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Notes.

THOSE who arrived at the usual North entrance of Westminster Abbey a few minutes late for the afternoon service on Monday last were greeted with the unfamiliar placard "entrance by the Poets' Corner door only." Arrivals at the South door found, however, that even there seats could not be obtained by all. Through the gathering twilight, in the solemn precincts of the nation's Valhalla, the words echoed with full intercessory meaning, "Where two or three are gathered together in Thy Name Thou wilt grant their requests," and as one knelt with the great congregation one realized anew how deeply the sense of the inherent sanctity of our Cause is felt—not only by those who were privileged to be present—but by the great host with us in spirit only.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

AT a meeting at the House of Commons on Tuesday of members of the executives of the English and Scottish Women's Liberal Federations, presided over by Sir C. McLaren—among those present being Lady Carlisle, Miss Campbell, and Miss Younger—it was considered that Mr. Stanger's Bill was not sufficiently democratic, and steps will be taken to ballot for a Bill on more advanced lines. A meeting was also held of Liberal and Conservative members who favour Woman Suffrage, at which the opinion was expressed that it would be better to reintroduce the Bill that was already familiar, and that a more advanced measure would be more difficult to pass.

THE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION is holding a meeting on the 18th inst. at the Westminster Palace Hotel at 5 o'clock. Lady Knightley of Fawsley, the President of the Association, will take the chair, and the speakers will be Mr. L. S. Amery, Conservative candidate for Wolverhampton, Mr. Cecil Chapman, the well-known magistrate for South London, whose sympathy with the Suffrage movement arises from his intimate knowledge

of women's life and work, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan who will speak on her appeal before the House of Lords.

Admission by ticket, to be obtained from Mrs. Gilbert Samuel (Hon. Sec.), 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

THE above Society has been holding many successful meetings in various parts of England and Scotland. Lady Lowe presided at a meeting in Edinburgh on the 29th ult., and on the following day a packed meeting was held at the Windsor Hotel, Glasgow, both of which were addressed by Miss Packer (Lady Margaret Hall). There was great enthusiasm, circles were started, and the work of organization begun. It is interesting to note that the large majority of members were also members of the Primrose League. A week's organization in Somersetshire and Gloucestershire resulted in the formation of circles at Bath and Bristol, and meetings have been arranged for the 22nd and 23rd respectively, when Lady Knightley of Fawsley, President of the Association, will be the principal speaker. The work in London is increasing by leaps and bounds.

ANOTHER great meeting has been held in the South of England under the auspices of the N.W.S.P.U. Miss Annie Kenney, who has been working in the neighbourhood for some time, prepared the way admirably for the coming of Mrs. Pankhurst, which filled the Colston Hall with an enthusiastic audience eager to hear the why and wherefore of our Cause expounded. Having explained the objects of her Union, Mrs. Pankhurst proceeded to refer to the Anti-Suffrage movement the advent of which—as a sort of Kindergarten, relieving the condition of apathy against which the fight of recent years had been fought—she welcomed. Applause greeted the speaker's many clever sallies; questions were asked and answered, and the statement reiterated that if Mr. Asquith would promise that the question of Women's Suffrage would be in the King's Speech “they would work for the Liberal candidates at the by-elections.”

WANTED, a copy of pamphlet containing J. S. Mill's Edinburgh speech.

MRS. PANKHURST will speak at the Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on March 1st; at the Athenæum, Glasgow, the following day; at the Synod, Edinburgh, two days later; and at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on March 24th. All meetings are timed to commence at 8 P.M.

A DRAWING ROOM MEETING will be held by the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association on Friday, 26th February, 1909, at 8 p.m., at 61, Harcourt Street. By the kind invitation of Mrs. J. F. Keatinge, a paper entitled ‘The Rightful Claims of Women Re-stated,’ will be read by Mr. T. J. Haslam.

MR. J. R. M. BUTLER, of Trinity, Cambridge, the brilliant son of the master of that college and the lady who was Senior Classic, proposed last week at the Cambridge Union Society:—“That this House would strongly approve of the immediate granting of the B.A. degree to Women in this University.” The result of the voting was Ayes, 147; Noes, 55—a solid majority of 92. There seems thus little doubt that the resident Undergraduate at Cambridge would welcome the reform which Lord Curzon wishes to introduce at Oxford.

UNDER Mr. Churchill's scheme for a permanent Court of Arbitration to settle trade disputes, the following have agreed to serve on the respective panels, from which members

of a court may be selected: Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Haldane, and Miss Margaret Bonfield.

THE great educational scheme of Cecil Rhodes, by which many students from the colonies, the United States, and Germany have benefited, has appealed to many as incomplete, inasmuch as it leaves out women. One woman has taken steps to throw open the same chances to women. In the development of this still wider dream of education Madame Thayer has received much help and recognition from others, including Dr. Parkins, of the Rhodes Board of Trustees. The first woman scholar arrived in England in November, 1908, to work on the same lines as the Rhodes scholars. Madame Thayer was for six years a mistress at Cheltenham under Miss Dorothea Beale.

THE National Union of Women Workers this month publishes its Forty-seventh Occasional Paper, which is a splendid testimony to the good work of the Society. It is interesting to find many names notable in the Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage movement side by side. We quote Clause II. in the objects of the Society: To promote the social, civil, moral, and religious welfare of women.

MRS. BURN, M.B., of High Wycombe (until recently Medical Officer of Wycombe Abbey School), has been appointed by the Durham County Council as School Medical Officer.

AN important memorial to Mr. Burns has been sent from a number of influential societies in Croydon, drawing attention to the difficulty of finding suitable women candidates for borough councils, owing to the fact that many women of leisure and experience are not burgesses, but are living as wives and daughters in the homes of burgesses, and asking the President of the Local Government Board to make way for Dr. Shipman's Bill, which would establish a residential qualification. The average person finds it hard to understand the apparent lack of public-spirited women ready to present themselves for this work—it cannot be made too widely known that explanation is to be found in the extraordinary tangle in which the present Act is involved. It has been suggested by an ardent advocate that perhaps all the best women are engaged in fighting for the elementary rights of citizenship! but as a fact we know that Croydon is not alone in having women working heroically on Education Committees, and as “Guardians,” who are debarred by the ridiculous electoral limitations of the Act from election as councillors.

A LECTURE will be given on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 8.30 p.m., on ‘The History of Women's Franchise’ by Miss Packer (Lady Margaret Hall) at 68, Great Cumberland Place, W. (by kind permission of W. Edmonds, Esq.). Tickets, 1s. each, to be obtained from the Lady Emily Wyndham-Quin, 12, William Street, Lowndes Square; Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois, 10, John Street, Mayfair, W.; Miss E. M. Eaton, 43, Ladbroke Grove, W.; Miss A. Gurney, 69, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.; Miss Edmonds, 68, Great Cumberland Place, W.; or from Mrs. Gilbert Samuel (Hon. Sec. of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association), 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

AN inquiry has recently been made by the industrial committee of the National Union of Women Workers as to the nature of the work of women sanitary inspectors in twenty boroughs. Seventeen boroughs sent full replies. These

answers seem to point to the fact that full scope is not given in the work. Only five boroughs allow tenement and lodging houses to be visited. Various other restrictions are laid down that make it difficult to carry the work to a more successful issue.

THE Rev. Gertrud von Petzold, who resigned her church at Leicester recently to settle in the U.S.A., has been appointed for six months as minister of the Unitarian Church of Des Moines, capital of the State of Iowa, during the absence of the Rev. Mary A. Safford. On Monday, January 11th, Miss von Petzold was invited to open the session of the State Senate with prayer, and the prayer she offered was printed next morning in the Des Moines Register and Leader. Speaking of the occurrence, Miss von Petzold said: “At this time it would be a matter of especial interest in England, where the thought of a woman offering prayer at the opening of Parliament is unheard of. It would be of interest in view of the great movement there for the advancement of women.”

AN eminent anthropologist, in conversation with the writer on the subject of Women's Suffrage, expressed his fear that women—if law makers—would lose sight of questions of race improvement, and be prone to sentimental legislation, thereby making it easier for the unfit to increase. Apropos of this, in the report of the Royal Commission on the care and control of the feeble-minded, stress is laid on “the need of placing the mental cripple as a permanent ward of the Stateso that he may be prevented from propagating his infirmity.” Dr. Scott, one of the Commissioners, further says, referring to feeble-minded persons: “It is also important to consider, from the point of view of the improvement of the race, if any means can be taken to prevent these undesirables from reproducing their like.” Sir Edward Fry gives evidence as follows: “Every one knows that a large number of the mothers of illegitimate children are of weak intellect: that their issue is frequently of the same type.” We are told that “the public” is insufficiently alive to the grave importance of the whole question; but we remember, with no little satisfaction, that a courageous attempt to grapple with kindred difficulties was one of the very first considerations of the newly-enfranchised women of Norway (vide *Women's Franchise*, April 8, 1908, p. 471).

SCENE: *Second-Class Compartment, L.B.S.C.R.*

WIFE to Husband: “There, I quite forgot to sign that paper Mrs..... asked me to. Whatever was it? Something to do with the Suffragettes, wasn't it?”

Husband: “Yes—No—Was it the Suffragettes? I think it was the Anti-Suffragettes.”

Wife: “Yes. I think you are right. It was the Anti-Suffragettes. Anyway, I did not sign it.”

At this point our Editor was overcome with joy, that such a wonderfully business-like woman had not definitely pledged herself to Anti-Suffrage.

WE have received from Mrs. Herringham, 16l. 13s. 4d.; Miss J. Green, 5l.; Miss A. C. G. Wright, 1l. 1s.; Miss M. E. Dalby, 1l.; Miss V. M. Shillington, 10s.; Miss R. Powell, 7s. 6d.; Lieut.-Col. Linley Blathwayt, 5s. 3d.; “a Swedish Sympathizer,” 5s.; Miss M. McGilchrist-Gilchrist, 5s. (being one month's donation); and from Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, 4s. (being one month's donation), towards the publishing expenses of this paper. We have also received anonymously 5l. to enable us to enlarge this week's issue to 16 pp.

IN spite of the increase in the number of our pages and the decrease in the size of type under many notices much matter is again unavoidably held over.

Irish Women's Franchise League.

THE Irish Women's Franchise League, which was three months old on the 17th, has not been idle. On December 12th they held a large and enthusiastic public meeting in the hall, Merrion Row, where a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was unanimously carried. The Christmas holidays stopped work for a time, but operations were vigorously commenced with the New Year. Weekly meetings were held in January and February at the Contemporary Club—where a large room was generously placed at the disposal of the League by a member of the Club—and at Mrs. Barry's Hotel, 1, Great Denmark Street. These meetings were very successful, many new members joined, and a substantial amount was collected and promised at each. At Mrs. Barry's on January 25th Miss Kathleen Sheehy, B.A., daughter of Mr. Sheehy, M.P., made a brilliant début as a speaker. Mr. T. M. Kettle, M.P., also spoke at this meeting. Arrangements have been made for meetings during the concluding weeks of February and in March. On March 2nd Mrs. Billington-Greig is to speak under the auspices of the League in the Abbey Theatre. The Irish “Suffragettes” were in evidence at the gathering of the National Convention on February 9th, at which delegates from all parts of Ireland discuss matters of moment. A little band of Leaguers distributed leaflets to the Members of Parliament and delegates. One of these leaflets specially appealed to the delegates to vote for the “Votes for Women” Resolution, which was on the Convention agenda. This, we regret to say, was lost by a small majority; but the Irish Women's Franchise League hopes to change all that by the time the Convention next meets.

Mrs. K. M. Shannon is the Honorary Secretary, and the offices are at 34, Wicklow Street, Dublin.

Actresses' Franchise League.

On February 23rd there will be a meeting for members only at 3, Bedford Street, Strand, in the studio at 3 o'clock. Miss Winifred Mayo will receive on behalf of the League.

On March 5th there will be a meeting for members and their friends at the Dover Street Studios, W., kindly lent by Mr. Hamburger, when Miss Alice Crawford will receive on behalf of the League and Miss Abadam of the National Union has kindly consented to be the speaker. The speeches begin punctually at 3 o'clock.

The Women Writers' Suffrage League.

A GENERAL meeting was held on Sunday, February 14th, at Chelsea, Mrs. Coates having most kindly lent her studio for the occasion. Some eminent women writers belong to this interesting Society, among others Elizabeth Robins (the President), Sarah Grand, Beatrice Harraden, Julia Frankau, Cicely Hamilton, Evelyn Sharp, Violet Hunt, &c.

The League has only been established about nine months. At Christmas the members published a booklet called ‘How the Vote was Won,’ by Cicely Hamilton, illustrated with quaint pictures by Hedley Charlton. This humorous sketch has been very successful. It will be followed by a pamphlet dealing with the Suffrage, by Madeleine Lucette Ryley.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

HUNGARY.—Hungarian Suffragists are exceedingly indignant at the new Franchise Bill, which entirely and expressly ignores their claims. The preamble actually states that “it is impossible at present seriously to consider such an extension of the Franchise as would include women. The ideal conception of women's mission requires her exemption from the struggles of political life. Practical and utilitarian considerations have hitherto influenced the majority of governments in excluding

women from the exercise of political rights. The bestowal of the Franchise on women is at present outside the domain of practical politics in our country, because this new Franchise scheme already confers the Suffrage on so many new elements that it would be political folly to add to the risks we are already running."

The main risk in this case appears to be the conferring of the Franchise on illiterates, apparently still a large class in Hungary. But the Government have no wish to wait till their numbers are reduced by the advance of education. "There are many valuable elements to be found in their ranks, and much bitterness would be aroused among them were they to be entirely overlooked." Therefore the ignorant male is to be allowed a vote, and the most highly educated and intelligent woman excluded. This curious want of logic is not, however, peculiar to the legislators of Hungary. We seem to have heard something of the sort much nearer home.

In other respects, too, the proposed Franchise is a strange one. The illiterates (about 40 per cent of the total of voters) are to have one-tenth of a vote each, *i.e.*, ten of them elect one representative who exercises the vote. Every man who can read and write has one vote to himself. Any man who has had in his employ for five years one or more men over sixteen years of age, is entitled to two votes. Men who have passed through schools of a certain grade, and pay at least 100 kronen (*fl.* 3s. 4d.) direct taxes, are entitled to three votes.

In this last case the money which is taxed may belong to the wife or children. Still it is the man, and the man only, who is entitled to the corresponding vote. Truly our Hungarian sisters have ground for complaint!

On the very day, last November when the Bill was introduced, the members of the Suffrage Association, having received previous information as to the project to be introduced, gathered in large numbers in the galleries of the Houses of Parliament, which do not appear to be as sacredly guarded from feminine intrusion as they are with us. They even obtained permission to station a certain number of ladies at the Members' entrance to distribute leaflets, quoting the views of prominent members of the Government on Women's Suffrage, and protesting against exclusion from the new Franchise Bill. All the women were in their places before 9 A.M. White flags with the inscription "Votes for Women" floated from a large number of houses, and all the workers wore white rosettes with the same motto. At the last moment, however, the police grew alarmed, and drove them away from the Members' entrance. But a large flag with the "Votes for Women" motto was set up in front of the entrance and served instead as a reminder. The women then took their stand on the road where the members had to pass, and threw the leaflets into the carriages. No objection was made to their entering the House, but the police forced them to remove the rosettes, and took away the leaflets inviting members to a protest meeting against the Bill, which were to have been thrown down into the Chamber. They also kept guard during the whole of the sitting. And after all the women succeeded in distributing their invitations, as a new supply of leaflets had been brought in by late comers. The mass meeting of protest was a great success, which is not surprising when the terms of the Bill are considered. Already 150 deputies (out of 453) have declared their readiness to join a Parliamentary Suffrage League. Of the Ministers the Prime Minister Wekerle and Franz Kossuth, Minister of Trade, are in favour of Women's Suffrage. Its strongest opponent is Count Apponyi, Minister of Education. The bitterest enemies, however, are the Socialists, who are agitating virulently against the women's demands. It seems difficult for us in England to think that this Bill can please any party. The further debates on it will be watched with great interest. It is sad to learn that Hungarian women are hampered in their propaganda by lack of funds, without which it is impossible to make headway against the mass of prejudice which seems to exist in their country.

DENMARK.—Madame Münter calls attention to a misprint in her article in last week's *Franchise*. In par. 23 1890 should be 1908. She also wishes to add the following: "The proposal of Mr. Frederic Bajer that married women should be entitled to their own salary was carried in the year 1880."

ALICE ZIMMERN.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone at Leeds.

ON a recent visit to Leeds Mr. Herbert Gladstone received a deputation, in answer to which he was reported to have said, "If an amendment to a Government Reform Bill in favour of Women's Suffrage were passed in the Commons, the Government would give it hearty support."

Mr. Gladstone addressed the following letter to Mr. Joseph Henry, of Leeds:—

Home Office, Feb. 11th, 1909.

DEAR HENRY,—My attention has been drawn to a statement that, in reply to a deputation from West Leeds, I said that if an amendment to a Government Reform Bill in favour of Women's Suffrage were passed in the House of Commons the Government would give it hearty support."

What I said was that in such a contingency I should give the Bill, so amended, my hearty support. I was asked what would be the position of the Government. I said that the Bill would be proceeded with as a Government Bill, in accordance with the Prime Minister's statement. Sincerely yours,

H. J. GLADSTONE.

How to Help.

BY A WANDERER.

I SOMETIMES hear girls exclaim, "It would be delightful to help the Cause of Woman's Suffrage, but it almost seems as though one must be a public speaker—and a very good one—in order to do so."

There are still many women who have no gifts in the direction of platform speaking who are yet enthusiastic believers in Woman's Suffrage, and for them there is much useful work. During the last year I have had to visit various remote parts of England and to live, sometimes for a week at a time in some village far removed from the busy haunts of men.

At first it may be that the women one meets are a little timid in the matter of claiming a vote. They have been led to believe that a Suffragist—still more a Suffragette—is a wild creature who talks in a loud voice, wears untidy clothes, and hates all men. It is necessary to remember that in many country districts this idea still prevails—absurd as it may appear to us who live in large towns. The woman Suffragist who merely lives in a village and becomes friendly with her neighbours, putting in a word here and there in favour of the Cause, is doing immense good. She need not hold meetings.

"I'd never have thought *you* was one of 'em," a pleasant woman said to me after a chat in her little front garden. "They do tell such tales of their goings on. No, I've never thought of a vote; but, after all, why shouldn't we women vote as well as the men?" The idea was new to her. She took some papers I left her, and a few days later I found her discussing the question with three of her neighbours. "Miss!" she called, "will you come and tell these ladies you are a 'Votes for Women'?" They won't believe us." We had a little chat in her kitchen—I had to sit on the table, as chairs were scarce—and again for the first time, minds were turned to a subject they had never considered before. The missionary cannot be too simple, and it is useless to get impatient at the oft-repeated remark, "I take no interest in those things." The important matter is to get these women to think about votes at all; they do not care for meetings, and rarely attend them, but they are always ready for a chat about tea time. The Children's Bill and such matters as sanitation interest them. One of them remarked to me: "Oh! well, if *that* is politics, I quite hold with women having votes." In another village, far away among the Devonshire moors, the wife of the blacksmith called on me and stated frankly that she had heard I was "one of them Suffragists," and would like to see what I was like. "I wouldn't go to no meetings," she said; "such waste of time. What do women want with such things?" But in half an hour we were discussing and arguing in the forge,

with the blacksmith putting in a word now and then. They did not all at once decide to join a Suffrage society, but they, at any rate, talked and thought about the matter, some of them for the first time. It is often possible to get in touch with the more educated portion of the inhabitants, and here much more patience is required; for education, so called, does not always open the mind. The daughter of the squire is often immersed in her tennis parties and her dances, while the clergyman's wife "hasn't a minute for anything of the kind." Both ladies, like their sisters in the cottages, are quite willing, however, to chat with a friendly stranger who can make herself pleasant, does not despise tennis, and can suggest a fresh subject of discussion for the mothers' meeting.

There are few pleasanter ways of adding to the pleasure of a summer holiday than by doing some propaganda work for the Cause of Women's Suffrage. But small beginnings must not be despised. Those of us who live in large towns, and read many newspapers, sometimes fail to grasp the little progress which *ideas* have made in remote country districts. I found a girl in a little grey village up on the Yorkshire moors who had pasted on the walls of her room all the portraits she could find in the few newspapers she came across of the ladies who had been to Holloway. Some of the portraits were shocking libels. "I don't understand much about it," she said modestly; "but I do admire those ladies for going to prison for their principles." Her father was suspicious of the whole affair, "I don't hold with women coming out of the home and doing men's work," was his remark. We discussed the question amicably over home-made butter and honey from their own hives; and though I cannot say he was entirely convinced of the justice of our Cause, he admitted that "there may be something in what you say," and this from a Yorkshire farmer was a concession.

"Tilly-valley"!

"Soe then I jerk my head away and say, 'Tilly-valley! Tilly-valley!'" (Manning's 'Household of Sir Thomas More').

WHEN Mistress More, poor soul, "her eyes nigh swollen to closing with weeping," visited her husband in prison and heard with incredulous ears that he had made his deliberate choice between life and an idea, she jerked her head away and said, "Tilly-valley!" Every idea, in undergoing the throes which precede its birth as an actuality, passes through what may be called the tilly-valley stage. Astonishment, ridicule, attempted argument, then as the young idea, on the threshold of life, poises for flight,

As those

Dull-coated things, that making slide apart
Their dusk wing-cases, all beneath there burns
A jewelled harness—

rises the chorus, all the more vehement because it knows itself ineffective—"rubbish," "bêtises," "dümmeit," "tilly-valley," in short.

That the woman movement is at present entering on this stage admits of little doubt. Former opponents flocking more or less gracefully to join the ranks or holding aloof in sulky acquiescence, only here and there stragglers, as they retire from the field, sore with the sense of defeat, snarling over their shoulders their irritated "Tilly-valley! Mind your own business."

What *is* our own business? who is my neighbour? The idealist who answered that question long ago was no stranger to the tossed heads and contemptuous cry.

We have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble deeds of men who, like Thomas More, renounced joy, fame, friendship, life itself, and passed into the dark smiling, for they held, twined round their heart strings, that which no man could take away—a loved ideal, washed pure in blood and tears. But to hear patiently that *women* in this sordid, modern world are ready to pose as martyrs for love of an abstract liberty—"Tilly-valley!" and again "Tilly-valley!"

It is the last stage; lower the sails, make ready the oars. On the crest of this wave we shall ride into harbour.

A. L. LITTLE.

"HE SHALL RULE OVER THEE,"

OR,

Woman, according to Genesis.

BY ALEPH.

So much interest is being focussed upon the relative positions of woman and man at the present time, and we hear what is popularly supposed to be the intention of our Creator, as shown in Genesis, so much quoted, that it is as well to look facts in the face, place the Bible account of creation under microscopical examination, and see for ourselves what is revealed there.

The questions we should like to solve are whether Eve or Adam were most to blame for the downfall of mankind; whether God's anger was greatest towards Eve or towards Adam; and which of these two was awarded by God the severest punishment.

We are glibly informed by the man in the street to-day that it is, of course, a matter beyond all question that the woman was entirely to blame for the sin of Eden, and that, therefore, she has no reason to complain of her subjugation to-day, or of any privation that is being forced upon her, because that is what she is born to suffer, according to Divine appointment.

But let us peep into the second chapter of Genesis. We do not find there that God ever told Eve that she was not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. It was to Adam that God gave this command, and He gave it to Adam before Eve was created. Eve, of course, must have heard of it from Adam, for she spoke of it when being deceived by the serpent; but she did not receive the direct command from God as Adam did, when He said to him, "Thou shalt not eat of it." Therefore her guilt was not so great as his.

We hear it so often stated as an accepted fact that Eve "tempted" Adam to eat, that I must just point out that this assumption is erroneous. There is no mention of Eve doing any such thing. Adam was present when she took the fruit, and naturally she offered him some. She did so in all good faith. She believed the serpent, and she thought it was good for her to be made wise; and if it was good for her, she thought it was good for Adam too. No doubt Adam, being present "with her," as we read in the sixth verse of the second chapter, heard all the serpent said as well as Eve; for we notice the serpent says, "Ye shall not surely die," not "Thou shalt not surely die."

Even Adam himself does not say that Eve tempted him to eat. All he said was, "She gave me to eat." The fact was Adam heard all the serpent had said, and he was very ready to eat. Had Eve not handed him some of what she had plucked, I make no doubt he would have plucked some for himself.

Had Adam only been faithful to what God had commanded him, and declined to eat of the fruit, and also advised Eve not to eat of it, how different now would the condition of humanity be. Instead of doing so, the man disobeyed the commandment of God; and when discovered tried to lay the blame on his wife, just as his successors have done ever since.

A careful examination of the third chapter of Genesis will reveal to the unbiassed mind that much less condemnation and punishment is pronounced upon Eve than upon Adam.

God's anger is quite evidently greater towards the man, to whom He quotes His Divine command, which he gave only to him, and which the man has disobeyed: "Of which I commanded *thee*, saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it.'" The Divine judgment pronounced on Adam is double in length and severity to that pronounced upon Eve; and the man's disobedience brings down, not only punishment upon himself, but on the whole earth for his sake, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake."

Great indignation is found in the Divine address to Adam, which is not found in that addressed to Eve: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return unto the ground, for out of it wast thou taken, for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All this scorn is towards Adam alone, and all this extra punishment upon the whole world was on account of Adam's transgression, not Eve's.

Eve's punishment was pronounced in a few words. It was on the woman alone, and it only appears to match the

"sorrow" which both the man and the woman were to have equally, she, in her life of bringing forth the family; he, in his life of bringing forth the food from the ground. On the female side it is "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children"; on the male side, "In sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." So far the punishment is equal for them both, all the rest is poured out upon Adam for his major share of the disobedience.

Further still, we read towards the end of the chapter (Genesis iii.) that "The Lord God sent *him* forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the *man*." Eve was not driven out; she went of her own accord.

The cords of affection and self-sacrifice drew the woman then to share the unknown lot of her husband, however hard it might prove, just as the self-same cords have drawn her to do the same all down the ages. Adam was "driven out" of Paradise; Eve went. The man was sent forth "to till the ground from whence he came." This is the second time in the chapter that the reminder was given that the man was made of earth. Eve was made of something better than earth, she was made of human flesh. Man is of the earth earthy; woman is his refined essence.

The man was made for the purpose of tilling the ground; the woman was made for the higher purpose of being the companion of a human being.

She was made the last of all. First came the fishes, then fowls, and after them the animals, then man, and last of all, woman. She was the summit of creation.

But what about the words we find at the end of the judgment pronounced upon Eve: "And thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee"? What is the meaning of this?

Let us look well into this text, and probe it to its depths. Surely God would not bestow upon Adam for his sin a great reward. Would He raise him after his disobedience to a higher position than he had occupied before it? Was God to make him, in consequence of his sin, superior and the ruler over his erstwhile companion and equal?

"Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" was not part of the punishment meted out by God for Eve's sin; it was a foretelling and forewarning by God of the awful effect which sin would have upon Adam's nature, and the sad consequences to Eve of Adam having now become a sinful and fallen man. Adam would now wickedly misuse the extra strength which God had given him to till the ground, to oppress and tyrannize over Eve. God foresaw that this sin would lie at Adam's door, and the words in the text, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee," was God's foretelling of it.

It was in no sense a giving of Divine right to Adam to rule over Eve. As well might it be said that God gave to the wicked Cain a divine right to rule over his good brother Abel; for we find the same words in the next chapter (Genesis iv.) used by the Creator to Cain, when Cain was jealous of Abel: "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, *sin lieth at thy door. And unto thee shall be his [Abel's] desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*" God here again foretold what would happen if Cain allowed sin to conquer him. He would oppress his brother. And Cain did, even unto death. Will any man dare to say that Cain was given the Divine right to rule over his brother in this text? Then neither was Adam given any Divine authority to rule over Eve.

God foretold that Adam's sinful nature would lead him to tyrannize over Eve, and Adam's successors have committed this sin all through the ages. Not only have they done so, but they have deluded themselves into the belief that they do so by Divine right and by God's ordination.

On the mistaken understanding of this verse of the Bible our law-makers have built for themselves the pedestal of the marriage laws, the laws of inheritance, of parentage, and of every other synonym for injustice which is found on our statute book to-day.

Let us compare for a moment how man and woman have borne their respective "sorrow" since it was meted out to them.

"In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children"; "In sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life."

Woman has done her part, and done it well, without a murmur of complaint. She has taken up her burden, and she has borne it nobly. The whole earth is peopled with her children, almost to overflowing. From generation to generation woman has sacrificed herself for her children, until her sacrifice has come to be almost unnoticed.

And how has the man borne his "sorrow"? He has scarcely borne it at all; he has compelled the woman to bear it instead. By starvation he has forced her to sell her time and her labour for food, and now the greater part of the world's work is laid upon her. The entire commerce of the world is reared upon the underpaid drudgery of woman. In addition she carries on the whole of the weary round of domestic unpaid labour which, though so important, is scarcely counted to her as labour at all.

Helped by machinery, man has turned the sweat of the brow of woman into gold. This gold he puts in *his* pocket, to be used as a power, to rule and chastise her; or, worse still, to compel her to sell herself to him, both body and soul. By the sweat of the brow of woman, men sit in high places to-day; yes, even as high as the Cabinet. And as man hears the wail of woman, crying for justice, he answers back: "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

Now let us glance at the Ten Commandments. One glance is quite enough to show that the Commandments were given to humanity, male and female, on a plane of equality.

If God had placed male and female in the unequal relation to master and slave, the Commandments given respectively of each would be different, a different rule of conduct being required from each. The enslaved female would be given the commandment not to disobey her master, and the despotic male would be free from such a commandment.

It is quite plain that God gave equally the Ten Commandments to mankind, male and female, each as a human being, and each without reference to the other.

God is just, and would He arrange His creation so that the woman would be morally bound to obey the man, and still be held separately responsible to God for her actions? Certainly not.

If it were the religious duty of the female human being to give up her will and action into the keeping and under the judgment of the male human being, then justice would demand that the male be held responsible to God for the actions of the female, and receive the punishment of her sins.

Further, could it be argued that this master and slave position of man and wife was ordained by God, it could not show that, because it was the duty of the wife to obey her own husband, therefore all wives collectively were to obey all husbands collectively, and further still that all women were to obey all men, whether the women were married, or single, or widows; and vice versa, that the men were to rule whether married, single, or widowers. The wife, before becoming a wife, is at least allowed to choose for herself, before marriage, whom she will take to obey, and takes the vow of her own accord. And there is not the same hardship in obeying a person by whom one expects to be loved and cherished, and who swears to do so, as to find oneself, without resource, a member of a whole sex doomed by mankind to serfdom, and that for the accident of its sex only.

And, strange to say, this sex so doomed is the superior in the finer attributes of human character. In piety, sobriety, affection, moral courage, patience, chastity, self-sacrifice, temperance, and nearly all the other virtues, it rises above the other. Among every hundred criminals to-day only eleven women can be found.

God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman," and it has been so. All through the history of the world, since the days of Eden, woman as a sex has been found ranged against the forces of evil; but the odds against her have been too heavy.

Oh! that political power were placed in the hand of woman to-day, so that, walking alongside of man, she could use her vote as a weapon to drive away the serpent from the path of both. Then what a paradise our world would be. May God hasten the dawn of that bright day!

A Woman's Place.

WHY ask you, friend, what is a woman's place?
Is she not fated to maintain the race?
To sit beside the cradle wherein lies
The youthful joy of a proud father's eyes?
Or, if she be not there, let her be found
With faithful steps upon her household round.
Or, girded with her thimble, let her thread
The needle that becomes the draper's dread:
Anon she may the butcher-boy descry,
And thence resolve on veal or mutton pie,
Or with a careful memory take heed
If John doth salt or cayenne pepper need.
I would not ever within four walls bate her.
On fine days let her wheel the perambulator;
Nor find it ill if John on Saturday
Should sometimes take her to a matinée,
So he be wise in choosing of the play,
For woman lightly wanders from the way
God and her husband stretch before her feet.
By reason of this frailty, 'tis not meet
She see the great world as it really is;
Man only hath the strength of mind for this—
Man, who can meet temptation, yet not fall;
Or, if he fall, is thereby not at all
Permanently disabled by the act.
But for a woman, 'tis a well-known fact
That, fallen once, she ne'er can rise again,
But is held down for ever by the chain
Her sin hath forged for her; therefore be wise,
Keep a thick veil before a woman's eyes
Lest she behold too clear the things that are:
A woman is too delicate by far
To bear rough contact with the evil world;
'Tis true, when she is fallen, and hath hurled
Herself into th' abyss, none falls so low,
Which proves 'tis wiser not to let her go,
But keep her in subjection by the aid
Of that religion which adorns a maid
With all the holy grace of humbleness,
Meekness of spirit, modesty in dress,
And makes the matron patient 'neath the yoke
Which Heaven first did bind, nor e'er revoke.
For men 'tis not all wisdom to restrain
The ceaseless questioning of the active brain;
But woman, whose sole faculty is heart,
Should never be allowed to take a part
In the inquiries of the riper mind.
What would she there but bad example find?
For, as she must be ruled, 'tis never wise
To flaunt the flag of freedom 'fore her eyes.
Authority, authority, raise high,
And train a woman to docility!

Good temper is the next important thing.
We marvel not that John should have his fling,
When matters far beyond a woman's scope
Are found perchance entangled without hope.
She must allowance make for his caprice,
And patient bide until the tempest cease.
For on her own part, what hath she to bear?
Nought but the very trivial wear and tear
Of microscopic domesticities,
With, it is true, at times complexities
Occasioned by her duty to the race;
(But these she must with quiet patience face),
Content if she receive as due reward
Of her endeavours John's sincere regard,
Although it be not always evident,
When by his office worries he is rent,
And of necessity must seek distraction
In fresher charms and more of youth's attraction.

But if she be not married, did you say?
Oh then—why then—can we attention pay
To such by-products of humanity?
'Tis scarcely worth our trouble to decry
The abnormalities that may ensue
When woman is defrauded of her due—
Husband and children; but methinks 'twere best
That she at once all selfish aims suppressed,
And did devote her barren spinstershood
To do her nearest kin some little good
In money, if she therein do abound,
Or in such service as may else be found
For one whose space in life must needs be small,
Since she finds favour with no man at all.
To summarize this brief epitome
Of what I hold a woman's destiny,
Let her be pleasing in her husband's sight,
Bear him his children, guide his home aright.
The highest proof that she hath duly filled
The sphere that her Creator for her willed,
Is seen if she do prematurely die
(We are all subject to mortality),
And John, e'en while deploring her sad fate,
Do speedily secure another mate.

A Plea for the Anti-Suffrage League.

TILL within the last year or so, what meeting was so dull as a Suffrage meeting? We met together to discuss a subject which we had discussed many times before, and on which we were practically of one mind, we passed the inevitable resolution, most of us not having even a pious hope that it would do more than raise a smile on the face of the person or persons to whom it was addressed, and then we separated. Perhaps our great-grandchildren *might* see our hopes fulfilled, and would have a freer and fuller life than had been possible to us. Perhaps, the status of women being thereby raised, it might be recognized that women, being said to be the weaker vessels, need not be obliged to spend a proportion of their strength in combating difficulties which are unknown to their brothers. Such was the depressing state of mind in which one quitted a Suffrage meeting, sustained only by the knowledge that one had done a small duty in giving one's moral support to the organizers of the gatherings—hardworking, unselfish women, who toiled on in spite of disappointment and the ridicule which was flung at them both in the press and in private.

During the last three years, however, a strange change has come over the spirit (it might almost be called a nightmare) of our dream of the Suffrage. Indeed, we no longer dream; we may even go further, and say that we have really waked up.

The more forceful tactics now employed have gathered into one solid phalanx all those women who see in their enfranchisement, perhaps not the advent of the millennium, but certainly a fairer world, with less inequality of opportunity for the weaker members of society—members actually rendered weaker, more often than not, by this same lack of opportunity, and by the social obligation to conform to the host of conventionalities which inevitably adhere to any unnatural state, and even emphasize it.

The Suffrage movement includes in its ranks the intelligent, skilled working woman; the increasing class of educated women who are earning their own living, or who come into intimate contact with those who do so; the social worker, who sees urgent reforms only in the very dim future, unless women can gain a hearing by virtue of their vote; the women who, whether wealthy or poor, have felt the pinch of legal injustice, either in their own persons or in that of their friends; and lastly, a band of men who, by reason of a higher level of intelligence or a wider sympathy than is common to their sex, are enabled to see the world more or less approximately from the woman's point of view. Most of these may be allowed the quite justifiably selfish motive for desiring Women's Franchise, that they believe that life will have an added zest when their women companions are their political equals.

It is, alas! the advanced few, comparatively speaking, who are always trying to drag up to their level the dead-weight of a vast majority, some of whom oppose innovations merely from ignorance of the effects of political reforms on social conditions. Leaving aside the large number of men who view the future with dismay from the point of view of possible loss of privilege and power, and decrease of licence, there are many women who "still remain in the tepid regions of selfish contentment in which it has pleased circumstance to call them." This section of society feels no need, except in isolated instances, of going outside itself for new light on any subject, so that it is from within that its salvation must be worked out. Tepid regions of selfish contentment do not give rise to strong feeling in any direction; the upheaval of that contentment must be threatened before those luxuriating in it can be stirred either to mental or physical exertion, and it is, in my opinion, the Women's Anti-Suffrage League which will do this incalculable service for the women's movement—namely, cause perturbation in hitherto placid regions. In their manifesto they state that "the matter is urgent." We quite agree. "Unless," the manifesto continues, "those who hold that the success of the Women's Suffrage movement would bring disaster on England are prepared to take immediate and effective action, judgment may go by default, and our country drift towards a momentous revolution, both social and political." The picture of dire possibilities is by so much worse than even a German scare, in that it spells dissolution from within, with every probability of a resultant disaster from without. Who would not be up and doing under such potentialities? Moreover, the leaflet closes with "Women of England! we appeal to your patriotism and your common-sense." Even those of us who are most supine, whether from apathy or from contempt of our foe, ought to be stirred to the most strenuous action in response to a call in the name of Patriotism, and we all naturally wish to vindicate our claim to common-sense. Therefore the "Antis" have every reason to hope for and to expect a great flocking-in of members in response to their appeal, which is perhaps a shade dramatic, and a somewhat alarmist one.

The first contingent to come under the Anti-Suffrage League's banner is probably even now leavening a large mass of women, hitherto content, with a holy fear of the impending imperial and social catastrophe, stirring up politically tepid souls till they glow with enthusiasm and an eager desire to uphold the safety, honour, and welfare of their country against those who would bring on it an indefinable disaster. More and more recruits will be called into the lines, and will be taught their "Anti" goose-step in the form of all the arguments which have long ago been incontestably refuted by supporters of the Suffrage. From these lines the enthusiastic spirits, being new to their cause, will come forth to try conclusions in the form of arguments with the foe—action which of late the more experienced "Antis" have rather shirked. As, time after time, they will retreat discomfited, there will arise in the minds of all but the utterly thoughtless of them grave doubts as to the solidity of the basis of their opposition, and most of them will probably come to the conclusion that they have opposed the Suffrage for no better reason than that they have never really thought about it. From this point we may look for a rapid increase in the Suffrage ranks, for one who has changed either his politics or his religion has ever more useful and more stable convictions than he the stability of whose belief is due to his never having given it sufficient thought to have any doubts about it.

May we not even suspect that some of the "Antis" are already in sympathy with our movement, and see this means of reaching many women otherwise inaccessible? That this is not wholly improbable may be deduced from the following extract from a recent novel written by a prominent "Anti" leader and social worker:—

"One day, after a discussion on votes for women... Diana... had thrown herself on her friend.

"Dear, you can't wish it!—you can't believe it. To brutalize, to unsex us!"

"Marion raised herself on her elbow, and looked down the narrow cross-street beneath the windows of her lodgings... The public-house at the corner was full of animation, and women were passing in and out. Through the roar of traffic from the

main street beyond, a nearer sound persisted: a note of wailing—the wailing of babes.

"There are the unsexed!" said Marion, panting. 'Is their brutalisation the price we pay for our refinement?' Then, as she sank back, 'Try anything—everything—to change that!'"
GENIE SHEPPARD.

Autobiography of John Stuart Mill.

ALL our readers should take advantage of the publication by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. of a sixpenny edition of the 'Autobiography' of John Stuart Mill. As a human document it is of the highest merit, in literary style noble and dignified, and in the tribute which he pays to the influence of his wife of exceptional interest to the women who to-day follow in their footsteps. Reading the chapter headed 'Marriage,' reflections suggest themselves as to the possible number of unsung help-meets whom men less honest, less noble than Mill, have used and flung aside, and who, in doing so, have helped to establish firmer than before those false generalities as to the quality of women's intellect which it may take the twentieth century to subvert. For the benefit of those of our readers to whom they may be unknown we quote two passages from the book, which will serve, we believe, but to whet the appetite for more:—

"When two persons have their thoughts and speculations completely in common; when all subjects of intellectual or moral interest are discussed between them in daily life, and probed to much greater depths than are usually or conveniently sounded in writings intended for general readers; when they set out from the same principles, and arrive at their conclusions by processes pursued jointly, it is of little consequence in respect to the question of originality, which of them holds the pen; the one who contributes least to the composition may contribute most to the thought; the writings which result are the joint product of both, and it must often be impossible to disentangle their respective parts, and affirm that this belongs to one and that to the other. In this wide sense, not only during the years of confidential friendship which preceded, all my published writings were as much her work as mine; her share in them constantly increasing as years advanced. But in certain cases, what belongs to her can be distinguished, and specially identified. Over and above the general influence which her mind had over mine, the most valuable ideas and features in these joint productions—those which have been most fruitful of important results, and have contributed most to the success and reputation of the works themselves—originated with her, were emanations from her mind, my part in them being no greater than in any of the thoughts which I found in previous writers, and made my own only by incorporating them with my own system of thought!"

"What was abstract and purely scientific was generally mine; the properly human element came from her: in all that concerned the application of philosophy to the exigencies of human society and progress, I was her pupil, alike in boldness of speculation and cautiousness of practical judgment. For, on the one hand, she was much more courageous and far-sighted than without her I should have been, in anticipations of an order of things to come, in which many of the limited generalizations now so often confounded with universal principles will cease to be applicable. Those parts of my writings, and especially of the 'Political Economy,' which contemplate possibilities in the future such as, when affirmed by Socialists, have in general been fiercely denied by political economists, would, but for her, either have been absent, or the suggestions would have been made much more timidly and in a more qualified form. But while she thus rendered me bolder in speculation on human affairs, her practical turn of mind, and her almost unerring estimate of practical obstacles, repressed in me all tendencies that were really visionary. Her mind invested all ideas in a concrete shape, and formed to itself a conception of how they would actually work: and her knowledge of the existing feelings and conduct of mankind was so seldom at fault, that the weak point in any unworkable suggestion seldom escaped her."

WE are sure our friends will pardon the slight reduction in the size of the type, as otherwise greater excision would have been necessitated.

ALTRINCHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—Two meetings were held last week, one at Altrincham on Tuesday, when Miss M. Royden gave a most delightful lecture on 'Women under Elizabeth and Victoria: a Contrast.' A resolution calling upon the Government to mention Women's Suffrage in the King's Speech was passed *nem. con.* The Secretary announced that the Anti-Suffrage League in Manchester had declined to debate with our society.

On Thursday Mrs. Gray, our Chairman of Committee, spoke at an afternoon meeting at Cheadle in the Depleach Hall, kindly lent by Mrs. Watts. Miss K. Godson took the chair, and to her and Miss Fletcher our thanks are due for arranging the meeting. About forty ladies were present, and after a convincing speech by Mrs. Gray, eight ladies expressed their willingness to form a committee, and others gave in their names as members. We hope, therefore, that there will soon be a flourishing branch in Cheadle.

CAMBRIDGE (N.U.W.S.S.).—During the last fortnight Miss Helga Gill, Organizer for the National Union, has been in Cambridge working in connexion with the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association. During the time a great many leaflets have been distributed, some from house to house, others to persons attending meetings. In all five public meetings have been held in various parts of the town and neighbourhood, and four drawing-room meetings. Newmarket and Royston were also visited and partially canvassed, and arrangements made for future meetings there. At all the public meetings resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage were put forward, and were passed, in some cases with one only or two dissentients. On nearly all the occasions Miss Gill spoke, and always with effect. Speeches were also made by various members of the committee of the Cambridge Association. Considerable impetus, it is felt, has been given to the Suffrage movement by the campaign.

EDINBURGH (N.U.W.S.S.).—A successful drawing-room meeting, arranged by Mrs. Ross Cooper, Hon. Secretary of the Midlothian Branch, was held at Huntly Colinton, the residence of Mrs. Hodgson, on Saturday afternoon, February 13th. Miss S. E. S. Mair presided over a large audience.

Miss Mair said they had met together for the purpose of discussing and answering objections raised by the Anti-Suffrage League to the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women; and also that they might send a resolution from the meeting to the Prime Minister once more, expressing their earnest desire for the passing of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill, so that women might have the power to help to influence the nation's laws for good through the responsibility of citizenship.

Miss Mair called upon the Rev. Norman Maclean to propose the following resolution: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to pass a Bill during the coming session to extend the right of voting in Parliamentary elections to duly qualified women, and authorizes the chairman to sign on behalf of the meeting a petition to give effect to the above."

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. C. M. Black, who in doing so referred to one of the objections of the Anti-Suffragists that because women could not fight therefore they must not vote. Mr. Black characterized this as one of the most barbarous ideas that had been met with in connexion with the subject, seeing that as a civilized nation we were aiming at Government by moral force alone.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, in supporting the resolution, said the Anti-Suffragists were showing activity, so it behoved all Suffragists to redouble their energies to win their just cause. She made a strong appeal to those present to help in some way, whether by speaking or writing or by giving money. Miss Scott-Moncrieff, B.A. Lond., dealt with several clauses in the Anti-Suffrage manifesto in a most able manner, particularly emphasizing the loss it is to the nation's progress not to have the help of capable women in directing legislation, seeing that the laws touch the homes of the nation at every point.

Miss Lees, parish councillor, dealt in an interesting way with the different qualifications under which men at present vote in Parliamentary elections, and said she was sure that many of the women present possessed one or other of these qualifications, and that they would soon be exercising the right which hitherto had gone along with them in the case of men only, but was now going to follow for the women.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Several of those present then gave in their names with subscriptions to become members of the society.

LEEDS (N.U.W.S.S.).—The Leeds society has been carrying on a month's campaign chiefly in Mr. Herbert Gladstone's division. Mr. Gladstone's speech of last February has been printed and distributed widely throughout the constituency, so that his views on this question may be known, supported, and kept up to the mark. A great number of meetings have been held, nearly all of which were crowded and enthusiastic, and many resolutions have been sent to Mr. Gladstone. A shop has been opened on Wellington Bridge, and there we have had a constant stream of visitors. On Saturday we have had a stall in the market. We were lucky in being able to secure it, as none of the Suffrage societies have been able to obtain permission before. There we sold books and badges, gave away leaflets, and had innumerable conversations and arguments. As thousands of people pass through the market on Saturdays, the propaganda work done was invaluable.

The most important thing done was the deputation of working men, voters in West Leeds, to Mr. Gladstone on our behalf. Nine men—six of them being officials in their political associations or in other bodies—went to the Liberal Club, accompanied by Mrs. Cooper. Mr. J. G. Pye (railway worker) who led the deputation, said that he was convinced from his experience among working men that the majority of them desired the enfranchisement of women; that they thought it was only fair play. He asked what Mr. Gladstone was prepared to do to help the cause. Mr. Gladstone replied by repeating Mr. Asquith's statement, with a few additions of his own. As far as Mr. Gladstone is concerned we are no better off than we were before; but the deputation was valuable, for it has enlisted the working men of West Leeds on our side, and has given them a practical demonstration of the inability of women to force their claims without political power behind them. They are more our friends than ever, and have promised that they will keep their eye on Mr. Gladstone, and see to it that he is as good as his word.

LONDON (N.U.W.S.S.).—An interesting debate took place at 19, Redcliffe Street, Earl's Court, on Friday last. Miss Murray, Superintendent of the Nurse's Home, was the hostess. Mr. Mackenzie Bell gave his reasons for supporting Women's Suffrage, and said that he thought it was about time that women did their share in the work of the world. Miss Darton's opposition was very lukewarm, and before the close of her speech admitted that she was neither Anti nor Suffragist. After a brisk discussion the resolution in favour of the Enfranchisement of Women was carried with a large majority.

MANSFIELD (N.U.W.S.S.).—In the absence of the president the Rev. F. Heming Vaughan took the chair at the general meeting on Wednesday in last week. The chairman's opening remarks emphasized the fact that the help of woman's work was needed in the uplifting of humanity, and would be enormously enhanced by the power of the vote. A committee representing both political parties was elected.

Mrs. W. Wharmby gave interesting extracts from the report. The Secretary pointed out the difference between the methods of the militant party and the National Union, and called upon all the members of the latter society who did not agree with the militant party, but who still felt the cause was just, to do all in their power to forward the movement on constitutional lines.

PORTSMOUTH (N.U.W.S.S.).—Miss Angela Dickens has accepted our challenge to a public debate. It will take place in March, and Mrs. Hawksley will speak for us. The Prime Minister received on Monday last resolutions from four large public meetings held in Portsmouth lately. This did not include the resolution passed at the meeting in the St. James's Hall, when Mr. Pete Curran, M.P., Mr. Hudson, M.P., Rev. Moll (Newcastle), and Mrs. Harrison Bell spoke. That resolution, against which two boys (!) and one woman voted, was sent up by Mrs. Harrison Bell. Our friends the "Antis" are hard at work canvassing in the streets of Portsmouth, during the evening. They appeal especially to the married man: the picture they paint of his home discomfort is simply appalling, but it is only equalled by the graphic description which is painted of England when the wicked Suffragists have won the vote for "Nuns." What qualification except pauper do they come under? This accurate and busy canvasser buttonholed our gardener, and poured into his Suffragist mind a long string of abuse of Suffragists and heartrending scenes of desolate homes, with a Bible text about housetops and brawling women thrown in.

N. O'SHEA, Hon. Sec.

SCARBOROUGH (N.U.W.S.S.).—Mrs. Fawcett addressed a crowded meeting in the Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough, on Friday, February 5th. The arrangements were made by the Scarborough branch of the N.U.W.S.S., which was formed in November last, and already numbers 100 members. The chair was taken by Alderman Valentine Fowler (in the absence through illness of Dr. Hancock), and the other speakers were Lady Gibb, the Rev. A. N. Cooper, Mrs. Joshua Rowntree, and Alderman J. W. Rowntree. The resolution, proposed by Mrs. Fawcett, calling on the Government to remove without delay the electoral disabilities of women, was embodied in a petition, which the chairman signed after the meeting; and it has subsequently been presented by a deputation of the Scarborough branch to Mr. Walter Rea, M.P. for Scarborough, who declared himself to be in complete sympathy with its terms, and undertook to present it at the House of Commons this week.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—This society inaugurated a new scheme of monthly meetings by a successful gathering on Saturday, February 6th. Miss Abadam was the speaker, and her thoughtful presentation of the grave social evils which spring from women's subordinate position greatly impressed her hearers. A goodly number joined the society at the close of the meeting, and the collection, which was taken on plates from the seated audience, and not at the door, was a wholly satisfactory one, and more than paid expenses. The society owes this meeting to the energy and generosity of Miss Kennard, a new resident, and hopes she may have many imitators.

YORK (N.U.W.S.S.).—One of the monthly social meetings arranged for the winter months in York was held on Tuesday, February 9th. Mrs. S. H. Davies presided over a meeting which was fairly well attended. In her opening remarks she made reference to the meeting of the Anti-Suffrage League lately held in York, and especially to the assertion made at that meeting that if women were given the vote on the same terms as it is now given to men it would only be widows and single women who would benefit by it. She pointed out that these two classes of women of all others were in most need of the vote, and she paid a tribute to the splendid work now being done in England by both these classes.

Alderman S. W. Meyer gave a most interesting address on 'The Citizenship of Women.' He gave prominence to the fact that the use of the vote was not so much a right as a responsibility, which every class of citizen should share. He showed that in public affairs, as in private life, there is a class of work which can only be done efficiently by women, and deplored the fact that women were so largely out off from participation in the responsibilities of the city or of the nation. Some interesting discussion followed the paper, and a good deal of interest in and enthusiasm for the Suffrage cause was shown.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

Date	Location	Time	Speaker/Chair
Feb. 18.	Hull, "At Home," Memorial Church Schoolroom	8 P.M.	Hostess, Miss Annie Jackson
	Wellington, Somerset, Castle Hall	7.30	Chair, Mrs. Henry Martin Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.
19.	Edinburgh, At Home, Murchiston Rooms	4-6.30	Hostess, Miss A. H. Begbie Speakers, Dr. Elsie Inglis, Miss Macaulay (Sommerville College, Oxon.), and others
	Tiverton, Factory Gates, Dinner hour		Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.
20.	Hemyock, Council School Room	7	Chair, Mr. Lutley Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.
21.	Plymouth, Treville Street Hall	3	Miss Margaret Robertson on 'Walt Whitman and Women'
22.	Newcastle, Public Meeting, Drawing-room Café		Speaker, David Adams, Esq.
	Plymouth, Drawing-Room, Meeting		Hostess, Mrs. Simpson Chair, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. Speaker, Miss Abadam
	Devonport, Public Hall, Fore Street	8	Chair, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. Speakers, Miss Abadam Mrs. Cooper
23.	Tiverton, Drill Hall		Chair, Hon. Lady Acland Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Miss Abadam Miss Robertson, B.A. Speaker, Miss Downes
	Cardiff, Members' Meeting at the Engineers' Institute, Park Place		Speaker, Miss Downes

Feb. 23.	Ford, Women's Co-operative Guild	3 P.M.	Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.
	Tiverton, Drill Hall	8	Chair, Hon. Lady Acland Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Abadam, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.
24.	Plymouth, Corn Exchange	8	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss Abadam
25.	Nottingham, Discussion, Mikado Café	3.30	Chair, Mrs. Ben Dowson Tea as required
	Exeter, Barnfield Hall	3	Chair, Sir Robert Newman Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, &c.
	Plymouth, Women's Liberal Association		Speaker, Miss Abadam
	Cheltenham, Social, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place	4	Speaker, Mr. E. E. Terrett
	Windsor, Drawing-Room Meeting	4	Hostess, Mrs. Wood Speaker, Mrs. Bernard Everett
26.	Sidmouth, Manor Hall	8	Chair, Miss Montgomery Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, &c.
27.	Beckenham, Public Meeting	3.30	Chair, Miss Abadam
Mar. 2.	Tunbridge Wells, "At Home"		Hostess, Madame Sarah Grand Speaker, Miss Eva McLaren Speakers, Lady Grove and Miss Balfour
	Cheltenham, Public Meeting	8	Speaker, Miss Abadam
	Derby	8	Speaker, Miss Abadam
3.	Leicester, Debate, Liberal Club		Opener, Miss Edith Gittins
	London, Wandsworth, 31, Spencer Park	8.30	Speaker, Mrs. Francis
8.	Leicester, Debate at the Y.M.C.A.		Opener, F. S. Herne, Esq.
9.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall	4	Chairman, Mrs. Eddison
	Bournemouth, Debate, Westbourne Debating Club	8	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour Balfour, against Anti-Suffragist
	Altrincham		Miss Roper on 'The Industrial Position of Women and their Need for the Franchise.'
11.	Leamington, Drawing-Room Meeting		Hostess, Miss Harrison Speaker, Mrs. Reid
22.	Bournemouth, Debate, Charninster Road Congregational Church		Speaker, Mrs. Howes
25.	Nottingham, Discussion 'The Educational Value of Citizenship.'	5	Chair, Dr. Sarah Gray Tea as required at 4.30
29.	Bournemouth, Boscombe Temperance Hall	8	Chairman, Mr. Wilson Speaker, Miss Abadam
30.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall	4	Speaker, Miss Abadam

Correspondence.

Mrs. Fawcett's Speech at Leeds.

THE following letter from Mrs. Henry Fawcett has appeared in the daily press:—

SIR,—I have only this morning seen *The Daily News* of February 5th, in which I find a paragraph headed 'Mrs. Fawcett and the Vote.' This paragraph, quite unintentionally no doubt, misrepresents the drift of my speech at Leeds on February 4th. Referring to the various methods of agitation adopted by the various Suffrage Societies, I am represented as saying that "if statesmen did not yield to Constitutional demands, these demands might be made in a manner that was not peaceable."

This, standing by itself, misrepresents me, and has been misunderstood by some of my friends, not, however, by any who were present at the meeting and heard what I said. For I dwelt at some length on what I consider the conclusive reasons why women are on entirely wrong lines in appealing to violence. Our cause, I argued, is based on moral and spiritual force, on justice and on truth, and I avowed my earnest conviction that it is our business, as women appealing for justice, not to rely on physical force, but on the eternal principles of right and justice.

Yours, &c.,

MILICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

February 12th.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNET.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GRIEG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Keep the Liberal Out.

THE CRY FOR GLASGOW.

At the time of writing the "missing candidate" is the chief topic of conversation, and to the militants fighting a by-election without a Government nominee is like playing 'Hamlet' with the part of the Prince of Denmark left out. But even with this necessary victim still hidden in obscurity, the work is going on merrily. We have booked halls in various places in the city, and are speaking to large audiences both indoors and out. Committee-rooms have been opened at 577, Argyle Street and Charing Cross Hall, Sauchiehall Street, and workers are busy at both selling literature, distributing handbills, and answering the innumerable questions of curious visitors. Meetings for city men have been arranged in the Merchants' Hall and the Athenæum on Tuesdays and Fridays, and special meetings for women are to be held every afternoon at the Charing Cross Hall.

The Women's Freedom League "opened the ball" with the first meeting of the campaign at the Royal Exchange, where the city merchants listened with close and flattering attention to Mrs. Billington-Grieg and Mrs. Marion Holmes. The collection taken at this meeting, which was gleefully reported in some of the Liberal papers as having reached only 10d., amounted as a matter of fact to 12s. 6d. A great open-air demonstration was held in George Square on Saturday afternoon. The rowdism that distinguished our first open-air meetings resulted in the breaking of the ribs of a member of the Force. We are now afforded sufficient police protection to prevent any serious disturbances.

The University students add life and noise to some of the meetings, but their opposition is neither serious nor sensible, being evidently just an expression of the young male animal's irresponsible desire to express itself in inarticulate sounds, such as booing and crowing. We are looking forward to a crowded meeting at the Berkeley Hall on Monday night, when the Danger Duty Volunteers are to have their "send off." After that we shall watch the papers anxiously to see their fate and the fate of the other deputations.

The evening papers have just announced the adoption of a Liberal candidate, Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, so now the work will go on more vigorously than ever. Will the Scottish members please note that we need helpers in plenty, canvassers, chalkers, clerical workers, speakers, &c. All are needed if we are to send our desired message to the Government that "We have kept the Liberal out."
M. H.

The Witless-Gemote.

10, Downing Street, February 15th.—The Westminster Whigs are considering their verdict. On February 16th they will pronounce sentence, after which the various cases now before them will be tried. These cases have been referred to by the Biggest Whig as "Matters of grave and urgent importance." I am permitted to disclose the most urgent, which run as follows:

1. How to keep Suffragettes out of the House of Commons.
2. How to keep Liberals in.
3. Number of Dreadnoughts required to keep on terms of love and brotherhood with Germany.
4. How to filch and squander the people's money without provoking a revolution.

5. How to keep the "dominant issue" in the background.
6. How the Liberal Government is to avoid meeting a violent death before the end of its life at the hands of Englishwomen, unemployed Englishmen, and other enemies of the empire.
7. How to live up to Mr. Churchill's ideal of Liberalism. "The power of trusting the people and the power of conferring freedom upon them."

With regard to this last point it has been unanimously decided that the only way to retain such power is by not squandering it. "Don't confer freedom upon the people, especially if they are female. Retain all the power you have, and remember that the freedom of others lessens that power. That is Liberalism." So spake the Biggest Whig, and the others did the agreeing, as becomes small fry. By the time these lines are in print the sentence will have been declared. If it differs slightly in wording from what I have foreshadowed it is of small consequence. Indeed, it is really of no consequence, seeing that it will be merely the futile sentence of the criminal upon his judge pronounced in the last despairing moment before an enforced exile.
B. W. W.

[Our Parliamentary correspondent adopts an altered tone towards his party, we observe. He always was such a keen Liberal. We admit he has been shabbily treated. After engineering the House of Lords "popular indignation" so cleverly, he certainly should have been rewarded with a peerage. Well! he can always try the Tories.—ED. W.F.L.]

Happy Wives.

THE King's Speech meetings have been so numerous that it is impossible to report them all. Special mention must be made however, of the remarkable gathering in the Horticultural Hall on February 10th, when the Rev. R. J. Campbell lectured on the economic aspect of the disfranchisement of women. The great hall was filled, and the literature-sellers did a brisk business till Mrs. Despard opened the meeting by a short and earnest address from the chair. Mr. Campbell's lecture will be published, therefore it is as unnecessary as it is impossible to report it in these columns. It is a gratifying fact that the lecturer dwelt at greatest length on the position of those workers whose labour is more exploited than that of any other class, who get no pay, no honour, no liberty, no legal protection—the sweated wives of working men.

Mr. Campbell is one of the few men who realize that the large majority of wives in this country are serfs; that their "homes" are their prisons and workshops; that their husbands are their paymasters, who are not obliged to give them one penny more than will suffice to keep body and soul together in order that they may continue their work; that when a working woman marries she sentences herself to imprisonment for life with hard labour.

Mr. Campbell need not have apologized for his "unpoetic" presentation of wifehood. It is time that the pretty theory should be disproved, of the sheltered, guarded, happy wife, invariably singing gaily by her cheerful hearth (which black leads itself), fondling the little curly heads "springing up" (from nowhere) about her knee, listening for the manly tread of the breadwinner (who may be in the public-house), whose noble form stands ever between her and the unkind world—it is time this conception went to join other discredited superstitions, and that it should be supplanted by the truth. The truth in this case is very ugly, but it needs to be stated, especially in

these days of canting politicians, whose plausible falsehoods are preparing the public mind for the wholesale displacement of the paid labour of married women in factories, and the consequent increased helplessness and poverty of this much-wronged serf-class.

The extreme urgency of the need for women's enfranchisement as a sure means of checking the more complete degradation of an already degraded womanhood, could not have been better emphasized than by Mr. Campbell's timely warning. M. F.

Enthusiastic King's Speech Meeting at Steinway Hall.

MRS. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT'S GENEROUS GIFT.

OPPORTUNITY was taken to submit the King's Speech resolution at the London Council "At Home" at Steinway Hall, on the 7th inst. Miss Marie Lawson presided, and the resolution was proposed, seconded, and supported respectively by Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, Dr. Chas. Drysdale, and Mrs. Wynne-Nevinson. The speeches were of a stirring character and awakened much enthusiasm, the resolution being unanimously carried. At the close of a most eloquent address, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett made an earnest appeal for financial help, and presented to the Chairman as a contribution to the funds, two beautiful rings—one of diamonds and one of diamonds and sapphires, representing (at jeweller's valuation) a donation of 25*l.* This generous gift brought forth other offers of help: Dr. O. Lewin and Doctor Marion Thornett heading the list, each with a promise of 5*l.* Amongst other "promises" were Mrs. Toyne, Miss Baenziger and Miss Mocatta. A gold ring (from anonymous sympathizer) was placed on the collection plate; and the total amount received constituted a record in the history of the London Council.

Offers are invited for the three rings above-mentioned; which can be seen on application to Dr. O. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W. The writer, who has had the privilege of inspecting them, advises ladies, likely to be interested, to write to Dr. Lewin without delay.

Opening of the Men's Parliament.

FULL accounts of the demonstrations made by members of the Women's Freedom League will appear in these columns next week.

The men of the country have got their Parliament. Whether they get much benefit from it is a matter of doubt; but that is their affair. They possess the power to reform it, and as enlightenment spreads among them, they will use it.

But the women are still outside the pale. They are living under conditions of servitude that would disgrace a barbarous race of savages, and how much longer it is to continue depends entirely upon themselves, if they would but see it.

Caxton Hall.—Mr. Joseph McCabe and Mr. O'Dell were speakers at the Caxton Hall "At Home" on Thursday, February 11th, and gave most interesting addresses, which opened up new lines of thought for even the hardened Suffragist. Miss Ailsa Craig, in the chair, assured us of the hearty support of the actresses in our fight. Mrs. Bexfield kindly acted as hostess.

Special Notices.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair.—Arrangements for the forthcoming Fair, which will be on a very large scale, are now well in hand. Branches and individual members and friends are earnestly requested to commence work for the Fair without delay. As indicated, blouses, children's clothing, and lingerie will comprise an important section. In addition to the prize competitions already announced, a special prize of one guinea is offered by MISS ELLEN TERRY for the best American tailor-made blouse sent in. Further particulars regarding Miss Terry's

offer can be had on application to Miss Edith Craig, care of the W.F.L.

Volunteers who will assist at the Fair during the three days it is in progress are invited to send in their names as soon as possible. An Honorary Superintendent is required for the packing-room, who will undertake the management of this department, assisted by voluntary workers.

Our thanks are due to the members of the Actresses' Franchise League for their promised assistance.

It should be mentioned that Miss Craig's decorative scheme includes 15th Century costumes for the assistants. It is felt by those who have seen the proposed designs, that these costumes will add greatly to the general effect. They will be supplied to members at a merely nominal price. Those wishing to wear the costumes are invited to send in their names and measurements at once to Miss Edith Craig. M. L.

Correspondence.

"The Outcast of Democracy."

January 12th, 1909.

SIR,—Kindly grant me space to explain in the columns of your paper that the attitude taken up by Mr. Belfort Bax on the subject of the political emancipation of women in no way affects the attitude or the action of the political organization (the Social Democratic Party) to which he belongs. At the International Socialist Congress, held at Stuttgart in 1907, strong resolutions were passed, urging Socialists in every country to initiate an active campaign in favour of votes for all men and all women, in other words for Adult Suffrage. In pursuance of the policy proclaimed in that resolution the English Social Democratic Party published in 1907 a manifesto to the same effect, and in 1908 held a conference of labour and trade union organizations at which a strong resolution was passed, and sent up to the Prime Minister, calling on the Government to frame their promised political Reform Bill on the lines of Adult Suffrage for every man and woman. If, in the face of this, an unofficial member of the Social Democratic Party chooses to ally himself with reactionaries of other parties in order to throw obstacles in the way of one of the vital points of the Social Democratic Party programme, he will be dealt with by the organization itself, in which he has proved himself a backslider. As a proof of the attitude towards Mr. Belfort Bax of the Social Democratic Party, I enclose the copy of a resolution passed lately by the Willesden Branch of that body; and I beg that you will, in fairness to the executive and rank and file of the Social Democratic Party, give the same publicity to this letter as you have done to the one attacking us. Faithfully,

DORA B. MONTEFIORE,
Hon. Sec. of Adult Suffrage Society.

Copy of Resolution of Willesden Branch of S.D.P.

"That this branch enters its emphatic protest against the attitude of Comrade Belfort Bax in associating himself with some of the worst enemies of the working classes for the reactionary purpose of blocking the way of the political emancipation of the women of Great Britain. This branch considers Comrade Bax's activity in this direction to be, not only a repudiation of an essential point of the programme of the Social Democratic Party, and indeed of all Socialist parties, all over the world, but also a violation of the best and noblest feelings of the working classes, and a serious damage to their immediate and future interests. It further considers that such an attitude on the part of a leading member of the Social Democratic Party must tend to alienate the English working men and women from Social Democracy, and therefore expresses its expectation that Comrade Belfort Bax will, in future, put some restraint upon his public propaganda against such an important principle of social democracy."

[We much regret that owing to want of space the above important letter has had to be held over for some weeks.]

Branch Notes.

Lewisham Branch.—The Lewisham King's Speech Meeting was held on February 5th, when an audience of members of the branch and of the Men's League, as well as of visitors, passed the resolution unanimously, after hearing the able speeches of Miss FitzHerbert and Miss Logan. Mrs. Manson and Mrs. Parsons volunteered to deliver the resolution to the Premier, and to take all risks. The branch's annual meeting was held an hour earlier. K. M.

Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.—On Wednesday, January 10th, the King's Speech meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Throssell, 172, Tulse Hill, S.E. Dr. Alice Vickery presided, and in an eloquent address urged women not to shrink from the most determined opposition to the present state of masculine usurpation of all legal and political rights, and moved the resolution calling upon the Government to include a promise of votes for women in the King's Speech.

Mrs. Beith supported the resolution, and in an able and interesting speech referred particularly to the long and earnest efforts that women had made to obtain their political enfranchisement before the present militant methods were adopted.

Mrs. Toyne also spoke of the many disabilities and injustices to which women were subjected on account of the present one-sided and man-managed legislation. She also criticized in a most amusing manner the fears and fancies of the Anti-Suffragists, and their feeble and frivolous protests against votes for women. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Toyne, and was passed unanimously.

The next branch meeting for members and friends (women only) will be held on Monday, February 22nd, at 28, Carson Road, W. Dulwich, S.E., at 8 P.M. BARBARA SPENCER, *Hon. Sec.*

Central Branch.—No meeting on 18th. On 25th, at 8 P.M., there will be a social evening at 1, Robert Street, and we shall entertain two other small branches. Miss Gertrude Mallet will give an address on 'Women and Local Government.' Will the members please bear Special Effort Week in mind, and help by giving a tenth of their income for that week, February 20th-27th. Central branch members can send their Special Effort Week subscriptions to either of the branch secretaries. P. H.

Peckham Branch.—At Peckham Public Hall on February 12th, the King's Speech resolution, proposed by Mrs. Beith, seconded by Mrs. Lewis W. Lewis, Mrs. Manson presiding, was carried with one dissident. Four volunteers—Miss Grace Johnson, Mrs. Julia Pickering, Mrs. Cooper, and Miss Burlington—volunteering at all risk to bear the resolution. Their offer was gratefully accepted on the motion of Mrs. Doss and Miss Law, and the whole audience (including even the dissident) rose to testify their appreciation of such service. F. Doss.

Sheffield Branch.—A "King's Speech" meeting was held in the Montgomery Hall, on the 2nd inst, when Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sanderson addressed the large, sympathetic, and enthusiastic audience. The resolutions were passed with only two dissentients. Mrs. Despard appealed for volunteers to take one of the resolutions to Mr. Asquith on February 17th, if necessary, and six offers were received.

As each volunteer stood up and declared her willingness to carry the resolution to the Prime Minister, she was heartily cheered by the audience. Several new members were added to the Branch.

A small social gathering had been arranged for the afternoon, when friends had the opportunity of a few words with the speakers for the evening meeting.

S. G. BARNET, *Secretary.*

Western Branch, Glasgow. was addressed on February 3rd by Miss Anna Munro, whose spirited speech held the close attention of the audience during the meeting.

Miss E. Rough will be the speaker at the next meeting of this branch on Wednesday, February 17th.

Cash Received February 1st to 13th.

Amount previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.	Brought forward	£	s.	d.
Anonymous	446	17	1	527	6	4	
Ames, Miss L.	20	0	0		0	2	6
Andrews, Miss M. E.	0	2	6		2	0	0
Benett, Miss S.	1	1	0		5	0	0
Boyd, Miss	10	0	0		0	2	6
Bright-Morris, Mrs.	0	6	0		0	2	6
Bright-Morris, Miss M.	0	2	6		4	0	0
Carpenter, Edward	1	0	0		1	1	0
Clayton, Miss E.	0	13	6		0	2	6
Colchester Branch	0	3	3		1	1	0
Craig, Miss E.	0	2	6		2	0	0
Clark, Mrs.	1	0	0		2	0	0
Collins, Mrs.	0	1	0		2	0	0
Cowan, Mrs. J.	0	10	0		5	0	0
Catty, Miss N.	0	10	0		1	11	6
Dick, Miss A. M.	0	2	6		0	10	6
Drysdale, Mrs. B.	0	10	0		0	1	0
Davis, Miss M.	1	0	0		1	0	0
East, Mrs.	0	1	0		1	0	0
Francis, Mrs. E. M.	0	5	0		0	6	0
Femings, Miss E.	0	1	0		1	1	0
Forbes-Robertson, Mrs. G.	5	5	0		0	1	0
Foley, Mrs.	0	8	0		0	1	0
Fisher, Mrs.	1	12	0		0	5	0
Glais, Mrs.	0	10	0		0	1	0
Garrud, Mrs.	0	1	0		0	1	0
Harrison, Mrs. A. (Per)	0	10	0		0	1	0
Harrison, Mrs.	0	1	0		0	1	0
Harvey, Miss	0	5	0		1	1	0
Holmes, Mrs. Marion	5	0	0		1	0	0
Holmes, Miss A. E.	5	10	0		0	1	0
Hicks, Miss A.	2	10	0		0	10	0
Hicks, Mrs. L. M.	2	2	0		0	1	0
Harberton, Lady	10	0	0		2	10	0
Helensburgh Meetings (proceeds of)	3	0	0		1	0	0
Hall, Mrs. A. E.	1	1	0		0	1	0
Johnstone, Miss	0	1	0		0	2	6
Kennedy, Mrs.	0	10	0		0	5	0
Knight, Dr. E.	10	0	0		42	17	5
Laws, Miss A. I.	0	2	6		37	8	2
Link, Miss Marie	0	5	0				
Lyndon, Miss E.	0	10	6				
Carried forward	527	6	4	Total	2653	2	11

Will Miss Marie Davis kindly forward her address to the offices of the League, so that the receipt may be forwarded to her?

Will all those who have collecting cards of any kind for the League kindly send the money collected to the Hon. Treasurer immediately after the end of the Special Effort Week, February 20th to 27th. This will save trouble and expense of calling it in. Cards need not be sent, but please quote card number.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

February 18th to March 5th.

FEB.			P.M.
Thurs. 18.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Cope Mrs. Francis Mrs. Billington-Greig	3.30
Fri. 19.	Cheltenham, Glenroy St. James's Hall, Great Portland Street	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Sanderson Miss Cicely Hamilton Miss Benett, Miss Matters Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Mon. 22.	Manchester, 302, Upper Brook Street	Mrs. Dean	8
Wed. 24.	W. Croydon, 28, Sydenham Road North	Mrs. Fagan	3.30
Thurs. 25.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett Mrs. Fagan Mr. Railton Rev. J. E. Hand	3.30
Fri. 26.	Cheltenham, Torrington 1, Robert Street, Adelphi Battersea Free Library, Lavender Hill, S.W.	Miss Gertrude Mallet Miss Blanche Smith Miss Underwood Mrs. Duval	8
MAR.	Chester, "At Home," Newgate Assembly Rooms	Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Mr. W. Lyon Blease, LL.M.	4
Wed. 3.	Manchester, 47, Mosley Street	Mrs. O. M. Aldridge	
Thurs. 4.	Manchester, 302, Upper Brook Street	Miss A. Milne	
Fri. 5.	Croydon, Mecca Tea Rooms Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Hicks, M.A. Miss Cicely Hamilton M. J. T. Green Chair, Earl Russell	7.30 3.30
Fri. 5.	Cheltenham, 14, Lansdown Parade Holborn Hall	Mrs. Snowden Mrs. How Martyn	8

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

At a meeting of the Executive, held at the office of the League on February 8th, the resolution standing in the names of Mr. J. A. Manson and Mr. E. Duval on the agenda of the Special General Meeting on January 6th, and postponed by general consent, was considered. The Committee agreed to pass the resolution in the following form, which, it was believed, would commend itself to the original requisitionists:—

"The Committee recommend that members of the League should attend all public political meetings at which members of the Government are announced to speak, and other political meetings addressed by Members of Parliament and Parliamentary candidates, for the purpose of putting questions respecting Women's Suffrage, due regard being had to the direction of the chairman in cases where proper and reasonable facilities are given for the asking and answering of questions."

The Sub-Committee of the Open-Air Campaign is constituted as follows: Of the Executive Committee—Dr. Drysdale, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, and Mr. Mitchell; members nominated by the above: Messrs. Victor Albery, R. Bowden-Smith, Victor D. Duval, A. E. Hopkins, F. M. Overy, and H. M. Theedam. Messrs. Joseph Clayton and H. Baillie-Weaver were unable to serve. The first meeting was held on Monday last, when it was decided to hold meetings at 3 P.M. in Hyde Park on each Sunday in March.

Mr. J. E. Raphael spoke on behalf of Women's Suffrage at the Paddington Radical Club on February 9th. As frequently happens at such gatherings, he was defeated on the voting, though, as we hear from Mr. Kennedy, the audience was obviously unable to disagree with his arguments.

Branch News.

THE Liverpool branch was definitely adopted at a meeting of the Executive held last Tuesday. The Oxford University Society has applied for affiliation, and there remains only the question of the precise relations which are to subsist between the Oxford society and the parent Executive. Mr. Cholmeley will address a meeting of the branch on Saturday evening next.

The Manchester Branch is holding a public social meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd, in the Pickwick Café, Deansgate, Manchester. Prof. Burrows, of Manchester University, will take the chair, while the speakers will include representatives of the North of England Society (Miss K. D. Courtney), of the Women's Freedom League (Mrs. Mitchell), of the Women's Social and Political Union (Miss Mary Gawthorpe), and of the Men's League (Prof. Weiss). A programme of vocal and instrumental music is arranged.

A Men's Meeting.

WE have received from Mr. Victor D. Duval the following report of an interesting meeting for men only, held in the Lecture Hall, Lingfield Road, Wimbledon, on Wednesday, February 3rd: MR. F. A. BATHER, M.A., D.Sc., took the chair, and in opening the meeting said: "This meeting has been called for men only, in order to impress upon them the necessity of aiding the women in their noble endeavours to obtain the same rights

of citizenship as men had. He thought that it would be best if the speakers divided their programme, so that one should deal with the economic question of votes for women, and the second speaker with the enfranchisement of women as it effected our foreign and colonial relations. He called upon MR. CAMERON GRANT, who opened his remarks by referring to the competition of men with women in the labour market, and he said as long as we allowed our women to be underpaid for doing the same work as men did, so long would the condition of the workers be deplorable. He was of opinion that the low wages paid to women enabled unscrupulous villains to carry on a nefarious trade in English women. Some foreigners who came here—the worst type of men—by specious promises induced women to go abroad, which was tantamount to exporting them like slaves to the Continent, and even to Russia and Argentina. The speaker felt that if our English women could only realize in all their truth these inequalities, they would rise in a body to demand the vote, that they might do for themselves what men had failed to do for them.

MR. E. DUVAL said it seemed to him that we should apply the same principle to our women that Baron Komura said should be applied to all nations in the Far East, namely, "the open-door and equal opportunities." He said—when he saw a man of great experience like Mr. Cadbury admitting that while wealth was increasing, poverty and unemployment were increasing also—it must suggest itself to the meanest understanding that there was something amiss in our national affairs, and he felt that the admission of women would go a long way towards the removal of these conditions. Prof. Dicey appeared to think that giving women the vote would weaken the nation in its foreign relations. Let Prof. Dicey tell us how our mothers, who are degenerated by the sad conditions of labour, can produce a future race capable of defending our country against all assaults. He thought that one of the fundamental rules for any empire should be that its sailors and soldiers came from a healthy stock. The vote would go far to ameliorate the economic slavery which still exists among women; and as regards the influence of women he would remind them that we had not always been just, much less chivalrous. He knew that in 1840, when the American women delegates came to the Anti-Slavery Congress, they were excluded because they were women, although in America they had often protected men from the attacks of the unthinking when they were fighting for the liberation of the slaves, and he would recall to their mind that the greatest impetus was given to that movement in 1852 by the publication of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' by Harriet Beecher Stowe, which was sold in millions. There is no doubt if women had had the vote in America at that period slavery would have been abolished long before that. He appealed to all men present to help the women. The time for trifling has passed. The Government must be forced to do its duty. The splendid courage of the women of England in their fight for emancipation had brought the eyes of the civilized world upon them. The following resolution was then put to the meeting and carried with one dissentient:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting of men the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as to men would be of benefit to the nation."

VICTOR D. DUVAL.

Drawing-Room Meeting in Highgate.

A SUCCESSFUL drawing-room meeting was held on the evening of the 10th inst. at Cholmeley Park, Highgate, by the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. The room was well filled, and a number of young people of both sexes were present. Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell was the principal speaker. A gratifying

feature of the gathering was the number of those who took part in the informal discussion which followed, when difficulties were frankly dealt with and questions answered. Some fear was expressed that women when enfranchised would prove reactionary in politics and hinderers of social reform, but this view was not much supported, and received a good reply not only in the words, but in the person also of Mrs. Miall-Smith, who presided and summed up, for she is a living example of the practical woman worker in the cause of social reform upon a number of popularly-elected public bodies.

TH. G. R. (Member M.L.W.S.).

'The Englishwoman.'

WE referred briefly on Feb. 4 to the first number of *The Englishwoman* (Grant Richards, 1s.), which is edited by Mrs. Elsin Grant Richards, and brought out under a representative committee (Lady Frances Balfour, Miss J. M. Strachey, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Miss Lowndes), to deal with the broad general principles on which the enfranchisement of woman is defended. It is, of course, not the intention to confine its pages purely to matter of a propagandist or political character. The present number, indeed, contains several interesting articles on artistic subjects, and two stories—one 'Mrs. Vance,' in dramatic form by Miss Cicely Hamilton, which treats a painful subject impressively. There is also a poetical invocation by John Masfield, and some delightful verses on 'An Old Soldier,' by Tudor Ralph Castle. We turn now to the political portions of the magazine. The first article is entitled, 'In Parliament,' by 'An M.P.' It sets out at length the various Bills—some of which have passed into law, others of which have not done so—introduced during the last session of Parliament to deal with the rights or interests of women. The Bills fall under five divisions:—

- Bills to confer political rights.
- Bills to regulate woman's employment.
- Bills to regulate woman's property.
- Bills relating to children.
- Bills relating to divorce.

The object of all these Bills is admirably and simply explained. In his introduction to the article the M.P. also explains the insuperable difficulties which beset the present members, who endeavour to pass a Bill of a contentious character; and those Suffragists who have so rashly condemned Mr. Stanger would do well to read and ponder over his words.

The ablest article, however, in the whole magazine is that by Mrs. Fawcett, 'Men are Men and Women are Women,' in which the stock Anti-Suffragists' arguments are met in a logical and convincing manner, and at the same time Suffragists are warned not to underrate their opponents, because, though they have little logic, they are a power, inasmuch as they appeal to innate prejudices. A telling argument against the idea that government rests on force is given from a lecture recently delivered by M. Paul Sabatier at the Passmore-Edwards settlement, under the aegis of Mrs. Humphry Ward: "At a low stage of development men are obedient only to force; but little by little, behind brute force, there opens out the idea of moral force: the tyrant himself puts his tyranny under the protection of a greater power than himself; it is by God [as he says] that he has been invested by authority. Mankind does not stop, then, when, in order to reverence the law, it has no need to believe it to have descended from Mount Sinai; and when the law binds us even though it cannot compel, it is simply because it answers to our best selves." This article should certainly be republished in pamphlet form.

Mr. Harold Cox, in 'Points for Reflection,' believes firmly that women are entitled to the Suffrage as citizens, but he doubts if, economically, votes would help them. It must be here remembered that Mr. Cox is a strong individualist of the *laissez-faire* school. He dwells much, however, on the difficulties in the way of the reform, and shows the obstacles in the way of Conservative and Liberal Suffragists co-operating to secure it. His view is that Women's Suffrage must be considered not by itself, but in connexion with Franchise

reform generally, and he himself would confine the Suffrage to the payer of direct taxes.

The article will not convince the majority of our readers, but it may explain to them why many friends seem so lukewarm. Generally we have the greatest pleasure in recommending the magazine alike to Suffragists, Suffragettes, and Anti-Suffragists.
J. ARTHUR PRICE.

Anti-Suffrage Literature.

MR. GEORGE CALDERON (Hon. Sec. Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage) has just published the *Anti-Suffragist's vade mecum*. If any Suffragist has recently been wavering in his convictions, we commend this work to his notice. The title is 'Woman in Relation to the State.' We are inclined to wonder what Mrs. Humphry Ward will say when she reads it.

An Anti-Suffrage Debate, Minus Anti.

MISS FOTHERGILL, of the A.S.S., was announced to open a public debate on the question of the Suffrage at the Borough Polytechnic Debating Society on Monday, February 8th.

This announcement attracted one of the largest audiences, who waited patiently. 8 o'clock struck—no Anti. 8.15, audience begins to be restless—still no Anti. 8.20, people begin to look at one another and sigh audibly—but no Anti. 8.25, the secretary walks anxiously to the door, and coughs: like Mr. Micawber, the audience waits patiently for something to turn up. 8.30, no communication, no wire; audience begin to question one another. Afraid? No; could it be? No, surely not an Anti afraid! Some mistake—something must be the matter. However, time must not be wasted, so a legal gentleman volunteers to start the ball by deputizing for Miss Fothergill. A rousing discussion followed, "That it would be against the interests of this country for women to have the parliamentary vote." Well, the audience did not think so. Did Miss Fothergill suspect? Ah! Who knows? However, we have instituted a search party to find Miss Fothergill—and arguments against the Suffrage.
VICTOR ALBERY.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

The A.T.A.A.

DEAR SIR,—May I be permitted to call the attention of your readers to the existence of a society which has just been formed under influential patronage. It is known as "The Amalgamated Trust of Active Antis."

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Only those who are already actively engaged in the great works of the existing "Anti" societies are eligible for membership; but a very hearty invitation is accorded to Anti-Socialists, Anti-Home Rulers, Anti-Suffragists—in fact, to all political antiquaries—while members of the gallant Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage may join at half price.

The combine has adopted for its motto the well-known phrase, "As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be." Its colours are old gold. The committee reserves to itself the right to expel forthwith any member unable to speak the words "British Constitution" with due resonance and rapidity.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

MAX PLOWMAN.

Lochnagar, Bycullah Park, Enfield, Feb. 2nd, 1909.

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