

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of the great meeting in the Albert Hall on Saturday last, December 5, when Mr. Lloyd George came to address the Women's Liberal Federation on the subject of Woman Suffrage. The members of the Women's Social and Political Union had been asked on this occasion to abandon their usual practice of heckling Cabinet Ministers. They had replied that they were quite willing to do so provided Mr. Lloyd George was coming with a definite pledge from the Government of immediate action in the matter, but they were not prepared to sit quietly by while he uttered platitudes on the subject of woman suffrage. A correspondence accordingly passed between the secretary of the N.W.S.P.U. and Mr. Lloyd George, which is reproduced on page 180, which decided the Union that no special pronouncement on behalf of the Government was forthcoming.

Mr. Lloyd George's Speech.

The actual character of Lloyd George's speech, so far as he was able to deliver it, proved the correctness of this anticipa-

tion. In the words of the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* :—

The line he took is one more of the curious indications that even sympathisers with the movement among men are perpetually failing to see the real position of women on the question. It is so inevitable a failure that it might almost become a rule now that no man should be the chief speaker at a meeting of women on women's suffrage. A set speech from even the most advanced of men can hardly help containing some provoking blindnesses.

And when at last he came to what had been referred to by himself and Lady McLaren as his "message from the Government," it was found to be nothing other than a *rechauffée* of the statement made by the Prime Minister as long ago as May last. Women who have had enough of sympathetic phrases coupled with inaction on behalf of Cabinet Ministers find in such a message nothing but an insult to their womanhood. This is apparent not only to ourselves, but to writers as unfriendly to the cause of woman suffrage as the leader writer of the *Globe* newspaper, who, in the issue of Monday afternoon, wrote :—

We see very genuine grounds for the irritation displayed by the suffragettes at the Albert Hall. Mr. Lloyd George must have known that the declaration he had to make would have infuriated any body of men, and we do not see why he should expect that it would soothe an assembly of excited women.

But the members of the Women's Social and Political Union were not to be trifled with; they had tested before the hollow-ness of Cabinet Ministers' declarations, and they went there to heckle Mr. Lloyd George, and succeeded in their object to very good effect. Whenever the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought out a rounded period or an expression of trifling levity, he was met with a pertinent interruption asking when the Cabinet intended to take this matter in earnest and push it through into execution.

Extraordinary Violence.

Woman after woman who took this course was seized upon by the stewards, and, with the utmost brutality, thrust out of the meeting. The women of the W.S.P.U. have never complained of ejection from Liberal meetings; they have realised that though this treatment had been meted out to them for the very slightest interruption, there was nevertheless a legitimate ground for removing those who went to the meeting with the express purpose of interrupting the speaker; but they do protest, most strongly, against the excessive violence and brutality which is frequently administered to the women by the stewards. On this occasion this brutality was witnessed by so many spectators that there is now no attempt at denial. Women were seized, flung down, carried out, or dragged out, and pommelled during their exit at a time when they were perfectly powerless to resist. Nothing but the very strongest determination to make their protest against injustice heard would induce women to face this violence and such treatment.

A Protest Against Assault.

But even this treatment has been on previous occasions exceeded by the ejectors, who, once in the corridors of the Hall, and so outside the control of public opinion, have subjected the women to language and behaviour to which no woman ought tamely to submit. As a protest against this treatment, Miss Ogston took with her to the Albert Hall meeting a dog whip. After she made her protest she was attacked by a member of the audience sitting next her, who struck her and forced her backwards. The stewards, entering, quickly had her down on the ground, and she then said that she was willing to leave the meeting, but she refused to submit to their handling. To this no attention whatever was paid, and they continued to subject her to violence, whereupon as a protest she struck the man who had first attacked her with her whip. This protest and the indignant letters which have filled the newspapers from men and women, some of whom are opponents

of woman suffrage itself, will, we hope, bring this disgraceful conduct to a permanent end.

Other Interesting Events.

Among the other interesting events of the week have been the declaration of the poll in the Chelmsford by-election, increasing the majority against the Liberal nominee from 450 to 2,500. Though not publicly admitting the fact, Mr. Dence himself attributed this great defeat to the action of the W.S.P.U.

On Friday last, Mrs. Tanner was released from Holloway, after suffering two months' imprisonment, and received a hearty welcome at the prison gates and also at the breakfast which was given in her honour at the Inns of Court Hotel.

We also chronicle protests made at Cabinet Ministers' meetings, at that of Mr. McKenna at Manchester, and Mr. Sydney Buxton at Millwall. Mr. Runciman sent his wife to take his place in opening the Arts and Crafts Exhibition of the East Ham Brotherhood, pleading pressure of Parliamentary business.

Mrs. Baines has been visited in the prison by her husband. Her first enquiry was concerning the prisoners in Holloway; her second concerning the Albert Hall meeting. She looks forward to a vigorous campaign next year leading up to victory.

The decision in the Scottish Graduates case will be given in the House of Lords on the day of publication of this issue. As the respondents' counsel have not been called, it is understood that it will be adverse to the women.

We regret that owing to pressure on our space Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's chapter on the History of the Movement has been held over till next week.

N.W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Release of Mrs. Baines.

The next prisoner to be released will be Mrs. Baines, whose six weeks dates from the commencement of the Assizes, November 5, and who, according to the usual remission of one-sixth of the sentence, will be released from Armley Gaol to-morrow. She will be met in Leeds by a party of friends, women in shawls and cloaks will draw the carriage, and a breakfast will be given. A reception will be held in the Café Royal, Briggate, at 8 p.m. On Saturday morning she will travel up to London, arriving at King's Cross at 1.5 p.m. There she will be met by a party of London friends, who will give her a welcome in the name of the London members, and will take her to Trafalgar-square, where a special meeting will be held from 2 o'clock till sunset (3.49). This will be addressed by her and other speakers. As many friends as possible are invited to take part in the welcome. The procession from King's Cross to Trafalgar-square will be on foot. Later in the afternoon the procession will form up again, and make a tour of the West-End of London. Further details will be found on page 186. On Sunday at 3 p.m. there will be an open-air meeting in Town Hall-square, Leeds, to celebrate Mrs. Baines' release.

Release of Christabel Pankhurst.

Tuesday, December 22, will see the release of Christabel Pankhurst from Holloway Gaol. Very special preparations are being made by the Union to make this occasion one of unprecedented rejoicing, and as it is anticipated that a very large number of friends will wish to take part in the ceremony, they are invited to make their arrangements as early as possible.

The carriage in which Miss Pankhurst will ride will be drawn by white horses led by women wearing the colours of the Union. Members and friends will follow behind the carriage on foot, and the procession will march down to the Inns of Court Hotel, where a complimentary breakfast will be served. As there are only 400 places available for the breakfast, and as a very large number of applications have already been made to the office for tickets, those who wish to avail themselves of the privilege of being present should apply at once. Tickets, price 2s. each, can be obtained of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

It is expected that all those who present themselves to take part in the procession should be in the colours of the Union. An inexpensive uniform has been provided, consisting of a short skirt in purple or green, and a white jersey coat, and soft felt hat in purple or green. Some of these can be obtained direct from the Union, and others can be purchased through the ordinary shops.

Those who find it impossible to wear the colours will take part in a second procession, which will form up in the rear of the first.

At Homes in the Queen's Hall.

The last of the Monday afternoon At Homes of the current year will be held as usual in the large Queen's Hall, on Monday,

December 14. There will be no At Homes on Mondays, December 21 and December 28, or January 4, but on January 11 the At Homes will recommence in the large Queen's Hall, when Mrs. Pankhurst, recently released from prison, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, as well as Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, are expected to speak. Owing to the very large crowd that will probably be present, a charge will be made for certain portions of the hall. The seats in the stalls will be charged for at 2s. 6d. each, and the whole of the first gallery will be charged for at 1s. a seat. The remainder of the hall, including the orchestra, will be free.

The Queen's Hall Meeting.

A meeting will be held in the large Queen's Hall, London, on Thursday evening, December 17. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be the chair, and the other speakers will be Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Gladice Keevil, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence. Tickets are in great demand, and should be applied for at once, prices 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Lectures in the New Year.

Among the special arrangements for the early part of the year 1909 will be a course of lectures to be delivered in the St. James's Hall, Great Portland-street, on Tuesday evenings, at 8 p.m., from January 26 to March 2 inclusive. Among the lecturers will be Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Elizabeth Robins, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence. Tickets, price 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., will be issued shortly, and the full arrangements will be announced later.

"Votes for Women" Bound Volume.

As the whole of the original number of the bound volume is now exhausted, the January, 1908, number has had to be reprinted at considerable expense, and this has enabled 25 further volumes to be bound. These are now on sale at 12s. 6d. each. If after these are exhausted there is still a further demand, other issues will have to be reprinted, and the price still further increased in order to cover the necessary outlay. Orders, therefore, should be sent at once to the publisher, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. Readers who have copies of any of the issues prior to August are asked to send them at once to the publisher, to make up sets for binding. Full price will be paid for copies in good preservation.

Christmas Number of "Votes for Women."

The issue of VOTES FOR WOMEN for December 24 will contain a special plate portrait of Christabel Pankhurst. The issue for December 31 will contain a verbatim report of Miss Pankhurst's speech. Readers who are in the habit of obtaining their copies at meetings of the Women's Social and Political Union are invited to order these two issues either from their newsagents or direct from the VOTES FOR WOMEN Office, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. Owing to the Christmas holidays they are likely otherwise to lose the opportunity of obtaining their paper. Orders should be sent in early, as the number of copies will be limited.

Women who are willing to help in the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN are referred to pages 186-188, where they will find particulars for different localities.

Christmas Presents.

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN are asked to make a point of buying their Christmas presents from the Woman's Press, 4, Clements Inn. Many useful and pretty gifts are on sale, and at prices to suit all purses, among them being motor scarves, ties, belts (with "Haunted House" buckles), purse bags and hatpins, and chenille and silk cords, for neck wear, at 1s. each, all in the purple, white and green, and the Boadicea and Shamrock brooches, the latter 6d. each.

The Shelley Calendar, arranged by Miss Kerr, for 1909, is ready, and can be obtained for 1s. The Christmas cards reproducing the beautiful banner by Laurence Housman are also ready; the price is 6d. each for single copies; larger quantities: 25 for 10s. 6d.; 50 for £1; 100 for £1 17s. 6d. The penny Christmas card, which contains a pretty design by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, is now on sale. Orders should be given at once.

A large number of pamphlets and leaflets can also be obtained from the Woman's Press.

Presentation to Mrs. Pankhurst.

Many of the members of the Women's Social and Political Union have expressed a great wish that Mrs. Pankhurst, upon her release from three months' imprisonment, on January 9, should be presented with some little token of the love and gratitude which they feel for her. The Committee has considered this suggestion, and suggests that the members and friends of the Union should present Mrs. Pankhurst with a decorative chain and pendant, wrought by hand in the colours of the Union, with amethysts, pearls, and green agate. A most charming design has been submitted by an artist in jewel work, and has been accepted by the committee.

A special fund is now opened, and all contributions should be

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.
Up to December 18.

Dec.	Thur. 10	Fri. 11	Sat. 12	Sun. 13	Mon. 14	Tues. 15	Wed. 16	Thur. 17	Fri. 18											
	Manchester, "Votes" Corps Chelsea, Sloane Square Wood Green, Small Unity Hall Birmingham, Miss Saxelby's Drawing-room Meeting, Hall Green	Wolverhampton, At Home, Baths Assembly Rooms Paignton, At Home, Masonic Hall Kensington, King Street Westbourne Grove Bradford Moor, Lantern Show Notting Hill Gate Billinghurst, Lantern Lecture Bristol, Horse Fair Glasgow, Charing Cross Hall	Manchester, Drawing-room Mtg. London, At Home, Portman Rooms, Dorset Street Woodford, Memorial Hall Deal, Stanhope Hall	Chelsea, At Home Manchester, Doll Show, Suffragette Exhibit Richmond, Drawing-room Mtg. Leeds, Armley Gaol, Release of Mrs. Baines	Gateshead, High Level Bridge London, Westbourne Grove Plymouth, At Home, Royal Hotel Kensington, Nevean Place Kensington, Fulham Road Walsend, Women's Meeting, I.L.P. Institute Leeds, Café Royal Stoke-on-Trent, Debate Leeds, Horsforth Liberal Association Stirling, Lesser Albert Hall	Clifton, Hannah More Hall Harlesden, Congregational Hall	Brixton, Raleigh Hall	Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings, Deansgate Kensington, Drawing-room Mtg. Manchester, "Votes" Corps Kensington, High Street London, King's Cross, Welcome to Mrs. Baines London, Trafalgar Square Hammersmith, King's Theatre	Bristol, Members' Meeting, 47 Canynge Road Glasgow, At Home, 14r, Bath Street London, Hanbury Street, E., Christchurch Road Hall Newcastle-on-Tyne, Haymarket Blackheath Leeds, Town Hall Square Rochdale, Pioneer Co-operative Hall	London, At Home, Queen's Hall Bristol, At Home, Victoria Rooms Walsend, Open-air Meeting Manchester, Athenæum, Debate Chelsea, Open-air Meeting Richmond, Freemasons' Hall	Tottenham Lane, N. 8, Church Lane Harringay, Drawing-room Mtg. Streatham, 34, Ambleside Ave. Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings Birmingham, Priory Rooms, Old Square Bristol, Horse Fair Dumbarton Sunderland, Debate, Liberal Club Leeds, Coliseum	Liverpool, 48, Mount Pleasant Glasgow, Studio Meeting Newcastle-on-Tyne, At Home, Crosby's Café, Northumberland Street Torquay, Bath Saloon	Ardwick, Co-operative Guild Streatham, 34, Ambleside Ave. Manchester, Old and New Members' Farewell Supper, 116, Portland Street Kensington, At Home Ealing, Cosmos Club Bradford, St. George's Hall	Chelsea, At Home Wood Green, Small Unity Hall London, Queen's Hall, Public Meeting	Walsend, Women's Meeting, I.L.P. Institute Clifton, Hannah More Hall London, 16, Warwick Square Aberdeen, Music Hall Manchester, At Home, Onward Buildings, Deansgate					
	Volunteers Wanted Miss Naylor Bowes Park W.S.P.U. Miss Gladice Keevil	Miss Aimee Law Miss Howey, Miss Mills	Open-air Meeting Open-air Meeting Open-air Meeting Miss Haig Miss Annie Kenney Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Conolan	Miss Mary Phillips Miss New Open-air Meeting Mrs. Thomsett, Miss Howey	Open-air Meeting Open-air Meeting Miss New Reception: Mrs. Baines Miss Gladice Keevil Miss Mary Gawthorpe	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Conolan Miss Annie Kenney Miss Isabel Seymour, Miss Douglas Smith. Chair: Mrs. Penn Gaskell Miss Wentworth, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Naylor	Miss Brackenbury Open-air Meeting	Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss M. Gawthorpe, Mrs. Brownlow Miss Annie Kenney	Miss Conolan Miss U. Dugdale	Miss New Miss Ogston Mrs. Martel	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst Miss Annie Kenney	Miss New Miss Mary Gawthorpe Miss Barry Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Tuke, Miss Brackenbury Miss Joachim	Miss Conolan Miss New	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst Mrs. Martel, Miss Gladice Keevil Mrs. Kerwood, Dr. Helen Jones, Miss Jennings Miss Annie Kenney Miss Conolan. Chair: Mrs. John Hunter	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss A. Pankhurst	Miss Conolan Miss New	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst Miss Ansell	Committee Kensington W.S.P.U. Miss Evelyn Sharp Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss A. Pankhurst Committee Chelsea W.S.P.U. Bowes Park W.S.P.U.	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Gladice Keevil, F. W. Pethick Lawrence, Esq. Miss New	Miss Isabel Seymour Miss Ogston Miss Mary Gawthorpe
	11.30 a.m. 12 (noon) 2.45-4.15 3 p.m.	3 p.m. 4-6 6.45 p.m. 6.45 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 8 p.m.	8 p.m.	6 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 3 p.m. 4-6 7 p.m. 7 p.m. 7 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8-10	6.30 p.m. 11.30 a.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 6 p.m.	3-5 3.30 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8-10 2.45 p.m. 3 and 8	3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.	2.45-4.15 3 p.m.	7 p.m. 8 p.m. 8 p.m. 8-10	8 p.m.		

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

London, Christabel Pankhurst's Release	Dec. 22
Manchester, Free Trade Hall	Jan. 19 (1909)
Princes' Skating Rink	May (1909)

sent to Mrs. Tuke, hon. secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, Strand. With this gift will be presented an illuminated address, on which the names of all the donors will be inscribed. Whatever money is left over and above that which is needed to pay the cost of the presentation will be given to Mrs. Pankhurst, to be devoted by her to any object which she may choose.

We know how readily the friends and members of the Union will respond to this opportunity. We shall be glad to receive contributions at once.

It has also been suggested that a silk tricolour flag, with aluminium staff, should be presented to Miss Christabel Pankhurst, the staff to be engraved with the notable days in the history of this movement.
MABEL TUKE, Hon. Secretary, W.S.P.U.

CHRISTABEL PANKHURST'S RELEASE.

**ORDER OF PROCESSION,
Tuesday, December 22.**

- Colours.
- Officials of the Movement.
- Two Bands.
- Walking Procession in Uniform.
- Colours.
- Riders.
- Carriage.....Miss Christabel Pankhurst.
- Riders.
- Colours.
- Ordinary Walking Procession.
- Band.

There is every prospect that a very great gathering will be outside Holloway Prison on Tuesday, December 22, at eight o'clock, to give a welcome to our beloved leader, Christabel Pankhurst. We are anxious that the events of this day should be memorable in many ways, and that December 22 should be not only a red-letter day in the annals of the Union, because of the great joy which it will bring us, but that it will also take rank amongst our great days, because of the complete and triumphant success in every detail of organisation and arrangement.

We give above the order of procession which will be observed on this day, and we draw attention to the fact that the walking procession will be divided into two parts. The first part will consist of Suffragettes in uniform, and the second part of those who find it inconvenient to adopt the uniform style of dress. We very heartily urge that all who can do so will make an effort to wear the uniform, and we appeal specially to the younger members of the Union to observe this little ceremony of dress, which is one way of expressing our unity and the honour which we are glad to pay to one who, as a beloved and wise General, has led us again and again to victory. The uniform will consist of a short skirt of purple or green, a white jersey golf coat, and a simple felt hat of purple or green. The regalia will be worn over the right shoulder, and will be fastened under the left arm. In order to meet the convenience of our busy workers, we have laid in a small stock of white golf coats, which will be sold at the very reasonable price of 7s. 6d. each; we have also the hats for 2s. If orders are to be given, they should be given at once, as should our stock run out, it will take some days to renew it. Those who wear the uniform will walk in front of Miss Pankhurst's carriage; those who are not able to wear uniform will walk behind it.

There is one other point on which I should like to lay stress. We shall secure not only first-class bands, but they will be larger than those used on ordinary occasions. I should suggest that the three bands in this procession should be especially subscribed for as a gift on this great occasion.
E. P. L.

OUR POST BOX.

WHY I USED THE DOG WHIP.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

SIR,—It has been stated freely in the Press that I used a dog-whip on Saturday last to prevent my eviction from Mr. Lloyd George's meeting. This statement is entirely incorrect. I used a dog-whip, not to prevent eviction, but as a protest against violent assault.

On one or two previous occasions when I have been present to heckle Cabinet Ministers I have been subjected to very serious violence, and both I and other women have been disgracefully mauled by the stewards. I determined, accordingly, on Saturday to take steps to prevent a recurrence of such treatment, and to make a protest against it. I therefore took a dog-whip with me.

When I made my interruption, I was at once set upon by the stewards, and knocked backwards by a man who was sitting in the next box. I informed them that I was prepared to leave the building, but I refused to submit to their handling. This statement was absolutely disregarded, and I was dealt with with great violence; in the course of the *melée* I struck with my whip at one of the men who was behaving brutally.

In common with other members of the Women's Social and Political Union, I have the strongest natural repugnance to violence; but I felt it my duty in this instance to make a protest against the sort of treatment to which no woman ought to submit.

Yours, &c.,
HELEN OGSTON.

AT THE ALBERT HALL.

The protest made by members of the National Women's Social and Political Union on Saturday at the Albert Hall far exceeded in importance any previous "heckling" of members of the Cabinet. It was war at close quarters, and for upwards of two hours the Chancellor of the Exchequer was compelled to pay the penalty of his rashness in coming before a great meeting of women met to demand the franchise, with nothing to lay before them but the pious platitudes of which they have already had too much, and the pretence of an official message from the Prime Minister, which, as the women rightly guessed, was nothing more nor less than the now hoary "pledge" of six months ago, which has been exposed in these pages by Christabel Pankhurst again and again. The women had asked for bread, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer offered them a stone. It was the last insult, and they rebelled by every means in their power.

Previous to the Meeting.

The following correspondence had passed between the secretary of the National Women's Social and Political Union and Mr. Lloyd George:—

November 30.

DEAR SIR,—As you are probably aware, a large number of our women expect to be present at your meeting at the Albert Hall on Saturday next, anxious to know what immediate action the Cabinet proposes to take to enfranchise women. We have been asked to use our influence to restrain these women from putting questions to you during the course of your speech, and we are anxious to do so, provided we have an assurance from you that immediate action by the Cabinet is contemplated. Under these circumstances we are approaching you in the hope of hearing that this is the case, when we shall at once urge upon the women the desirability of according you the most attentive hearing. Unless you wish otherwise, we shall treat your answer as strictly confidential until after your speech has been delivered.

I remain, yours faithfully,
(Signed) MAHEL TUKE, Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Lloyd George's Reply.

This drew from Mr. Lloyd George the following cautious reply:—

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W., December 1.

DEAR MADAM,—I have received your letter of yesterday on the subject of the meeting which I am to address at the Albert Hall on the 5th inst. in support of the enfranchisement of women. Anything which I have to say in regard to the attitude of the Government towards the extension of the suffrage to women will be said in the course of my speech on that occasion. As I have already intimated to the organisers of the meeting that I am prepared at the end of my speech to answer any questions put to me bearing upon the subject, interruptions during the course of the delivery of that speech will simply be a piece of gratuitous annoyance to a speaker who will be doing all in his power to advance the cause which you profess to have at heart. If your friends choose to accept the responsibility of preventing a Cabinet Minister for the first time delivering an address in support of Women's Suffrage, the responsibility must be theirs.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) D. LLOYD GEORGE.

To this Mrs. Tuke replied:—

December 4.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the committee of the National Women's Social and Political Union to acknowledge your letter of the 1st inst. It is a matter of great regret to them that the Government do not yet realise the necessity of action in the matter of Woman Suffrage. Their continued refusal to enfranchise women—a refusal for which you as a Cabinet Minister are jointly responsible—forces women to adopt militant methods. Since Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, while acknowledging that women had an irrefutable case, declared that he had no intention of doing anything for them, women have seen the futility of mere words of sympathy on the part of any member of the Cabinet.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) MAHEL TUKE, Hon. Secretary.

The meeting was convened by the Women's Liberal Federation, with Lady McLaren in the chair. A very large number of influential Liberals, men and women, were present on the platform, and the hall was practically full, the greater number of those present being women. Some 300 stewards were in attendance, and police were stationed in the corridors. Mr. Lloyd George's motor was also protected by police. A dramatic incident was that women wearing prison dress of the second division disclosed themselves in prominent places near the platform when the meeting had been in progress for some time. They had entered the hall in cloaks, which hid their garb, and the removal of these was so unostentatiously effected that the women were seen with a start of surprise by most of those present.

A printed document, headed "Official Orders of the Day," had been prepared. Stewards were counselled to "do no violence to any person," and the members of the Women's Liberal Federation were asked, whatever happened, "to act as political soldiers—silent and steady under fire." "Our Federation," the orders ran, "fights against unjust laws—never with physical violence against women." "If," says the *Manchester Guardian*, "these were the instructions also given privately to the stewards, no one who witnessed the scenes which ensued could help feeling that the stewards conspicuously failed to carry out their orders, and that the Women's Liberal Federation was very ill served. Not only did the stewards perform their apparently self-appointed task of turning out interrupters with a promptness which gave the chairman no oppor-

tunity of intervening, but in many instances they did so with a brutality which was nauseating, and the audience played up to them."

The Chairman, in her opening speech, referred to the article by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in this paper of November 26, saying: "It has been suggested that honourable members are engaged in a political flirtation with the ladies. We have all heard of flirtations which have ended in very serious entanglements, especially when the woman was in earnest. (Laughter and applause.) It ever women meant business, we mean business now. (Applause.) Breach of promise will cost members dear in honour, especially as they have received valuable consideration already in the shape of women's work at elections. Do not declare war on the Liberal party. Trust your friends in Parliament to pick you out a winner. Let them betray us, and they will find that at the next election they will be faced not only by infuriated publicans and by wily Tariff Reformers, but also by the righteous wrath of the women. Help the ship into harbour by a waft of your faith; stoke the boilers with your enthusiasm. Any Bill will suit us that gives women the vote. We want a Bill to win."

Lady Bamford Slack, who seconded, likened Mr. Lloyd George to a dove coming forth from the Government ark. (Laughter.)

The Chairman then put the following resolution:—

This meeting, speaking on behalf of the Liberal women of England, Wales, and Scotland, claims from this Government as a measure of justice long overdue the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women; and, furthermore, this meeting, whilst heartily welcoming the announcement of the Prime Minister that he will introduce a democratic Reform Bill before the dissolution of the present Parliament, declares emphatically that no Reform Bill can be either democratic or just which does not extend to women the franchise rights granted to men.

After a collection had been taken the Chairman, calling upon Mr. Lloyd George, said: "Stewards, may your gentle courtesy prove more forcible than force. Friends, remember only silence conquers noise and patience all things. Suffragette ladies, we commend ourselves unto your courtesy. Hear the message of a friend."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer rose. He had come to make a speech, and although he exhibited signs of nervousness from the outset, it was evident that, come what might, he meant to go through with it.

When he looked at that demonstration, he began, he wondered how any one could doubt the political capacity of women, and when he heard the announcement of a collection in the middle of the proceedings before there could possibly be any accidents, before the arrangements of the meeting could be upset by the rising of a Cabinet Minister—

At this point a woman in one of the private boxes interrupted, in a strong resonant voice, easily heard in every corner of the great building: "Mr. Lloyd George, what we women want—"

The rest of her words were drowned, but she continued speaking for some moments before she was interfered with. Then a man jumped from the next box into the one which she occupied, and several stewards rushed at her. She demanded that she should be allowed to leave the place quietly, but refused to be "handled." Instead she was exceedingly violently treated, the first man in particular striking at her. At this she struck back at him with a whip. She was, however, dragged out into a corridor, where she was met by a woman, who said, "I am a Liberal woman, and a doctor. Walk with me, and you will be safe."

Mr. Lloyd George took up his parable. He said he was going to speak not only of his own personal opinion, but of what he conceived to be the attitude of the Government—

"You run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," came, in clear, bell-like tones, from so near that the Chancellor looked round, astonished.

"Any question which may be addressed to me," Mr. Lloyd George said, "I shall be very happy to answer at the close of my speech." "You have said that before," exclaimed a woman, angrily. "Said it before!" retorted the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "I have always done it."

A woman in the body of the hall cried out, "Are you going to give us votes?" and there was again great shouting from the audience. Mr. Lloyd George requested opponents of the disorderly persons not to shout in return, but to keep quiet.

Then from the top gallery a woman cried out many times the phrase, "Deeds, not words; deeds, not words." It was some seconds before the speaker was pounced upon, the stewards being apparently taken completely by surprise. They tried to gag the woman, and then the whisper went round: "She's chained!" This rumour, however, was entirely without foundation, and the woman was violently removed, the stewards attempting to stop her speaking by putting their hands over her mouth.

Mr. Lloyd George began again, and "Why don't you resign from a Cabinet that is hostile to women?" came quickly from somewhere in the gallery. This woman was also ejected.

Mr. Lloyd George, who had resumed his seat, was urged by many voices to "Go on," but he shook his head. Lady McLaren, however, nodded to him to begin again, and he obeyed. If there were any ladies there, he said, who would regard it as a triumph—(Voices: "Deeds, not words!")—for the woman's cause to silence a Cabinet Minister who was putting in a plea for that cause and declaring the intentions of the Government with regard to it, that triumph, he could assure them, would be very easily won, for his poor rhetoric was quite inadequate—"Three cheers for Mrs. Pankhurst!" a man shouted from a box, and the cheer was taken up by many voices.

"Now," said the Chancellor, "we will proceed." But the noise caused by the audience made progress impossible. The only intelligible exclamation was "Sit down!" repeated a great many times. Mr. Lloyd George again returned to his seat, and the organ was played for a few minutes.

Coming to the front of the platform again, Mr. Lloyd George, who was warmly cheered by his friends, who called to him, "Go on, George," said he was afraid his poor rhetoric was quite inadequate to cope with lunacy and hysteria. The disturbance broke out afresh, and the speaker stood at the table for some time unable to go on, while scuffles took place in several parts of the building, and women were roughly hustled out.

Comparative silence having been restored, Mr. Lloyd George said he had had a good many tries, but he would try again. He wished to explain why he supported the cause of Woman Suffrage. (A voice: "And send women to prison.") A man in the gallery, addressing Mr. Lloyd George, attempted to make a speech, and had uttered a few sentences before he was bundled out. "We shall get peace and order gradually by this process of elimination," Mr. Lloyd George remarked. "My words are—" ("Let them be ruthlessly flung out," from the back of the hall). "Two more years of Holloway Prison!" cried a woman at the back of the platform, whose voice had been heard many times before. She resisted the stewards who approached her with determination, and considerable violence was used before she was ejected.

Mr. Nevinson, who was sitting in the arena, called "Shame" upon the stewards, many of whom were behaving in a disgraceful manner to the women, and he, too, was ejected.

"The message, the message," came from insistent voices that refused to be silenced. "Go on, let us have it!"

Stopped by the uproar among the audience, Mr. Lloyd George exclaimed: "Here, steward, there is another lady there who is anxious to be turned out." And the steward hurried to the place indicated.

He had never been able to discover, Mr. Lloyd George said, why men, as men, should be considered fit to take part in the government of the Empire, while women, however cultured, however gifted, whatever their accomplishments or attainments might be, were treated as if they were unfit for the elementary rights of citizenship. There were people—

"Your words are an insult to women," began a woman. "Give us the message."

"It is coming," he replied, nervously.

"It has been coming for forty years," was the retort.

"If," said the Chancellor, "she has waited for forty years, she can surely wait twenty minutes longer."

The woman was removed, and a man rose in one of the boxes, and said: "I protest against this treatment as a Britisher." He was taken out.

A banner, inscribed with the words "Rush the Cabinet!" was stretched in front of one of the boxes, but was torn down by a number of people. A steward, evidently thinking he was quelling the Suffragettes, with great violence restored the banner to its rightful owners. At the same time, another woman said: "Go to prison yourself, Mr. Lloyd George. You are a humbug. What about Mrs. Pankhurst in prison? Aren't you ashamed of yourself?"

Mr. Lloyd George tried again to say he knew there were people—when more interruptions arose, and there was so much uproar at this point that he had again to sit down. The organist, who had his back to the audience, and was unable to account to himself for these pauses in the speech, suddenly demanded upon the organ, "Oh, dear! What can the matter be?"

Lady McLaren said Mr. Lloyd George had an important message from the Government, and this would be the last chance the meeting would have of hearing it.

Mr. Lloyd George was proceeding to touch upon education, when voices cried out: "Let us have this Government message!" "You have been talking long enough," said one. "Be a man," exhorted another. "Give us the message at once, and then we shall have quiet," suggested a third.

Mr. Lloyd George said the disturbers of the meeting could not exasperate a great audience without some violence, and he was not going to be responsible for that. The uproar continuing, he sat down.

Lady McLaren said if there had been violence, it was because persons in the audience had taken the management of the meeting from the hands of its promoters. Mr. Lloyd George would try to make his speech once more.

Mr. Lloyd George advised the Suffragists not to underestimate the forces opposed to them, when there was another disturbance. After that, he proceeded without interruption for a while; but he insisted on going at some length into the question of education, both primary and secondary, with a view to showing the preponderance of girl and women students, and so leading up once more to "Why I think women should have the vote." This was too much for the patience of the protesters. The majority, he said, of those who received prizes at the Welsh University a fortnight ago were women.

"Without a vote," came the quick rejoinder.

Mr. Lloyd George proceeded to argue with some heat that women were as fit for the vote as the sandwich man.

"Come to the point!" he was exhorted.

He said the Suffragists must convince the public, and he had come there to assist in that process of education. With that object in view, he proposed to give the reasons which had driven him to the conclusion that it was fair, just, and equitable that the suffrage should be granted to women. (A voice: "Give us a Government pledge; that's all we want.") He was going on to speak of women's work when a man in one of the boxes, crying, "Are there no men here?" leapt over the ledge of his box. The scuffle that ensued resembled a "scrum" in football. There was also some general disorder, and the manager of the hall went upon the platform and suggested that the meeting should be closed. After conferring with his wife and others, the Chancellor decided to try once more.

He wished to give reasons, he said, why he thought the present Parliament would come to the conclusion that women had a right to the vote, and why he believed that conclusion would be incorporated in an Act of Parliament.

"Lots of Cabinet Ministers have said that before," he was told.

"Cabinet Ministers have never said so. This is the first time a Cabinet Minister had appeared upon a woman suffrage platform."

"You are not sincere, or you would resign, as Mr. Chamberlain did on Tariff Reform."

After further interruption, Mr. Lloyd George was heard speaking on the greatness of Queen Elizabeth and her fitness for participation in politics.

"If Queen Elizabeth," he continued, "had been born to-day, she—"

A Voice: "Would have been in Holloway Prison."

"We have come here to hear the Government's message; please give us the message," the last appeal from one of the women in prison dress.

He could not resist the note of entreaty in that last appeal. Even a man was amenable to persuasion, but he would not stand being bullied, he said. "You want to know what we are going to do. I will tell you if you will listen. If not, I will resume my seat. Is that a bargain?" "Yes."

"Yes," said Mr. Lloyd George, "but I wonder if there is a Suffragette's voice among them!"

For some time he was allowed a hearing, only being exhorted by the women to be brave, to remember that pledges were given in 1884, and that the Government took no notice of the demonstrations which, he said, were the means of proving the women's demands.

But, the pretended message not being forthcoming, again there was an insistent demand: "When are you going to give us the message?" only to be rewarded by a flight of oratory in which the Chancellor once more declared that, personally, he believed women ought to have the vote, that they should have a voice in such measures as the Children's Bill, the Licensing Bill, &c., &c.

"You have preached well," said a woman, in a cold, satirical tone, "but you won't act."

"Why don't you exercise your power?" another asked.

The "Message."

And what, in the end, was the message? Mr. Lloyd George was understood to say that the women Suffragists had with them the great majority of the Liberal party—a majority inside the Cabinet and a majority outside; perhaps also a majority of the Conservatives; but there was a minority against it in both parties which was strong enough to prevent either party from taking up the question as a plank of its programme. For the first time a Prime Minister had declared it to be an open question, not merely for his party, but for his Cabinet as well, and it was that declaration which had enabled him (Mr. Lloyd George) without the imputation of disloyalty to his chief or his colleagues to stand there

and advocate Woman Suffrage, and it was that declaration which would enable him and several of his colleagues to vote in the House of Commons for the inclusion of woman enfranchisement in the Government Reform Bill to be submitted to the present Parliament.

The Prime Minister's declaration opened up the greatest opportunity there had been for the inscription of Woman Suffrage upon the Statute-book. The Prime Minister had pledged himself to bring in an Electoral Reform Bill. (A voice: "In the dim and speculative future.") Not in the dim and distant future, but before this Parliament came to an end—and that was neither so dim nor so distant as some of them wished probably. (Laughter.) The introduction of the Bill would be an indication that the Prime Minister had come to the conclusion that the Government should go to the country. Well, that was not yet. The Government had a few accounts to settle before that, and they would demonstrate to the House of Lords that the Commons were not so impotent as the Lords imagined. The Cabinet was divided upon Woman Suffrage, but the Prime Minister had said that if an amendment were moved to include Woman Suffrage in the Reform Bill, the Government could hardly resist it, because two-thirds of his colleagues in the Cabinet were in favour of it, and the matter would be left to the decision of the House. That inevitably meant that Woman Suffrage would be included in the Bill, and that from that moment it would be part and parcel of a measure for which the Government would be responsible. The only risk of defeat lay in the possibility of a reaction caused by tactics of violence and petty persecution. A woman had reminded him of the Prime Minister's conditions—that the enfranchisement must be democratic, and that there must be a clear demonstration that women wanted the vote. (A voice: "How are we to prove it?") In the same way as the men had shown their desire for the vote. (A voice: "They burnt down prisons and other places; they shed blood.") That meeting was one way, and the condition could easily be satisfied. In conclusion he declared that there could be no effective social legislation until the women had been given the vote.

Cries of "Where's the message?"

It was 20 minutes to 6 when Mr. Lloyd George finally sat down. The meeting had opened at 3, and he had begun to speak at about 3.45.

Just as he had finished a white banner, with the inscription, "Be Honest," fluttered down from one of the boxes. It was seized by the stewards, but ultimately rescued.

Extracts from the Press. THE "DAILY NEWS."

Despite the scenes which marred the Liberal women's demonstration on Saturday at the Albert Hall, its main effect, to our thinking, is to add one more to many impressive proofs that there is among women a demand for the vote earnest enough and extensive enough to compel the attention of any democratic Government.

This painful and dramatic occasion will find us very dull if we do not draw the conclusion that the demand comes to-day from women of every conceivable shade of opinion and every variety of temperament. The women who will still set party before the vote are, after all, at one with the women who have forgotten all else in this absorbing struggle. We need hardly pause to condemn and deplore the conduct of the militant party on this occasion. In the early phases of the conflict their strategy was at least intelligible, and up to a certain point it served their ends. They originally interrupted Cabinet Ministers, not simply to annoy them, but rather to extract from them a plain answer to the legitimate question, Will you give the vote to women? Had the answer been given more frankly in the early stages of the struggle, the history of the movement might have been different. But here at length was an occasion when a Cabinet Minister, who has never concealed his zeal for woman's suffrage, had come forward to devote an entire speech, expressly to the task of answering this urgent and proper question. . . . There is a real danger that the public, coerced and startled into listening, may end, if these tactics continue, by hardening its heart. In so doing, the public would be quite illogical. But if the women had supposed that they had a logical public to deal with, they would not, in the first instance, have resorted to violence.

It would be in these columns a waste of space to argue over again the whole case for the extension of the franchise to women: From the moment that women became workers and wage-earners in an industrial State, which is constantly legislating for its workers and wage-earners, the last shred of the old-world argument for the exclusion of women from politics became obsolete.

We have no manner of doubt that the method which the Prime Minister proposes, for so amending a Reform Bill as to include the enfranchisement of women, conceals no after-thought, and

might, under normal party conditions, prove effectual. But it hardly takes account of the complexity of the controversy which now faces us. The bare principle of women's emancipation is no longer in any serious sense at issue. In both parties, and even in both Houses, it commands a majority. The enfranchisement of women in one way or another, by one party or the other, is as certain to come about within a few years as anything in English politics well can be. What is really at stake is the extent and basis of this emancipation. If Liberals can achieve it, it will be a democratic measure, a final concession of adult suffrage. If the Conservatives are left to bring it about, they will be content to extend the present municipal suffrage to women, with the result that no working or professional woman who happens to be a lodger, and no woman who does the most exacting and important work of all as a mother and a housewife will win the vote. Yet there are certainly no categories of women who have a direct interest in legislation and taxation. It is only this narrow but vital choice which now lies before us. The party of property will naturally take one course, the party that believes in the equality of human interests the other. The business woman who rents a milliner's shop certainly deserves a vote. But so does her dozen of sweated employees, who eke out their poor earnings in lodgings. That is the real choice before us, to enfranchise only those women best able to safeguard their interests, or to enfranchise those also who most require the protection of the law. Here emphatically is a party issue, and it is one which the Liberal Party and the Liberal Government cannot treat with indifference. The decision, one way or the other, will affect the ultimate course of English politics as vitally as any familiar issue of plural voting or property qualification. The Lords, we foresee, will reject a Liberal Reform Bill, not at all because it enfranchises women, but rather because it will be a democratic measure. Then, at least, the party must stand by its work. Its position would be vastly stronger and more consistent if it took what must be its final attitude boldly and betimes.

THE "MANCHESTER GUARDIAN."

There was extreme provocation on the part of the militant suffragists, who deliberately and with great determination and success set themselves to disturb, and, if possible, destroy, the meeting, and there was, we deeply regret to say, great violence, not to say brutality, on the part of some of the stewards, or persons who took it on themselves to act as stewards, and a portion of the audience. . . . It was known that the militants had come to fight, not to exchange courtesies, and the meeting had hardly begun when the most forcible methods were adopted for their suppression. The only result of meeting interruption by ejection was to make the interruption ten-fold greater, and even had the process of ejection been as successful as it was the reverse, nothing could compensate for the discredit of the violence employed.

Mr. Lloyd George is confident of two things—first, that the Government, before they dissolve, will introduce a Reform Bill, and secondly that (unless the militant suffragists are to any considerable extent successful in their attempt, which appears to be quite deliberate, to alienate the Liberal party from the suffrage movement) an amendment grafting on to it a clause for the enfranchisement of women will be carried. But if such an amendment is to be moved with the goodwill of the Government, and if it will be carried and then adopted by the Government as its own, why, it may well be asked, should not the Government introduce it themselves as part of their own measure? Mr. Lloyd George tells us that two-thirds of the members of the Cabinet are in favour of such a course, but the remainder, while willing to accept a measure of women's suffrage adopted by a majority of the House of Commons, are not willing to make themselves responsible for it in the first instance, and, presumably, would resign if this were insisted upon. It is for this reason and in order to avoid a split in the Cabinet that the intermediate and less logical course has been adopted, but none the less the clause once added to the Bill will be loyally supported, and will be treated by the Government in every way as an integral part of the measure. That we understand to be the purport of Mr. Lloyd George's message, and it is easy to see that, though in terms it may seem to carry us no further, it does go some way towards meeting the objections that have been raised. The most obvious of these is the increased danger that a clause not forming part of the Government's original measure, and introduced merely at the instance of a private member, may be rejected by the House of Lords, and the possibility that if it were so rejected the Government might then be willing to sacrifice it in order to save the rest of its measure. On this head two things have to be said. If we understand Mr. Lloyd George rightly, for the Government to do this would be to be guilty of a breach of faith—a breach which would be instantly met by the refusal of the friends of the suffrage in the Cabinet to be parties to it, as well as by an explosion of resentment and rebellion from all the Liberal supporters of the measure in the country—a rebellion of which Lady McLaren gave a polite adum-

bration on behalf of herself and her friends at Saturday's meeting. Further, Mr. Lloyd George is not of opinion that the Lords would be more likely to throw out the clause because it had been added by the House, and not introduced by the Government, but less likely, since under such circumstances a good many Conservatives would be able to vote for it, and Mr. Lloyd George holds that Women's Suffrage, since it divides both parties, can best be carried by a combination of its friends in each. Apart from this consideration—and we confess it appears to us at least doubtful whether many Conservatives would be found voting for a measure of Women's Suffrage which it is certain must include the married women, and, therefore, practically double the electorate—it is not likely that the Lords would concentrate their opposition on the Women's Franchise clause; it is much more likely that they will unhesitatingly reject the whole measure, and this, it is pretty clear, is what Mr. Lloyd George himself anticipates.

And this brings us to the really crucial point in the whole situation. The Women's Franchise clause will be like the cuckoo's egg; in a very short time the intruder must occupy practically the whole of the nest. Of what consequence will be the abolition of the plural voter, of what consequence the abolition of the latch-key franchise and the reduction of the qualifying period for registration from a maximum of two years and more to a maximum of three months by the side of the emergence of a new sex and the vast array of the millions of the women voters? The side issue must swiftly become the main issue, and when the Liberal party appeals to the country on its Reform Bill, it will practically be appealing on Women's Suffrage. What, then, will be the position of those Liberals who have been lukewarm, who have even been hostile? What will be the position of a Prime Minister who has refused to vote for, has, perhaps, even voted against, the very measure which will form the main issue of the General Election? Is it likely that he could lead his party to victory? Is it likely that he could be Prime Minister again? Truly, it was no small matter when Mr. Asquith agreed on behalf of the Government to accept a Women's Franchise clause on "democratic lines" if the majority of the House of Commons should see fit to carry it, and it is no small matter that Mr. Lloyd George should reaffirm this decision in all its fulness with the consent of his leader.

"THE STANDARD."

We may deplore the inefficiency of the methods employed for dealing with the trouble, but cannot look upon the sufferers as victims. They behaved like rioters, and were treated on their merits. If they resent the application of force they should not render it necessary. Nor is it any excuse for their persecution of Cabinet Ministers that Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, and some of the others have tried to beguile them with illusory pledges and sham "messages." With any decent protest which they may choose to utter against the double-faced policy of the Government we heartily agree. Mr. Asquith knows that he is but mocking the women Suffragists when he suggests that a clause may be added by some private member to the coming Reform Bill, and that Ministers and their supporters will be left free to vote according to their individual judgments. For it is absolutely certain that this Government will not bring forward such a Bill as can be accepted by Parliament.

"DAILY MAIL."

The Abnegation of Leadership.

The course which the Ministry propose to take is unprecedented. They will not themselves accept the responsibility of recommending the House of Commons to make so great a change as is involved in the enfranchisement of women. They will give no lead. But they are willing, if advocates of woman's suffrage introduce an amendment and persuade the House of Commons to vote for it, to adopt the modification. The reason for such action is, we are told by Mr. Lloyd George, that the Cabinet itself is divided on the issue. But a Ministry cannot in this way divest itself of its responsibility. Women's Suffrage is either right or wrong, and the Cabinet should make up its mind which of the alternatives is correct. If the extension of the suffrage is right, then it is surely the duty of Mr. Asquith to make provision for it in his Bill. If he thinks it is wrong, it is equally his duty to offer the full strength of his resistance. In either case, it is the privilege and the duty of the Prime Minister to impose his will upon his own Cabinet and to disembarass himself of any colleague who is unwilling to agree with him.

The House of Commons needs Ministerial guidance and the counsel of responsible men. But of this it will be deprived under the Government plan. It may not even know what members of the Cabinet are hostile to the change. Such a policy is the very abnegation of leadership. The old idea of Government was that Ministers should lead, and that the Cabinet should be collectively responsible for any change. The new idea is that they are not to make up their minds on any issue, but are to wait to see how the

cat jumps and then pronounce that the action of that quadruped reveals the right and wise course of policy.

"GLOBE."

We see very genuine grounds for the irritation displayed by the suffragettes at the Albert Hall. Mr. Lloyd George must have known that the declaration he had to make would have infuriated any body of men, and we do not see why he should expect that it would soothe an assembly of excited women. What does it come to? The Government, if they live long enough to do so, which may well be doubted, will introduce a Reform Bill, in which women's suffrage will not be included. It will, however, be so framed that an amendment providing for it can be inserted if some private member chooses to move it. Should that be done, the Government will neither support nor resist it, but will leave even members of the Cabinet free to vote as they like. This surely is the very abnegation of leadership. To give the vote to women may be right or it may be wrong, but it is, at any rate, a question of the utmost gravity. Upon its correct solution the safety of the State and the future of the race may very possibly depend, and we say without hesitation that no such momentous change has been proposed in our laws since the abolition of the feudal system. Yet upon this far-reaching proposal the Cabinet, the body which is supposed to guide the politics of the nation, has no opinion. To give women the vote may bring increased stability to the State, or it may, on the other hand, confuse the whole of our politics by an injection of hysteria. It will assuredly revolutionize the relations of the sexes. Upon such a question only the most invertebrate of mankind can be without an opinion, but the Cabinet has none. And this thing professes to call itself a Government!

"DAILY EXPRESS."

It must be confessed that as far as Mr. Lloyd George was able to speak at all, he said nothing of any great importance. He repeated the Premier's promise that a Reform Bill should be introduced towards the end of the present Parliament, and that the Government would not resist a clause giving the vote to women. It is characteristic of Mr. Asquith's opportunism that he should be willing to accept a constitutional change of vast importance, although he himself disbelieves in it. But the promise is valueless. It is by no means certain that the opinion of the party will allow the Government to continue long enough for the Reform Bill to be introduced, and, moreover, a proposal radically to alter the character of the electorate would stand little chance of passing the Lords. Certainly the Government has no possible mandate for any such measure. It would be impossible for woman's Suffrage to be considered on its merits if it stood as part of a complicated omnibus Bill, but the rejection of the Bill would give Ministers the chance of protesting that they had done their best, and that but for the wicked peers woman would be enfranchised. The whole business is an obvious device for quieting the insistent, but it is very thin. Incidentally, Mr. Lloyd George pointed out to the Suffragists that the anti-suffragist minority in the Government must be considered. It is amusing that he should have made this discovery, the whole policy of the Government being based on the assumption that majorities have the right to harass and persecute those who disagree with them.

"MORNING LEADER."

Women are not the first to have suffered a grievance, and to have had recourse to methods which are not recognised by law or convention. It is not so long since passive resisters refused in a body, as some still refuse, to submit to what they considered an injustice, and suffered imprisonment and other penalties for doing so. Right or wrong, they moved the public opinion of the country, and the electoral catastrophe of Toryism was their vindication. Does anyone suppose that this would have been the result if instead of being "passive" resisters they had adopted the tactics of the lady with the dog-whip? We dare say now that the extremists think that there is no violence which is not justifiable, and even commendable, on their part. Women were convinced, rightly enough, that they would not advance their cause effectively until it had got advertisement. It gets plenty of advertisement now. It provides admirable sensation for newspapers and for the less thoughtful class of readers, whose minds it occupies just so long as some new sensation, still hotter from the oven, fails to drive it out. That does not help it with other classes which share Mr. Lloyd George's apprehension lest a reform to which Parliament is now pledged should be wrecked by zeal divorced from sobriety. The action of the militant Suffragists is evidence of certain qualities—of enthusiasm, of earnestness, of readiness to suffer for a cause, if not uncomplainingly. But there are other qualities, perhaps more essentially political—willingness to hear the other side, the moderation which knows when to stop, accessibility to argument, and even to sympathy, readiness to do spade-work as well as heroic—which cannot be left out of sight when a political end is in view. There is a great deal of work to be done for Women Suffrage among the women of the country, for whose "overwhelming support" the Prime Minister stipulated in May last, as well as among men. There is nothing to be gained by neglecting it for repeated demonstrations of an anti-political spirit by those who organised the mistake of Saturday.

The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

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Teleg. Address—"WOSPOLU, LONDON."

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Mrs. PANKHURST,

Founder and Hon. Sec.

Mrs. TUKE,

Joint Hon. Sec.

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE,

Hon. Treasurer.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,

Organising Sec.

Constitution.

OBJECTS.—To secure for women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

METHODS.—The objects of the Union shall be promoted by—

1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government candidate, and independently of all other candidates.
4. Vigorous agitation upon lines justified by the position of outlaws to which women are at present condemned.
5. The organising of women all over the country to enable them to give adequate expression to their desire for political freedom.
6. Education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates, distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence, and deputations to public representatives.

MEMBERSHIP.—Women of all shades of political opinion who approve the objects and methods of the Union, and who are prepared to act independently of party, are eligible for membership. It must be clearly understood that no member of the Union shall support the candidate of any political party in Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the parliamentary vote. The entrance fee is 1s.

The Women's Social and Political Union are asking for votes for women on the same terms as they are possessed by men.

They are not asking for the vote for every woman, but that a woman shall not be refused a vote simply because she is a woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed this Session.

WHY WOMEN HECKLED LLOYD GEORGE.

It happened as we had foreseen. There was no Government pronouncement given at the Albert Hall by Mr. Lloyd George to women who are demanding at its hands the barest justice, the most elementary and the most fundamental of political rights. Neither was there any recognition on the part of Mr. Lloyd George of his responsibility, as a member of the Cabinet for the continued refusal of the Government to give facilities to the Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

One more attempt was made to throw dust in the eyes of women, who have loved their party, not wisely, but too well. One more effort to exploit their pathetic trustfulness. We wonder what is really the estimate which Mr. Lloyd George forms of the political intelligence of the women in his party?

The wolf did not even think it worth while to put on sheep's clothing. It was enough to borrow Mr. Asquith's coat.

But even if women had any reason to trust the friendship of Mr. Asquith, is not the proposal on the part of the Government, which was restated by Mr. Lloyd George last Saturday, a very climax of absurdity?

The Government is met by a very great agitation, and a very strong demand on the part of women for the vote, and it replies that it is not yet convinced of the overwhelming nature of this demand. Therefore it intends to bring in a Bill giving more votes to men, in which Bill women will not be included. There is no agitation in the country on the part of men for more votes, and there is no demand whatever for the Reform Bill outside the House of Commons. Following upon the logic of Mr. Lloyd George, the House of Lords would be perfectly justified in throwing out that Bill on the ground that the

country does not want it. And this is obviously what the Liberal Government expects. The Reform Bill is nothing more nor less than a weapon of attack against the House of Lords. That is the main proposition of the Government.

But lest women should resent this most unwarrantable disregard of the great meetings that have been held in the largest halls in our cities, and the greatest open-air demonstrations that have ever yet taken place in the history of political agitation, they are to be given something to keep them quiet. They are told that a private member may move an amendment. They knew this before. Of course he can. They are told, moreover, that this amendment will not be officially opposed by the Government provided that it is drawn upon what is called "democratic lines," though Mr. Asquith refuses to define that word. We have every reason to suspect that "democratic lines" means such lines as would be wholly unfavourable to the majority of the pledged supporters of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill; which simply removes the sex disability. In fact, "democratic lines" is another word for a fancy franchise for women, wholly illogical and absurd and unacceptable to the country.

Should such a "democratic" amendment manoeuvred to miscarry succeed, by some unlooked-for incident, in escaping the fate intended for it in the Commons, it will, of course, be slain immediately it falls into the hands of the Lords, together with the rest of the Reform Bill which has been manufactured for this very purpose. The Liberals would then be in a position to appeal to the country on a Bill for giving more votes to men, and would be able once more to omit woman suffrage from the party programme.

This is the tempting offer which the Government pretend to think women should accept. It is nothing more nor less than an evasion of our demand. We demand that the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill, that has already passed its second reading by an enormous majority, shall this session be carried into law, so that women duly qualified shall be put upon the register next autumn, 1909, and shall be in a position to vote, if there is an election, in 1910, upon those political questions which affect their interests as deeply and as vitally as they affect the interests of men.

We were even prepared to modify this reasonable demand, and to refrain from heckling Mr. Lloyd George last Saturday if, speaking on behalf of that Government of which he is a responsible member, he had brought a message that votes for women should be included in the King's speech next session. In that case women would have a chance of taking part in the next General Election should it be postponed until the year 1911. We asked for honest and straightforward dealing, but in place of this we received empty and meaningless words, and we protested against this treatment as in the past men have always protested.

The policy of heckling Cabinet Ministers is no new thing. It is a device that has been forced upon men who are struggling for an elementary reform of absolutely vital importance, withheld from them by the forces of a reactionary Government. It is the mildest of all political methods of revolt which are used by men. We have been forced to use it by reason of the humbug, deceit, and political trickery which sums up the story of the treatment of woman suffrage at the hands of men politicians for the past 40 years. Is it not time that this web of parliamentary lies were torn away, and these political tricksters were revealed for what they are to men and women who believe in and who practise honesty? We think that it is more than time. We think that this thing should have been done more than 20 years ago. It should have been done in 1884 when the Liberal party, including at least four of the present Cabinet Ministers, broke their pledged faith with women. If women of that generation had possessed a grain of political wisdom, or an ounce of plain courage, they would have turned round then upon these traitors. They would have said, as the women in this Union say to-day, "We have had enough of fair words, of promises, and professions; what we demand now is action, and if you will not take action, we will, for we will fight for our liberties." We cannot retrieve the mistake made by the leaders of the suffrage movement in 1884, but we can realise in 1908 what is our duty towards the women who come after us, and we are determined never to abandon this fight for women's freedom until the victory is won.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

THE MEETING THAT DISTURBED ITSELF.

By EVELYN SHARP.

It was no suffrage meeting. The assertion had been made again and again before the event by the militant section of the movement; and to the observant person it was proved on the day itself, even by the look of things outside the Albert Hall before the doors opened. Everybody knows the look of things outside an ordinary suffrage meeting—the conversational groups of women waiting at the doors; the women stewards sporting their colours, as they drive up and hail everybody they know and a good many they don't know with the same air of cheerful fellowship; the happy hawk, selling his toy plaster skeletons to the superbly impudent tune of "All that's left of the mere man, one penny!" Only the police had turned out in force, to show that this was no mere political meeting that was arresting the attention of the whole of thinking London, and more than London, on this particularly gloomy Saturday afternoon. And the police, I thought, did not show that debonair look of interested sympathy they generally reserve for suffrage meetings. Like many of those who waited almost in silence for the doors to open, they seemed apprehensive rather than anticipatory of what was going to happen inside.

One felt the same electric atmosphere within the dimly-lighted Hall. The organist did his best to relieve the tension by playing all the merry, irresponsible tunes he could think of; but I do not know that it is particularly cheering to listen to a two-step dance tune on an instrument that was constructed to play fugues. However, it gave one the opportunity of discussing the difference between English and French national music with the gentleman wearing a yellow button who was afterwards to have the pleasure of conducting one to the door; and that was gratifying to an ever unsatisfied sense of humour. I believe the audience felt the strain as I did, even that part of it that was not there to make any kind of protest. I noticed that people were not talking quite naturally before the meeting began; they seemed suspicious of their neighbours, and were yet nervously eager to meet them half way if they showed any signs of making advances. British as the audience was, and I suppose no audience is so severely British as the party political audience, it carried its emotions and its passions on its sleeve last Saturday afternoon; and I think that accounted for much that followed later.

This became more evident when the speeches began. The smallest flash of wit made that huge audience rock with laughter, as though it hailed with relief this chance of venting its feelings in a natural, human way, while it trembled on the edge of an exhibition of feeling that was going to be uncomfortably unconventional. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to his feet, and when the noisy clamour of a conventional welcome had died away, the silence was so intense for an instant or two that it almost hurt. Even the first uncertain words of the speech he never made did not seem to break that unnatural silence. Then a full, rich woman's voice drowned his, and everybody knew that the thing had come that we had all been waiting for.

A Crescendo of Protest.

From that instant onwards, the Albert Hall meeting busily disturbed itself. At no moment during the period that I was allowed to remain in my seat was more than one woman speaking at a time; and even the powerful voice of the first interrupter of Mr. Lloyd George's speech could not have upset that vast concourse of people if it had not been so firmly bent on upsetting itself. I am glad, however, to be able to record that although most of the noise came either from the people who seemed to be complaining of it, or from those who were violently hustling and throwing out the woman interrupter, a certain proportion of it, which grew larger as the afternoon wore on, was made up of the protests of those men and women in the audience who were sickened at the way in which the inter-

rupters were being treated. But to me, the chief offenders were those who sat silent on the platform and let the thing go on. At an early period in the disturbance, Mr. Lloyd George said something to the effect that he would sooner sit down than be the cause of such violence; and his remark, the best he made in the course of the afternoon, was answered all round the part of the hall where I was sitting with eager cries of "Yes, do sit down and stop it!" The absolute silence that greeted a short speech from the Chair in the middle of the tumult proved, to those who might not have known this before, that only the utterances of the Cabinet Minister were provocative to the women who were there to protest with all their power against a Government who adds to the crime of injustice the further insult of pretending that it wants to do justice.

The Real Politicians in the Audience.

It was evident, I felt, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer knew who were the real politicians in the surging crowd upon which he looked down. Disconcerted as he was by the suddenly revealed presence of the ladies in convict dress, who sat and menaced him with unwavering gaze and unbroken silence, like any Banquo's ghost at a feast, he looked still more incapable of retort when any one of the pertinent remarks made by the protesting women reached his ears. He tried to state his reasons for believing in woman suffrage. "We've known those for forty years," called an impatient voice, "and the whole audience has just passed a resolution to say so." He dropped that and turned to the objections brought against the suffrage. "But there are no objectors here; please come to the point," called another. "When we have eliminated all these ladies," he began again. "You'll never eliminate the suffragettes from practical politics," struck in the same voice afresh.

Two gentlemen having been turned out of the hall with violence for trying to show that chivalry upon which women have been told to depend in default of votes, Mr. Lloyd George disclaimed all responsibility for the violence that was being done to the women in the audience. The accusing voice from which he could not escape sang out once more: "You, I suppose, are only responsible for sending women to prison when they demand what you say they ought to have." I am glad to be able to record that the owner of that voice was taken out without roughness. Yet she had done more to deserve ejection than most of the interrupters. More than one woman scarcely uttered half a sentence before she was half stunned by a blow under the chin, or gagged by a hand on her mouth, or dragged from her seat by five or six stewards and carried out with insulting force, sometimes even to be thrust down the stairs when she reached the exit.

I believe it has been asserted that the stewards were not under orders to eject the women so promptly and so brutally. If so, why was nearly every gangway filled with a throng of gentlemen wearing the yellow button of stewardship, and why did these persons throw themselves upon every woman who opened her mouth to speak, and in the majority of cases eject her before she had time to finish her sentence? We who feel compelled to resort to this difficult and distasteful method of bringing our grievance before the Government, do not complain of the ejection that must necessarily follow; but we have every right to complain of its method, and equally so to point out the fallacy of the defence that this was never officially intended.

It has also been said that it was not the stewards but the public who did the worst acts of violence during the process of ejection. Members of the audience undoubtedly aided the stewards in their abominable work; but, from my experience of the public, as a speaker on woman suffrage in many different places, I decline to admit that those hysterical gentlemen who were so great a dishonour to their sex on this occasion, are representative either of the British public or of the men of this country. In any case, whether their action was official or otherwise, in the Albert Hall, I think neither man nor woman would envy them their task of rendering an account of their stewardship last Saturday afternoon.

THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

The Chelmsford By-Election.

Mr. Pretzman (U.)	6,152
Mr. A. H. Dence (L.)	3,587
Majority	2,565

The figures at the General Election were as follows: Major Sir F. Carne Rasch (Con.), 4,915; Mr. A. H. Dence (Lib.), 4,461.

Another magnificent victory for the work of the women was won in the Chelmsford constituency, when the anti-Liberal majority was increased from 454 to 2,565. Though Mr. Dence publicly stated that it was all due to pressure and intimidation, we have private information that he knew it to be due to the action of the women. In the first place, he told one of our supporters that if he had known the strength of the women's movement he would never have contested the election; and on the declaration of the poll, he said to those standing around him, "This victory will, of course, be attributed to Tariff Reform, and I know, as a matter of fact, that the harm which has come to me has all come from those—Suffragettes."

LONDON.

On Wednesday last week I and my band of workers returned from Chelmsford, after a vigorous fortnight's campaign in the Mid-Essex constituency. During that time hundreds of meetings, both indoor and outdoor, were held, and £16 worth of literature, including a large number of copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN, were sold.

The following organisers are now at work in London:—Mrs. Baldock, Miss Jessie Kenney, Miss Ogston, Miss Marsh, Miss Vera Wentworth, Miss Mary Phillips, Miss Gye; and if London readers will form the habit of looking under the heading "London," they will see from week to week what each is doing, and where help is urgently wanted.

Mrs. Baldock has charge of the sales of VOTES FOR WOMEN, and reports a most encouraging increase. She has a scheme on hand for extending the sale of the Christmas Number (December 24), which will contain a special plate portrait of Christabel Pankhurst. Mrs. Baldock is asking members of the W.S.P.U. and friends to guarantee to dispose of as many extra copies of this number as they can. Nearly 1,000 copies have already been ordered for sending to friends at home and abroad, or for sale in the streets and elsewhere. Women who can help in the ordinary sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN week by week can have their copies given out at the Monday afternoon and Thursday evening At Homes, or by calling at the office, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, at 10 a.m., or between 6 and 7 p.m. except Saturday. Sellers are wanted for street sales and for selling to theatre queues, also for the welcome to Mrs. Baines on Saturday.

Miss Ogston is helping in Kensington district, where a large public meeting to protest against the imprisonment of the women in the second division will take place on Saturday (12th). Speakers: Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Brownlow, supported by Miss Beatrice Harraden, Miss Gertrude Peppercorn, and others. VOTES FOR WOMEN posters are being shown from Kensington to Ealing, and over 40,000 handbills distributed. Many open-air meetings are being held daily, and to further advertise the meeting Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Diploch have been riding through the main streets, their horses decorated with posters, and a boat has been on the river with "Votes for Women" on its huge sail. Decorated omnibuses and a lantern parade has taken place in the evenings, a string of women each bearing a lighted lantern with a letter painted on it setting out from Albert Lodge, and promanaging the principal streets, so that the passer-by can spell out "VOTES FOR WOMEN" and the date and place of meeting. With all this we count on a meeting worthy of our speakers and of the traditions of the W.S.P.U. Stewards at the meeting are asked as far as possible to wear white and the colours.

Miss Marsh is working up Camden Town. Her chief occupation up to the 22nd will be to canvass the route which the procession will take on the day when Christabel Pankhurst is released.

At the Working Men's College, with Mr. Pett Ridge in the chair,

I addressed a good audience last week, and Miss I. Seymour and Miss Ansell spoke in prison dress.

Miss Vera Wentworth is helping in Brixton, where a meeting will be held to-morrow (Friday) to welcome Mrs. Tanner, secretary of the Brixton W.S.P.A., Raleigh Hall, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner, Miss Naylor, Miss Vera Wentworth. Encouraging open-air meetings outside the Kennington Theatre and in the shopping districts have been held during the week.

Miss Mary Phillips is working up the Richmond district, and a meeting has been arranged to take place at the Freemasons' Hall on Monday (14th), at which Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Brackenbury are the speakers; Mrs. Tuke in the chair. A preliminary drawing-room meeting has been arranged, and we hope, with the help of the Richmond people, the meeting will be a tremendous success.

The meeting is being advertised by women wearing VOTES FOR WOMEN posters who are distributing handbills. The attitude of the people is most encouraging, and we have had excellent sales of VOTES FOR WOMEN, especially outside the theatre.

Miss Gye's special care is the lantern, and anyone wishing to engage her to show the slides illustrating the movement should write to me at once. To-night Miss Haig lectures at Billinghurst, and Miss Gye is operating the lantern.

I shall be at Leeds to welcome Mrs. Baines to-morrow (Friday) at the prison gate. Particulars of the demonstration to welcome her in London on Saturday are given on page 178.

I add here the route of the procession, which is as follows:—

Euston-road, Tottenham Court-road, Charing Cross-road, Trafalgar-square. And after the meeting:—Cockspur-street, Haymarket and Piccadilly-circus, Regent-street, Oxford-street, New Oxford-street, Kingsway.

The order of procession is:—

(1) Tricolour (Miss Marsh). (2) Mrs. P. Lawrence, Mrs. Tuke, Miss S. Pankhurst Mrs. Drummond, Dr. Pethick, Miss Kerr, Miss Hambling, Mrs. Sanders. (3) Two bands. (4) Tricolour. (5) Banner (carried by prisoners). (6) Ex-prisoners (24) in prison dress. (7) Mrs. Baines in a carriage. (8) Tricolour. (9) Band. (10) Procession on foot.

A great many strangers were present at the Queen's Hall At Homes on Thursday and on Monday. On Monday the literature stall did a thriving business, and the supply of penny cards taken to the hall was almost sold out. In response to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's appeal for funds, £33 was subscribed at once. An interesting contribution was from Miss Joan S. Dugdale, who gave 5s., the amount of a prize won by her for an essay on votes for women in the Christmas Number of the *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence spoke on the Albert Hall protest, and Miss Ogston explained why she used the dog-whip.

Flora Drummond.

WEST OF ENGLAND.

Shop and Committee Rooms: 33, Queen's-road (opposite Art Gallery), Clifton. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Homes.

Mondays, 3.30 to 5.—Victoria Assembly Rooms, Clifton.
Fridays, 8 p.m.—Hannah More Hall, Clifton.
Fridays, 4—6 p.m.—Royal Hotel, Plymouth.

Plymouth and Torquay.—We were glad to welcome several new faces at our last Friday's At Home in Plymouth. The last of these At Homes before Christmas will be on December 18, and they will recommence on January 7, 1909.

Work at Torquay is now going on apace for our meeting in the Bath Saloons on December 16. Mrs. Wilford Layton gave us a most excellent speech at our last At Home, which was greatly appreciated by everyone present. It has been decided not to open our shop in Torquay until after Christmas. All shops in central positions are very highly rented, and we are in need of further subscriptions towards this campaign. Volunteers are also needed to distribute handbills, and sell VOTES FOR WOMEN in the streets. Helpers please write to me, care of Mrs. Smith, Ardath, Osney-crescent, Paignton.

E. N. Howey.

LANCASHIRE.

Office: 116, Portland-street, Manchester.

At Homes.

Manchester: Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Fridays, 8—10.
Liverpool: 48, Mount Pleasant, Tuesdays, 8—10.
Preston: Glovers Court, Wednesdays, 8 to 10 p.m.

Important Event.

Manchester: Free Trade Hall, Tuesday, January 19, 1909, Christabel Pankhurst.

By invitation of the Incorporated Law Society, Dublin, I delivered an address on Votes for Women at the inaugural meeting of the Debating Society on Monday last. As this was absolutely the first occasion upon which the militant position has been outlined in Dublin, the Solicitors' Hall, in the Law Courts, in which the meeting took place, was crowded by an audience which was

both representative and in thorough earnest. As one opposer was no less a personage than the Right Hon. T. Russell, M.P., a member of His Majesty's Government, the initial interest was proportionately increased thereby. Mr. Kettle, M.P., was expected to support (readers will remember his welcome defence of militant tactics at the last reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill), but the education crisis kept him in London. Mr. Macinerney, K.C., began by criticising the case from the wife-and-mother-by-the-hearth standpoint, but finished in transparently suffragist terms. The Right Hon. Mr. Russell's final shot, that if the tactics were continued, the Government and members generally would oppose the principle, because of the tactics, was decidedly illuminating; it certainly did not speak well for the Government. The discussion was introduced in a sympathetic paper by Enda B. Healy, Esq., auditor to the I.L.S. Mrs. Cousins, of the new Irish Women's Franchise League, also supported, and G. H. Lyster, Esq., retiring president, whose sympathy we had before experienced in our Harrogate campaign, was in the chair. Altogether, it was a most interesting and valuable evening. We have urgent invitations to "come again" to Dublin.

Manchester.—We have been making final preparations and inquiries with a view to getting into new offices very shortly. The historic room at the top of three flights of steep stairs (and no lift!) in Portland-street no longer satisfies the ambitions—breathing ambitions included—of a group which grows steadily every week. We want room to expand in more senses than one! All being well, there will be a farewell supper in the old office on Wednesday evening, the 16th inst., and on Thursday we shall "remove." Will friends and members please be cogitating what manner of Christmas-box they propose to present to the new office? It must have an appropriate "outfit" at least.

Miss A. Rose and Dr. Letitia Fairfield have rendered "first aid" in the suffragette sense by deputising for me at Bradford and Dukinfield this week, in consequence of a slight illness on my part. "First aid" of this kind is particularly welcome.

Let Manchester members finally remember to turn in at the Doll Show this week, and see our suffragette exhibit, but go on Thursday, or early on Friday, for we want you unflinchingly at the At Home on Friday night. On Tuesday, 15th inst., at the At Home at Onward Buildings, we are expecting Miss Gladice Keevil as our guest. On Friday, 18th inst., at the same place, at 8 p.m., prompt, we shall have our last rally before Christmas.

Liverpool.—The At Home addressed by Mrs. Martel and myself Mrs. Morris being in the chair, on Tuesday, was one of the most enthusiastic and lively gatherings I have met for some time. The cosy Engineers' Room at Mount Pleasant was packed. Such warm sympathy translated into continuous action—as will be when our Liverpool plans get a start—is the very basis of success of the right kind.

Finances this week.—Free Trade Hall meeting: Ticket money, £47 3s. 6d.; programmes, £2 2s. 11d.; collection in cash, £15 5s. 11d.; total, £64 12s. 4d. At Homes: 5s. 14d., 10s. 5d.; total, 15s. 6½d. Incorporated Law Society, Dublin: By expenses, £2 2s. 6d.; by donation, £1; G. H. Lyster, Esq., president Incorporated Law Society, Dublin, £2 2s.; Moston Men's Own, per J. Rowbotham, 10s.; Mrs. Ratcliffe (promise card), £1. Collecting cards: Miss Hyde, 10s. 0½d.; Miss Isherwood, £1 4s. 6d.; Miss Marsden, £1; Miss Withrington, £1 19s.; total, £4 13s. 6½d. Grand total, £76 15s. 11d.

Mary E. Gawthorpe.

MIDLANDS.

Office and Committee Rooms: No. 14, Ethel-street, Birmingham.

At Homes.

Birmingham, Priory Rooms, Old-square, Tuesday, 7.30.
Wolverhampton, The Baths Assembly Rooms, Thursday, 3.30.

This week we held our evening At Home in the Priory Rooms, Corporation-street. It is the third move into larger quarters which we have made since the beginning of the autumn. This time the precaution has been taken to be in a building where a still larger room may be had. We are confident that very soon we shall require it, as every seat was occupied this Tuesday. Round the room Mrs. Edwards and her literature assistants had hung the VOTES FOR WOMEN posters. This at once gave the new place a home-like appearance. The evening passed off most successfully, many questions were asked at the close; strangers expressed their intention of coming again and bringing friends; several new members joined, and arrangements were made for speakers to address drawing-room meetings.

Miss Hazel reports a splendid start at the speakers' class on Friday evening last, and promises me a good list of speakers for our open-air work in the early spring. In future this class will meet on Wednesdays at 7.30; all members who wish to gain experience in speaking should make a point of being present.

The At Homes at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms will be begun again on January 6, 1909.

Bournville.—Work in this neighbourhood goes on apace. The meeting in the Ruskin Hall, on Monday, addressed by Dr. Jones and myself, was most satisfactory. Another drawing room meeting is being arranged, at which Dr. Jones will speak, and early in the new year a large meeting will be held in the Ruskin Hall.

Saltley.—Dr. Helena Jones is speaking at the I.L.P. Labour Church, on Sunday, when Mrs. Davis will act as chairman. A large ticket meeting will take place in Saltley on January 22. Will those able to assist write to Mrs. Davis, at 99, Ellesmere-road?

Wolverhampton.—A very successful At Home, arranged by the members, was held last Thursday evening. We were greatly encouraged by the large attendance—this, in fact, beating all our previous records. We have in consequence decided that in the New Year the Wolverhampton At Homes will be held in the evening instead of the afternoon. A male sympathiser suggested our putting our usual resolution, which, to the surprise of a few doubters present, was practically carried unanimously.

We have been asked to address a large meeting on January 14, which is being kindly arranged for us by the Rev. MacDonald Hobbly, at Lower Gornal. The votes in this locality are commonly supposed to decide the result of the Wolverhampton Election, and, therefore, it is an important post to capture.

I am forwarding the treasurer this week the following amounts and donations:—Miss Lettice Floyd, £1 1s.; Wolverhampton collection, £1 6s. 6½d.; Birmingham collection, £1 0s. 6½d. All donations towards the Midland campaign should be addressed to me at 49, Bristol-street, Birmingham.

Gladice G. Keevil.

NEWCASTLE.

At Homes.

Newcastle, Wednesday 3 to 5, and 8 to 10.—Crosby's Café, Northumberland Street.

Wallsend, Friday 7 to 9.—Women's Meeting, I.L.P. Institute, Chestnut-street.

The At Homes on Wednesday were especially interesting this week, from the fact that three of our speakers were drawn from our young Newcastle volunteers, who are coming forward in so splendid a manner. The feature of the day was Miss Mildred Atkinson's address on "The Women's Vote in Australia and New Zealand." It was not only most instructive, interesting, and up to date, but highly encouraging, as eloquently bearing tribute to the good wrought by the women being politically free in those Colonies. Miss Brown spoke, and also Miss Parsons, of Holey Hall, whom we welcome as the latest recruit in the speakers' corps. A good deal of literature was sold, also the new brochures, pins, &c., in the colours.

In spite of persistent rain and fog two fine open-air meetings were held—at Armstrong's Works, Water-street, at mid-day, and on Monday night at North Shields, where it was evident that many in the great audience had come to scoff, but remained to be converted. They almost refused to allow us to close a very lengthy meeting, they were so eager with questions.

More help is urgently needed in selling VOTES FOR WOMEN. If members would take a certain number every week for their friends we should increase our sale considerably. Everyone can do this very important work, however busy in other ways. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Alder for the way in which they have worked to get our posters exhibited and the paper taken in by reading-rooms and libraries, &c.

Newcastle readers please note that there will be no At Home at Crosby's Café on December 30. On December 23 it will be held by Mrs. Atkinson as usual.

Please send orders for Christmas cards, 6d. and 1d.; calendars, 1s.; novelties in the Union colours—brooches, 6d.; hat pins, 6d., 9d., 1s., to Miss New, 37, Rye-hill, Newcastle. Readers are reminded that picture postcards of our campaign are especially suitable for sending Christmas greetings to friends abroad, by whom they are vastly appreciated.

We are forwarding the Treasurer 9s. 11d. in collection this week. We want a very substantial contribution to send as a Christmas offering to the fund next week. Please send to 37, Rye-hill, or Crosby's Café.

Sunderland.—A debate on Woman Suffrage is to be arranged by members of the Liberal Club for Tuesday evening, December 15, when I am asked to meet Mr. Mundahl, of Newcastle, who will oppose. It is to be held at the club, and is an open meeting.

Wallsend.—No meetings will be held on December 25 or January 1.

Edith New.

SCOTLAND.

Office, 147, Bath-street, Glasgow.

At Homes.

Edinburgh, Wednesday, 4 p.m., 24, Shandwick-place.
Glasgow, Saturday, 3.30 p.m., 147, Bath-street.

Important Events.

December 10, Charing Cross Hall, Glasgow.—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 11, Lesser Albert Hall, Stirling.—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.
December 15, Dumbarton.—Miss Conolan.
December 18, Aberdeen.—Miss Helen Ogston.

Last week I was in Aberdeen, where Miss Phillips and other members are busy with preparations for Miss Helen Ogston's meeting. On Saturday evening a large At Home was held in the prettily decorated hall, at which Miss Constance Ogston made a very able speech dealing, amongst other points, with Mr. Lloyd George's attitude towards Woman Suffrage in connection with his position in the present Cabinet. I also spoke, and we afterwards held an impromptu workers' meeting to discuss plans for future work in the district. All members and friends who are able to help by selling VOTES FOR WOMEN, distributing bills, and selling tickets for the December meeting, &c., are asked to communicate with Miss Phillips, Avalon, Beitside.

On Wednesday I spoke at the Edinburgh At Home, where a crowded room testified to the work done by our members there during the autumn. An interesting discussion followed, in which attention was divided between two rather diverse topics, the W.S.P.U. methods of propaganda and the arguments of the Anti-Suffragists. The latter did not secure any converts during the afternoon, but we gained several offers of help in selling tickets for Mrs. Lawrence's meeting, &c. Two of our members have kindly arranged drawing-room meetings during the next fortnight, and we hope that more of our friends will be able to help in this way after the New Year. These meetings do a great deal of good in providing opportunities for more informal discussion than is possible at a public meeting, and they invariably bring as a result more offers of support and assistance for our work in one form or another.

We are very glad that our Dumbarton members have been able to arrange a public meeting for next week. Here also we propose to extend our work after the New Year, and hope all those who are interested in votes for women will make a special effort to be present, and will give in their names as helpers.

G. M. Conolan.

HECKLING CABINET MINISTERS.

Preparatory to Mr. Sydney Buxton's visit to Millwall on Friday the wall round the school-house in which he was to address a meeting was temporarily built up to prevent the possibility of its being scaled. This is the wall which two women climbed over a year ago, so as to enter the building and put questions to Mr. Buxton.

Crowds of children greeted two women, who, arriving at 5.30 for the meeting, which was timed for 8 o'clock, were denied admittance. The shouts of "Votes for women" proved that the subject had been discussed in the district. Mr. Buxton also arrived unusually early on the scene, and was greeted with the now familiar question, "When is the Liberal Government going to give votes to women?" and "What about our leaders in prison?" A protest meeting was held by the women outside the school, and they were warmly cheered by the crowd which gathered round them. When Mr. Buxton left, he was guarded by a large army of police, his motor being isolated in an open space, police standing shoulder to shoulder across the ends of the street. From behind the police a woman in the crowd shouted, "Mr. Buxton, when are you going to put your Liberal principles into practice?" The crowd applauded her, and shouted "Votes for women" as the motor drove off. As the women left they were followed by a large and almost entirely friendly crowd of some hundreds of people.

Mr. McKenna at Manchester.

On Friday last Mr. McKenna was entertained to dinner by the members of the Manchester Reform Club. As it was not known at which station he was to arrive, two women awaited him at different stations. He arrived at London-road, where he was presented with a copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN. He said he was not in sympathy with the women, and could not support them until they altered their methods. He was told politely that the women were not in a position to alter their methods until they got a Government pledge.

During the evening, when the after-dinner speeches were in progress, a number of women went to the Reform Club, where they were refused admission, Mr. McKenna sending word that he would

not see them. They, however, insisted, and refused to go away, whereupon a small army of police and stewards, who were hidden away inside the building, came out, and flung them roughly from the steps. After several attempts to get into the building, they held a short protest meeting, speaking from the door of the Reform Club until a reinforcement of police was sent for to disperse the crowd. After the meeting was over, Mr. McKenna's brougham was brought to the door, and while everybody's attention was being given to the brougham, he was smuggled into a four-wheeler, and driven off.

Mr. Runciman Not at East Ham.

Mr. Runciman, the Minister for Education, was to have opened the Arts and Crafts Exhibition of the East Ham Brotherhood at the Central Hall, Barking-road, East Ham, on Monday (7th), but he pleaded that pressure of Parliamentary business detained him, and Mrs. Runciman appeared in his place, and made apologies for her husband's absence.

Just as she was resuming her seat after declaring the exhibition open, a woman in the gallery asked, "Where is your husband?" Stewards hastened to the spot, and unceremoniously bundled her and her companions out.



Anty Drudge Prescribes for a Sick Baby.

Mrs. Careless—"I can't understand what's the matter with baby. He's been awfully sick this morning and I've been so busy boiling my clothes that I hadn't the time to attend to him."

Anty Drudge—"Yes, you don't have to tell anyone you're boiling clothes, your house smells like it. That's what's the matter with the baby. The steam from the boiling soap-suds has turned his stomach topsy-turvy. Why don't you use Fels-Naptha soap? Then you can wash your clothes in cold or lukewarm water. Fels-Naptha cuts out the steam smell."

Scientific men say, make a soap that will wash clothes in lukewarm water and the clothes will last a great deal longer; it's boiling water that makes clothes wear out so soon.

Common sense says, make a soap that will do away with the hard rubbing and you'll not only save the clothes, but a

lot of time and back-breaking labour.

So Fels-Naptha soap was made—made to wash clothes in cold or lukewarm water, and to get them perfectly clean without hard rubbing.

It only remains for you to prove that Fels-Naptha will do the work, and do it easier, quicker and better.

Why not let Fels-Naptha do it?

Fels-Naptha

will do it. Isn't it worth trying?

RELEASE OF MRS. TANNER.

The dull grey of the London streets was enlivened on Friday morning by the gay procession which met Mrs. Tanner at the prison gates, and escorted her to the Inns of Court Hotel. Mrs. Tanner, who, though a first offender, has served the exceptionally long term of two months' imprisonment on account of her participating in the demonstration on October 13, is an Irish-woman, and has vivid recollections of the formation of the Ladies' Land League, her interest in politics being first roused by Parnell's policy of "obstruction."

The introduction of the Irish element into her welcome back to the N.W.S.P.U. was most successful, and the four "Colleens," all of whom were ex-prisoners, looked the part to perfection. They were Miss Keegan, Miss Vera Wentworth, Miss Elsa Gye, and Miss Marsh, and the touch of completeness to their turn-out (an Irish jaunting car), was supplied by the picturesque dress of the driver, who appeared in true Irish costume, completed by the emerald green ribbon round his brimless hat. The colleens, in their green cloaks, check shawls over their heads, and bunches of shamrock, made a pretty escort, and altogether Mrs. Tanner's welcome was as picturesque as anything Londoners have yet witnessed, and as, with bands playing and flags flying, the procession passed through the streets, the crowds on the pavements and in the houses en route, took up the "Hurrahs" of the Suffragettes, and the journey was an unbroken progress of cheers.

At the Breakfast.

Presiding at the breakfast at the Inns of Court Hotel, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence said the N.W.S.P.U. welcomed back their "Kathleen Mavourneen," with special joy because of the long term which had been inflicted upon her, and if they could not give her an altogether Irish welcome, they did, at any rate, accord a real old English one. They very deeply appreciated the service she had rendered to the cause. Mrs. Tanner had endured just double the punishment inflicted upon anyone else connected with the demonstration on October 13, yet she had not uttered one word of complaint or regret. When her husband (who, as well as her son, was present at the breakfast) went to see her at the end of her first month, he said he had never seen her so jolly and well, and so full of spirit. Her troubles were over, but those of the Government that had imprisoned her were only just beginning. The worst enemy of the Liberal Government could not help feeling somewhat sorry for them, and she was almost inclined to propose a vote of condolence with them, while before so very long their friends might be singing a funeral lament. They were, indeed, in a very bad way. Instead of passing the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, a simple, short measure, about which two-thirds of the House of Commons were agreed, and the passage of which only required a couple of days, they continued trying to push through a number of complicated Bills which the country did not want. They were taking the rejection of the Licensing Bill by the House of Lords very quietly; the fate of the Education Bill looked very doubtful, and the probability was that when the autumn Session came to an end, they would have accomplished practically nothing.

They had the opportunity of gaining the credit of enfranchising the women of the country, and they had not seized it. The campaign against the Lords was rendered hopeless, they could not now go to the country and talk about democracy; that bubble had been pricked by the women two years ago; neither could they talk about the will of the people, because some women were sure to be present to say, "We are part of the people." The Government had fallen into the inevitable morass that awaited people who persistently refused to do justice. The Government imagined that by putting Mrs. Pankhurst and Christabel Pankhurst into prison they would stop the movement, but the result of the Chelmsford By-Election must have shown them their mistake. She had been told that the Liberal candidate said that if he had known the strength of the women's movement, he would never have contested the election. The large majority on the other side was a vote of censure on the Government. She welcomed Mrs. Tanner back to help the women with their battle against the Government.

Mrs. Tanner's Speech.

Mrs. Tanner, whose rising was the signal for an enthusiastic outburst of cheering, said it was delightful to hear again, as she had that morning, the familiar strains of "Kathleen Mavourneen." Referring to the day of her arrest, October 13, she said Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's last words to the deputation were that they must meet force with spirit. Although force had won for the

time, spirit was not vanquished. She for one was ready and willing to do the very same thing again at the next opportunity. She had never regretted the long sentence; when she heard it pronounced, brutal and vindictive as it was, she thought "this will do good to the cause." She confessed to an immense scorn and contempt for the well-fed and well-groomed old man who perverted justice by giving that long sentence. She was not accused of either violence or damage; the police evidence was given in an absolutely fair and gentlemanly way. The Government could imprison the body, but not the mind or spirit, which lived in a beautiful world of its own. There was much in prison to sadden; the Suffragettes had their own thoughts, and a clear conscience for consolation, but there were many women in Holloway whose minds could not be at ease, women who had not the same resources. Many of them were there as a result of bad social conditions, conditions which the possession of the vote would enable women to get changed. That such conditions existed was no great credit to the men of the country. It was wonderful how few really evil faces one saw there; many were those of women who would not have lost their charm and sweetness if they had had equal chances with other and happier women. It was especially sad to see old women there; they surely had never had a chance. When she went into prison, Mrs. Tanner continued, Woman Suffrage was an article of faith with her; now she had come out it was a religion; she went in a reformer; she came out a revolutionary—a peaceful one, she hoped. Thoughtful women might well repeat the words of Omar Khayyam:—

Ab, Love! could you and I with Him conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,
Would we not shatter it to bits—and then
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

Mrs. Drummond called for "Erin Go Bragh!" (Ireland for Ever!), and welcomed Mrs. Tanner, wishing her "the top of the morning." She had last seen Mrs. Tanner walking in the exercise yard, and going round in a very determined and persistent manner. That was typical of the spirit of the women in this movement, whether English, Irish, or Scots. These were the women who were working out the political freedom of the country. As the London organiser, she had been thinking: Mrs. Tanner is a good worker and speaker; that means one more worker, and, therefore, one more district to work. It was the fact that so many women had been in prison for the cause of justice that made the By-Elections so successful; the Chelmsford electors know that the women put all the more determination into their work because some of their comrades were behind stone walls.

A Prison Crusade.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst said she believed Mrs. Tanner was given two months because she asked to be tried by jury; the magistrate was evidently vexed that the women were not content with police-court proceedings, and by the time Mrs. Tanner's turn came—she was the fourth—he became impatient. It was a very serious thing that justice should depend upon such conditions. But the Suffragettes were breaking it down. The public attended the police-court proceedings, and had been struck by the injustice meted out there. One of the newspapers had come to the conclusion that it was time for a prison crusade as a result of the light thrown on these matters by the women, and the matter was not going to be allowed to drop until reforms were carried out which would bring this country into a line with others.

Referring to the protest at the Albert Hall, Miss Pankhurst said some of the Liberal papers were determined to misrepresent the women; they had not had the courage to insert the letter from the N.W.S.P.U., explaining the action of the women would probably take; it was absurd to suppose that the personal sympathy of Mr. Lloyd George would gain the vote for women. If he was not going to say, on behalf of the Government, that they would pass the Women's Enfranchisement Bill this Session, or put it in the King's Speech next Session, his speaking at the Albert Hall was absolutely useless.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Tanner for supporting his wife in her fight for the cause of justice closed the proceedings.

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LOCAL NOTES.

Brixton W.S.P.U.—A general meeting was held on November 27 and arrangements were made for holding a public meeting at Raleigh Hall on December 11, when Mrs. Tanner, our hon. secretary, will speak upon her release from Holloway. On December 3 an open-air meeting was held during the afternoon; the chair was taken by Miss Clara Hewitt, and Miss Marsh spoke to a large number of men and women, who listened with interest and sympathy. A good number of VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold. A number of Brixton women were present at Holloway to welcome our plucky member, Mrs. Tanner. Miss McArthur opened a debate on Woman's Suffrage at the Brixton Y.M.C.A. Lecture and Debating Society last Friday evening, and after an excellent debate a vote in our favour was carried.

M. CHANDLER, Secretary, pro tem.

Chiswick W.S.P.U.—We are holding open-air meetings to advertise the great mass meeting in King's Theatre, Hammersmith on Saturday, December 12. On Saturday a bus, decorated with the colours and bills and carrying women on the top, who dismounted at intervals to distribute handbills, was well received as it passed along Chiswick High-road, Kew, and Richmond and back. Open-air meetings have also been held at Brentford. A capital meeting was held in the Gymnasium at Kew, on November 24, with Mrs. H. Rowe in the chair. Miss Brackenbury, with her persuasive manner and strong arguments, gave Kew a pleasant surprise. Some 15 names were given in, and two ladies signed the membership card. We sold 10s. worth of literature. We hope to have more meetings in Kew later on.

A. COOMBS.

Hornsey W.S.P.U.—Perhaps the most interesting meeting we have yet held was that on December 4, when Miss Poole, a member who has had experience in working amongst poor women in Westminster, took the chair and spoke for the first time. She was followed by Mr. Chancellor, who had generously lent us his drawing-room, which was all the kinder because he is not as yet able to realise the wisdom of the Union's policy. He gave us a splendid speech, however, showing clearly the historical importance of the vote, especially with regard to the changes in society and in legislation that had been wrought by the successive franchise restrictions or extensions made from the 13th century down to our own day. Miss Fraser, another of our members, followed with a telling and amusing speech. At our last meeting before Christmas, Miss Joachim has kindly promised to speak, so that we hope everyone who possibly can will come to 8, Church-lane (almost next door to Hornsey Library), on Monday, December 14, at 8 p.m.

THEODORA BONWICK.

Kensington W.S.P.U.—Thanks to the energy of our speakers, Miss Brackenbury, Miss Coombs, and Mrs. Mayer, we were able to hold a fine series of open-air meetings last week. Despite the rather inclement weather we got fair audiences, for our indefatigable chalkers and members who helped to distribute bills had worked so well. Our Wednesday At Home was crowded to hear Miss Brackenbury, and we secured some volunteers for our Lantern Parade and buses. Mrs. Greenwood Pearson gave £1 is. to provide horses for our riders, and so enabled us to have them two days instead of one. Miss Postlethwaite undertook to make the sail for the boat procured by the hon. sec. of the Barnes W.S.P.U., and also to paint the lanterns for the parade. Miss Postlethwaite's ingenuity is remarkable. She has made a wonderful model of a completely fitted Holloway cell, which excites great interest at our meetings. Next week will be a busy one, with twelve open-air meetings, a lantern parade, and two private meetings, in addition to the Wednesday At Home. On Saturday comes the great meeting in the King's Theatre, for which all these efforts are made.

LOUISE M. EATES.

Lewisham W.S.P.U.—There has been a lull in "Votes for Women" work here, as the Chelmsford by-election claimed several of our members. Dr. Rose spoke on Blackheath on November 23, and Miss C. H. Townshend acted as chairman. Miss Ogston will be our speaker on Blackheath next Sunday, December 13, after which date we shall discontinue the Sunday open-air meetings. An At Home will be held this week, at which local members will give their experiences at the recent by-election and at the Albert Hall Demonstration.

J. A. BOUVIER.

Nottingham W.S.P.U.—The date of our forthcoming whist drive has had to be changed from December 11 to December 14. This will take place in the Blue-coat-street Schools, from 7.30 to 11. Tickets (1s. 6d. each) may be obtained from Miss Simon, 26, Zulla-road, and from other members of the committee. We are looking forward to a visit from Miss Gladice Keevil early in January. Miss Keevil will speak at a large At Home to be held (probably) in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall. A lantern lecture is another of our plans for the near future.

K. H. W., pro C. M. BURGIS.

Streatham, W.S.P.U.—Our public meeting to welcome Miss N. E. Smith on her release from Holloway was held at Stanley Hall, Streatham, on Thursday evening. The hall was decorated with our leaders' portraits, various designs of votes for women, and a handsome banner, in our colours, with emblematical representations of broad arrows, chains, and a laurel wreath. This banner was specially designed and made for the occasion by our energetic members, the Misses Tyson. Admirable speeches were given by Miss Macaulay (as chairman), Miss N. E. Smith, and Miss Evelyn Sharp. Miss N. E. Smith, who was received with continued applause, related some of her prison experiences. At question time someone asked whether the Australian women had acted in the same manner as the militant Suffragettes, and a member, who has been to Australia, pointed out that the Australian men had not made such action necessary. In every way the meeting was a success, and new members joined our Union. Among the crowded audience was a well-known local medical woman. Miss N. E. Smith will now resume her work as our hon. secretary, and will be pleased to hear, at 87A, Streatham-hill, of any friends who will help us.

ALICE E. WILLSON.

Wimbledon W.S.P.U.—On Friday evening a successful meeting was held in the Lecture Hall, Lingfield-road. Mrs. Eates, Miss Joachim, and Miss Brackenbury spoke. Mr. F. A. Bather took the chair. On the platform were Mr. Pollard, of Wimbledon, and Mrs. Langdon-Down, late president of the Kingston and District Liberal Women's Association, who described herself as a Liberal on strike because of Government's attitude towards Woman Suffrage. While Mrs. Lorisignol, the honorary treasurer, made a plea for more local helpers, membership cards were distributed, and several new names obtained. Before the meeting closed, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the

chairman and speakers. On Sunday afternoon rain and fog did not prevent a large number of people from listening to Mrs. Drummond's speech until darkness descended on Wimbledon Common. Preceding Mrs. Drummond, Miss Mary Phillips gave in her address an interesting account of her experience at the Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon. Mr. F. A. Bather was chairman. For the open-air campaign, the Common provides a splendid pitch, and we believe that our meetings will do much good in the district. Our thanks are specially due to the excellent speakers who have helped to set up the Union's standard in Wimbledon. Communications should be sent to me at "Fabo," Marray-road, Wimbledon.

MARGARET GRANT, Hon. Sec.

Debate at Cambridge.—At the debate of the Cambridge Union Society on December 1, before a crowded house, Mr. H. A. Holland (Trinity) proposed "That this house would view with profound mistrust the extension of the franchise to women." He argued the physical force theory; that one-tenth of the Suffragette energy would easily secure necessary legal reforms; that personal influence, even for men, is more effective than the vote; that its possession would narrow and parochialise national and Imperial policy; that party politics were essentially a dirty and a degrading business, from which woman ought to be set free to fulfil her true function in the State, the motion, said he was glad to stand there and publicly recant his opposition to Woman Suffrage in a former debate. Mr. V. E. Cotton (Magdalene), Mr. A. C. Larmour (Trinity), and other speakers followed. A Socialist maintained that, however much women were disinclined to have the vote, it should be forced upon them; they were an idle class, who shirked their duty to the State. References to the tactics of the Suffragettes were without exception marked by a studied and courteous reticence; one speaker pointed out that they had undoubtedly shifted the whole question of Women's Suffrage from the region of mere academic debate to the arena of practical politics. The house divided as follows: For the motion, 114; against, 111; majority for the motion, 3. Throughout the debate no one seemed aware of the historic fact that the right of women to nominate members of Parliament used to be a recognised part of the Constitution; that their present exclusion from the political sphere has been imperceptibly brought about by changing conditions, all operating adversely to their claims.

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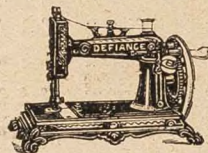
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