MAKE THINGS BETTER.

THE WEEK'S STORY.

At the Anti-Suffragist deputation to Mr. Asquith, June 21, 1910.

Lady Jersey introduced the deputation, saying: "We do not require the vote ourselves, and we do not think that it ought to be entrusted to other women."

THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

Prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good.

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 Britain 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 beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

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

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A Long Journey.

Suffragists, like all reformers, should be hardened to abuse; but the charge of fanaticism brought against us not only by opponents but by our own supporters, at our own Council meetings, is one to which women are peculiarly sensitive. There is a suggestion in it of emotionalism, hysteria, and all the abusive expressions by which feminine heroism may be explained away or converted into a reproach. All but the most determined of suffragists wince under it.

What is fanaticism? What is a fanatic? Used against us, surely the word means that we have come to desire the vote for its own sake as a supremely desirable thing; or else that we believe it to be an instrument by which all desirable things may be obtained.

No suffragist thinks these idiotic things; but it is convenient for the enemy to suppose that we do, as our demands may then very easily be disposed of. Who has not met, in public or in private debate, the opponent whose line of argument is that the vote has not done everything for men, and therefore cannot be expected to do everything for women? Or (still more conclusively) that he, the speaker, attaches small value to his own vote, and "would gladly give it to you if he could!" (This "argument" is best met by an eager acceptance of the offer, and a request that the lightly-esteemed vote shall be cast as you dispose at the next election.)

The free development of womanhood, the rights and duties women claim to share with men, are (we are assured), matters that extend far beyond the political sphere. How little of life is made up of politics! How small a matter is the vote! Why this bigoted insistence on it? Why not take a larger, saner view?

It would be as sensible to say to one about to start on a long journey: "Why this bigoted insistence on the first step? There are many steps that must be taken! Your goal is miles away. There are mountains to climb,

rivers to cross. Possibly, you may have to take a train or a boat. Swimming will often be more useful than walking. Skating or riding, jumping, even flying, may all in turn be necessary. It is sheer fanaticism to make so much of a step! Take a larger view! Look at the journey as a whole, you will then see (what at present you have obviously forgotten) that, at the best, one step will not take you the entire way. Why this fanatical insistence upon taking it?

Our goal truly is a distant one. It is no less than the right of every individual to develop himself or herself to the full extent of God-given powers. It is far more than the political emancipation of women. It is the first step along a path which we trust will lead at last to a society in which the individual will have free scope, because it will be so justly organised that, not only will there be no hurt to the whole in the development of each, but society will be able to use all the powers so developed to the advantage of all. Everyone of us, independent of our political views, wishes for such a perfect state; some believe it possible; most are content at least to work towards it, in the great hope that it may be so. And we who call ourselves Suffragists have come to the conclusion that the chief obstacle in its way is the subjection of one sex to the other—a subjection which carries with it the implicit assertion that might is right, and force governs the world. Believing this, we have set ourselves to remove this obstacle first. That is the whole meaning of the oft-repeated accusation of fanaticism. We know very well that the improvement in the position of women has not proceeded always along these lines, nor will always proceed in future. Until quite recently, the advance was in education. This was in fact, bound to come first. Until women had a better education than used to be given them, they could seldom realize the nature of their difficulties, and it was impossible they should remove them. This position however, has been won. More fields remain to conquer, but on the whole, our claims have been made good.

The next advance might easily have been economic. The independence of women, especially of working-women, ought, in the opinion of many, to take precedence of their political freedom, and they are ill-advised who clamour for votes, when they should be organising trades-unions. Many Suffragists indeed, wish that the course of events had been in this order, since the more independent citizen is likely to be the more independent voter also. Only we realise that the course of evolution is rarely within our control, and certainly has not been so here. It is not our doing that to secure the economic independence of women is now impossible without political freedom. Individuals, whole classes, may achieve it, but the mass of women-workers can get no further, and are even in perpetual danger of losing what they have attained, until they have the protection of the vote. Society, in England, and in nearly all the Western countries, has developed in a highly political manner, so that at present, to be deprived of political rights is to be very helpless indeed. Employment, even education, may depend on political power, and often does.

All these things the Suffragist considers, and the more she considers them, the more single-mindedly does she demand the vote. There are a thousand things it will not do: but it will do the first thing. The journey is immensely long, the goal altogether hidden from our eyes; the more the necessity for our starting. It is only one step; but it is the one we are to make now. Let no one who believes this wince under the charge of fanaticism. Let none be turned aside by the consideration that there are many ways, other than political, in which the position of women must be improved, and many wrongs besides ours that must be righted. It is all true, and it is because it is true, that we must set forward at once. Having decided—not without long thought—which is the first step, it is not fanaticism, but hard common-sense, to put the other steps out of our minds till this one has been taken, or rather remember them only to increase our determined haste. For in all journeys, long as well as short, there is only one step of importance at any time, and that is—the next.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

Report.

of a Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board, with respect to the Administration of Outdoor Relief.

For some time there has been a demand among guardians for a consolidation of the many orders issued from time to time by the Local Government Board. These have the force of law, but are so numerous that few guardians even try to master them, and so rely entirely on their officials to keep them right. Whether the recently published suggestions for amending the administration of outdoor relief are the first instalment towards this consolidation I do not know, but they may be tentative in that direction, as they repeal all orders now existing relating to outdoor relief, except five, namely: The Pauper Conveyance (Expenses) Order, 1908, The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905, Orders relating to Boarding out of Children, Orders relating to the Constitution and Powers of Relief Committees, and an Order relating to the Apprenticeship of Children.

Article I. only defines the terms used, and calls for no comment.

Article II. forbids the granting of out-relief at all, and then proceeds to allow exceptions: (1) in cases of sickness or infirmity from old age; (2) for funeral expenses; (3) to widows during the first six months of their widowhood; (4) to widows who have no illegitimate child; (5) to wives living apart from their husbands (who are to be treated as if they were widows). The principal change here is the omission of any reference to the "able-bodied" rather than any change of policy.

Article III. allows guardians to relieve persons who come under the classes eligible for relief named in Article II., even if they are living in other unions, by means of non-resident relief, but adds extra safeguards against imposition by requiring careful book-keeping and frequent reports on such cases. These powers are, however, only permissive.

Article IV.: No person is to receive relief until a certificate, signed by a medical officer, is produced proving necessity. This is largely the practice now, but not universally, and might no doubt cause hardship. It will certainly add considerably to the work of medical officers, and therefore to expense of administration, and I do not think it is really necessary.

Article V. makes the keeping of case papers obligatory. A good many unions have already adopted this system, by which a continuous history of each person who has ever had relief, with all particulars, is preserved. It increases clerical work when first introduced, but is as easy to keep rightly afterwards as any other system.

Article VI. forbids the payment of rent by guardians, but this does not mean that rent cannot be taken into account in calculating amount of relief, only it must not be paid direct to any landlord. This is not a new regulation, but is made clearer, because a very general misapprehension on the subject exists now.

Article VII. defines the period for which relief may be given, in order to secure frequent re-consideration of all cases. If this is intended to apply to all persons admitted to any institution, it will add considerably to the labours, both of guardians and of officials. The times do not differ greatly from those now in force in any union, indeed, the period of five weeks for the first order errs in being too long. Our practice now is to limit first orders to two weeks.

Article VIII. does not contain anything new; it refers to forms of relief guardians are debarred from giving.

Article IX. gives guardians powers to resort to special measures in times of special distress, but such powers are only to be exercised if agreed to by a resolution passed at a board meeting, and reported to the Local Government Board, which, in consenting, will fix the period during which the special powers shall continue.

Articles X. and XI. specify what these special measures are: X. deals with the Modified Workhouse Test which allows a man's wife and family to be relieved at home, while he remains in the workhouse, but this may only be done for eight weeks within twelve months, because it

is only intended to meet cases of temporary difficulty, and to avoid breaking up the homes of such applicants. XI. deals with the Outdoor Labour Test, which means that when relief is required by an able-bodied man, he must be given task work to perform, and receive relief half in money and half in kind. No time limit is named here, but all cases must be frequently re-considered by the guardians.

These articles embody the powers guardians now possess, and do not introduce innovations of any great importance, except the time limit which might easily cause hardship.

Article XII. provides for possible exceptions, which must be reported to the Local Government Board. Relief given by a relieving officer under "sudden and urgent necessity," does not count as exceptional, and therefore need not be so reported.

Article XIII. refers to relief given on loan, and contains no new regulation.

Article XIV. points out that powers now in force relating to boarding-out or apprenticing of children are not interfered with by any of the previous articles.

Article XV. refers to the date at which the order shall come into operation; and

Article XVI. gives it's title: Relief Regulation Order, 1911.

It will be seen from this short summary that the changes are in the direction of making the granting of out-relief less easy by the requirement of medical certificates, and the restriction of special relief to a short period in the cases of the unemployed. If this should lead to the creation of a special authority under the Board of Trade to deal with unemployment, as recommended by the Minority Report of the Royal Commission, it would in my opinion be a very good thing, as I do not consider the guardians are the persons who should have to deal with the result of our present unsatisfactory industrial conditions. They can do nothing to benefit the unemployed in any permanent way, and that is what is urgently called for.

OLGA HERTZ (P.L.G.)

Mr. John Burns' New Order.

The country waits in vain for any drastic reform in the Poor Law, such as was proposed in both the Majority and Minority Reports of the Poor Law Commission, and meanwhile we may get what comfort we can from the circulars and orders issued by the Local Government Board. Mr. John Burns' latest achievement is the Report of the Committee which he recently appointed to inquire whether any changes should be made in the orders relating to outdoor relief. It cannot be said that the Report throws much new light on the subject or offers much assistance to the harassed Guardian. When an able-bodied man applies for relief to-day the action of the Board depends largely on whether it is under one or the other of the two Orders dealing with outdoor relief. In the great majority of Unions the Board can only offer admission to the workhouse, and any relief outside is strictly prohibited except in the case of "sudden and urgent necessity"—an expression which is liberally interpreted by some Boards. In a much smaller number of Unions, chiefly urban, the Guardians may give outdoor relief—half in money and half in kind—in return for a task of work. In future, both these Orders are to be applicable to the whole country, together with a third method—that of admitting the man into the workhouse while the wife and children are maintained outside in their home. The existing orders apply to women as to men, with the exception that outdoor relief may be granted to a widow without children in the first six months of her widowhood, or at any time to a widow who has legitimate children.

Besides consolidating these Orders the Committee also recommend that certain administrative changes should be made compulsory. The case-paper system is to be adopted everywhere, and all cases receiving relief are to be revised at frequent intervals. There is to be no permanent list.

These methods have long been in use in good Unions, and Mr. Burns is here really only levelling up. It is to be hoped that these proposals will soon be embodied in an order which will be binding on all Unions and thus be far more effective than the frequent circulars issued from the Local Government Board, which are permissive and on which backward Boards are apt to take no action whatever.

These proposals are to the good as far as they go; they remove the inconsistency which at present exists, while different parts of the country are, for no particular reason, under different orders, and they also ensure a more careful and instructed method of administration. But when this has been said, how far we still are from any adequate or well-thought-out scheme for helping the able-bodied pauper. The Order still adheres to the old plan of offering the House as a test of destitution—the House being in nearly every case the general mixed workhouse condemned by both Reports. In such a workhouse the able-bodied pauper receives almost nothing in the way of training or discipline; even if such were available, he usually does not remain long enough to receive it, but constantly drifts in and out—a nuisance to himself and the community. Needless to say, in most cases if the Guardians do offer the House it is not accepted, and the only thing then possible under the Order is to open the labour yard and give outdoor relief in return for the work done there. This plan usually has all the disadvantages of relief work in their worst form. It is casual and demoralising, and to a large extent aggravates the evil that it is intended to cure. These difficulties occur almost entirely in the case of men. The able-bodied woman without dependent children is almost unknown to the Poor Law, and in the case of a widow with children it is the Guardians' own fault if they do not give adequate relief, according to whatever plan they adopt.

It must, I think, be granted that a system which still has only the general mixed workhouse to offer (in all ordinary cases) to the able-bodied pauper stands condemned. That so few (compared with the numbers of the destitute) accept this offer is due largely to the many agencies which exist outside the Poor Law for helping the unemployed, and is not a proof that the system is successful in preserving independence. On the other hand, no one who has experience of Poor Law work is anxious to see outdoor relief to the able-bodied legalised in the present condition of things. To dole out weekly allowances, which, to judge from the present administration, would probably be both inadequate and unsupervised, would be merely tinkering at the evil, and would only help to prolong the present suffering. We have to go much deeper than that. Many of the so-called able-bodied who apply to the Guardians for relief are totally unfit for work through bodily or mental infirmity. In many workhouses all the men under 60 or 65 are classed as able-bodied, unless actually bedridden. Proper classification is essential if any good is to be done; some may need only work; others need training; others hospital treatment; others will never be able to support themselves, and the fact had better be faced. In cases where an able-bodied applicant has a decent home, it should be possible to send him to some proper institution for training, while waiting for employment, instead of the present wretched plan—to be perpetuated in the new Order—of sending the man to the general mixed workhouse while the wife and children are supported outside. It seems strange at this juncture, when the country has been stirred by the possibilities of reform contained in the Report of the Commission, that an order should be issued which contains nothing that is new, and merely offers the choice of methods, all of which have in the past been proved wanting.

C. D. RACKHAM (P.L.G.)

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY. **President:** Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
Hon. Treasurer: Miss Edith Palliser (Parliamentary). **Mrs. Auerbach.**
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." **Secretary:** Miss T. G. Whitehead, M.A. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Council Meeting.

Even two days were not long enough for the Council Meeting this year. The Council sat from 10.30 a.m. to past 5.30 p.m. on January 26th and 27th and then had to have an adjourned meeting on the 28th from 10 to 12.

Mrs. Fawcett was cordially welcomed to the chair on the 26th and stuck to her arduous post all day. But unhappily her efforts aggravated a cold she already had and she was unable to return. Mrs. Broadley Reid took the chair until the middle of the afternoon of the 27th, when she, too, had to go and Mrs. Swanwick presided over the remainder of the session.

We are not going to say that no time was wasted or that the discussion was solely directed to "making the whole go on," but we think that delegates will find, on reflection, that a good deal was done and a good deal was cleared up. There are always some who, on the one hand, think there is still dangerous latitude and others who wish there were more freedom for variety.

The earlier discussions were mainly directed at defining how stringent were to be the regulations concerning the "Suffrage First" test, and the general result was to strengthen the non-party position of the Union, but at the same time to indicate various ways in which use may be made of parties and the Suffrage forces strengthened on party organizations.

Another series of resolutions dealt with the apportionment of election work as between Societies, Federations and the Executive Committee of the Union. Election

policy followed its former lines, being modified to suit the present situation.

The policy of Tax Resistance was scarcely discussed and it was resolved to take it up again at a special Council meeting. It was resolved, however, to protest against the taxing of women for the payment of Members of Parliament whom they do not elect.

Other resolutions were passed involving approval of Miss Marshall's scheme of "General Post"; of the steady working up of a Suffrage vote in all constituencies, the results to be communicated to local selection committees; and the obtaining of more resolutions from local councils, the women voters being canvassed to induce them to put pressure on their councillors.

Very hearty votes of thanks were passed to Miss Bertha Mason and Miss Dimock. Miss Mason was not present when these were passed, but Miss Dimock received quite an ovation when she rose to reply. Miss Palliser was also most warmly received and Miss Courtney was heartily applauded when she said, in supporting the thanks to Miss Dimock, that she would never have ventured to stand if she had not been certain of Miss Dimock's help in learning the ropes.

We hope to be able to publish next week a brief summary of the report and the actual text of some of the more important resolutions.

Balloting for the officers and Executive took place for a large part of the time and Miss Coit and her assistants had a very tedious task for which they were heartily thanked. We append the list of those elected, in alphabetical order.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

President:—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., was returned as President without election, and by acclamation.

New Vice-Presidents:—Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., and Mrs. Philip Snowden, were elected as additional Vice-Presidents.

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary:—Miss Edith Palliser.

Hon. Secretary:—Miss K. D. Courtney.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mrs. Auerbach.

Executive Committee:—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., The Lady Frances Balfour, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, B.A., The Rev. J. Ivory Cripps, B.A., Miss Dimock, The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Heitland, Miss Howell, M.B., Miss E. A. McArthur, Litt. D., Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Rackham, Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Miss A. M. Royden, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Miss Tanner.

Miss Bertha Mason's Thanks to Her Supporters.

To those societies within the Union which desired my re-election as Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, and to all the delegates who have this week recorded their votes for me, I tender my sincere and hearty thanks.

Though my services are no longer desired by the majority of the National Union, my belief in the justice of Women's Suffrage remains unshaken, and no effort will be lacking on my part to secure the speedy enfranchisement of women.

BERTHA MASON.

January 28th, 1911.

Congress at Stockholm of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

The following were elected as representatives of the National Union:—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., Mrs. Auerbach, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, B.A., Miss Dimock, Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Bertha Mason, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss A. M. Royden, Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A.

Mrs. Stanton Coit asks us to mention that she has received a letter from Messrs. John Good and Sons, of the Finland Line of Royal Mail Steamers, stating that they have steamers leaving Hull every Wednesday and Saturday for Copenhagen.

Our readers will remember that the Congress begins on Monday, June 12th.

Reception at the Wharnccliffe Rooms.

By the kind invitation of Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Holland, Mrs. Illingworth, Miss Bertha Mason, Mrs. Broadley Reid, and Mrs. Spielmann, a delightful reception was held at the Wharnccliffe Rooms in the Great Central Hotel on Thursday evening, Jan. 26th. The opportunity to meet friends from all over the country—to talk, too, with some whom one has met previously only in the pages of the "Common Cause"—is always keenly appreciated by the delegates; and on this occasion the exceptional charm and convenience of the rooms, and the excellence of the music, combined to render the evening a complete success.

Besides the Officers and Executive of the Union, and many delegates, there were present the three Suffrage candidates of the last election,—Mr. Brailsford, Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Mirrlees. All were naturally eager to meet the men who had championed our cause against such odds, and their presence, perhaps, more than anything else, gave a unique character to the evening.

It was a great joy to have Mrs. Philip Snowden amongst us once again—but if one began to attempt to name those whose presence added to the pleasure of the

occasion, one could never stop. It was evident that all those present would have liked to thank the hostesses in person for their thoughtfulness in giving the delegates an occasion for meeting in such charming surroundings, and the very hearty vote of thanks passed at the end of the Council Meeting on Saturday testified, though inadequately, to their appreciation.

Cambridge University By-Election.

Members of the N.U. Societies are urgently requested to obtain promises of support for Mr. Harold Cox from Cambridge University voters. See Mr. Cox's letter to Mr. Rackham, which appeared in the "Times" of January 30th.

E. PALLISER (Parliamentary Secretary).

Foreign News.

FRANCE.

In December of last year an Administrative Committee was formed in the Department of la Seine to attend to the application of the law of 1892 dealing with the industrial work of women, young girls and children. For the first time a woman, Madame Blanche Schweig, has been appointed vice-president of this Commission, where she will have considerable opportunity of exercising her powers of organisation.

It may be of interest to our readers to learn that an employment agency has been started in France, where women who have not been trained for any profession, but are suddenly called upon to earn their living, can obtain suitable employment. This agency is intended to supplement, and not to supplant, the already existing bureaux for the employment of women, and a handbook of the professions open to women will be issued in the spring. This agency is affiliated to the Central Bureau in London, to the Teachers' Home in Berlin, to the Union of Women in Milan, and to the Italian National Council. It is anxious to receive any information as to situations open to French women abroad, and will gladly supply the same to foreigners in France. The committee hope to establish branches in some of the larger French towns.

A meeting of the National Council of French women was held on January 15th. In her opening remarks, Madame Sarah Monod, the president, alluded to the death of Madame Maria Martin, the editor of the "Journal des Femmes," and also to that of Madame Mauriceau, one of the first militant workers for the women's cause in France. The secretary's report contained much encouraging information: the Council has increased during the last year, several women have been appointed to important positions by the Government, and have received public recognition for their services.

SWEDEN.

On 16th January Miss Wackrill gave an English lecture in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A. in Stockholm, entitled, "An Account of the Women's Suffrage Movement in England." There was a representative audience, which evinced much interest in the subject. Miss Wackrill's concluding words give a summary of her lecture. She said: "I have tried to give a sketch of how women lost their citizenship in our islands, of how great a loss on all sides this proved to be, and of how, step by step, through long years, they have been winning back for themselves and the nation the privileges that in years gone by they had not valued sufficiently. We look upon this struggle not simply as a woman's struggle for her rights, but as a common struggle for justice and national freedom, not at all in the light of a civil war, a strife. At great crises there must always be a clash of many passions. This crisis is a national evolution, a development that we believe will bring new harmony, new life, and thought and inestimable benefit to the nation that we love so dearly."

GERMANY.

At a recent examination at the Technical High School in Charlottenburg the only student who passed with distinction was a woman, Fräulein Giebel; she intends to devote herself to the construction of bridges.

The number of woman students at the German universities has increased from 2,169 in the summer of 1910 to 2,412 at the present time. Of these, 1,370 are studying philosophy, philology, and kindred subjects; next in favour comes medicine (527 students), natural science and mathematics (356), political economy and agriculture (60), dentistry (49), theology (7), and pharmacy (5). There is also a large increase in the number of women and girls who are attending the higher schools (Gymnasien) and preparing for matriculation.

CHINA.

Miss Russell, a Congregational missionary in Peking, writes of the new lecture courses for women which are uniting the women of China in movements of great moment to the future. A gathering of 550 students and teachers for an anti-cigarette rally was lately presided over by an able Chinese woman, a direct descendant of Confucius.

Canton is to have a newspaper entirely devoted to the interests of women. The founder and editor is a well-educated local lady, who is using this means to educate and enlighten the members of her sex.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

President: The Bishop of Lincoln.
Hon. Sec.: Rev. C. Hinscliff.

Offices: 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

A pamphlet (price 2d.), "The Woman Wage Earner," by Mr. G. H. Wood, Fellow of the Statistical Society, is now on sale at the offices; also a leaflet (4d.) by Mr. Kenneth Richmond, "What's Wrong with the World," a reply to Mr. G. K. Chesterton. The following meetings will shortly take place:—

- Feb. 3.—Hampstead Branch, 3, Belsize Avenue.
Feb. 17.—Steinway Hall; 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Archibald Little, Miss Maude Royden.
Feb. 20.—St. Augustine's Hall, Stamford Avenue, Brighton; 8 p.m. Chairman: Rev. J. E. Page. Speakers: Rev. C. Hinscliff, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Close Shipman.
Feb. 21.—Glengariff, Richmond, Richmond and Kew Branch.

Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Organising Sec.: Rev. Edward Clark, 1, Burns' Road, Harlesden, N.

Hon. Corresponding Sec.: Miss Hatty Baker, 25, Hartingden Villas, Hove.

The name League instead of Federation has been readopted. Two public meetings have been held in January, one at Brighton, presided over by Rev. Rhonda Williams, and supported by many Nonconformist ministers of the town; another in Croydon, at which Miss Leon and Mrs. Sambrook were speakers. A public meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., on Wednesday, 1st March, at 8 p.m. Among the speakers are the Rev. Dr. Clifford, M.A.; Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A.; Sir James Yoxall, M.P.; Walter Maclaren, Esq., M.P.; and Rev. Ivory Cripps. Tickets to be had from either secretary. Reserved seats, 1s.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

A reception to members and friends of the League will be given next Saturday afternoon, February 4th, from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the "Criterion" Restaurant (Grand Hall), Piccadilly Circus. Mr. Reginald H. Pott, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, will preside; there will be short speeches by Mr. H. W. Nevinston and Mr. H. N. Brailsford, and tea will be served at 4.15. Tickets (for which no charge will be made) can be obtained from the hon. secretaries of the League.

On Monday, February 20th, the annual demonstration will take place in the Queen's Hall at 8 p.m. Among the speakers invited are Sir Harry Verney, M.P., Mr. G. A. Tonche, M.P., Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, Viscount Selborne, the Dean of Norwich, and Rev. Ivory Cripps. Tickets 5s., 2s. 6d., reserved; 1s. 6d. unreserved.

Women and Local Government.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Women's Local Government Society, presided over by Lady Strachey, took place on the afternoon of January 27th at the Caxton Hall. The Council decided on means for promoting the participation of women as administrators in the care of the mentally defective, and expressed solicitude as to fresh legislation and their sense of the need for a woman on the Lunacy Commission. The second resolution dealt with the great need in the public interest that all women appointed for the work of "Health Visiting" should have the qualification and status of Sanitary Inspectors, as well as suitable nursing qualifications. Thirdly, the meeting considered how best to promote the passing into law of the Local Government Qualification Bill, which provides that a residential qualification shall suffice for a candidate for a County or Town Council—a Bill which, while applying to all persons, is especially needed to facilitate the candidature of married women. Dr. Shipman,

the father of the Bill in 1908, received a warm welcome, and Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., Sir William Chance, Bart., Mrs. Maitland, Miss Henry, R.D.C., and others took part in the proceedings.

Just to Get Married.

How bitter it is to eat the bread of dependence! There are two plays now running in London with this moral—"Just to Get Married," by Cicely Hamilton, and "Preserving Mr. Paumure," by Arthur Pinero. The first of these, now running at the Little Theatre, is about Georgie, who is so tired of being a poor relation that she works hard to capture the first available husband, and he, not dreaming that economic pressure can force women into marriage, gives her his whole heart, and receives in return only gratitude. Surely gratitude is a slave's virtue, and Georgie, though she is "getting on," and this is probably "her last chance" (what vulgar expressions are associated with the debased view of marriage as a profession!) breaks off her engagement, and tells him why. It is impossible for many girls, brought up in dependence and not allowed even now to think for themselves, to be so frank and straight. Will "Just to Get Married" remind some men that they are responsible for a state of things which leaves girls no option but to bamboozle them? The play is witty enough and charming enough to win its way with the public and cajole it into thinking. E. W.

Sitting on the Fence.

I don't know how long he had been talking when I arrived at the committee-rooms, but judging by the expression on the face of the poor, worn-out clerk in charge, I should think he had been there quite long enough to make himself an intolerable nuisance. He had taken off his gloves and had put them on the clerk's table, together with his evening paper, and was sitting in a chair—not only for comfort's sake but for safety's sake, for I should judge he was rather uncertain as to his balancing capacity.

"No," he said; "it can't be done. I'm 'stremely sorry. But it can't."

"And what can't be done, sir?" I asked.

"Women's votes."

"I am sorry to hear that, for it will mean that the cheque I have just sent to the local Men's League for Women's Suffrage will be entirely wasted."

"No, it can't be done. At least, I'm not quite sure. I was just sayin' that I think that all women who pay votes an' taxes should have rates. Taxation without representation is tyranny. But it can't be done. I'm 'stremely sorry."

"Yes. It's very unfortunate. About those meetings in the schoolroom—" I said, addressing myself to the clerk in charge.

"It's a question that mus' be settled. Now. At once. I can't settle it. Where would be the limit? I say, there is no limit. They'd all want to get into Parliament, and that'd upset everything. And yet they are allowed to vote for local parliaments and guardians of the poor an' things, so why shouldn't they be allowed to go to Parliament? I don't see the difference. Now look at Miss Pankhurst. She can speak, can't she? Now, I can't. She's a magnificent young woman. She can answer questions in one minute that it'd take the cleverest man in England an hour to answer. She's clearer-sighted, cleverer, calmer than I am."

"Quite so," I agreed.

"Or any man," he went on. "And I'd like to see some more women in Parliament like her. But then, you see, there's no limit. Now, there are seven women to every man."

"Oh, no," I said.

"Oh, yes. I know there are. I see them wherever I go."

"No; you are making a mistake. There are thirteen women to every twelve men. If women who vote at municipal election were given the vote, there would be seven male voters to every female voter. Perhaps that is what you are thinking about?"

"No. Seven men to every—I mean, seven women to every man."

"But, my dear sir, you have only to look at statistics," I remonstrated.

"My dear sir, I don't say there are seven women to every man in every case."

"Oh, no," I said, "generally speaking."

"Like himself," the clerk whispered into my ear.

"Their one ambition is to get into Parliament. They all want to get there, and they would."

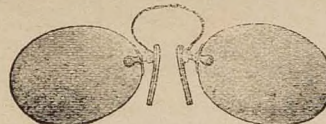
"There are only 670 seats in Parliament, you know. How will they manage it?"

"Manage it? Why, they'd just rush in. Still I want to support 'em, but it's difficult to know what's best to do in a case like this."

"Let us do what we think is right, and take the risk. I don't think you need be quite so pessimistic."

"All right. I'll come in an' have a chat with you chaps another night. Good-bye, old man," he said, shaking my hand vigorously, "an' be good."

WHY WEAR HEAVY Eyeglasses & Spectacles?



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

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

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

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

And out he went.

"It's rather troublesome not to be able to come to a decision, isn't it?" said the clerk-in-charge.

"Yes. Still I'm not sure that I don't think it safer to sit on the fence when one is so rocky about the feet. A. B.

"Why?"

A pretty girl was speaking from the lorry—speaking with more earnestness, good humour, and convincing wit than one often hears from the "sterner sex." Nevertheless, on the outskirts of this street-corner election crowd three women railed liked viragos. "Why isn't she at 'ome attendin' to 'er 'ouse?" asked one. "The boldness of 'er, wantin' to vote!" remarked a second. "I pity 'er 'usband, I do!" cried a third in virtuous disgust. "It's 'er pore childern I'm sorry fer!" exclaimed a fourth, as she shook the ramshackle "pram," with its two dirty babies, and admonished the shivering mite clinging to her skirts to "shut up."

I ventured to say a word in favour of the pretty girl, but they inquired why I didn't "go 'ome," too.

I turned to the men—rough, slouching, unkempt beings, boots guiltless of blacking, and short, dirty pipes. They listened for quite half a dozen sentences, when suddenly a voice broke in:

"Wat I want to know is, are you workin' for a vote fer my missus?"

His fellows applauded.

"You have had a vote for a good many years," I said; "have you been working for a vote for your wife?"

The big head on top of the six-foot frame sank a bit, while the crowd grinned—but only for a moment. It came up again with a sudden jerk; the big man stepped quickly forward, with flashing eyes and clenched fists, and roared, "Then wy 'aven't the women educated us?"

CHRISTIAN RICHARDSON.

Women and Suffrage.

A Moral Play, wherein is showed the conversion of Woman to the cause of Suffragia; as also the foolish and ridiculous hindrances and temptings of Anti-Suffragists, with the sound and convincing arguments of the Suffragists—Justice, Reason, and the like: by G. Watkinson; as performed by the students of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA.	REASON.
WOMAN.	JUSTICE.
ANCIENT PREJUDICE.	HUMANE CONSCIENCE.
CONVENTIONALITY.	UTOPIA.
LIBERAL-MINDED.	COLONIAL-EXPERIENCE.
FRIVOLITY.	

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—

Fair friends, I beseech ye of your favour thus far, Since to learn my moral ye gathered are, That ye grant but graciously to give your audience And hearken this matter with much patience. Soothly to say I am called Suffragia, To which is prefixed full oft Feminina. My parents were Education and thoughtful Toil. Fifty years of storm and strife have I seen,

Wherein my foes deadly do foolishly foil;
So that I may in no wise attain my majority,
But I wait to be full-grown thus long and wearily;
Lurking sadly amid shadows still;
In dreams dallying though doughty in will;
Striving to win at last my rightful heritage—
Then boweth the world bonnerly to me, I engage!—
This day I mean to attempt Woman
To gain for my guardian, whose righteous guidance
Will bring me surely to my goal at once.
Thereafter I shall be her trustiest servant
To help her through life and eke her fellow Man.
Lo! I espy where Woman walks hitherward;
Straight will I accost her and win her to me-ward.
Fair Woman, may sweet Saint Frances shield thee!

WOMAN—

How now! thy visage seemeth to me
Grave and gracious though somewhat severe,
To me who love chiefly to dwell in good cheer.
Tell me betimes what name belongeth thee,
That I may wile away thy woes full merrily
With jest and talk, how haply I may.
Come cheer thee, friend, dance, sing, and be gay!

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—

I may not make merry for sore mischief
That wrongs me of heritage, else would I lief—

WOMAN—

Make way, grave gossip, for here cometh a bevvy
Of well-loved kinsfolk, who will counsel me well
How that I may lighten thy load so heavy.

(Enter Ancient Prejudice, Conventionality, Liberal-Minded, and Frivolity.)

Good Ancient Prejudice, good-day! pray thee, tell
Some wise saw may succour sorrowful lady?

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—

Gramercy! fair cousin, be not so hasty,
Grudge not to tell the grounds whereon ye gravel.
But stay; an' if Suffragia be thy suppliant
Turn her from thee—

CONVENTIONALITY—

Ay, bid her travel!
Sir, I beseech thee deliver if thou can
From greed of such grasper, our cousin Woman,
From Suffragia that turbulent breeder of turmoil.

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—

By'r lakin, fair madam, I crave leave to speak!
To warn Woman what must follow if Suffragia her soil.
Good wife, Conventionality hight,
Thou knowest well Suffragia is not full right
For Woman's leader, since Woman is weak
And careth not with her kind to combine,
Nor heeds she to govern heart by head,
But would let reverence for clergy too much entwine,
Or would vote as the handsomer man commanded.
What sayest thou on this subject, Liberal-Minded?

LIBERAL-MINDED—

I say, sir, surely, and soothly I think
That thou errest; for Woman would surely combine,
If led by Suffragia, with her sisters and link
To overthrow Man, whose forces to fight
Are fewer in number than Woman's, so must fall.

WOMAN—

Sirs, an' ye two jar, where's truth at all?

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—

None I see here to succour my sorrow.
I will away good help for to borrow
Of Justice, Reason, Humane Conscience, and Utopia,
My friends faithful, though few—

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—

Full many are
My reasons to refute thee! I raise objection
That the monstrous union of Suffragia and Woman
Would mean no less—(I am moved with passion)—
Than Suffragia freely giving to all Man
Who is now the sole friend of the tax-paying citizen,
Whereby bold rufflers would red rags get them
To brandish before the autocratic bull.

LIBERAL-MINDED—

Peace, I pray, of thy prating, sir fool!
Thou seemest ignorant of simplest saw;
For Woman, we must own, willett no wandering
From paths of precedent to popular pandering.
Socialism than sin savoureth to her more ill:
Democracy she hateth deadlier than the Devil!

WOMAN—

Sirs, by contradictions I may not be overcome;
I bid ye roundly, ye had better be dumb!

FRIVOLITY—

Sweet friends, Frivolity am I, now lost to favour.
Busy am I to buy me new beautiful bravery,
Yet none regards me, nor recks my sweet savour.
Come, wavering lover, look thou woe me!
Pleasures I love and pursue continually.
Time tarrieth not for such tardy talk;
The dance beginneth, come let us walk!

CONVENTIONALITY—
Wilt thou not wander also away, sweet ward?
Cherish not convictions, nor care for the cunning
Of Suffragia—thy place, Woman, is to guard
The sacred shelter of each soft nestling,
Thyself snug and safe from all sore threatening,
Empress of home, cherished and cherishing;
Thou mouldest Mankind, and makest the Empire!

WOMAN—
How may I follow Frivolity, and yet Mankind inspire?

FRIVOLITY—
Sweet cousin, comest thou not? Cease thou to scold—
Do not thou aught of work in this world.
Worthless is the work of any wise Woman;
Beauty is banished by baleful toil.
Live, and be merry; mar not nor foil
Thy joy unclouded. Leave all to Man—
Suffragia is his—he may take her for me!

WOMAN—
I am persuaded, sweet coz, so let it be.
Gay is life—I laugh and sing—
Nor know not trouble for anything!

CONVENTIONALITY—
So, thou art young and mayest rejoice,
And reck rarely of grievous annoy.
Yet forget not in folly thy fair vocation
To influence Man and to train up the nation.
*(Suffragia Feminina re-enters with Reason, Justice,
Humane Conscience, and Utopia.)*

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—
Woman, Convention advises thee carefully;
Yet hast thou not full powers to heed her hest!
List but to me and I will enlighten thee,
While these worthy friends will counsel thee best.

WOMAN—
Tedious talker, thou comest with thy train
Too late to win me, I am weary and worn
With overmuch thought, and hopeless of gain
From such dull discussions, deadly and vain.

LIBERAL-MINDED—
Come ye not, Woman and Frivolity? are ye torn
With passions conflicting? know ye not prudence,
Suffragia to avoid and save yourselves audience?
She will lead ye despise womanly deeds
And homely duties,—while she hoarsely aceeds
A round of committees and meetings uproarious.

REASON—
Sir, I am hyght Reason, and I must rise furious,
Though calm and cold ever, to charge thee clearly
With selfish abuse and sheer absurdity—
For when Man can work in the world full well
And eke entertain Suffragia, as I you tell,
Why may not Woman manage thus too?
(Exit Liberal-Minded, Frivolity running after him.)

CONVENTIONALITY—
Woman, trust not, he telleth thee not true;
He will set thee to wrangle scandalously with thy
husband!

WOMAN—
Yet since I have none, let me but stand
And hear to talk this godly train.

CONVENTIONALITY—
Now canst thou manage Man without disdain,
So that Suffragia could but double thy power!

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—
Tut, wife! thy speech savourest to me sour,
Woman thinks only as Man her biddeth!

CONVENTIONALITY—
Indelicate and improper thy speech becometh;
How canst thou say so or be so blind!

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—
Come, stiff-necked wife, let us follow Frivolity
And our faithful friend fair Liberal-Mind.
*(Exeunt Ancient Prejudice and Conventuality,
arranging.)*

WOMAN—
Suffragia, I beg thee advise me soothly.
I am distraught with these wrangling words:
Truth shelters not with such jars and girds!

REASON—
Hear me, and heed my behests, unhappy Woman.
Thou hast been hearing of thy hold over Man—
But dost thou not deem power dangerous
Where responsibility is not? Dost realize
That thou sharest Man's life, so is it necessitous
Thou shouldst with him work also in this wise?

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—
Aid thou my cause, and I will confer on thee
That share which Reason doth say should be
In making those laws which rule ye both equally.
But, Justice, hast thou no sentence to say?

JUSTICE—
I beg to bring forward a brief motion this day,
That those should make laws, who must them obey!

WOMAN—
Equal to Man under law I am lain—

JUSTICE—
Verily so! vehement be then, and cry not in vain
Against treadmill, tardy attention, and eke taxation;
Refuse them roundly, if no representation.

WOMAN—
Suffragia, these arguments seem to me sound;
Yet for feelings gentler no answer is found.

REASON—
I scorn these objections on sentiment stayed,
Never with reasons gravely weighed!

HUMANE CONSCIENCE—
Madam, methinks thou wilt favour my mind.
Humane Conscience am I, to neighbourly duty inclined.
I conjure thee recall Conventionality's advice,
For in part she praised public spirit in mothers
Whereby to uprear sons useful and wise.
Utopia, art with me? Use thy endeavours!

UTOPIA—
Woman, thou hast won education high,
And after ideals must often sigh—

HUMANE CONSCIENCE—
I will grant thee thy goal, shouldst thou Suffragia get,
In social gain and domestic reforms,
And in aid to thy poor sisters undreamed of yet.

UTOPIA—
Lacking Suffragia is woman lowered.
While her ignorance of political duty
Is due to her lack of responsibility.

WOMAN—
Dost thou divine my longings and dreams,
Utopia? Woman may work with Man it seems
In all branches of the daily business of life?

UTOPIA—
She may rise to reform all evils rife;
Give social purity and progress to the populace;
And herself grow greater in mind and eke in grace.

WOMAN—
Suffragia, an' thou canst promise me so,
Willingly with thee will I wone and go!
But yet I fear what may follow—
Who fares hither thus hastily?
(Enter, running, Colonial Experience.)

COLONIAL EXPERIENCE—
Hyght am I, gentles, Colonial Experience;
Woman sent post here to persuade thee,
And cause of Suffragia to sustain with diligence.

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—
Sir, I think thee, and trust in thy testimony.

COLONIAL EXPERIENCE—
Thy sister Colonia hath won and embraced
Fair Suffragia—

WOMAN—
Say then forsooth with what success?

COLONIAL EXPERIENCE—
Fondest expectation is most fairly fulfilled;
Highest hope outdone must all confess;
Predicted evils are prematurely pined;
Society now is reformed, and politics are refined.
Withal Colonial Woman hath most undoubtedly won
Greatness, grandeur, and generous grace,
Knowledge in all things, and eke nobility!
*(Enter again Ancient Prejudice, Conventuality,
Liberal-Minded, and Frivolity.)*

ANCIENT PREJUDICE—
Woman, dost thou still thyself debate
To show these curs friendliness and civility?

FRIVOLITY—
Sweet cousin, cease this cumbrous arguing,
Come join our merry company to dance and sing!

CONVENTIONALITY—
Fearest thou not with these notorious folk
To be seen?—

LIBERAL-MINDED—
Certes, Woman, thou hast woke
Doubts and distrust within my dolorous breast!

WOMAN—
Cease, frail companions, now my fortitude to test.
My former wavering now do I bewail,
And these firm friends no longer will I fail.
Lo, now, Suffragia, thee take I by the hand!
And stalwart by thy side I'll have my stand!
So we'll bring about blessings unheard of in history,
And tread in triumph the path of glory,
Filling to the fullest Woman's vocation!
*(Exeunt Ancient Prejudice, Conventuality, Liberal-
Minded and Frivolity in confusion, scowling
upon one another.)*

SUFFRAGIA FEMININA—
Now friends, do I rejoice,
And dance and sing
Like to a mad thing.

Here endeth my annoy;
Since fair Woman
Hath now begun
To cheer me sweetly with her voice!

So, gentles, I thank ye all
For your patience,
And kind audience.
May naught but good ye befall!
So fare ye well,
May our numbers swell,
So join ye with Woman to answer my call!
(Exeunt omnes in triumphant procession.)

Review.

THE LADIES' REALM. A DISCREDITED WITNESS.

The January number of the "Ladies' Realm" contains several dexterously evasive articles upon Women's Suffrage, and one by the notorious Mr. Richard Barry, who has raised such a storm in America by his article in the "Ladies' Home Journal." We do not know whether the articles in the two journals are identical, but they have evidently many points of resemblance.

The editor of the "Ladies' Home Journal," Mr. Edward W. Bok, makes great play with the "impartiality" of Mr. Barry's investigations, but as a matter of fact it was well known that he was a hard-boiled Anti-Suffragist when he went on his "mission," and he has been shown up (in "The Woman's Journal" of September 24th, 1910) as a most inaccurate writer. A large part of his article is mere gossip, which, coming from a man who made a flying visit for the sake of writing a sensational article, cannot be compared in value with that of residents of position, like Judge Lindsay; our Denver correspondent, Mr. Harry Kelly, whose interesting article appeared in our issue of January 12th; and Mr. George Creel, whose article in the "Denver Post" of May 29th contains the following passages. Referring to the laws which have been passed since women had the vote, he mentions:—

"Laws establishing a State home for Dependent Children, three of the five members of the board to be women; requiring that at least three of the six members of county visitors shall be women; making mothers joint guardians of the children with the fathers; raising the age of protection for girls to 18 years; establishing a State Industrial Home for girls, three of the five members of the board to be women; removing the emblems from the Australian ballot, our nearest approach to adopting an educational qualification for Suffrage; establishing the indeterminate sentence for prisoners; requiring one woman physician on the board of the insane asylum; establishing parental or truant schools; providing for the care of the feeble-minded; for tree preservation; for the inspection of private eleemosynary institutions by the State Board of Charities; requiring in the public schools lessons concerning the humane treatment of animals; making the Colorado Humane Society a State Bureau of child and animal protection; providing that Foreign Life or Accident Insurance Companies, when sued, must pay the costs; establishing Juvenile Courts; making education compulsory for children between the ages of eight and sixteen; making father and mother joint heirs of deceased child; providing that Union High Schools may be formed by uniting school districts adjacent to a town or city; establishing a State Travelling Library Commission, to consist of five women from the State Federation of Women's Clubs, appointed by the Governor; providing that any person employing a child under fourteen in any mine, smelter, mill, factory, or underground works shall be punished by imprisonment, in addition to a fine; requiring joint signature of husband and wife to every chattel mortgage, sale of household goods used by the family, or conveyance or mortgage of a homestead; forbidding the insuring of the lives of children under ten; forbidding children of sixteen and under to work more than six hours a day, in any mill, factory, store, or other occupation that may be deemed unhealthful; making it a criminal offence to contribute to the delinquency of children—the parental responsibility act; making it a misdemeanour to fail to support aged or infirm parents; prohibiting the killing of doves except in August; abolishing the binding out of girls committed to the industrial school until twenty-one, and providing for their parole; a pure-food law in harmony with the national law. And it was Mrs. M. A. B. Conine that inaugurated the growing agitation for a primary election law.

"Another noted achievement of the Legislature of 1907 that can be traced to the initiative of women is the law establishing a State Free Employment Bureau, with offices in all Colorado cities containing more than 25,000 inhabitants. Also, during this session a most determined effort was made by certain interests to pass legislation that would cripple the usefulness of the State Bureau of Child and Animal Protection, a department of State of which Colorado women are justly proud, and for the establishment of which they did valiant service. When it became evident that its power was

threatened, all the women's organizations in the State rallied to the support of the Bureau, and, despite organized effort, the friends of this department were able to defeat adverse legislation.

"While the women's claim for credit may be denied, the fact remains that these laws have all been placed on the statute books since the advent of equal Suffrage. And it is also equally true, as the most casual observer will admit, that Colorado political conditions have been immeasurably elevated in the last decade. As Governor Shafroth has borne testimony, 'Women's presence in politics has introduced an independent element which compels better nominations.' Equal Suffrage, whatever else it may be doing, is fast removing the bane of vicious partisanship."

With regard to the statement that women of vicious lives vote, it is stated in the "Woman's Journal" of November 12th, 1910, that 85 per cent. of the women in the residential districts vote, as against 4 per cent. of women in the "red-light" quarters. It would be interesting, although manifestly impossible, to know the moral record of the men voters!

Mrs. Minnie Reynolds, a lady who, it seems, contributed valuable service in the campaign which has won the vote in Washington State, told a story at a meeting in New York on January 10th concerning Mr. Barry's statement (which he says he got from the Denver Chief of Police) that women in Colorado drank more whisky than men. She said that the cowboys in the Far West had a practice of shooting at the feet of newcomers, and shouting "Dance, you sucker, dance!" She suggested that Mr. Barry was being made to "dance" by the Chief of Police. There isn't anything an Anti-Suffragist won't believe, so long as it is Anti-Woman.

It is, of course, impossible to form any just estimate of the effect of women's votes unless one takes account of local conditions and the general level of humanity in the place where they exercise the vote. Mr. Barry's article is written in a style which makes it, on the face of it, worthless, and the numerous evidences of his inaccuracy and bias vitiate the whole.

The Awakening.

They are waking, they are waking,
In the East and in the West,
They are throwing wide their windows to the sun,
And they see the dawn is breaking,
And they quiver with unrest:
For they know their work is waiting to be done.

They are waking in the city,
They are waking on the farm,
They are waking in the boudoir and the mill;
And their hearts are full of pity—
So they sound the loud alarm,
For the sleepers who in darkness slumber still.

In the guarded harem prison,
Where they smother under veils,
And the echoes of the world are walled away,
Though the sun has not yet risen,
Yet the ancient darkness pales,
And the sleepers in their slumbers dream of day.

Oh! the dream shall grow in splendour,
Till each sleeper wakes and stirs,
Till she breaks from old traditions and is free;
And the world shall rise and render
Unto Woman what is hers,
As it welcomes in the Race that is to be.

Unto Woman, God the Maker
Gave the secret of His plan;
It is written out in cipher on her soul—
From the darkness you must take her
To the light of day, O Man,
Would you know the mighty meaning of the scroll.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

The above song has been set to music by Teresa del Riego, and may be obtained (price 1s. 6d.) from the office of the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. It is in the key of D. Major, and the accompaniment is very easy—a distinct advantage in a song intended for popular meetings. The compass, also, is not large.

Letters to the Editor.

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

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

MRS. BRAMWELL BOOTH'S ARTICLE.

As a constant reader of "The Common Cause," and distributor of that paper, may I be allowed to write in a contrary sense to Mrs. Henrietta F. A. Fyffe's letter in your issue of January 26th? I have long held that publicity should be given to evils which are only tolerated by public opinion because that public opinion ignores or is ignorant of them.

No one is better qualified than Mrs. Bramwell Booth to speak of such subjects as they should be spoken of, because of her knowledge, her sympathy, her wide-minded charity, and her own innate purity. I should not hesitate to put her article into the hands of any members of my own household—male or female, young or old. The young who could not understand it would take no harm from it, but would feel that some terrible evil was there attacked with a noble desire to remedy it. All who could understand it would lay it down feeling that while they continued to remain indifferent to the fact that our law-makers and our law administrators look at such matters from an exclusively male point of view, so long were they in part responsible for a hideous cruelty and barbarous inhumanity.

(Lady) BETTY BALFOUR.

As a reader of "The Common Cause," I note, with regret, that the subjects of the White Slave Traffic and outrages upon children are creeping to the fore. It is from no notions of prudery on my part, but it does not seem to me to be the right time for discussing them so much in public, either at meetings, which all ages and both sexes attend, or in print, where all can read.

The Suffrage movement from the beginning has "not been a question of sex," and these are, from the nature of them, the accounts of the abuses raise such a storm of indignation against men in general in a woman's heart that her judgment is apt to be blinded; and there is so much impulsiveness to cope with in some sister Suffragists that it behoves us to maintain a reasonable and calm temper.

We do not know men's temptations any more than they know ours, but in the case of children there can be no justification; so by all means let the noble workers work their best, so as to be able to carry any measures through at once when the time comes for doing so.

Broadly speaking, all women and all right-minded men would be thankful to see these horrors stopped; but the latter are not numerically strong enough without our assistance, and until we are enfranchised we do not want to excite and raise the anger of any men against us by the over-publication of these vices as we are dependent upon men for granting us the vote.

Another point is that we do not want our clean and wholesome boys and girls contaminated with such knowledge until they are old enough not to be so shocked by it as they are the first time they come across it.

January 24th, 1911.

JESSIE WRIGHT.

With reference to the question in Mrs. Fyffe's letter last week, I should like to give my own experience. I have a daughter, a worker, and therefore a keen Suffragist, and four sons, ages from 23-16. My daughter persuaded me to take in "The Common Cause." The boys began by laughing at it and treating it somewhat disdainfully, but gradually they became interested in its contents—so much so that the youngest, who has just returned to his public school, earnestly requested me, on leaving, always to send him "The Common Cause."

A fortnight ago another boy was on the eve of leaving home to join his ship. On that night, when he was in bed, I spoke earnestly to him on the Suffrage question, pointing out that good, earnest women are working for it on account of the terrible moral evil that attends the under-payment of women, and that we feel we cannot combat it without representation. I did not beat about my confidence very soon, for in his first letter, written from Devonport, he says: "I was very glad you spoke to me on Thursday evening when I was in bed. I never realised what you told me." I feel very strongly the importance of letting our young people know the true state of things in society—in the large sense of the word,—and in plain language, too. They do not understand enough to grasp the meaning of veiled language.

After all, it is the young who are in danger, not the old. What should we think of anyone who was sending a son or daughter a dangerous journey and who possessed a chart marking all the pitfalls, etc., and who carefully studied it himself, but kept it concealed from the traveller? Is not this a parable of our own attitude very often?

January 26th, 1911.

A MOTHER.

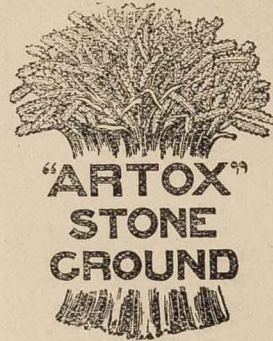
If such articles as that of Mrs. Bramwell Booth are to be sprung upon us in "The Common Cause" it is easy to foresee a decline in the circulation of the paper, and not easy to see any gain to the cause of morality.

(Mrs.) ANNA BATESON.

I also was very glad to see Mrs. Bramwell Booth's article in your issue of January 19th, terrible though it is. May I suggest to those ladies who object to its publication that girls who are too young to know of such horrors are also too young to form an opinion on the question of Women's Suffrage, and therefore need not read "The Common Cause," which, as I understand it, is intended to provide ammunition for those who are qualified by age and experience to take some part in the fight for the emancipation of women—not light reading for all and sundry.

As to servants, if the anxious mistresses would talk with their maids they would probably find them only too well informed on the subject. A friend of mine employs a young

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girl for a few hours daily, and she has quite recently asked to be allowed to come at 7-15 a.m. instead of 7, in order that she may escape the undesirable attentions of the working-men she meets on their way to work.

I am very glad, too, to read the description of Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's in this week's issue. Some of us who cannot afford the prices they charge would be thankful to know of other shops where the employees are humanely treated.

MARGARET GRAHAM.
8, Gayton Road, Harrow, January 27th, 1911.

I cannot say how glad I was to see the editorial remarks about Mrs. Bramwell Booth's article. If a paper like "The Common Cause" should cease to speak out about the frightful evils that are in our midst, I believe a large part of its value would be gone, and I know not where we should turn for the truth.

ETHEL MONTGOMERY.

I note that the advisability of publishing Mrs. Bramwell Booth's article in "The Common Cause" has been questioned.

May I thank you warmly for having published it. I was able to make immediate use of it in an address I was giving to "women only." The subject with which Mrs. Booth's article deals should always form, I think, part of what women have to say to one another on such occasions. The evil is, in the nature of circumstances, a very secret one and needs all the light that can be thrown upon it. It is also more widespread than is imagined. Confirmation of this can be gained by study of "The Child's Guardian," the organ of the N.S.P.C.C. At the Derby Assizes recently Mr. Justice Bucknill drew attention to the fact that 19 cases of offences against children had come before the court. Also I heard Canon Newbolt say a short while ago that Rescue Homes had now to open their doors to children.

Information based on Mrs. Booth's knowledge of solid facts is invaluable, and, painful as that information is, I can think of no more advantageous way of making use of it than by publishing it in a paper read by thousands of practical women. With regard to the fear entertained that such information will thus come into the hands of young people, may I suggest will thus come into the hands of young people, may I suggest that, with or without such information, "The Common Cause" is not care for young people to swallow whole, and in lumps, as it were, well-matured views of life. Food for the growing mind is derived from more impalpable sources. One does not take young people to serious lectures nor meetings, nor encourage them to read papers dealing with "causes."

With regard to servants, it is most foolish to suppose that they should have, or indeed are likely to have, a monopoly of ignorance on these matters. Experience has taught them alas! too often far more than our comparatively reticent journals can do. Owing to the circumstances of their lives, which embrace other spheres than one's own, it occurs to me that our servants could throw a good deal of light on the social questions which interest us so mightily, if we only asked them.

(Mrs.) ROSE M. H. ROBINSON.

Watford, January 29th, 1911.

Mrs. Fyffe agrees with all Suffragists in perceiving the "urgent need for the prevention of the evils of immorality, and for the power to deal with those evils." The vote alone will never give us this power; it will be a mighty weapon, but must be used together with that other weapon of truth and plain speaking, which we already possess. Can we refuse, in our own paper, to hear the serious and careful statements of such experienced workers as Mrs. Bramwell Booth?

No one wants to give disproportionate attention to these subjects, but considering their importance to a great many Suffragists, it would surely be wrong to withhold discussion of them in their turn.

(Mrs.) M. K. DANIEL.

COUNCIL MEETINGS.

I should like to suggest that in future no clapping be allowed. "Hear, hear" is quite sufficient to denote approval. A good deal of time would thus be saved, and it would make it more possible for those at the back of the hall to hear. At the last Council frequently the end of a sentence, or the name of the next speaker was quite inaudible owing to the applause from the front rows.

Would it be possible for the Council meetings to last at least three if not four days? The amount of business that was hustled through last Thursday and Friday was more than the ordinary brain or temper could stand, the number of amendments surely proving that the decisions of previous councils had been come at rather too hurriedly.

If every delegate paid 1s. it would go far to cover the extra expense.

BEATRICE KEMP.

Beechwood, Rochdale, January 29th, 1911.

I shall be glad if you will allow me, through your columns, to put in a plea on behalf of the representatives to the Council Meetings of the National Union. These representatives come from all parts of the country, many of them for the first time. They come in order to gain knowledge and experience, and to carry back to their societies a report of what has taken place. At the meetings held last week in London a long and sufficiently complicated printed agenda was before the assembly. If this had been adhered to strictly it would have been possible, though not easy, for any fairly intelligent person to have followed the proceedings. But what happened? On almost every resolution speakers started up with alterations and additions. Scarcely anything was allowed to pass unchallenged. And as if this were not enough, people vied with one another in rising to points of order and in asking questions. Add to this that the Kensington Town Hall is not remarkably good in acoustic properties, and it will be readily understood what a trial of temper and nerves all this entailed, and how bewildering the effect must have been on the majority of representatives. It is futile to try to conduct these large meetings as if they were small committees of experts sitting round a table.

Many of the alterations made were trivial, and the advantage gained, if any, was in all cases ludicrously small as compared with the delay and confusion that resulted. The speakers chiefly responsible for the obstruction of business seemed to have no sense of proportion, but to deem it their duty to express their own views and get somebody right on every possible occasion. Principles were quite obscured in this tumult of words, and difficulties of all sorts created, quite unnecessarily, both for chairman and audience.

For the future could it be clearly laid down that amendments not on the printed agenda should not be introduced, or at least should be strictly limited? Also, could something be done so to regulate the discussion that two or three

speakers should not monopolise the time of the audience by rising on every point?

GEORIANA HILL (Joint Hon. Sec.
Wandsworth Committee).

January 30th, 1911.

TAX RESISTANCE.

If we adopt the duty of obedience as one all-sufficient obligation to rule our conduct, we do in effect take shelter from difficulties and dangers that must beset all moral and intellectual progress: from error we are safe, since being confined we cannot stray; from blame we are safe, since that needs must rest with authority above us; and from scruples we are free—but for so long as we can shut out our sense of responsibility.

But just as authority may be administered not for the purpose for which it was established, but corruptly, so too may obedience be tendered, not honestly, not ignorantly, but corruptly, as a cheap and easy method of avoiding trouble, physical, mental, or moral.

In the organisation of government the degree of obedience tendered on the one part, and of responsibility undertaken on the other should duly correspond, and the justification of the transfer is not immutable, but contingent upon the fulfilment of the purpose for which it was designed. And whether this purpose has been fulfilled is not a matter to be left to the decision of those that govern, but is pre-eminently the concern of us who are governed—for this item of responsibility must always remain to the governed, and by them alone can be exercised for the indication of bad government.

In every moral and intelligent individual in the State ultimate responsibility is inherent: no human authority is competent to annul it, and no franchise is necessary to confer it. Wanting facilities to its exercise, we may yet do well to employ such means as remain to us; and by so doing we best discharge our obligation for true government, that has been through successive ages sustained and established against power misapplied, by the vital forces of responsibility.

In choosing tax resistance as our means, we can interpose, not general and promiscuous disorder, but a definite and substantial check to the continuance of unconstitutional administration, indicative of the precise point at which amendment is necessary to restore the authority of government, true to itself, and true to the governed.

If there be Suffragists honestly of opinion that the evils from which the nation suffers by lack of representation to women and consequent neglect of their welfare and interests, are of so slight a nature as to be negligible in comparison with official convenience, to them the exercise of responsibility by these, or by any means whatsoever, may appear an unwarrantable disturbance. But let them be assured that to those who are prepared in the course of Tax Resistance to sacrifice their own convenience, such considerations must be futile, and that these means they use in the conviction that they are just and right to the purpose of rendering unjust and unrighteous administration not merely difficult but impossible.

C. HOUSMAN.

Swanage, January 22nd, 1911.

THE PRESS BOYCOTT.

Your complaints as to the unfairness of the greater portion of the Press in its treatment of Suffrage news are absolutely true. The only thing to be remembered is that the treatment which the Suffrage gets is extended to many other subjects, which do not happen to please editors or proprietors. Take, for instance, the controversy between the Bishop of London and his Chancellor, Dr. Tristram, on the issue of marriage

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licences to divorced persons and to deceased wife's sisters and their brothers-in-law for unions which the Canon Law still brands as incestuous. Dr. Tristram's letter was widely published, the Bishop's replies were largely suppressed.

A MEMBER OF THE MEN'S LEAGUE.

[We must confess that we have ourselves omitted the conclusion of our correspondent's letter, because it raised the controversy alluded to, and we should not be able to allow space for replies. Discussions upon matters of religious difference or church discipline are out of our necessarily restricted "sphere."—Ed. "C.C."]

LAW, EDUCATION, AND MORALS.

In a recent number you spoke of modern schools for boys as mediæval and conventual. They certainly are not mediæval except in so far as the modern public and grammar school applies to all boys a system only intended for boys preparing for the priesthood. The youth of the middle ages was often sent to a castle, where he was brought up as a page, and one of his chief duties was to wait on the ladies, who in return taught him pretty French words and good manners. Indeed, many of the knights of old were for some of the most impressionable years of their lives ladies' pages. The custom lasted well into the seventeenth century, and readers of Thackeray's "Esmond" and Sir Walter Scott's "Peveril of the Peak" may remember that both the heroes of these two stories are sent at the age when boys now begin school to be ladies' pages. There is a note at the conclusion of "Peveril of the Peak," in which the question is briefly discussed, and Sir Walter Scott remarks that one of the chief British officers of the American War was educated as the page of a titled lady. This system naturally died out as literary education became more appreciated by the upper classes, and the system originally intended only for a celibate priesthood was applied to all boys, simply because no other system suggested itself. The effect of this page system on the ideas of the age of chivalry has never been discussed; but it is worth attention, and may even give some ideas to the educationalist of the future.

Now, a brief word on Mrs. Bramwell Booth's article. I think that it is hardly fair to attribute to the action of men the grave deficiencies in the law in reference to assaults upon women and the other painful matters mentioned by Mrs. Booth. The real truth is that in the middle ages offences of a moral character were cognizable in the Church Courts. These courts, as a reference to Archdeacon Heale's "Criminous Cases" will show, actually punished both parents in case of illegitimate births. The very fact that if the civil code had touched such offences it would have punished them with savage cruelty encouraged public opinion to leave them to the Church. When the ecclesiastical courts lost their power, public opinion only slowly saw the need of legislation on the subject. Yet another point, Mrs. Bramwell Booth writes as if the good man was necessarily the good citizen, and seems to think that things are right and wrong in proportion as the civil law makes them so. The moral of the controversy between Dr. Tristram and the Bishop of London on the subject of marriage licence proves the contrary.

HISTORICUS.

[We are much obliged to our learned correspondent for pointing out the somewhat loose phraseology of our reference to "mediæval" schools. We did intend to imply that the method which might be suited to a celibate priesthood was not the best for the education of a man of the world, who was to be a husband and father. We think our correspondent had read into Mrs. Booth's articles sentiments which are not there. Unfortunately many men who are "good" in their private lives, neglect entirely to use the political power they alone possess to protect women and children from evil men. Mrs. Booth never said "things are right and wrong in proportion as civil law makes them so"; no sentiment could be more at variance with her spirit. But to refuse to recognize the effect which law has upon public conscience would be to lack that common sense she possesses in such ample measure.—Ed. "C.C."]

THE CANDIDATES FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

On behalf of the Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage I have invited the candidates for the University representation in Parliament to indicate the attitude that they would adopt in reference to Suffrage legislation. Sir Joseph Larmor replies that "on the problems connected with Women's Suffrage he desires to keep an open mind." Mr. Page states that he "cannot now deal with so great a problem," engrossed as he is in pursuing his candidature as a representative of the schoolmaster. Mr. Harold Cox writes as follows: "I will gladly support both by vote and speech a Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill for extending the Suffrage to women. I will also oppose any further extension of the franchise to men unless it includes the extension of the franchise to women. I should like to add that if at any time any measure is introduced for reforming the present electoral system, I should do my best to make that reform include the enfranchisement of women."

H. RACKHAM.

Christ's College, Cambridge, January 28th.

Work of Societies in the Union.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FEDERATION.

All but three of the Societies in this Federation were represented at the Council meeting, our delegates being 38 in number, out of a possible 43.

The annual meeting of the North of England Society was held at the offices, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, on Friday, the 20th January. The report for the past year included the formation of the Manchester and District Federation, which has made it necessary to change the name of the Society, and it was proposed that the new name be "The Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage." This was passed unanimously. The Executive Committee for the coming year was elected, and the meeting received with great regret the announcement of Miss Courtney's resignation of the position of secretary, as she finds it impossible to live permanently so far from London. Manchester Society has undertaken the responsibility for the nine divisions of Manchester and Salford, also for the three county divisions of Prestwich, Gorton, and Stretford, which adjoin Manchester, and it was mentioned that they hope to start new societies in the seven constituencies within the Federation area where no societies now exist.

A meeting of the committee of the Ashton Women's Suffrage Society was held on Thursday, January 19th, to consider the possibility of forming a Society in the adjacent constituency, Stalybridge. Miss Robertson was present, and it was settled that she should, with the help of the Ashton Committee, organise a public meeting shortly in Stalybridge.

The second monthly social evening was held on January 12th by the Knutsford Division Society in the King's Coffee-house, Knutsford. Miss Winnie Caldwell was chairman. Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., gave the address, and the second part of the evening was devoted to music. From sixty to seventy people were present.

The Anti-Suffragists having challenged the Oldham Society to a debate, this took place on January 26th in the Co-operative Hall. Mr. William Schofield, J.P., was in the chair, and Mr. Beaumont of Manchester, opened on the Anti-Suffrage side. His arguments were two: That women don't want the vote, and that the vote is dependent on force. Dr. Olive Clayton, who replied on the Suffrage side, had no difficulty in demolishing these arguments. Questions were answered by both speakers, but no resolution was put. There was a large audience, the proportion of men and women being about equal. The Mayor (Mrs. Councillor Lees) was present. (If we can possibly find room, we hope to publish some fuller account of this debate next week.)

On January 10th an open meeting was held in Stockport, which took the form of a discussion on "The Effect of the Franchise in Other Countries." Various countries were taken by individual members, and a lively discussion followed.

LONDON.

A Reception organised by the Highgate Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the Athenæum, Muswell Hill, on Tuesday evening, January 24th. There were about 350



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people present, and the gathering was a most interesting and enthusiastic one. Mrs. Holman and Mrs. J. J. Thomson acted as hostesses. A successful musical entertainment was provided by Mrs. Russell James. Addresses were given by Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. Corbett-Alaby, and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, and the Rev. T. A. Lacey, Highgate, was in the chair. After such convincing and inspiring speeches, the formation of a Branch Society for Muswell Hill was an easy task. A Secretary and Committee were appointed, and fourteen became members.

Mr. Cholmeley, the headmaster of Owen's School, Islington, delivered a most interesting address at the monthly At Home of the Windsor and Eton branch on Monday, January 23rd. The meetings have been removed to a room in the Guildhall, which is more central in position than the former hall. There was a good discussion, and two new members joined, one being a gentleman who has worked on boards and councils for many years. Alderman Reavell was in the chair, and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the speaker, proposed by the hon. secretary, and seconded by Miss Thomas.

The projected play and concert at Windsor on February 8th, in the Albert Institute, is being well advertised. Many influential residents have given their names as patrons, and the music, which is to be entirely by women composers, should be a strong attraction in itself, even without the play. At the concert the new Suffrage song, "The Awakening," will be sung. The play, "How the Vote was Won," is to be acted by Miss Edith Craig's Company of "Pioneer Players." The performance will begin at 8 o'clock. Tickets: 5s., 2s. (reserved), 1s., and a limited number of seats at 6d.

BEDFORD.

A very successful meeting was held at the Kindergarten Training College on Tuesday afternoon, January 24th, when we had the great privilege of hearing Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. The chair was taken by the Town Clerk, Mr. Charles Stimson, and the Mayor, who is a member of our committee, also spoke.

Mrs. Fawcett showed how the whole political status of women (not only of the voters) would be improved by the abolition of the sex qualification, and said that the present demand of women for a share in political responsibility was the inevitable result of an educational, social, and industrial changes that have taken place. She maintained that the present situation with regard to women is one of natural evolution, not of revolution.

HARROGATE.

On January 26th we held a drawing-room meeting at the Clarendon Hotel, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Riley, who read an interesting paper written by Miss Ward, of Sheffield. Mrs. Parish, of Leeds, also gave an excellent address on the work of the Society during the past year.

On Saturday, January 28th, Mrs. de Bunsen, our President, and others joined with Miss Mary Phillips, of the W.S.P.U., in a deputation to our member, the Hon. Ed. Wood. We knew he was not favourable to Women's Suffrage, but he received us most politely, and could bring no logical objection—it seems to be chiefly a feeling of sentiment with him.

HUDDERSFIELD.

A meeting for the presentation of the new banner, kindly made by Mrs. Josiah Lockwood, was held in the Parochial Hall on January 24th. Miss Siddon took the chair. Mrs. Lockwood presented the banner, on which she had embroidered the motto, "Votes for Homes." In accepting the banner on behalf of the Society, Miss Siddon said she hoped soon the word "Victory" would also be inscribed on it. After a very hearty vote of thanks had been given to Mrs. Lockwood, Mrs. Donkersley gave a very interesting address.

Other Societies.

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The president and vice-president of the Actresses' Franchise League will be at home on Friday, February 3rd, at three o'clock. The speakers on this occasion are:—Mrs. Massy, Mr. Ellis Griffith, M.P., Miss Evelyn Sharp, and the Hon. Malcolm Macnaghten. Miss Winifred Mayo will take the chair. Hostess, Madame Zelle de Lussan. Admission free. Doors open at 2.30. Those who have not received invitations, and are desirous of attending, should apply to the Organising Secretary.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

On January 27th Mrs. Smith, sanitary inspector of the Corporation, gave an address on "How the Poor Live." Mrs. Haslam presided, and there was a large attendance. The annual report was submitted, which showed that the Association had accomplished excellent work. They had held several meetings, which were addressed by Councillors Margaret Ashton and Miss B. Mason. Miss Buchanan supported Mrs. Smith, and said a more enlightened municipal body was needed.

YOUNGER SUFFRAGISTS.

The address of the Younger Suffragists is 12, Eaton Place, London, S.W. The two hon. secretaries are Miss O. J. Dunlop and Miss Rosamond Smith.

Forthcoming Meetings.

FEBRUARY 2.	Leamington—Albert Hall—Franchise Club.	5.0
	Gloucester—Northgate Mansions—"How the Vote was Won."	7.30
FEBRUARY 3.	Walsley and Wirral—Public Hall, West Kirby—Mrs. Allas Bright.	3.0
	Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Social Study Class.	5.30

Cardiff—Cory Hall—Debate—Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Stewart.	7.45
Penarth—Premier Restaurant—Mrs. Swanwick.	3.30
Leeds—Stanningley—Miss Fielden.	8.0
FEBRUARY 4.	
Carlisle—County Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Chance (chair).	8.0
FEBRUARY 6.	
Sutton Coldfield—Allerton High School—Monthly Meeting.	3.30
Tunbridge Wells—18, Crescent Road—Opening of Suffrage Shop—At Home—Hostess, Miss Sargent.	3.30
Brighton—St. Luke's Schoolroom—Mrs. Cooper.	8.15
FEBRUARY 7.	
Shrewsbury—St. Alkmund's Schoolroom—Annual Meeting.	7.45
Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—Lecture—Mrs. Hamilton Grant.	4.0
Bristol—1, The Paragon, Clifton—Working Party.	3.0
Leeds—Mrs. Grant's At Home—Miss Fielden.	3.30
Brighton—Memorial Hall—Mrs. Cooper, Miss M. E. Verrall.	8.15
FEBRUARY 8.	
Leeds—Mrs. Boothroyd's At Home—Miss Fielden.	3.45
Hull—Lecture Hall, Kingston Square—Dramatic Performance.	8.0
Croydon—Adult School Hall—At Home—Mrs. Auerbach.	4.0
Newcastle—27, Ridley Place—Discussion.	7.0
Colwyn Bay—St. Paul's Church Room—"How the Vote was Won."	7.30
Weston-super-Mare—Public Meeting—Miss Abadam, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross (chair).	3.0
Brighton—Steine House, Old Steine—Annual Meeting—Members Only—Mrs. Cooper.	4.30
FEBRUARY 9.	
Birmingham—Salisbury Road, Moseley—Mrs. Max Sturge's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Kirby, Miss Noll Wright.	3.15
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—35, Molesworth Street—Committee Meeting.	11.30
Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Abadam, Mrs. Budgete (chair).	3.30
Birmingham—Soho Hill, Handsworth—Mrs. Griffiths' Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Osler.	3.15
FEBRUARY 10.	
Wells—Guildhall—Miss Abadam.	8.0

LONDON.

Feb. 3: Sutton, Miss Close's Drawing-room Meeting, Lecture, "Miss Buss and Miss Beale," Miss J. Thomson.	3.30
Feb. 4: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Debate, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Stewart.	8.0
Feb. 6: S. Paddington, Ethical Church Lecture Hall, Miss E. A. Bompas, Miss M. Hodges, Mr. F. Henlé (chair).	8.30
Feb. 8: Windsor, Albert Institute, Play and Concert.	8.0
Feb. 15: Epsom, Mrs. Newsom's Drawing-room Meeting, Lecture, "Mary Carpenter and Frances Power Cobb," Miss Bompas.	3.15

SCOTLAND.

Feb. 3: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, "Is Our Demand Merely Political?" Mrs. Cumming-Craig.	4.30
Edinburgh, Pipe Street Hall, Portobello, Miss Frances Parker.	8.0
Feb. 7: Perth, Grand Hotel, Mrs. Hunter (Glasgow).	8.0
Feb. 8: Edinburgh, Mrs. White's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Alice Low.	4.0
Feb. 10: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, Mrs. Malcolm Darling.	4.30
Feb. 15: Edinburgh, Mrs. Melville's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Mair, Miss Alice Low.	4.30

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