

VOL. II.—No. 47.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1909.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

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Notes.

IN Mr. George Meredith we have lost an ardent Woman Suffragist. Perhaps now he is dead his 'Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt' will be better appreciated as propaganda.

THOSE who heard the Rev. Mary Safford on Sunday morning last at Clarence Road Unitarian Church will not soon forget the impressive earnestness and loving helpfulness of her words. "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" was the key-note of the address. The church was crowded, the music beautiful, and no dogmatic creed or troublesome definitions hindered the preacher's words from appealing directly to the souls of her listeners.

A MEETING was held at the residence of Dr. Douglas in Dunmow, Essex, on Monday, the 17th May, under the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, when Mrs. C. C. Stopes gave an address on the urgent need for Women Suffrage. Dr. Douglas himself afterwards read a paper showing that moral questions can never be rightly dealt with until women are enfranchised. There was considerable interest expressed in the subject afterwards by the audience. It is the first meeting which has been held on the Suffrage question in the district; but as three clergymen, one doctor, and a journalist were present there is reason to hope it may not be the last.

WE have received from Miss M. McGilchrist-Gilchrist 10s., being subscription towards the publishing expenses of this paper for May and June.

HAVING regard to the fact that many friends have written to us as to the difficulty of obtaining *Women's Franchise* locally, we are compiling a list of newsagents and addresses where *Women's Franchise* may be obtained, and shall be glad to receive the names of any newsagents who are selling the paper and showing contents bills.

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.

*The paper is on sale at Messrs. Eason & Son's,
80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.*

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

ON Tuesday afternoon, May 11th, Lady St. Helier held a drawing-room meeting at 52, Portland Place. The demand for invitations was great, and the seating capacity needed had been slightly under-estimated.

The speakers were Mrs. Percy Boulnois, the Hon. Sec., Mr. G. A. Touche, Mrs. Marion Holmes and Mrs. Chapman Catt. Lady St. Helier, in the chair, said she had pleasure in introducing the speakers who were there to speak on different aspects of the Suffrage question, and called upon Mrs. Percy Boulnois to explain the objects and aim of the society. Mrs. Percy Boulnois said that the society had been started in November last, and had ever since greatly prospered. She went on to explain the objects and methods of the society.

Mr. G. A. Touche, M.P., said that the Conservative party was considerably interested in the question, and he personally believed in the equality of voting rights. Lord Cromer's point of view was of an Oriental character. Woman's voice and vote was needed in the industrial world and for the general purification of political affairs. He would remind them of the words of a great man—Mazzini: "God only knows a human being and knows not men and women." Mrs. Holmes next spoke on the industrial aspect of the question and the meaning of the vote. She said it was difficult to understand for those whose lives had from birth been sheltered and protected, that as individuals of a community they were each one responsible for conditions in the industrial world. Every necessity or luxury in daily life was the result of labour, and the responsibility did not end with purchase. One of the most disastrous effects of economic pressure was the terrible waste of child life, which almost amounted to race suicide. The vote was necessary to establish mutual trust and respect between man and woman that they might stand shoulder to shoulder for the betterment of physical and moral conditions.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, the chairman of the International Congress, said that to her mind the solution of the question lay with the party Suffrage societies. In no country was such partisan work done by women as in England, and for this and other reasons the movement in England was being closely watched. This made the responsibility greater as the need was universal and world wide.

Irish Women's Franchise League.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON addressed a meeting in Dublin on May 11th under the auspices of the Irish Women's Franchise League. In the course of his address he said it was incumbent on men to come forth and give all the aid in their power to the women in their fight for freedom, and, were he free to do so, he would give up his profession and devote himself to this great cause. The woman's cause was the winning cause, and the feminine vote would regenerate the world. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss O'Hea, well known in Dublin artistic circles, who had trained under Henry Irving and Edward Compton, and who paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Robertson. The vote was supported by Miss Sheehy, B.A., and Mrs. Cousins, Mus.Bac., and enthusiastically carried.

The Suffrage Atelier.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

MISS EDITH CRAIG received the members on the occasion of the general meeting, which was held at Adelphi Terrace House (third floor), Strand, W.C., on Saturday, May 8th, at 5 o'clock.

At the above meeting future work to be undertaken by the Suffrage Atelier was discussed. The desirability of taking part in the artistic arrangements of the forthcoming Pageant, and of holding an exhibition of pictures, statuary, craftwork and cartoons was discussed.

Liberal Women and the Franchise.

AT the annual council meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation the question of Women's Suffrage played a prominent part. The Countess of Carlisle, in the course of her presidential address, read a letter from Mr. Asquith, "written and signed with his own hand," in which he renewed his pledge given on May 20th last, as follows:—

"May 8, 1909.

"Dear Lady Carlisle,—I am very sensible of the great services which the Women's Liberal Federation, and you as its president, have rendered to the party, and I heartily wish success to your approaching meeting.

"In regard to the question of the Suffrage, in which your members take a special interest, the declaration which I made a year ago on behalf of the Government remains on record.—Yours &c., H. H. ASQUITH.

Lady Carlisle added that the constitution of the Federation existed to promote the adoption of Liberal principles; there was no pledge to work for any Liberal Government unless it were a righteous one.

Mrs. C. A. V. Conybeare moved, "That this Council adheres to its demands for the removal of the disabilities of sex and marriage in respect to the Parliamentary Franchise as the first essential in a measure of electoral reform."

The resolution was carried unanimously, and it was decided that a copy of it should be sent to Mr. Asquith.

Mrs. Strickland moved,

"That, in the opinion of this Council, unless the enfranchisement of women be included in an Electoral Reform Act, or, should no such Act be passed, unless the Liberal party, when they appeal to the country, make Women's Suffrage a plank in their platform, the time will have arrived for a definite refusal on the part of Liberal women to work at Parliamentary elections." She thought there might come a time when it would be the duty of Liberal women to abstain from working for the great party they all loved so well—a moment when patience would be a virtue no longer, but something perilously near to a great weakness.

Miss Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, said that the resolution was intended to promote Liberal principles. She thought they lowered themselves and their party if they put party before principles. Did they serve the party by letting it slip back from Liberal principles? They wanted the Government not only to introduce it into a Bill, but to make it a plank when they went to the country. They could not get workers, because the younger women doubted the intentions of the Liberal party.

Mrs. Bertrand Russell supported the resolution as an effective means of retaining their younger members, who, she saw with alarm, were all going over to the Suffragettes.

Miss Ransome, advised by the Chair that it would not be tactful to send a further deputation to Mr. Asquith on the subject of Women's Suffrage, asked what was the use of passing resolutions if it were not tactful to address the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Dowson, Miss Cicely Corbett and Lady Grove, also spoke in favour of the resolution, and the weight of argument seemed on the side of its supporters; but, on being put to the meeting, the resolution was rejected.

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After a long discussion on unemployment and Poor Law Reform, it was pointed out by Lady McLaren that the reforms advocated were in favour of men alone, since the word "man" was not taken to include women by the Federation.

Lady Carlisle thought that the Commission were guilty of a terrible omission in failing to consider the case of the unemployed women.

Miss Somerville replied that the proportion of women who stood in need of these reforms was so small as to be hardly worth taking into calculation.

In order to get over this difficulty the words "in the interest of men and women alike" were added to the resolution.

In her closing speech Lady Carlisle urged women who were eligible to come forward and stand as candidates for the borough councils, to show their appreciation of rights already won.

The Women's Exhibition.

"You cannot miss it, there are too many flags," said the policeman, with a beaming smile. And he was right: the entrance to the Prince's Skating Rink was gay with flags and bunting, garlands and shields, in "purple, white and green," in honour of the Women's Exhibition which was opened there on Thursday last by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Mayor of Aldeburgh. On entering the Rink we are delighted by the beauty of the colour scheme, and the decoration of the walls attracts immediate attention. In a bold design, extending round the hall, the meaning of the women's movement is symbolized; and interpreted in those words of hope triumphant: "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Mrs. Garrett Anderson, in declaring the Exhibition open, said she had been a member of the old society, started at the time John Stuart Mill advocated Women's Suffrage. She was often asked if she were in favour of militant tactics, and she always answered frankly, "Yes," because she thought those tactics had brought the question of the Franchise into the range of practical politics.

The exhibits are a striking tribute to women's skill in the arts and crafts. Dainty frocks, beautifully dressed dolls, embroideries, leather work, jewellery—the thousand and one things we have not space enough to mention—all are temptingly displayed; making us long to possess the magic purse of the fairy tale that could not be emptied.

Of the stalls, which are over fifty in number, we should like to mention the farm and garden produce stall, at which butter-making demonstrations are given; the International stall, at which the Swedish peasant jewellery and costumes deserve special appreciation; and the book stall of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, where autograph copies of some of our most eminent writers' books can be bought. As to the arrangements for that most necessary—and, we must confess, attractive—department of refreshments they are above praise.

A number of clever cartoons which have appeared on the subject of Women's Suffrage are here reproduced in miniature models, and the likeness to the originals is extraordinary. In one corner of the Hall are two prison cells; and looking at them one realizes, perhaps for the first time, the enormous difference of treatment meted out to the political offender and the Suffragette whom the Government refuses to recognize by that name. A well-dressed man is seated in a comfortable chair in a large and well furnished cell, reading a newspaper. Writing materials and books lie ready to his hand and a dainty tea is ready served. In a cell about half the size sits a Suffragette prisoner, clad in ill-fitting prison dress, making mail bags—the bare walls and concrete floor finishing this picture of desolation.

The entertainments are many and varied, and the Actresses' Franchise League deserves hearty congratulations. Clever sketches are performed each day, in which some of the most noted actors and actresses of the day are taking part; and the programme includes Miss Cicely Hamilton's waxworks, recitals by Miss Tita Brand, and duologues by Miss Eva Moore and Mr. Henry Ainley. The Æolian Ladies' Orchestra, the

Ellan Vannin Quartet and the Ladies' Mascot Band, generously give their services and add to the pleasures of the Exhibition.

A Debate.

AN interesting debate at the Polyglot Club took place on Monday evening last, when the resolution before the meeting was:—

"That the universal grant of the franchise to women is an urgent necessity for the benefit of the human race."

This resolution was supported by Miss Potter, a member of the N.W.S.P.U., and opposed by Mr. Croon Johnson. Miss Marks was also to have opposed, but, unfortunately, could not be present, and the Anti-Suffrage League did not send a substitute.

Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, in the chair, introduced Miss Potter in a witty speech, wherein she pointed out the value of debate—and the duties of a chairman.

Miss Potter, in the course of her able and lucid argument said that it was nonsense to say that women's sphere was the home—the only real limit to any human being's sphere of action was capacity. An unrepresented class was bound to be at a disadvantage; and the effect of the vote would lead to a greater sense of security, and would, to a great extent, do away with the double standard of virtue now set up—one for men, the other for women.

Mr. Croon Johnson advanced what he described as "small matters for consideration" and "hints." The physical difficulty appealed to him most strongly, and he ended his speech with the following: though many women might be able to repair the tyre of a motor car, few would care to so soil their hands.

Miss Potter was happy in her supporters, both rhetoric and weight of argument being on her side; and the resolution was carried by a large majority.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.,
May 17th, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—Reverting to the Registration of Accountants Bill, and the statement that the President of the Board of Trade was responsible for the "suggestion" that a clause be inserted

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including women, it may be interesting to consider what were the circumstances which thus influenced a Cabinet Minister, especially if we bear in mind that a similar Bill was under discussion two years ago, when there was no mention of women, and that the President of the Board of Trade at that time regarded it unmoved, and never turned a hair, though the same women were in practice then as are in practice to-day! But during the two years which have elapsed since then the voice of the Suffragette has been very much heard in our land, unceasingly demanding for women equal rights and opportunities with men. Undoubtedly the most significant of all the incidents which have a bearing on this matter, is the great meeting of Business and Professional Women demanding the Suffrage which gathered in the Queen's Hall in November last, and whose platform consisted of a leading representative from every business and profession in which women are engaged. In view of the pending 'Bill for the Registration of Professional Accountants,' and the attempts to exclude women from its provisions, it was realized to be most imperative and essential that women accountants should be recognized on this occasion. I was honoured by a special request to represent the profession of accountancy, and took my place side by side with such women as Dr. Garrett Anderson (medicine), Madame Marie Brema (music), Miss Beatrice Harraden (literature), Miss Lillah McCarthy (drama), Miss Chrystal Macmillan (law), &c. That was the first instance of a woman accountant being accorded public recognition. Miss Esther Roper, B.A., moreover, made a splendid fighting speech on behalf of the women accountants, inviting the would-be male monopolists to "come on if they dared," and threatening them with reprisals similar to the fate which overtook the proposals for the abolition of barmaids and married working women.

Although the Press had been particularly requested to report this incident, they one and all maintained an ostentatious silence in regard to it. Nevertheless, we have ways and means of keeping our rulers informed of what is going on under their noses. Not even a Cabinet Minister—and a Winston Churchill at that—can afford to disregard a great and representative meeting of business women such as the above, or to fly in the face of its express opinion, and ignore those whom it elects to recognize.

Some people may think that the honourable gentleman has taken this opportunity to assume a virtue which he does not possess, and to throw a sop to women at no cost to himself. I, at least, have no thanks to tender to any save the women who have assisted me to secure recognition.

I cannot conclude without mentioning a most important fact as regards the position of women. The London Association of Accountants, an incorporated society of male accountants, which the law regards as being on precisely the same basis as the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has just admitted me to membership, thus becoming the first of the accountants societies to welcome a woman in its ranks. Such membership entitles me, among other advantages, to appear before the Special Commissioners of Income Tax at Somerset House, and to be heard on behalf of an appellant.

In striking contrast to this Association, which proposes to admit on their own merits the women in public practice, is the attitude of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, which only intends to admit women if its Bill is passed, and if the Bill is dropped, women are to be dropped with it. I think it is necessary to emphasize this fact, which none of the papers seem to have realized, viz., that the prospect of women being allowed to become Chartered Accountants is only contingent on a most remote possibility.

The annual dinner of the London Association of Accountants is taking place at the Holborn Restaurant on the evening of the 22nd inst., and I have been most cordially invited to join my male colleagues (to the number of several hundred), and to speak representatively for my sex.

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, Certified Accountant,
London Chamber of Commerce Senior Distinction.
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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

CHELTENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—The first out-door meeting of the season was held on Saturday, May 15th, at 3.30 at the bottom of Leckhampton Road. The chair was taken by the Hon. Secretary, Miss T. Mills, bearing an improvised red and white banner, and the chief speaker was Mrs. Fryer, a Welsh working-woman. Forty or fifty people soon gathered and listened with attention and perfect order. One or two men, who had emerged from the neighbouring public house, were conversational at first, and at the beginning of Mrs. Fryer's speech raised the strains of 'Men of Harlech,' but a sentence or two of Welsh quieted them in a surprising manner, and thereafter they were quiet listeners. The earnest faces of most of those present were a noticeable feature, and altogether the organizers are well satisfied with the results of their efforts.

It was announced that a second meeting would probably be held the following Saturday (22nd) at the same place and time.

THEODORA MILLS.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE (N.U.W.S.S.).—A stall has been taken at the Market on Friday and Saturday, 21st and 22nd, for the sale of Suffrage literature, picture post cards, &c. It is hoped that members will come to the market, and bring their friends on the occasion. The Market Stall is in connexion with "special effort" week.

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

		Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones	P.M.
MAY 21.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith	7.30
24.	London (Highgate Branch), Spears Memorial Hall, Annual Meeting	Chairman, W. H. Dickinson, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Miss Frances Sterling, Miss Janet Case, Miss Cicely Corbett, H. G. Chancellor, Esq.	8.15
26.	London , N. Hackney Branch, "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Williams Chair, Mrs. Owen Thomas Speaker, Mrs. Challis	3.30
JUNE 2.	Fleet , Hants, Garden Meeting	Speakers, Lady Betty Balfour, J. Baillie Weaver, Esq.	3-6
9.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, J.P. Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson	3
17.	London , Islington, Invitation Meeting for Women only	Hostess, Mrs. Jacob Wood Speaker, Miss Abadam	3.30
25.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Woman's Suffrage.'	Chair, Miss Cook Speaker, Mrs. Gerard Smith	7.30

Nottingham Special Effort Week, May 19th to 26th.

"At Home" and Garden Sale, at Felixstowe, The Park (lent for the occasion), held May 25th, 3 to 8.30. Speaker, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, 3.30 and 5.30. Recitations, Miss Norma Smith, of Derby. Songs, Mrs. Archie Wardle.

Speakers' Class, Wednesday and Thursday, May 26th and 27th. The Hon. Mrs. B. Russell, 11 o'clock.

Ladies' Luncheon, May 26th, to meet Mrs. Russell, 1 o'clock.

"At Homes" and Concerts, May 20th, arranged by Mrs. Horsley, Miss R. Goldberg, assisted by Mrs. Thorndyke Casson (Actresses' Suffrage League), and Mr. Casson. Others arranged by Miss R. P. Hutchinson, and Mrs. Gerard Dowson.

Stall in the Market Place for sale of literature and articles made by members. Wednesdays, May 19th and 26th.

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The Reason Why.

WE who have given ourselves to the cause of women's emancipation are often asked questions which run in some such fashion as this: Why are you in such a hurry? Your mothers were content to wait; are you in much worse case than they? As a fact are you not actually in a better position than they were? You have more opportunities for development, more outlets for human service, less restrictions of person and property. Why, then, this new passionate outburst of rebellion? No doubt the larger outlook is to some extent responsible for the present situation. It was said, rather wittily, the other day, that men gave their dominion away when they allowed girls to learn the alphabet. That this step was taken for the convenience of the public, both men and women, we cannot doubt; the far-reaching consequences were not foreseen.

But there are nearer and more imminent reasons for this great uprising of womanhood. With two of these I desire to deal. Neither man nor woman who with sympathetic insight looks out upon society can be blind to the fact that we are living in a period of transition. If our civilization is to be saved, if our race is to be preserved, we must be possessed, it is felt, with a new social spirit. We must pursue new methods through which the divine ideas of the prophets and seers of humanity can be brought into saving manifestation. This is to be the work of the twentieth century. It is a great time—wonderful in its promise. All through the listening air there seems to run a thrill of expectation. You ask why we are in such a hurry? I wish some of you who ask the question could feel for one moment as a woman feels, especially one who has been fighting forlorn hopes, who has been looking on at ills—preventable ills—that with all her efforts she cannot heal or even help. If you could, we should hear no more this counsel of patience. You would know that we are impatient because we are human, because we feel as you do, because we belong to the community, because the thrill of expectation, the spirit of discontent that marks our era has touched us.

One reason then for this new thing, this new vigorous uprising of woman, is to be found in the tone and temper of the times. A new world is being built up. The builders are the people. The mistakes of the past are sufficient evidence that one-half of the people cannot worthily carry out this task. In the impending reconstruction of society, woman, as an integral part of society, must do her share. We are told that neglecting our own work, we are rushing out of doors to do the work of men. We maintain that one of the rights we are insistently demanding is the right to come in living touch with our own work, and that is impossible now.

Another reason for the present upheaval is that woman is beginning to realize herself, her own nature, her own possibilities. The word "home" has been thrust at us until some of us have forgotten that it has a meaning. Women for themselves, for their children, aye, and for their men folk, are demanding homes, and it is because so much of our work belongs to home—its provision, its aid, its safeguarding—that we desire to lose no time in vindicating our right to a place in political life.

I remember one of my open-air addresses being interrupted once by a very young man, who said "Women should attend to their own domestic affairs, and not interfere with politics." I answered, "As long as politics interfere with me, with my house, my children, my way of earning my livelihood, I will interfere with politics."

The note of the new era is a benevolently intentioned, but often weak and inefficient legislative regulation of the domestic life of the people.

We have marriage laws, children's charters, arrangements by men of the hours and conditions of women's labour, this on the one hand, and on the other woman awake, woman realizing her own nature, her own work. Given such a combination, and any student of social forces might predict what the result would be. As a fact there is nothing mysterious in the phenomenon which is distressing and alarming so many people. It is natural in the truest sense. The woman movement, as it is called, is a part of the great spiritual evolution which, working on quietly through previous centuries, is now entering upon one of those periods of swift development which must ever have momentous results for the race. We are in a transition period, and the heart of long-waiting womanhood beats with a new fervour, is inspired with a courage and hope such as in primitive times it may have experienced when, through sorrow, privation, and labour, a young civilization had its birth.

It is not unnatural that, if this or anything like this is the truth, woman should now first begin to realize her own nature, begin to understand her own work. What follows? In spite of the "Antis" and their shallow phrases—this! Woman awake, woman entering into the new world of her aspirations will never sleep again.

C. DESPARD.

"Written with His Own Hand, &c."

ONE missed something from the Liberal Federation this year. It was difficult at first to say what it was, but gradually it dawned upon us. It was the wonderful expression of gratitude to the powers that be, such as was shown by the spontaneous uprising of the great assembly of Liberal women last year, when Lady Carlisle read the Prime Minister's "pledge" (they called it that themselves!) to the women of the country. That was conveyed by a mere type-written document, but *this* year they had a letter from Mr. Asquith, written, as Lady Carlisle assured them, "with his own hand, and signed with his own name!" Surely this act of condescension should have brought them to their feet—or their knees—with gratitude. And in the letter were these memorable words: "The declaration which I made a year ago on behalf of the Government remains on record." Well, what's the matter with that?

It may be, of course, that a disquieting memory of the Prime Minister's words in the House of Commons a few days after his famous "pledge," when, in a moment of mental aberration (what had happened to him, we wonder?), he admitted that the Reform Bill with which the women's demand was to be incorporated, "might be brought forward in some dim and speculative future," remained with some of the Liberal women. That being so, they probably felt that even "a letter written with his own hand" was not sufficiently reassuring to call for any extravagant expressions of gratitude. At any rate, the fact remains that they did not seem as transported with joy as one would have expected. And, indeed, the resolutions that were sent up by some of the branches must have proved disquieting reading to the members of the Sacred Party. Cuckfield, Hayward's Heath, and Godalming appear to have got quite out of hand, and advised revolt, in their resolutions, with appalling frankness. It will take more than a "letter written, &c." to satisfy these hewers of wood and drawers of water at the next Conference. The Prime Minister will have to come down—

carefully guarded by police, of course—and assure them with his own voice, proceeding out of his own mouth, that his declaration still remains on record. Will some of them still go on after that, we wonder, clinging to the skirts of the party that refuses to grant them the due reward of faithful service and devotion, presenting to the world, as they do to-day, a melancholy spectacle of unrequited affection?

Lady Carlisle said that the letter was a "recognition, for the first time, by the Prime Minister that the women wanted the vote," and yet the Liberal Federation boasts that Woman's Suffrage has been the chief plank in its platform since 1892! Can it be that the Prime Minister has not had this fact brought to his notice, or—awful thought!—doesn't he consider the Federation of sufficient importance to merit a recognition?

"They must go on now," said Lady Carlisle, "giving him proof that the women are demanding the Suffrage." It's an excellent determination. There is only one difficulty in the way. What sort of proof will satisfy the Prime Minister?

It's no use sending deputations—he won't receive them; or resolutions from public meetings, because, as everybody knows, they are put into the waste-paper basket, and never reach his august eye. You can't go to the House of Commons, and tell him that women want the vote, because that proceeding is unpopular, and brings unpleasant consequences in its train. A strike of women has not been tried yet, but it opens up a vista of fascinating possibilities in the way of an effect on the adamant minds of members of the party. We have tried most other ways, and a strike of the Women's Freedom League wouldn't have any effect on Liberals, because not one of us would raise a finger to help them, any how, until we get the vote. But the Liberal women might try it, and under the present circumstances it would be the most self-respecting thing they could do, and the surest way of bringing their Party back to Liberal principles, and gaining for it the prestige and honour that will accrue to any Government that gives justice and freedom to women.

Anti-Feminism in Jamaica.

THE TRIAL OF THE LIBERAL.

ON April 26th Mr. Swift MacNeill asked the Secretary of State whether the recent policy of opposing Women's Suffrage in Jamaica had been dictated by the Colonial Office.

Colonel Seely, replying, said that there had been no official correspondence with the Governor upon the subject; that the Women's Suffrage amendment was introduced without notice, and the Governor declined to accept it, and that two of the elected members voted against it.

The last point only accentuates the absurdity of a state of things under which a measure can be thrown out by Government officials in spite of the fact that the elected members might be almost unanimous on the subject. On this occasion it would have been all the same if the elected members had been absolutely unanimous, as the amendment was lost by three votes.

But it is quite unnecessary for a Government which has steadily opposed votes for women at home to make excuses for the failure of the measure in Jamaica. Whether "notice" of the amendment had been given or not, the result would have been the same. No Governor would have dared to have carried out a reform so greatly in advance of present-day Liberalism. No "official correspondence" was necessary to assure Sir Sydney Olivier that an anti-woman policy would gain for him the increased favour of the "most democratic Government of modern times." The incident is interesting and hopeful in that it is one more proof of the increasing strength of the forward movement in the far corners of the earth, a movement which flourishes on repression and which grows, not in spite of, but rather because of the tyranny of unprogressive and reactionary governments, of anti-feminist Liberal Prime Ministers, and pretence-Socialist Governors.

M. F.

The Anti-diluvians.

II.

"CERTAINLY living under the law does not entitle a person to make the law," says Mr. Calderon. "The drones might say to the working bees: 'We live in your hive and eat your honey, therefore we ought to dictate to you how to gather it'; but I rather think the little creatures would put their wings to their noses and tell them to mind their own business." Surely not, if they were educated bees! If they were Anti-Suffrage ones, yes! Or Lord Avebury's (Sir John Lubbock) bees, or the secretaries of Anti-Suffrage Societies. These are the sort of bees that get into their own bonnets.

The women we are fighting for are the working bees, they live in filthy slums, and taste rather of the waters of Marah than of honey.

Those with the zephyr wings placed to tilted, or rather titled, noses are the drones "enjoying the good time," which Miss Mathers tells us "their men are giving them."

To earn your honest, though sweated pittance, is a branch of education denied to drones; to dainty purely decorative drones. The next tit-bit is: "They pass laws already, but can't get anybody to carry them out." Our point in a nutshell! But although he says that "given the vote we should pass the most splendid and sweeping enactments" yet "those enactments would have very little influence on our national life." It is impossible to combat this form of argument, and a cruel waste of time to try to do so; but having, in an unguarded moment promised to dole out the airy soufflés of this most frothy cauldron, it must be gone through with to its conclusion.

"Give her the vote in order to regenerate her," cries Calderon, in "comic" despair—"give her the British Empire to play with. . . . Let property be distributed not for our national advantage, but only for her enjoyment. . . . Let the question of Tariff be decided not on imperial grounds, but according to how it affects her house-keeping."

And what, in Heaven's name, are free food and tariff reform fought over for, if not for the welfare of the people? and how can their welfare be considered apart from the means of life?

What do these men and Antis mean by Empire? Is it a Jingo song?

Is it a flag—to which our National Ragged Schools are taught to bow? Is it a sort of Jack the Giant-killer, stalking the earth to terrify timid women?

Or is it a game of party politics played out at Westminster by men who hand over the political spade-work of clearing and laying the ground to their women—political cat's-paws—whom they hold in political contempt? The eighty thousand obedient Liberal ladies are sent out to educate the electors that Tariff Reform means the little loaf—the Primrose Dames to proclaim that Tariff Reform means work for all and the wherewithal to buy the little loaf. All, all housekeeping.

Yet lords and Liberals deny these ladies the right to educate themselves, or, having done so, the right to put that education to the profit of the State.

Enough! enough! A few more passages, and I have done with him, I hope, for ever:—

"The fortunate lady has no part whatever in the State, except to enjoy the benefits it secures her."

"John (Bull)," we find, "is always ready to help a constable in difficulties." Then why doesn't he do it? Why is it so often left to some brave woman to come to "Robert's" rescue?

Neither "John" or the constable for whom she pays came to Mrs. Sproson's rescue a week or two ago—with all their vaunted "readiness."

"The position of women in relation to the State is fixed once and for all by their physical constitution. . . . and even if all the women of the country with one voice demanded political power, &c., it would be no reason for giving it to them, and therein Mr. Asquith spoke more like a politician than a statesman."

We shall see! We shall see!

Nails have been deeply embedded in walls, rocks in the earth, and prejudices in brains, but I have seen those nails wrenched out, the rocks blasted, the prejudices expunged, and if the walls, the rocks, and the brains themselves have suffered it has been for the general good of the community and the DEBRIS has been swept away!

In my next article I hope to deal with something more important and necessary to the country than the subject of the present article, namely, the young sweated housewife, and I shall try to demonstrate by undisputed facts the sort of "benefits the State secures her."

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

City Meeting.

A VERY successful meeting was held at the Winchester Hall, Old Broad Street, on Tuesday, May 11th. The speeches by Mrs. Despard, Miss Marguerite Sidley, and Sir John Cockburn, were listened to with the greatest interest.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Snow, members of the Men's League, made themselves entirely responsible for all expenses; and to them and Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Snow, who worked up the meeting most strenuously, we offer our heartiest thanks. We also hope that other members' friends will give us similar help when possible.

Report of Meeting.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on May 13th, in the Free Gardiner's Hall, Picardy Place, under the auspices of the East Edinburgh and Leith Branch. In preparation for the meeting, in addition to the ordinary methods of advertisement, a series of open-air meetings was held in and near Leith, and a trap (kindly lent by Dr. Grace Cadell) decorated in the colours, drove through the principal streets on the 8th inst.

After a short but charming speech by Miss Chapman, Mrs. Despard addressed the audience. Her grand and noble words gave new courage and enthusiasm to those already working in the Branch to go on, and must have converted those who have not yet entered the fighting ranks. Mrs. Donaldson, president of the Branch, presided over the meeting, which in every way was a success.

A. C. S.

Thank You!

MISS EUSTACE SMITH (our hon. librarian) writes that an artistic book-plate, for use in our library books, has been designed and presented to us by Mrs. Sargent Florence. This adds another to the items of service for which we owe gratitude to Mrs. Sargent Florence. It is to be hoped that in the design is a reminder that the books taken from the library are expected to find their way back there again, and if there be also an heraldic protest against the sinful habit of writing on the margins of library books, all the better!

We regret that in our account of the Green, White, and Gold Fair we omitted to mention the stall of the Suffrage Atelier. Will that very useful and energetic society accept now our belated thanks and apologies? It was a very attractive stall, and took quite a respectable sum of money, all of which helps to make our oversight more unpardonable, but we hope they will bear no malice. The Suffrage Atelier exists to help other Suffrage societies in such important items as decorations, banners, cartoons, processions, &c. It is not likely, we should imagine, to die from lack of employment.

Contributors.

THE Editor will be glad to receive MSS. of all kinds from members and friends. Anything that interests women in any way will be welcome. Any extract from papers should have the paper mentioned together with the date.

"Our Work—Past, Present, and to Come."

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, LIVERPOOL, MAY, 1909.

FOR the past fortnight Liverpool has been ringing with the doings of the Women's Freedom League. "Into this woman's campaign on Tuesday, 11th May, was imported the novelty of a Suffragette prophecy play 'How the Vote was won.' It was acted at the Adelphi Hotel to a large and brilliant gathering of about 150 Liverpool ladies in the Banqueting Hall. The guests were received by Miss M. A. Broadhurst, M.A." I quote from *The Liverpool Courier*. "The proceedings were pleasantly varied, light refreshments and speeches, play and propaganda filling a long programme. The hats and gowns of the guests were as charming almost as the wearers. The atmosphere was as feminine as it was strenuous.

"Since the Suffragettes are successful in all things, much was expected from the Suffragette play, performed by a star caste, including Miss Edith Craig, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Christopher St. John. The idea is humorous, though not entirely new. In it we are shown how the women brought pressure to bear on a hostile Government by carrying out to its logical conclusion the dictum 'woman's sphere is the home.'

"In clear-cut contrast with the lightness of the Suffrage sermon in the play was the address given by Miss Muriel Matters, 'the lady of the grille.' If the play made converts of fewer Antis than it amused, the irresistible logic and feminine charm of Miss Matters was altogether effective. Miss Farquharson also delivered a short address.

"At the end of the proceedings new members were enrolled." Another paragraph appeared in the Ladies' Column, which bears testimony of the deep impression made by the Women's Freedom League in Liverpool.

"Rarely have I seen such a gathering of beautiful and brilliant women as assembled in the Adelphi Banqueting Hall yesterday afternoon. It is hard to decide which were the more attractive, the women who spoke and acted their little play with such notable spirit, or the women who sat and listened with such appreciation. The fear of the ancient man that the modern woman would be devoid of grace and charm is surely finally laid to rest. Miss Muriel Matters, silver-tongued, fair and graceful in her lace gown; Miss Cicely Hamilton, with her distinguished bearing; Miss Farquharson, with her beautiful hair and soft Lowland Scots speech; Miss Edith Craig, so delightfully like her famous mother; and a host of other charming personalities, all testified that the women who mingle with the drama of life are surpassing the women who see the years go by in sheltered places. Women of this fine stamp assure us that the primal qualities of womanhood, those qualities on which humanity rests and lives, are evolving along the lines most beneficial to the whole race. No one can look at this evolutionary movement and say that the finest, most attractive women stand outside it."

The political work of the campaign has been centred in meetings at the Exchange Hotel, on the Exchange Flags, and a Mass Demonstration in the Hope Hall. On the Flags on Saturday morning, while Miss Muriel Matters was addressing a large and enthusiastic audience of Liverpool men, a voice kept interjecting derogatory remarks. The voice did not proceed from the crowd, and the speaker for a few moments was at a loss to know whence came these stentorian interruptions. Finally it was found proceeding from an underground cavern beneath the Nelson Monument, in front of which we took our stand. The monument and its motto, "England expects every man to do his duty" is significant of the demand the women are, in Liverpool, making of the men, to exert organized and constitutional pressure on the Government. This pressure of men voters from within, combined with pressure exerted from without by the unconstitutional action of the Suffragists ought surely to bring this movement to a successful issue.

One morning Miss Martin and Miss Margaret Milne Farquharson were delivering handbills outside the Corn Exchange. Our trap, gaily decorated with flags and bunting in the colours

of the League, was immediately surrounded by corn merchants, who invited us to come right in and address them. We mounted the rostrum in the Corn Exchange and addressed an enthusiastic and interested audience. Last week a subscription list was opened, and donations have very generously been given. The money collected in donations and in collections during the campaign amounts to £57.

A strong branch has been formed in Liverpool, and Miss Broadhurst, who is a graduate of London University with First Class Honours in Mental Philosophy, has been appointed president.

Our sincerest thanks are due to Mr. W. Lyon Bleasle, L.L.M., who has very kindly acted as treasurer during the campaign, to Miss Martin and Miss Ethel Martin, Mrs. Hyde, Misses Henderson, Miss Smith of Chester, and others who have worked during the campaign with great energy and enthusiasm.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON
(Organizer).

WORK IN MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.—During the past three weeks the members of the Manchester Branch have been preparing for Miss Matters's campaign. Open-air meetings have been held at Walkden Monument, on Monton Green, and at Egerton Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. A meeting, arranged by Mrs. Hall and Miss Holden, was held in the I.L.P. Club Room, Middleton, on Monday, and on Wednesday, May 12th, an "At Home" was held in the office, at which Miss Schofield spoke on our by-election policy. Many members realized for the first time the great effect which the work of the Freedom League has in the constituencies, and pitied Mr. Asquith when he received the W.F.L. postbag after Sheffield and Stratford-on-Avon. Miss Smalley, a new member of the branch, spoke eloquently of the women who are daily sacrificing themselves for the women's cause. A spirited discussion followed. Miss Neal personated an "Anti" for the occasion, much to the amusement of the meeting.

The work in other directions has gone forward with vigour. The W.F.L. "mammoth" posters vie with those of the White City and the American Roller Skating Rink. Sandwich women and distributors of handbills have braved the jeers of street urchins, and members have sacrificed their evenings in order to prepare for our children's pageant, of which more next week. Will members please come to the office, or write and offer their services to chalk their own districts for the Empire Day Demonstration in the Memorial Hall on the morning of Monday, May 24th? All hands are needed on deck. There is work, sufficient and to spare, for all.
E. M. MANNING.

The Villages and the Van.

THE VAN is to have a public "send-off" on Saturday, May 29th; so, will all the members who can go to Bushey Park Common, Hampton Court, at 3 o'clock, and give a hearty God speed to Miss Sidley and her helpers? Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Marion Holmes will speak. The van is to tour round Wilts and Dorset this summer. We can imagine what interest it will excite in the old-world villages of those counties, and how "Votes for Women" and the Suffragettes will be discussed round the village pump, or whatever is the modern equivalent for that historic meeting-place. That friendly support and sympathy for the cause will follow in the track of the van goes without saying. Last summer it was invariably greeted on its first appearance in the village district with stones and jeers, but before it left the people had become firm friends of the organizers, and brought votive offerings in the shape of flowers, eggs, &c., and warm invitations to come again. People who want a pleasant and unique holiday, that will give them a lifelong store of pleasant memories, had better volunteer immediately for duty on the "Votes for Women" van.

Cycling Corps.

WILL all those cyclists, men and women, who are willing to combine pleasure with work, please meet at 1, Robert Street, at 2.30 P.M. on Saturday the 22nd inst.? From there we shall ride to Blackheath Common, where a meeting is to be held. All communications to be addressed to 6, Flanders Mansions, Bedford Park, W. HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec. Cycling Corps.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. May 20th to June 30th.

Day	Event	Speakers	P.M.
Thurs. 20.	Yarmouth Open Air Meeting, over Blackfriars Bridge	Mrs. Despard Miss L. Williams Miss M. Taplin Miss P. Hillsworth	8
	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mr. and Mrs. Haslam Mrs. Betsy Kjelsberg Mr. Baillie Weaver, LL.B.	3-5
	Manchester and District, "Silverdale," Victoria Park	Hostess, Mrs. Wilmot	3
	Manchester and District, Iron Room, Alexandra Road, Alexandra Park	Miss Matters	8
Fri. 21.	Manchester and District, "At Home," Harper Hill, Sale	Rev. Chas. Peach Mr. K. T. S. Dockray Mrs. Manning	8
	Manchester and District, Stevenson Square	Miss Farquharson	8
	Willesden and Maida Vale Branch, Social Meeting, 70, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale	Writers and Actresses Franchise League	8-10
Sat. 22.	Manchester and District, "At Home," "Beechcroft," Bowdon Blackheath Common, Lewisham	Hostess, Mrs. Hope Jones Miss Matters Mrs. Manson, Miss Levy, Mr. Overy, Mr. Duval Miss Taplin, Mr. Albery	7.30 4.30 3
Sun. 23.	Battersea Park Wandsworth Common Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Miss Underwood, Mr. Duval Hostess, Mrs. Forson	3.30
	Deptford Broadway Hilly Fields, Lewisham	Mrs. Moore, Miss Levy Mrs. Moore Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Sproson Mrs. Despard Miss Neilans	12 A.M. 3.30 3
Mon. 24.	Manchester and District, University Women's Union (for Members of the Union) only	Miss Matters	4.30
	Manchester and District, Empire Day Demonstration, Memorial Hall (Albert Square) Birmingham	Miss Matters Miss Farquharson Miss Manning, M.A. Mrs. Despard	8
Tues. 25.	Swansea, Albert Hall "At Home," Café, Edinburgh	Mrs. Sanderson Miss Anna Munro	8 4-6
Wed. 26.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath Eastbourne, Town Hall	Mrs. Despard Countess Russell	7.30 8
Thurs. 27.	Central Branch, 1, Robert Street, Social Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett Mrs. How Martyn Mrs. Marion Holmes Mrs. Despard	3-5 3 3 8
Sat. 29.	Manningtree Ipswich	Mrs. Despard	3
Sun. 30.	Bushey Park Common Clapham Common Wandsworth Common Near Dudley Castle grounds, Wolverhampton Cradeley Heath	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Duval Mrs. Duval and others Chair, Mrs. Westwood Mrs. Sproson Chair, Mrs. Sproson Mrs. Westwood Hostess, Miss Morrison	6.30 3 3 7 3.30
Mon. 31.	Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home" Kingston Fife Hall Quarry Bank, Sheffield	Mrs. Toyne Chair, Mrs. Westwood Mrs. Sproson Chair, Mrs. Westwood	7 3 7
JUNE.			
Wed. 2.	Croydon Branch, Thornton Heath Clock Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Mrs. Sproson Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Toyne Hostess, Miss McNiell	8 3.30 3.30 3.30
Thurs. 3.	Hyde Park, Central Branch	Members	8
Sat. 5.	Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Hostesses, The Misses Stewart	3.30
Sun. 6.	Battersea Park	Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. Duval	3
Wed. 9.	Croydon Branch, Aberdeen Road, South Croydon Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Hostess, Miss McArthur	3.30
Wed. 16.	Croydon Branch, South Norwood Clock Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Mrs. Nevinson Hostess, Mrs. Wilson	8 3.30
Wed. 23.	Croydon Branch, Thornton Heath Clock	Miss Logan	8
Wed. 30.	Croydon Branch, South Norwood Clock	Mrs. Brindley	8

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, 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.

LAST Sunday the Open-Air Campaign took its second step. Apart from the usual Hyde Park meeting, our speakers were in Finsbury Park and Brockwell Park. In all three cases excellent meetings were held, and the reports printed below describe good results.

Next Sunday, and until further notice, these three meetings will be repeated. Since the annual general meeting on April 29th the Open-Air Sub-Committee has been strengthened from the new Executive, and the members at present serving have co-opted several others to collaborate. The list of names will be published later on. Meantime we want new speakers—badly and at once! We also want men to help in distributing literature, &c., at Brockwell Park and Finsbury Park. Let those who are reluctant to brave the hecklers begin by selling literature: very few will not feel impelled to the platform after one or two meetings.

The old Literature Sub-Committee also has been reconstituted, and a Parliamentary Sub-Committee has been formed. The former met yesterday. As soon as these committees have co-opted additional members, lists will be published in these columns.

We are glad to be able to announce that the suggestion for the formation of an International Suffrage Club in London is meeting with an excellent response. Members of all the societies have expressed their intention of joining, and the original promoters therefore feel justified in proceeding with the preliminary arrangements. Our readers are urgently asked to lose no time in sending in their names, as it will not be possible to take any definite steps until at least 500 persons have promised to join.

We desire to draw special attention to the letter explaining this project which appeared in *Women's Franchise* for May 6th. Copies of the letter and additional information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., 40, Museum Street, W.C.

Open-Air Meetings.

FINSBURY PARK.

THE open-air meeting in Finsbury Park commenced at 3 P.M. Mr. Herbert Jacobs presided. Excellent speeches were delivered by Miss Sidley and Mr. Mark Wilks, and the meeting terminated with a long discussion between the chairman and an opponent in the crowd. The audience was very interested, and as those present were promised an opportunity of hearing many different speakers, it is hoped that our members will make it easy for us to perform this promise.
H. J.

HYDE PARK.

A MOST successful meeting was held in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon. Marked interest in the great cause was evinced, and several applications for membership were received.

A number of members of the Women's Freedom League and of the Women's Social and Political Union were present, and some very keen propaganda work took place.

The platform speakers were Dr. Macpherson (in the chair) and Messrs. Wallis, Perrott, Housman, and Kennedy, all of whom obtained a sympathetic hearing.

With great success Mr. Kennedy afterwards replied to questions.
A. D. M.

BROCKWELL PARK.

OUR first open-air meeting in Brockwell Park was held on Sunday last, and was a conspicuous success. This was due in the first place to the very tasteful and serviceable platform which has been presented to us by Mrs. Bowden-Smith and the members of her family, and which gave our speakers a useful coign of vantage. We were glad to see Mrs. Bowden-Smith and her son at the meeting.

In the second place the success of the meeting was due to the Chairman, Mr. Overy, who not only delivered an excellent speech, but kept the meeting thoroughly well in hand throughout. Our other speakers were Mrs. Manson, whose admirable speech aroused considerable interest, and Mr. E. Duval, who, as usual, was a tower of strength. The gathering numbered 300 or 400 persons.
A. W. H.

London Liberal Federation and Votes for Women.

"It moves." One of the most significant proofs is to be found in the resolution passed by the council of the L.L.F. on Monday May 3rd. This federation consists of the official Liberal associations throughout London. Its council is composed of picked men, elected from the local associations, who are the leaders of Liberal opinion in their localities. The council, therefore, is the one body able to declare the mind of London Liberals.

On March 15th they actually defeated by a majority a proposal for "adult" Suffrage by substituting "manhood." Thereupon a member of the League gave notice of the following resolution for the Council Meeting held last Monday.

"In the opinion of this Council the denial of the Parliamentary Franchise to women is inconsistent with Liberal principles in that—

"1. It makes of what should be a right enjoyed by all a privilege confined to a sex, which is anomalous and as unjust as a privilege confined to a class.

"2. By enforcing obedience to laws on persons who have no share in making or amending them, it violates the foundation principle of Liberalism, viz., government by consent of the governed.

"3. By refusing to women taxpayers the full rights of citizenship, it infringes the Liberal principle that there should be no taxation without representation.

"4. By denying to women the only instrument of reform known to the constitution, it has driven them to imitate the violent and unconstitutional methods by means of which men secured their enfranchisement."

This was moved by Mr. Ronald Bartram, seconded by Mr. Sidney Pascal and supported by other members of the Men's League. It says much for the fairmindedness of the council that after a long debate, spite of the bitterness which the anti-government policy of the militants has aroused, and of the suspicion expressed by many speakers that the movement was being financed by their political opponents, they adopted the resolution by ninety-three to twenty-nine in the following modified form.

"In the opinion of this Council the denial of the Parliamentary Franchise to adults of both sexes is inconsistent with Liberal principles."

So the Liberal party in London is officially pledged through its only representative organization to support the extension of citizen rights to women, as well as men.

It moves. It certainly moves.

H. G. C.

Methods and Principles.

WHEN, in connexion with Women's Suffrage, people talk of the "militants," either for praise or blame, they often fail to differentiate militant methods from militant principles; and there are half-hearted ones who, because they disapprove of a method, discover a welcome excuse for deserting a principle. It may be well, therefore, to point out that in support of every great principle an element of militancy is unavoidable: it is another, and a less important matter, what particular form that militancy may take. Fundamentally in this question of Women's Suffrage the militant standpoint is that it is a right, and not merely a favour, which is being denied to women; and all those who hold this view cannot but feel that here, in this country, whose honour we hold dear, a great wrong is to-day being persisted in by those who control the reins of Government. Now our attitude toward a refusal of right—our moral attitude at all events—must be very different from our attitude toward the refusal of a favour; and so must our attitude toward the methods of those who are fighting for a right be very different from what it would be were they only fighting for a favour. Whatever line of action we may think good policy, our hearts must be militant when we see a great wrong being done. More than this, if we accept the teaching of history, we must own that revolt against oppression and wrong has always been justified by the verdict of posterity, wherever it has succeeded, and even when it has failed, has only been condemned from the point of view of expediency, and not upon moral grounds. Those who have the militant principle thus at heart must admit that revolt against wrong is always justified—if it be the shortest means to the wished-for end. Unless we are Tolstoians, or unless we are blind to history we cannot think otherwise.

Moreover the man who has the principle of militancy in his heart knows that in this particular case these more pronounced forms, or methods, have only arisen through the unmitigated bulk of those who believe the cause of women's enfranchisement to be just; militant methodism, that is to say, has been brought about by lack of militant principle. Had that fundamental note of militancy—indignation against a denial of human right—prevailed amongst those whose votes have again and again given Women's Enfranchisement a majority in the House of Commons, the measure would long ere this have become law. And even to-day if, without militant methods, all those who do lip-service to the cause were militant at heart, the battle would already be won. But in every great fight for reform the fighters have to make up for the shirkers; and while for lack of supporters ready to give both hands, the cause cannot forego the assistance even of a finger lent to its aid, one thing we have a right to demand,—that the shirkers should not criticize the workers until they have also put shoulder to the wheel, and found how heavy and inert is the mass that has to be stirred. If we are indignant against wrong, we may remain law-abiding, but our indignation will show, and will carry a weight which does not attach to the opinions of those who merely "agree." Nor in the end can our indignation remain without effect upon our own political conduct. For if party politics are seen to be acting as a hindrance rather than as an aid to the cause of justice, then men who love justice will inevitably be led to hold party politics in scorn, to come away from party, and to say: "While party is thus hindering justice I will act independently of it."

Can it be said, at this moment, that either of the great parties in the State is advancing the cause of Woman's Suffrage or giving it official countenance? If not, then those of us who love justice more than party will surely be doing more for the cause by warning our party leaders that our allegiance to them is shaken and our support no longer to be relied on, than by allowing them to feel that in spite of their political deafness and blindness, their carelessness or their obstinacy, they can still carry us along with them. So long as neither party gives its official recognition to the cause, each party may think that it can afford to mark time, and postpone action. It may rely on its material, knowing how difficult it is for the man who has hitherto given a keen support to his party to turn round and to vote against it; and so it seems

to some of us that party loyalty is being actually exploited to-day in order to delay justice.

Among the women party loyalty has become strained to breaking point: branches of the Liberal women's political associations are in consequence losing members, or declaring for inaction until their grievance is remedied. But among men the same point has not yet been reached: there is no withdrawal of Liberal candidates from the constituencies as a protest against inaction, and at no by-election has any candidate of the party in power—however favourable personally to the women's cause—declared his indignation at the delay of the Government. So long as that indignation does not exist, working with one's party presents no difficulties. But indignation of heart is the root of true militancy, and when that principle is generally established militant methods can afford to take a back seat. It rests mainly with our party politicians to hasten the date.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

Staines.

An afternoon meeting under the auspices of the League will be held at Staines on Thursday, June 3rd, when the speakers on our behalf will be H. Baillie-Weaver, Esq., and Joseph Clayton, Esq.

Men's League Speakers.

BESIDE the above arrangement, Mr. Clayton will speak at Cardiff on May 26th for the National Union, and (it is hoped) at Swansea on the 25th for the Women's Freedom League. Mr. Mitchell is addressing the Artists' League, also a meeting at Kingston on the 25th, and on Saturday, June 5th, he is at an open-air meeting at Sydenham. Mr. E. E. Duval is at Bromley on Saturday next: our stewards are invited to help on this last occasion (write to Miss A. Evans, 94, College Road, Bromley). On the 24th inst. Messrs. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., L.C.C., and Mr. H. G. Chancellor are speaking for the National Union at the Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate (tickets on application).

A Maiden Speech.

The question of Women's Suffrage seems to me to be a question not of politics, but of principle, and therefore I do not quite understand the attitude of mind of those people who persist in regarding it from a purely political standpoint. The question, to my mind, is, not what are the reasons for Women's Suffrage, but by what justification is the Suffrage withheld from women?

No satisfactory answer to that question has ever been given. Various reasons are advanced as to why women should not vote, but they all boil down to the simple reason because she is a woman, and because she is not a man. And yet it seems clear that a man does not vote because he is a man, but because he is a citizen.

When I ask myself why any men should be opposed to granting the Suffrage to women, the only answer I can find is that they are afraid of them. That seems to be the plain truth.

Now the reason any person is afraid of any thing, or animal, or person, is because he does not understand it. A farmhand is afraid of a motor car, but is not afraid of a cow; I am afraid of a cow, but not afraid of a motor-car—at least not more so than most people!

The real reason, then why some men do not wish women to have the vote appears to resolve itself into this: that they do not understand women, and that, not understanding them, they are afraid of them—are afraid of what they will do, or what they may do, or what they might do.

ALFRED H. BARLEY.

(To be continued).

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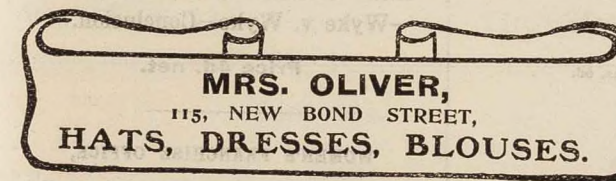
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