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Notes.

WE congratulate Aldeburgh on having secured Mrs. Garrett-Anderson as Mayor, and we commiserate with High Wycombe in that Miss Dove failed to secure election by two votes.

THE Women's Reform Union has been working hard to return a woman to the Bristol City Council. Miss Helen Sturge stood as Independent Candidate for the Redland Ward, containing more than 2,000 voters. A very thorough canvas was made, but the contest was a hard one, as the sitting member stood for re-election, and he won by a large majority. Miss Sturge, however, secured nearly 400 votes, and both she and her friends are well satisfied with the interest aroused, and with having made a beginning in this important work. Miss Sturge had warm supporters from all parties. She has been appointed a member of the Distress Committee in Bristol.

MISS HOLLAND WREN has been appointed demonstrator in the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy. She is the first woman who has ever held the appointment.

ANY Wesleyan women interested in the movement for the removal of the ineligibility of their sex to "sit in Conference" are requested to send their names to Mrs. Wheatley, 57, Church Road, Richmond, Surrey, or to Mrs. Shillington, 31, Spencer Park, Wandsworth, S.W. The movement is steadily growing, and already many names have been received.

ON Monday October 26th, two very successful meetings were held in the Town Hall, Smethwick, when Miss Abadam addressed the audiences on Women's Suffrage, mainly on its connexion with the moral question. The afternoon meeting was for women only. The room was crowded, and great interest was shown. Several women came afterwards to speak to Miss Abadam and to thank her, and two or three joined the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society.

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, BREM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

Both meetings were got up by the Smethwick Women's Liberal Association.

In the evening, when Miss L. R. Taylor spoke as well as Miss Abadam, there were quite as many men as women present, and some hundreds had to go away for want of room.

At the afternoon meeting a resolution was carried unanimously, to be sent to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Meysey-Thompson, the member for the division. In the evening a similar resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH** is to be congratulated for its broad and fair outlook on the Women's Suffrage agitation. Its excellent review on Lady Grove's book 'The Human Woman' is concluded with these words: "It will be best to send male readers to it, asking them to read it with an impartial mind, and not to be so nervous as to the feebleness of their position in the civilized world."

**MR. ZANGWILL** in yesterday's *Times* says it was characteristic of Professor Ayrton that in both his marriages he was guided by the same affinity for intellectual womanhood, and although the present Mrs. Ayrton was in the same line of work as himself, he did not, like some men of science, absorb her life and her results into his own. On the contrary, he exerted himself to have her career recognized as separate and individual. This was his real contribution to the cause of Woman Suffrage.

**ON** Tuesday in the House of Lords, before the Lord Chancellor and Lords Ashbourne, Robertson, and Collins, the hearing was begun of an appeal by lady graduates of St. Andrews University against a decision of the Court of Session in Scotland, declaring that women graduates and members of the General Council of the University were not entitled to vote at the election of its Parliamentary representative. Miss Macmillan opened the arguments in support of the appeal, and was proceeding at the adjournment. The case will be resumed to-day, and a full report, kindly edited for us by Miss Macmillan, will appear in our next issue.

**MISS M. E. BACHE** has sent 1*l.* towards the publishing expenses of this paper. Miss Madge Turner is paying for *Women's Franchise* to be sent to the Liberal Association Reading Room, Chichester, Miss Julia Vogler to the Clapham Public Library, and Dr. Vickery to the Norwood Free Library.

### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**GERMANY.**—We learn from the *Frau*, that the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* has opened its columns to a debate on the subject of Women's Suffrage. The debaters were Frau Gnauck-Kühne, an enthusiastic suffragist, and Father Cathrein, a well-known Roman Catholic politician. This is welcomed as a recognition of the Suffrage movement in Roman Catholic circles.

The same paper quotes from an article by Friedrich Naumann, famous for his advocacy of Christian Socialism, on the antiquated and unfair conditions of the Franchise in Prussia. "Those who have to pay have a right to a voice as well. All are expected to pay. But in Prussia the third class may not raise its voice. Their civic rights are essentially passive, *i.e.*, they are paying members of the Prussian State, Paying members with homœopathic civic rights." What about the women? is the comment of the *Frau*. It would be interesting to learn what is the sum total of the taxes paid by them, without even the offer of homœopathic civic rights in return.

**FRANCE.**—In the recent number of the *Journal des Femmes* Madame Maria Martin reviews the present situation. Recalling

the recent Congress on Women's Rights she comments on the important place given in it to the question of the Suffrage. "How the times have changed! We remember the time—not so very long ago, indeed—when the most advanced and enthusiastic of our partisans scarcely ventured to declare themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage. How many times were we condemned to listen to the old refrain—women are not liable to military service—they have not the requisite education to enable them to vote—they are too frivolous and also too virtuous to be mixed up in elections (thus implying that they are at the same time too good and too bad to exercise the vote which men value so highly)—the Suffrage would draw them away from their fireside, where they are queens on the condition that they do not govern, much like other queens. All these arguments have gone out of fashion, and are gone the way of the old moons. Our opponents no longer dare make use of them, and are forced to disinter some fresh objections, which will not survive much longer than their predecessors, in order to refuse us our share in the social heritage which the past has handed down to the present.

If it is really the case that the old arguments are no longer heard, we must suppose that France is in advance of England in this respect.

Further on she quotes from an article by Dr. Jacques Bertillon on the sad position of poor widows with large families to support, and the impossibility of obtaining any help for them from the Assistance Publique. "Women, not being electors, are, in fact, of no interest to any one. At this present moment our legislators are engaged in compromising the credit of France in order to give every one an old age pension, but why should they go out of their way to do anything for voteless women and children?"

"We recommend these words, says Madame Martin, to all those who think that in demanding the vote we are on a wrong track."

**THE NETHERLANDS.**—Great disappointment has been expressed at the absence from the Queen's speech of any mention of Women's Suffrage, since, at the last elections, in 1905, one of the most prominent issues was the revision of the constitution with a view to the extension of the Franchise. So there is no prospect now of anything being done before the new elections take place next year. Meantime, the Dutch women are preparing for the next campaign. The Women's Suffrage Association now counts forty branches, and its membership is 5,000.

A. ZIMMERN.

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

A MOST successful meeting was held on the 6th inst., at 10, John Street, Mayfair, by kind permission of the chairman, Mrs. Percy Boulnois, to explain the objects and methods of the Association and to discuss propaganda. The chair was taken by the President, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, and among the audience were many ladies holding important positions in various branches of the Primrose League. An animated discussion followed the speeches and much interest was shown in the subject. Literature was freely distributed at the close of the meeting and many present became members.

The Association intends to be very busy during the winter, and is organising a large meeting, to be held in London early next month, details of which will be published later on.

We have much pleasure in informing our members that Miss Alice Balfour and Lady Betty Balfour have consented to be Vice-Presidents, and when we remember that the National Conservative Association passed a vote in favour of Women's Suffrage at their meeting in Birmingham, all scruples held by Conservative women on this question ought to be put aside. The Secretary will be glad to hear of any ladies willing to hold drawing-room meetings, and all Conservatives are cordially invited to join the Association. Information and literature can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. Mrs. Gilbert Samuels, 34, North Audley Street, London, W.

### Wedded Bliss.

"O come and be my mate!" said the Eagle to the Hen;

"I love to soar, but then  
I want my mate to rest  
Forever in the nest!"  
Said the Hen, "I cannot fly,  
I have no wish to try,

But I joy to see my mate careering through the sky!"

They wed, and cried, "Ah, this is Love, my own!"

And the Hen sat, the Eagle soared, alone.

"O come and be my mate!" said the Lion to the Sheep;

"My love for you is deep!  
I slay, a Lion should,  
But you are mild and good!"  
Said the Sheep, "I do no ill—  
Could not, had I the will—

But I joy to see my mate pursue, devour, and kill."

They wed, and cried, "Ah, this is Love, my own!"

And the Sheep browsed, the Lion prowled, alone.

"O come and be my mate!" said the Salmon to the Clam;

"You are not wise, but I am.  
I know sea and stream as well;  
You know nothing but your shell."  
Said the Clam, "I'm slow of motion,  
But my love is all devotion,

And I joy to have my mate traverse lake and stream and ocean!"

They wed, and cried, "Ah, this is love, my own!"

And the Clam sucked, the Salmon swam, alone. STELSON.

Is the Reaction against Self-sacrifice as the true Ideal for women doing harm?

I think before answering this question it may be profitable for us to take a cursory view of what this reaction has done for women of the present day.

Are our lives fuller, more fraught with opportunity for service than the lives of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers, or is our sphere a narrower one? And are we more self-centred and selfish than the women of the past. It appears to me that we have reason to be thankful that we live at the beginning of the twentieth and not at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and that the improvement which now exists in the condition of women is largely due to the reaction against Self-sacrifice.

Exigencies of space forbids my dwelling on the time when everything was determined by force, and women as the weaker sex suffered accordingly. In those days women and girls were sold as so much cattle. These things are well known, but need no comment here, as they belong to a distant past with which we feel we have no concern.

I would, however, like to go back in imagination to the beginning of the nineteenth century, which is just before the time when the reaction began to show itself, and see what it has to tell us. Most of us are old enough to have known people who were alive at that time, good women, brought up to deny themselves and their sex. What had Great Britain to offer such women, the mothers and grandmothers of the present generation.

To quote from a small pamphlet published in the year 1900: "In 1800 married women were not permitted in any country to control their property, nor will it away at death; to all intents and purposes they did not own it. The Common Law in England and the United States held husband and wife to be one, and that one the husband. Not only did he control her property, collect and use her wages, select the food and clothing for herself and children, decide upon the education and religion of their children, but to a very large extent he controlled her freedom of thought, speech and action."

All possessions passed into the hands of the husband at marriage. If a married woman worked for wages she could not legally collect them, as they belonged to her husband. She could not make a will. Few occupations were open to women, and these were monopolised by the poor.

It was accounted "a disgrace" for women of the middle or upper classes to earn money. The unmarried woman of such classes, dubbed "old maid," forbidden by popular opinion to

support herself, became a dependant in the home of her nearest relative. Pity because she never had a chance, regarded with contempt as dependants always will be, she was condemned to a life of involuntary service.

No college in the world admitted women. Men had so long done the thinking for the average woman, it was universally believed no woman was capable of mastering the highest branches of learning. Good manners, polite address, music and dancing were considered the only accomplishments necessary.

The recital of the legal and social disabilities of women at the beginning of the century is pitiful enough, but it can only partially convey a full understanding of the timid, self-distrustful, untrained character of the average woman of the day. Taught that it was unwomanly to hold opinions upon serious subjects, that men most admired clinging weakness in women, and that the one worthy ambition was to secure their admiration, it is no wonder they made little effort to think.

Jean Jacques Rousseau speaks thus about women: "The education of women should always be relative to that of man. To please, to be useful to us; to make us love and esteem them; to educate us when young, to take care of us when grown up, to advise, to console us, to render our lives easy and agreeable; these are the duties of women at all times, and what they should be taught from their infancy."

Rousseau does not stop to explain how advice can be anything but worthless from one who has never been taught to think for herself or to reason, or how a woman who knows nothing can be asked or expected to educate the young with any hope of success.

Mme. de Stael reflected doubtless general opinion when she said, "Though Rousseau has endeavoured to prevent women from interfering in public affairs, yet in speaking of them, how much has he done it to their satisfaction. If he wished to deprive them of some rights foreign to their sex, how has he for ever restored to them all those to which it has a claim."

"In aiding them to descend from an usurped throne, he has firmly seated them upon that to which they were destined by nature; and though he be full of indignation against them when they endeavour to resemble men, yet when they come before him with all the charms, weaknesses, virtues, and errors of their sex, his respect for their persons amounts almost to adoration."

Dr. Gregory's 'Legacy to his Daughters' was written at this time, and commended to girls as an approved guide for conduct. He says "Be even cautious in displaying your good sense. If you happen to have any learning, keep it a profound secret, especially from men, who look with a jealous malignant eye on a woman of great parts and a cultivated understanding."

Mary Wollstonecraft in her 'Vindication of the Rights of Women' protested against the point of view that held it right for women to sacrifice their reason and their powers, and lay them as an offering at the feet of the stronger sex. It was the first time any one had been bold enough to assert that women had claims as human beings, and the claim was met by the public with scorn. In those days for a woman merely to write was to outrage public opinion, but to openly question her moral and social position was an unpardonable crime. After the publication of her book Mary Wollstonecraft was denounced as a social outcast. Horace Walpole gave probably voice to the general feeling when he called her a "hyena in petticoats," a "philosophizing serpent." The book is of no great literary value, and it seems hard to realize to-day the courage it must have taken to write it, for much of its teaching is conservative compared to the ideas prevailing in our time. It is interesting, however, as it gives us an idea of the social condition, political and educational status of women at the beginning of the nineteenth century and I commend it to any one interested in the subject. "It is vain," the author tells us, "to expect the present race of weak mothers either to take that reasonable care of a child's body which is necessary to lay the foundation of a good constitution, supposing that it do not suffer for the sins of its fathers, or to manage its temper so judiciously that the child will not have, as it grows up, to throw off all that its mother, its first instructor, directly or indirectly taught; and unless the mind have uncommon vigour, womanish follies will stick to the character through life."

(To be continued.)

### "Nature's Veto."

Down at home we're so much out of hearing and touch  
Of all current events and ideas,  
That I ran up to town for a talk with Sam Brown,  
Just to make up my mental arrears.  
"Now Brown," I began, "What about Women's Fran...?"  
But he took me up short, "Simply awful!"  
"It's perfectly clear Woman's home is her sphere,  
And by Nature the only one lawful."  
"The women," he said, "are taking the bread  
From the mouths of their natural protectors;  
And they'll very soon find that the men have no mind  
To let them chip in as electors."  
But he didn't explain why his eldest girl, Jane,  
Took a typist's job down in the city;  
And I happened to know that he sought high and low  
For a place for his second girl, Kitty.  
But he seemed a bit vexed when he saw me perplexed,  
So I left him and went to see Tilley.  
(Tilley's piled up the pelf, and thinks well of himself—  
Rents a flat somewhere off Piccadilly.)  
"My dear fellow," said he, "Women's Franchise to me  
Is the maddest of modern suggestions.  
Why isn't it plain women haven't the brain  
To deal with political questions?  
For domestic affairs and small family cares  
They're all right, but to deal with large issues  
Nature made them unfit, there's no doubt about it—  
It's a matter of cerebral tissues."  
I replied, "Yes, of course," for he spoke with such force  
That the matter appeared to be settled;  
But I saw, going home, it was more than half foam,  
Like the talk of a man who is nettled.  
The fact is, his son (he has only got one)  
Is a fool, and got sent down from Merton;  
And the subject's so sore he prefers to ignore  
His daughter's successes at Girton.  
A few days after that, in the course of a chat,  
I brought up the question with Heamy  
(He's an invalid friend, and has suffered no end,  
But he's always delighted to see me.)  
But I very soon found he was much too hide-bound  
To listen to any objections.  
His voice rose to a shout,—"No, let women keep out  
Of political conflict and bustle.  
Nature is n't a fool; she ensures that men rule  
By the gift of superior muscle."  
Then I wished him goodbye. "Dear Goliath," said I,  
Nature seems a bit hard upon Woman  
"Cribbed, cabined, confined, both in body and mind,—  
Her treatment looks almost inhuman.  
But I think that you make a quite common mistake,  
And the nature to which you're deferring  
Is the frail human sort, which we've always been taught  
Is imperfect and not above erring.  
A nature we know that's exceedingly slow  
To acknowledge the claims of the weaker,  
That from old time made Might the usurper of Right  
And applauds the successful self-seeker.  
But perhaps the good day may be now on its way  
When the world will be ruled with more sanity,  
When Justice, not Strength, shall subdue us at length,  
When in short, we have learnt Christianity."  
E. M. GRIFFITHS.

### Correspondence.

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

SIR,—In the interesting article on 'Apparel and its Meaning,' the remarks regarding the much-disputed verses on

women's head-covering may be supplemented by the following facts.

The meaning of the Greek word *ἐξουσία*, translated "power" in the Authorized Version, is really "authority." By no possible contortion of terms or meaning can it be made to imply any kind of covering. According to the old Jewish ritual, the men worshipped with covered heads, while the women were compelled to shave their heads—"a custom which prevails in orthodox Jewish communities to this day." But the early Christians elected for the perfect equality of the sexes in the observance of a religion where "there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female," and allowed men to be uncovered like the women, and women to let their hair grow so that they need not wear a veil over their shaven heads. Also, it is evident that the whole passage in 1 Cor. xi. from verse 13 to verse 16, is an interpolation of a much later date, when the Greek and Roman military style of hair-cropping among men had become prevalent, and long hair was not considered militant and manly.

Among the Jews long hair was always the glory of the man. In the time of the Christ men wore long ringlets, as is still seen among many Eastern Jews. It was the greatest disgrace for a man to have either head or chin shaved unless he voluntarily submitted to the former in execution of a vow. For there was a deep esoteric significance attached to the growth of hair on the head, in that, through the medium of the electric properties inherent in the hair, it was supposed that the person had power transmitted to him or her from "the angels." The story of Samson is illustrative of this belief, as were the strict observances of the sects of the Nazarites and the Essenes. Paul, though the Apostle of the Gentiles, would not be likely to go so diametrically against the traditions and customs of his countrymen as to disparage the growth of long hair in men. Women, being recognized by the first Christian followers, as the more spiritual entity, had therefore the greater power or authority on her head, because through her in her functions as wife and mother, "the angels" or "higher forces" could be the more easily transmitted to mankind.

As Lawrence Oliphant truly writes in 'Scientific Religion': "There can be no better illustration of the pride and ignorance with which man, even to our own day, insists upon woman's subjection to him, than that he should presume to put in a marginal note, which in the minds of the ignorant has almost the authority of the text itself, in explanation of the words, 'For this cause ought woman to have authority on her head because of the angels,' this means 'a covering in sign that she is under the power of her husband.'"

Every Greek scholar knows that the verse really points to the exaltation of woman and not to her abasement. Yet learned dignitaries of the Christian Church are silent, and permit an obvious lie to be taught as a truth!

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES SWINEY.

A New Work presenting the Case for

WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

## THE HUMAN WOMAN.

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Daily Mirror.—"This is a series of solid and well-argued essays in favour of woman suffrage."

London: SMITH, ELDER & CO., 15, Waterloo Place, S.W.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.  
The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A.  
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.  
Telephone: 1980 VICTORIA

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON  
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR  
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE  
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

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LADY STRACHEY  
And the Hon. Officers,  
ex officio.

### Current Topics.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND SOCIETY begs to announce change of address to 85, Deansgate Arcade, Deansgate, Manchester. Naturally some sentimental regret was felt at leaving the offices which this pioneer society had occupied for so long, but it had quite outgrown its accommodation in the past year, and efficiency must be the first consideration. The new offices have two small rooms for secretarial work, and one large, well-lighted and quiet room which would, at a pinch, hold 150. Those who endured the noise and stifling atmosphere at the weekly "At Homes" in John Dalton Street will welcome the change. At the "At Home" on Friday, November 13th, Councillor Margaret Ashton will, in the name of the North of England Society, receive the banner made in commemoration of Mrs. C. P. Scott and carried in the procession on October 24th.

The Highgate and North St. Pancras Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. are forming a Women's Suffrage Quotation Book, and would be very glad of help. Every contributor is requested to send in a quotation four lines long bearing on the Women's Suffrage Question, or on Women's Work, and to enclose the sum of one shilling with the quotation. This sum will pay for a copy of the book when it is ready. Readers of *Women's Franchise* are earnestly requested to help by sending in quotations themselves and collecting others from their friends. Forms to be filled up can be obtained from Miss J. Hamilton Thomson, Baveno, Highgate, N., and all quotations, &c., should be sent to the same address. The book will be attractively finished and arranged as an engagement or birthday book. Contributors are urged to exercise care in choosing quotations in order that the book may be of real value. The last day on which they will be received is January 1st, 1909. All profits will go to the N.U.W.S.S.

### Bridlington Campaign.

THE week's work in Bridlington has been most satisfactory, as eight meetings have been held. Miss Stuart gave a most successful drawing-room meeting of 200 people, which Dr. Murdoch addressed.

The meeting in the Temperance Hall on the 5th was said to be a record gathering. The hall was crowded with an audience representative of all parties, creeds, and classes. Miss Murdoch took the chair, Miss Pringle, Mrs. Cooper, and Miss Fraser spoke, and roused great enthusiasm.

The Flamborough meeting was particularly satisfactory, because the inhabitants either knew nothing about suffrage, or were rather hostile before we came. Mrs. Cooper spent two days preparing the ground and making friends, with the result that we carried our vote there with a larger proportion of voters than anywhere else, and people took the trouble to come back to the room after they had gone out to put money into the collection.

The result of the week's work has been the formation of a Bridlington Society in the National Union. Mrs. Godfrey is the President, Col. Harrison the Treasurer, and Mrs. Overbury, 4, Ashbourne Avenue, to whom the success of the week is largely due, was elected Secretary. The society already numbers over forty.  
E. M. GARDNER.

### The Weaker Sex.

It is always insisted upon that we are the weaker sex—too weak, in fact, to understand, much less to be of any use in political matters. Well, assuming that we are the weaker sex, let us see how the weaker goes to the wall; let us see how our great and noble constitution—the greatest, indeed, that the world has ever known—treats our just demand for the Parliamentary vote—that vote which is the one and only representation of the voice of the people. Our great Constitution says to the men, "Come to me, my sons, from the highest almost to the lowest, and place your wants and wishes before me, and all that a great nation's paternal Government can do to relieve and satisfy you, shall be done." But the Constitution turns to the daughters of our empire—the other half of his children—and says, in answer to their cry: "Stand without the barrier! Keep beyond the poll! Remain out in the cold! You are only weak women; you must bear your wrongs and burdens and grievances in silence; you are stifled, gagged, and have no separate individuality. The law does not recognize you as 'persons.' Take your place amongst the lowest and most degraded of my sons—down, down among paupers, lunatics, and felons."

Why should half of the great human family be entirely robbed of the freedom and privileges which it is the highest aim of the other half to obtain? A woman is obliged by law to bear all the present-day burdens of taxation, labour, and responsibility, added to the "natural weakness and disabilities of her sex"; but not a bite is she allowed to have out of the coveted cake of political freedom, nor even a crumb of political power. The opponents of Women's Suffrage tell us that women have representation; that men represent us; but as rational, reasoning, law-abiding, and tax-paying human beings, we would rather represent ourselves. And how do men represent us? Look at the disgraceful way in which we have been ousted from the School Boards after splendid work done in a field which should, of all others, be specially suited and open to our sex—the education of the young. We are made the mere puppets of political parties, and we have no redress against unjust laws until we obtain our rightful status as citizens of the greatest empire the world has ever known. Thanks to the Married Women's Property Act and other concessions, a woman is no longer the mere "good and chattel" of her husband, but she is still "given away" in the Church of England marriage service, like a bale of goods handed on from one person to another; and we have the ridiculous farce of brothers "giving away" their sisters and nephews, their aunts. I am not sure that I have not even seen it stated that a son "gave away" his own mother! Let us work early and late to secure the removal of these absurd anomalies, and to establish woman in her rightful position.

The tendency has hitherto been to place man at the apex of the pyramid; woman—not always on the right side—down towards the base; and children on the left. Let us alter this figure until it is more like what the Creator intended it to be—man and woman standing side by side, equals and companions to one another, surrounded by their offspring. We all know the good old simile, illustrative of strength, "the bundle of sticks." There will be more strength in these two sticks standing side by side, than when one is erect and the other is lying prone. Divided, they may be bent and broken, but together they can resist the strongest strain, and united with smaller "sticks" they form the great Family Bundle which can defy the world. G. F. W. TORRY.

International Alliance Hospitality Fund.

The following donations have been received:—

Mrs. Bateson .. .. .	£ s. d.	Mrs. Pennington .. .. .	£ s. d.
Miss Ethel Birnstingl .. .. .	10 0 0	H. Phipson, Esq. .. .. .	25 0 0
Lady Farrer .. .. .	50 0 0	Professor and Mrs. James Stuart	10 0 0
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. .. .. .	100 0 0		

The following sums have been promised:—

Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. .. .. .	£ s. d.	Mrs. A. Illingworth .. .. .	£ s. d.
Miss Ashton .. .. .	50 0 0	Mr. and Mrs. McLaren .. .. .	50 0 0
Mrs. Clark .. .. .	10 0 0	Miss Bertha Mason .. .. .	20 0 0
Miss Alice Clark .. .. .	5 0 0	Mrs. Broadley Reid .. .. .	20 0 0
Mrs. Stanton Colt .. .. .	100 0 0	Lady Steel .. .. .	25 0 0
J. W. Crossley, Esq., M.P. .. .. .	20 0 0	Miss Sterling .. .. .	5 0 0
Mrs. H. E. Dowson (conditional) .. .. .	2 0 0	Lady Trevelyan .. .. .	10 0 0
Miss L. O. Ford .. .. .	10 0 0	Dr. Jane H. Walker .. .. .	25 0 0
Mrs. Herringham .. .. .	50 0 0	Miss Julia Wedgwood .. .. .	50 0 0

Branch Societies.

**BERWICKSHIRE.**—This society held a capital meeting on October 22nd, when nearly 500 people were present to help pass the resolution to Mr. Asquith.

**REDHILL.**—By the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Richmond, about forty members and friends assembled at Fingates House to listen to an address on Women's Suffrage, given by Miss Boswell, of Southampton. Mrs. Richmond presided, and opened the meeting with a stimulating speech. Miss Boswell then gave an interesting address.

**CARDIFF.**—A meeting was held on October 29th, when about 500 people assembled to hear Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell speak. The success of this meeting is an indication of the change of opinion which is taking place here. Mr. Mitchell made an earnest appeal to the men present to unite in forming a Cardiff branch of the Men's League. A copy of the resolution calling on Mr. Asquith to speedily give facilities for the passing of Mr. Stanger's Bill was forwarded to the member for Cardiff—the Hon. Ivor Guest.

**CHELTHENHAM.**—Miss Mills made a plucky attempt to hold a Women's Suffrage meeting on the day of the Municipal elections. The audience was good, but the interruption caused by a drunken man and some boys soon made speaking impossible. Miss Mills only retired when she had been three times off her chair.

**GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.**—The Annual Meeting was held on October 30th, Mr. Ballantyne presiding. He pointed out that, as Mr. Asquith has now admitted that there is a wide demand for the enfranchisement of women, it should be possible for him to introduce a women's enfranchisement clause in the proposed Government Reform Bill. The Chairman announced that, owing to pressure of work, Miss C. Young had been obliged to resign the post of Hon. Treasurer. He expressed to Miss Young the indebtedness of the Association for her services, and their regret at her resignation. Miss McMurray, 30, Lansdowne Crescent, was appointed Hon. Treasurer. The following office-bearers were unanimously elected: President, Col. Denny; Vice-Presidents, The Countess of Aberdeen, Miss I. Allan, Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Mary Murray, A. Cameron Corbett, Esq., M.P., Sir Samuel Chisholm, Bart., R. Hunter Craig, Esq., Prof. Jones, LL.D., Prof. Latta, A. Bonar Law, Esq., M.P., Sir J. Vere Primrose, Bart., Prof. George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D.; Secretary, Mrs. Jas. T. Hunter, 11, Burnbank Terrace, Glasgow.

**LONDON.—Fulham.**—A business meeting was held on November 5th to consider our election policy and the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the London Society. At the close Mr. Raikes Bromage, M.A., mentioned he had forwarded to the Prime Minister a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage.

**WHITBY.**—A public meeting was held at Robin Hood's Bay on October 30th in the Victoria Hall, which was crowded to the doors, many of the audience being obliged to stand. The speakers were Miss Gardner, B.A., and Miss F. N. Pringle. Several new members were enrolled.

County Campaign Fund.

Surrey.—Miss Ethel Sargant .. .. .	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	20 0 0	58 9 2

Total to Saturday, November 7th, 1908 .. £758 17 2

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- |          |   |  |           |
|----------|---|--|-----------|
| Nov. 12. | <b>Birkenhead</b> Debate, Pen-y-ffordd, Flintshire                                      | Speaker, Miss Wyse   | P.M. 7.30 |
|          | <b>Newcastle</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting, Mayfield                                       | Hostess, Miss Ericsson   | 3         |
|          | <b>Evening Meeting</b> , 13, Bristol Terrace  | Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser<br>Hostess, Mrs. M. D. Shaw<br>Speakers, Mrs. Harrison<br>Bell, Miss Helen Fraser | 7.30      |
|          | <b>Pickering</b> , Public Meeting, Temperance Hall                                      | Speakers, Mrs. Highfield<br>Miss Gardner, B.A., and others   |           |
|          | <b>Portsmouth</b> , Exhibition of Banners used in London Procession, Fuller's Tea Rooms |  |           |
| 3        | <b>Malton</b> , Public Meeting, Adult School  | Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford<br>Miss Gardner  | 7.30      |
|          | <b>Newcastle</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting, 19, Ellison Place                              | Hostess, Dr. Ethel Williams<br>Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser  |           |
|          | <b>Stratford-on-Avon</b> , Meeting for Women only                                       | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3.30      |
| 14.      | <b>Birmingham</b> , Meeting for Women only  | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 8         |
|          | <b>Cheltenham</b> , Second Social, Grosvenor Tea Rooms                                  | Speaker, Mrs. S. Wilson, M.B.  | 4—5.30    |
| 16       | <b>Croydon</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting, Sanderstead                                      | Hostess, Mrs. R. Williams  |           |
|          | <b>Farnham</b> , Inaugural Meeting  | Hostess, Mrs. Tanner<br>Hon. Sec., Miss Milton   |           |
|          | <b>London</b> , Ealing Meeting, Buol's Tea Rooms  | Speaker, Miss M. C. Strachey   |           |
|          | <b>Marylebone</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting  | Hostess, Mrs. Webb<br>Speaker, Miss Cockle   |           |
|          | <b>Newcastle</b> , Public Meeting, Drawing-Room Café                                    | Chair, Dr. Ethel Williams<br>Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser  | 7.30      |
|          | <b>Tunbridge Wells</b> , Public Meeting, Pump Room                                      | Chair, The Mayor<br>Speakers, Rev. Stewart<br>Headlam, L.C.C., Miss Constance Barker                         | 8         |
| 17.      | <b>Croydon</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting, 19, Wellesley Road                               | Hostess, Mrs. Andrews  |           |
|          | <b>Hull</b> , Franchise Tea, Oddfellows' Hall, No. 3 Room                               |  | 8         |
|          | <b>London</b> , Public Meeting, Queen's Hall, Langham Place                             | Chair, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D.<br>Speakers, Mrs. Ayrton,<br>Mme. Sarah Grand, Miss Roper, and others     | 8         |
|          | <b>Oxted</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting   | Hostess, Mrs. Osmaston<br>Speaker, Miss M. C. Strachey   |           |
|          | <b>Gateshead</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting, 10, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell                  | Hostess, Mrs. Eyres<br>Speakers, Mrs. Harrison<br>Bell, Miss Helen Fraser                                    | 3.30      |
| 17.      | <b>Wolverhampton</b> , Meeting for Women only, Y.M.C.A., Darlington Street              | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3.30      |
|          | <b>Sunderland</b> , Drawing-Room Meeting  | Hostess, Mrs. Robinson<br>Speaker, Miss Gardner, B.A.  | 3.30      |
|          | <b>Evening Meeting</b> , for Women only, Schoolroom, Sorley Street                      | Chair, Miss Martin, B.Sc.<br>Speaker, Miss Gardner, B.A.   | 7.30      |
| 8.       | <b>Meeting for Women only</b> , Victoria Hall   | Chair, Mrs. Baillie<br>Speaker, Miss Gardner, B.A.   | 3.30      |
|          | <b>Public Meeting</b> , Victoria Hall   | Speakers, Miss Fraser<br>Miss Gardner, B.A.  | 7.30      |
|          | <b>Saltley</b> , Meeting for Women only   | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3         |
| 19.      | <b>London</b> , Chelsea, Invitation Meeting, Humphrey's Tea Room, 145, King's Road      |  | 8         |
|          | <b>Wandsworth</b> , Public Meeting, Town Hall   | Chair, W. H. Dickinson, Esq., M.P.<br>Speakers, The Right Hon. Earl Russell, Miss Alison Garland, and others |           |
| 20.      | <b>Solihull</b> , Meeting for Women only  | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3.30      |
|          | <b>Sunderland</b> , Public Meeting, Masonic Hall, Monkwearmouth                         | Chair, Mrs. Jas. Stuart<br>Speaker, Miss Gardner, B.A.   | 7.30      |
| 23.      | <b>Southampton</b> , Public Meeting, Shaftesbury Hall                                   | Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett,<br>LL.D., Mrs. Russell Cooke   | 3.30      |
|          | <b>Worcester</b> , Meeting for Women only   | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3.30      |
| 24.      | <b>Birmingham</b> , Edgbaston, Meeting for Women only                                   | Speaker, Miss Abadam   | 3.30      |
|          | <b>London</b> , Paddington S., "At Home"  | Hostess, Lady Spicer<br>Speakers, Mrs. Eltham Mylne,<br>Miss Cicely Corbett                                  |           |

\* \* \* Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.F.A.).

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. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

The "Antis" on the Warpath.

[SCENE.—A meeting of Anti-Suffrage League. A stalwart Commis-sionaire scrutinizes cards of admission presented by prosperous persons who, having many other good things, feel no desire for a vote. The audience—including a sprinkling of Suffragists—take their seats decorously, and await developments.]

First Womanly Woman (to Second W. W.). I do hope no Suffragettes have got in.

Second W. W. Oh, no, they have taken every precaution. Have you ever seen a Suffragette? I never have.

[Member of Women's Freedom League digs second Member W.F.L. in the ribs.]

Chairman—understood to be lady of title—appears on platform. Decorous applause.

Chairman (in jerks). Ladies and gentlemen, woman's highest duty is to be the consoler of her husband.

[Mild applause. Chairman calls on first speaker.]

First Speaker explains at some length that women cannot vote, because they are women. (Mild laughter.) Goes on to state that the Anti-Suffrage Society is prepared to meet all objections brought by opponents, adding hastily, on discovering male Suffragist in audience, that that offer does not apply to present gathering; sits down to more mild applause.

Member W.F.L. (bobbing up). Madam chairman, I wish to know at what stage of these proceedings questions will be permitted.

Chairman (hurriedly). We are not here to answer questions; our business is speechifying.

[Signs to lady, who speechifies hastily on sphere of woman. More mild applause.]

Member W.F.L. (bobbing up again). Madam chairman, I have no desire to disturb your meeting, but I must insist on knowing at what point in the proceedings questions will be permitted.

[Mild scene. Other Suffragettes echo demand. Audience aghast. Chairman ditto.]

First W. W. (furiously). That's just like these Suffragettes. You never can stop them.

Member W.F.L. (firmly). Never! Chorus of Antis (waving their hands). Sit down.

[Mild scene continues. Respectable ladies scan Suffragettes, in expectation of production of padlocks. Collapse of Chairman. Enter Liberal M.P., who grasps situation.]

Liberal M.P. Ladies and gentlemen, the chairman permits me to announce that at the conclusion of my speech I will answer questions to the best of my ability.

[Suffragettes resume their seats with satisfaction.]

First W. W. (at Suffragettes). Disgusting!

Member W.F.L. My dear lady, if you are going to hold political meetings you must learn how to hold them properly.

First W. W. (with dignity). Thank you; I am quite accustomed to political meetings.

Member W.F.L. Then you've no business to be accustomed to them, with your principles.

[Liberal M.P. also explains at some length that women cannot vote because they are women. Applause as before. At conclusion of address he wrestles with questions. Repetition of mild scene, owing to annoyance of audience when questions are awkward. Suffragettes again resume seats with satisfaction.]

Conservative speaker called on by Chairman, also explains that women cannot vote, because they are women. Applause as before. Resolution being put to the meeting and carried—with dissentients—audience disperses, decorous majority eyeing Suffragettes with horror.

Member W.F.L. (to second ditto). Well, they ought to be grateful to us for cheering up their stuffy meeting. What a dull time they'd have had if it hadn't been for us! C. H.

Notice to Literary Contributors.

STICK TO SOMETHING SAFE.

In order to avoid future vexation consequent on returned manuscripts, it may be as well to define and explain the principle and policy upon which the Women's Freedom League columns are run. The main principle is best explained by the story of the American parson whose advice to his assistant as to the choice of sermon subjects was as follows:—

"Don't touch on temperance, because we have some influential brewers in the congregation; avoid the problem of poverty, or you will offend the millionaires, who are my valued supporters; whatever you do, don't denounce frivolity, or you'll upset the ladies. Stick to something safe, say, the conversion of the Jews."

That is exactly the essence of our advice to contributors. Don't criticize the Government, or you will annoy the Liberals; don't say what you think about police-court procedure, or you will shock the magistrates; whatever you do, don't write articles on the relative position of the sexes, or you will grieve Mr. Bax; don't send scientific treatises on woman being the creatrix, and man imperfect and undeveloped woman. Firstly, because this is a new idea to most, and as such, of course, is bound to upset everybody; secondly, because these columns are not intended for ideas.

We require platitudes, "majority truths," undisputed statements (whether true or not is of no consequence, it is the disputing which is the deadly sin). We need articles written from all points of view at once, however conflicting those points of view may be; if one set cancels the other, so much the better; then there will be nothing left to quarrel about. "Woman the complement and helpmeet of man" is the most advanced theory we can afford to publish dealing with the relation of the sexes. The "six of one and half a dozen of the other" doctrine is strongly deprecated by us, and the feminine supremacy heresy will be consumed by fire, unless accompanied by a penny stamp. Accounts by somebody else of what another person said a fortnight ago about Women's Suffrage in the abstract are gladly received, such accounts tending to lose all human interest by the time they are in print, and being calculated, therefore, to hurt nobody. Long lists containing the full names and addresses of all branch secretaries, treasurers, literature secretaries, speakers, collectors, movers, seconders, and supporters of resolutions, subscribers, donors, and others make capital reading for the general public. This class of "copy" cannot offend morals or corrupt manners; it is incapable of alarming the smallest Cabinet Minister; and by its uncontroversial nature it leaves the smooth surface of the Women's Liberal Federation unruffled by the tiniest ripple. Avoid humour like you would the.... Well! avoid also the language about to be used in the above sentence. Masculine language! horrible! Very naturally nothing upsets men more than the thought that some day we

may become like them. This, however, is not intended as an encouragement to those contributors who seek to prove that woman is in a more advanced stage of evolution, and that some day man the imperfect will become like her. The men who shave in order to appear nearer to woman and farther from the ape are quite exceptional. The great mass shave because it is the fashion, thank Heaven that they are not women, and tremble for their shirt-buttons at the bare suggestion that women possess souls. These are the men we have to conciliate, and we take this opportunity of explaining that this is the reason why we return manuscript to the writer of the article 'When Man and Woman are alike, who is to do the Washing?'

Space forbids further elaboration of the subject\*, but we feel assured that members will co-operate with us in keeping these pages douce, dutiful, and dull; serene, submissive, and safe; non-controversial, non-political, and non-everything else. Above all, let the language be ladylike. If members cannot be forcible and ladylike at the same time, they must be contented not to be forcible. We want the vote; we shall get it if we appear to be desiring the preservation of the *status quo*. That need not interfere with our underground burrowing; but on the surface let us always "stick to something safe."

EDITOR W.F.L. COLUMNS.

### Sketches in Parliament.

By BOB WISHY WASH, Esq., M.P., OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

NOVEMBER 2ND.—Members feeling a little easier; all taking a nerve tonic except Remnant. Brave fellow, Remnant—is to be given the V.C. Home Secretary still prostrated.

NOVEMBER 3RD.—Dreadful upset on the Treasury Bench. Heard report that at a certain hostel for ladies, during a fire-drill, the only tenant courageous enough to go down the fire-escape was a Suffragette and a member of the Women's Freedom League, who remarked, as she prepared with great *sang froid* to descend the shoot, "May as well practice, you know; may have to go down Asquith's chimney some day."

Right hon. gentleman said permission to go down his chimney had not been asked; said women had no sense of honour.

NOVEMBER 4TH.—Home Secretary's assistant stated that extra-special detectives had been placed in every fire-grate in 10, Downing Street. Bill introduced by P. W. W. to render brawling in chimneys a penal offence. Prime Minister said too important a measure for private member; Bill adopted by Government.

NOVEMBER 5TH.—Third Reading of Chimney Bill passed. Mr. Redmond moved that it be sent to a Committee of the whole House. Redmond sent to Clock Tower for brawling.

NOVEMBER 6TH.—More shocks! A hairpin found on floor of House. Majesty of House violated—safety of members endangered. Whiskey and smelling-salts all round. Whole Metropolitan Constabulary Force called out, strengthened from suburbs. Palace yard cleared. Extra detectives placed under the Treasury Bench. Cabinet escorted to and fro along underground passage.

NOVEMBER 9TH. Hairpin found to belong to Speaker's wife.

NOVEMBER 10TH.—Home Secretary's assistant asked whether attention drawn to statement that police assaulted Suffragists on October 28th. Home Secretary's Assistant said too busy investigating prisoners' pocket handkerchiefs to inquire.

NOVEMBER 11TH.—Home Secretary's Assistant reported no truth in rumour that police assaulted women; says is quite satisfied, because police themselves deny it. Keir Hardie asked whether police best authority on this point. Hardie suspended.

NOVEMBER 12TH.—Chimney Bill much strengthened in Committee. Penal clause amended, now reads: "Female persons" instead of "persons," this on the motion of Rees, who said that equality before the law is the bedrock principle of democratic government.

B. W. W.

\* The General Editor must share any blame there may be for the shortness of this article, as at the W.F.L. Editor's request he filled a space left blank owing to the scarcity of (suitable) matter.

### Expensive Wit and Wisdom.

"SUCH behaviour is very cheap for the money," said Mr. Hopkins to Miss Neilans on Wednesday, November 4th, when fining her £5 for "wilfully obstructing the police" on the occasion of the demonstration in and near the House of Commons on October 28th.

Miss Neilans conducted her case with great ability and clearness; but, of course, in the trial of a Suffragette, the marshalling and educing of evidence to disprove the charge is a comparatively unimportant matter. What *does* matter is that the police say you obstructed them, then the rest is plain sailing. Of course there may be minor features that aggravate the offence; for instance, the obstruction will prove to be of an especially wilful and pernicious kind if the police happen to be in plain clothes, as was the officer who arrested Miss Neilans. We hope all women who, in future, tremblingly approach the sacred precincts of the House, will remember this, "Yours not to reason why." If an ordinary looking man, with no distinctive badge indicating that he has behind him the dread majesty of the law, seizes you by the arm and roughly orders you to "move on" or "stop that, now," you may—indeed, since the compelling force is usually of a stronger kind than the resisting one, you probably will—move on; but if you attempt to argue the question as to his authority to dictate to you, why you'll find yourself in the dock the next morning, attempting to argue with an authority which—as has been proved in one case at least—has plainly made up its mind not to be deflected by any such trifles as evidence, from the stern path of duty and the pre-arranged decision dictated to it by what is euphemistically known as "a higher power!"

We wish we could consider such behaviour cheap at the price; but, unfortunately, it is not. It works out rather dearly, as a matter of fact, for the unfortunate tax-payers who have to foot the magisterial bill. Of course we can understand that in the fascinating task of proving wit and a pretty gift for humorous phrasing to be the strict preserves of our stipendiary magistrates, the mere dispensation of justice becomes a paltry side issue. But an ungrateful proletariat is apt to take a different view, and to consider that it does not get full value for its money. As Miss Neilans has appealed to a higher court we cannot discuss the nature of the evidence she brought forward. This will come up again later; but had she not done so, we presume she would now be in Holloway Gaol. She would probably have gone in—as did her fellow-offenders—in the third division, to be removed a day or two later to the second by order of—Nobody knows whom exactly, for according to the Home Secretary *he* has no power to alter the decision of the magistrates and we presume, the magistrate sees no reason to alter it, based, as it always is, on such excellent grounds, and such a keen and unerring instinct for justice tempered with "a pretty wit, indeed, my masters!"

M. H.

### FOUR SONGS for Suffragettes.

MUSIC BY

MRS. ALICIA ADELAIDE NEEDHAM.

#### 1. DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND.

Words by M. A. MARTIN.

#### 2. MARCHING ON.

Words by JOHN RUSSELL.

#### 3. FIGHTING ON.

Words by CONSTANCE CLYDE.

#### 4. CLIPPED WINGS (humorous).

Words by C. M. GEORGE.

Arrangements have been made to give a Royalty on each Copy sold to the Suffrage Cause, and the four Songs can be had complete for 2s. 6d. net, or post free, 2s. 7½d.

To be obtained from

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' OFFICE,  
13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.

### Branch Notes.

**Central Branch.**—On Thursday, November 19th, at 8 P.M., there will be the quarterly general meeting for members. We trust there will be a large attendance.

**The Western Branch, Glasgow,** met on November 4th to listen with deep interest to an address given by Mrs. Davidson on Poor Law Reform. Her speech touched the subject upon all points, and indicated an intimate knowledge of it, particularly in reference to the administration of this law. Among other matters of business conducted during the evening was a resolution, unanimously carried, expressing sympathy with those women of the Freedom League at present in Holloway Prison, and strong approval of their recent actions. The members meet next on November 18th, when Miss C. H. Jockel, M.A., will be present, the title of whose address that evening is 'Waste of Child Life.'

**Bangor Branch.**—A drawing-room meeting in connexion with this branch was held October 30th, at the residence of the secretary, Dr. Harriet Neill. There was a very satisfactory attendance; the president, Mrs. G. Coulter, in the chair, several new members having been enrolled, the treasurer, Miss Hanna, and the secretary submitted their reports. Dr. Neill gave a very interesting account of the meeting which she had attended some time ago in Partick, at which she was one of the speakers in conjunction with Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Mrs. Billington-Greig. The next business was the consideration of a proposal to hold a public meeting in Bangor. It was agreed that a public meeting be called for women, men only to attend by special invitation. A committee was appointed to effect the arrangements, and it was agreed to request the President of the Glasgow Western Branch to arrange for a speaker.

**Caldicot Branch.**—A small social meeting was held at Mrs. Corben's (The Grove) on Thursday afternoon, November 5th, when members and a few friends had the opportunity of discussing recent events, and making plans for future work. Two new members joined us, and our literature secretary (Mrs. Boucher) was very busy lending out books and pamphlets. We have now fourteen regular subscribers to *Women's Franchise*, one of our members (Miss E. Squibbs) having kindly undertaken the sale of it.

Our hon. treasurer, Mrs. Hillier, being able to show us a nice little balance in hand, we decided to forward a donation of £1 towards the Special Effort Fund. We are much looking forward to our December meeting, when we hope to have a speaker from London.

L. CORBEN, Hon. Sec.

**Maida Vale Branch.**—Committee meetings to make arrangements for the public meeting at the PADDINGTON TOWN HALL on December 2nd will be held at Flat 4, 134, Patsdown Road, Maida Vale, on Wednesdays, 11th, 18th, and 25th, at 5 P.M. Miss Baenziger and Miss Seruya will be pleased to welcome all members and friends who will help with the London Council campaign in this district.

E. H. B.

### Special Notices.

ON the morning of November 28th our prisoners will be released from Holloway, and in the evening there will be a public reception (7 to 10) at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, when Miss Muriel Matters, who addressed the House of Commons, and others, will speak. Admission is free; seats 1s. On December 9th there will be a large public meeting of welcome at St. James's Hall, when the women who addressed the House of Commons will again speak. Chair, Mrs. Billington-Greig. Tickets 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. A few free seats for women.

Miss Bennett, who is taking charge of the arrangements, would be most glad if members and others will volunteer to help as stewards, collectors, sellers of literature, distributors of bills, &c. She appeals to members of new branches, and especially of the Holloway branch, to come forward as workers for the cause.

The tickets for the DEBATE between Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mr. Strachey on November 24th have nearly all been sold out. Members who took tickets on sale or return are requested to send back all they are not likely to use, as there is still a demand for seats.

A JUMBLE SALE will be held at Tottenham on Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th. Funds being urgently needed, all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are most earnestly requested to aid the local branch in this special effort by sending contributions (carriage paid) to Mrs. HARBORD, 91, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, TOTTENHAM, N. Boots, clothing—especially men's—pieces of carpet and linoleum, curtains, table-cloths, and household linen will be particularly welcome.

M. E. RIDLER, Hon. Sec.

The Hackney Branch is organizing a SUFFRAGE ENTERTAINMENT for November 20th and 21st, in the Free Library Hall, Church Street, Stoke Newington, and will be glad if other members of the League will help to make it a great success. Contributions for the needlework stall, dainties for the cake and candy stall, and dressed dolls are invited to be sent to Miss Grace Gowing, 419, Mare Street, N.E.

The Committee of the HACKNEY BRANCH desire to thank all those friends who were kind enough to send goods for their jumble sale, and to inform them that a clear sum of £28 was raised for the funds. Their best thanks are tendered to Mrs. Keeling for her splendid management of the Sale, and to those ladies who helped her.

S. A. MUSTARD, Sec.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

November 12th to November 28th.		P.M.
Nov.		
Thurs. 12.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	3.30
	Countess Russell Mrs. Despard Mrs. Nevinson Recitation Miss Edyth Olive Miss Underwood	8
	The Polygon, Old Town, Clapham	8
Fri. 13.	108, Iverna Court, Kensington Cheltenham, 17 Ormond Terrace Lavender Hill Library	8
	Miss Mocatta Miss Stibbard Mrs. Nevinson Miss Molony Miss Underwood	3
Sat. 14.	Outside Holloway Prison	3
Sun. 15.	Trafalgar Square	
	Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Manson Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson Mr. Duval	12 3 3.30 8
Mon. 16.	Wandsworth Common Clapham Common Battersea Park Hanley Temperance Hall	8
	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Sidley	8.15 8
Tues. 17.	Wallington, Debate Chester, Temperance Hall	8
	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Anna Munro	7.30
Wed. 18.	Edinburgh Green Café, North Bridge Annual Social Meeting Wandsworth Town Hall	8
	Miss M. McMillan Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C.M.P. Mr. Joseph Clayton Miss C. H. Jockel, M.A.	8
Thurs. 19.	Glasgow, Academy Rooms, Partick "At Home," Caxton Hall Cheltenham, Glenroy Croydon Horniman Hall	3.30 8
	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Wilkins Mrs. Holmes T. Lawler Wilson, Esq.	
Fri. 20.	Tottenham, Drawing-Room Stoke Newington Library	6.30
	Mrs. Toyne Mrs. How Martyn Miss Hodgson T. Hart Davies, Esq., M.P. Countess Russell Mrs. Billington-Greig C. V. Drysdale, Esq., D.Sc. Miss V. Cummin	6.30 A.M. 8.15 P.M.
Sat. 21.	Stoke Newington Library	8
	Mrs. Brindley released, Holloway Gaol	3.30
Sun. 22.	Trafalgar Square	8
Tues. 24.	Kensington Town Hall	8
	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. St. Leo Strachey Mr. Duval	8
Thurs. 26.	13, South Side, Clapham Common	3.30
Fri. 27.	At Home, Caxton Hall Cheltenham, Holbein House	8
	Mrs. Arnelife Sennett Mrs. Gard	A.M. 8
Sat. 28.	Release of Prisoners, Holloway Goal Hyde Park Mass Meeting Morley Hall, Hanover Street Bromley Co-operative Hall, East Street	3 P.M. 3 8 5
	Miss Matters and others Social and Small Sale	

## 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. S. F. MORRIS.

### Notes and Comments.

THE meeting in the Queen's Hall on November 17th, under the auspices of the professional and industrial women, ought to be a great success. Everything should be done by our members which may contribute to this result. The Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive the names of those who can be stewards or can help in the advertising of the meeting and the sale of tickets.

Mr. T. C. Hodson, a member of the League and a contributor to these columns, took the chair at a meeting of men and women students in connexion with the Social Reform Society of the East London College. The speaker was Mrs. Pember Reeves, who gave an interesting account of the events which led up to the enfranchisement of women in New Zealand.

A great number of our speakers have been at work during the week. This list is too long to give *in extenso*. May we remind all those who speak, to bring the Men's League before their audiences, to provide themselves with Men's League forms, literature, and badges, and to send a brief note of any salient features of the meeting for insertion in these columns.

The following note has reached us referring to a paragraph in 'Notes and Comments' in last week's issue:—

"We note the paragraph in the issue of the 5th inst. which deals with the 'constitutional status' of Women Suffragist prisoners. It says the meaning and extent of the term 'political offender' is a difficult problem. Undoubtedly this is true, but it is apparently thought difficult to find a dividing line between 'a man who breaks the head or the windows of a Cabinet Minister on the ground of political hostility'—we quote from the paragraph—and our Women Militant Suffragettes. Surely there would be a very broad and clearly marked line between the 'constitutional status' of the hypothetical stone-throwing man and the women who are agitating on militant lines after long years of trial of and the failure of every constitutional method. No doubt the remarks were made in a perfectly friendly spirit, but it is a little regrettable to see criticisms by the members of one League on the methods of another. We are all sincerely working for the same great reform, and surely we cannot do too much to strengthen each other, leaving criticisms to those who dissent from us."

We take pleasure in printing this protest, because the answer to it is one which must often be made nowadays. Our correspondent suggests that we are unable to distinguish between "a man who breaks the head or the windows . . . and our Women Militant Suffragettes." We fully recognize the distinction—which is, indeed, an obvious one. Our object, as our correspondent will realize if she will re-read the paragraph, was to take an extreme case as exemplifying an important point. We did not in any way criticize any of the Suffragist methods; the Men's League has always refrained from criticizing *either the constitutionalists or the unconstitutionalists*. What we did say, and what we repeat, is this—that those who identify themselves with a great cause must take every precaution to say nothing on its behalf which is inaccurate, stupid, or false. The unintelligent and incautious enthusiast is no real friend to any cause.

An example of this is the case of the term "political offender." Now, everybody vaguely knows that some "offences" are treated as "political," but there exists in English law no such term as "political offender" (save, we believe, in connexion with the extradition laws). If, therefore, a Suffragist uses it as a technical term, it is surely his duty to know exactly what he is talking about.

This may sound a hard saying. We know, as well as any, how in the enthusiasm of platform work one is tempted to stray from the cold path of fact, and indulge in fervent generalization. It is the commonest—and one of the most harmful—faults of politicians. But it is thoroughly bad business all the same, apart from its moral obliquity. It is the fashion among many to deery logic as pedantic, and to confuse sentiment with sincerity and persons with principles. Suffragists, the advocates of the sanest, justest, and most logical of all causes, will serve the cause best by exhibiting its characteristics in their words and actions.

### Edinburgh Branch.

The Edinburgh branch of the Men's League held a social meeting in the Oak Hall, 70, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on the evening of Thursday, October 29th, 1908. Mr. J. Dan Easson took the chair. The speakers, besides the chairman, were Lady Steel and Mr. Graham Moffat, Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Mr. E. W. Rodbourn seconded the resolution, and Dr. W. W. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to all who had helped in the musical entertainment which was given during the evening. The resolution, which was proposed by Lady Steel, was as follows: "That this meeting strongly urges the Government to take immediate steps to have Mr. Stanger's Bill for the enfranchisement of women passed into law during the present session, and indignantly protests against the vindictive sentences passed on Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond."

The meeting was an enthusiastic one, and the speakers' censure of the unjust imprisonment of Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond on the one hand, and their strong approval of the brilliant achievement of the Women's Freedom League in carrying away the grille on the other, were met with loud and sincerest applause. E. O. V.

[Our readers are aware that differences of opinion exist within the Suffragist ranks on the imprisonment question. The Central Executive of the Men's League has made no statement upon it, one way or the other. We would point out, further, that the leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union received practically the same treatment as Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., namely, *not imprisonment, but the choice of being bound over or going to prison*.—Ed. Men's League for Women's Suffrage.]

### "A Reply to the Suffragettes."\*

UNDOUBTEDLY there is one great hindrance to the Votes for Women movement, which, though it exists only in abstract form, has proved more disconcerting to its advocates than any other manner of opposition which has encountered its forward march, and that is the absence of any active serious challenge of the rights laid claim to; and notwithstanding the issue of the pamphlet by E. Belfort Bax, just published by the New Age Press, we conclude, on reading it, that the day is not yet when we may possibly learn from controversial experience that we have overlooked something.

This book comes when our minds are still fresh and our hearts still querulous as to the fate of Daisy Lord, and boldly asserts that, though there are sex injustices, yet they "exist wholly and solely in favour of women as against men." This is a strong unequivocal statement, and forces upon us the assumption that we have all been deluded about the law of intestates' estates; that divorce law can be placed in two parallel columns; even that women payers of parliamentary taxes

\* 'The Legal Subjection of Men: a Reply to the Suffragettes.' By E. Belfort Bax. (New Age Press.) Sixpence net.

have the parliamentary franchise already, and that the little matter of solicitation of prostitutes was cleared up long ago. But it may be that, instead of running the risk of being deluded by the generalization of Mr. Bax, we had better first inquire whether or not his sense of accurate precision and truth-lovableness has not erred a trifle in his enthusiasm for propaganda against what he calls, with characteristic enthusiasm, the "clamorous and malignant shrew."

At the opening of the book is the following statement:—

"For considerably more than a generation past—indeed one may say more or less from the beginning of the present century—mankind has had sedulously instilled into its mind," &c.;

and this is reproduced merely as an excellent example of the undue sense of proportion which pervades the whole attempted discussion which follows of the relative rights of man and woman.

(To be continued.)

### 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.]

DEAR SIR,—You state in the 'Notes and Comments' of your issue of October 15th that at the meeting of a Suffrage Society in Kensington Town Hall "a man" accused the Men's League for Women's Suffrage of having supported the Licensing Bill. As the "man" in question, allow me to say that this is entirely inaccurate. I did not accuse the League of supporting the Licensing Bill. My accusation was, and still is, that in its touchingly tender attitude towards the Liberal Government, the Men's League was, and is, very lukewarm indeed in its devotion to the cause of Woman's Suffrage. Of this, the very paragraph I have before me is in itself sufficient to carry conviction in the eyes of any impartial reader.

Why, in the name of goodness, should there be any desire to remove "the misapprehension created by the Peckham election." Wherein should there be any "misapprehension" to remove? We are politically hostile to the Liberal Government and to every member of it. Let there be no misunderstanding between us on this point. The question is not one of tactics, it goes to the very root of the matter. Whatever the Government in power, so long as "Votes to Women" are not granted on the same terms as they are granted to men, in season and out of season, we are the tireless and active enemies of that Government. If those who call themselves supporters of Women's Suffrage are not prepared to assume this position, well, we can do without them, *non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis tempus eget*. The old order is changing: the old position may be good enough for *Suffragists*; it is beyond the imagination of the *Suffragettes*, ruthlessly flung out of meetings and brutally coerced by their tyrant, the Liberal Government, who for political offences treats them as mere vulgar malefactors and throws them into prison by what is practically equivalent to the administrative order of a Minister of Police in the land of the Tsars.

Through four long paragraphs you affect to regard with lofty scorn "this intrinsically unimportant incident," and practically print a vote of confidence in your chairman and his supporters upon the occasion. The gentleman in the chair made a most excellent speech for the cause in the abstract—oh, that we could be certain that he would translate it into deed at the ballot-box by voting against our opponents—but at question time he collapsed before my simple query, and, doing as every good and true man would do under the circumstances, sought the protection of a woman. That woman, in the person of Miss Cicely Corbett, should come bravely to the rescue, is merely what one would expect of her sex—how splendid is the courage of our island women, only those closely in sympathy with the Suffragettes can fully appreciate—but I fear that behind the pretty phrases of the smiling Suffragist there lurked the party leanings of the Liberal lady. The lucidity of her explanation merely made things worse—at least, from our point of view.

Had it not been a Suffrage meeting, I feel confident—and I am not speaking without figures—that I could have carried any amendment to the somewhat colourless resolution that was subsequently passed as enthusiastically as unanimously. I had the heart of the meeting with me, and many of those present even went so far as to await me outside the Hall and thank me for action with regard to which, at the outset, I did not know that I would have a single supporter.

And high time it was that action was taken. I indeed agree that we should "abstain from insinuation," but when I noticed woman spoken of disparagingly, the provocation came from the other side, wherefore I cannot do better than end this comment with the last words of my "interruption." "I have heard much here to-night of the devotion and self-sacrifice of those comprising the older Societies, and far be it from me to deny it, and their patience; but I cannot let the occasion pass without reference to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the members of the two youngest of the Woman's Suffrage associations, a devotion that passes the mere terms of language, and is translated into deeds—deeds, I say, that bring with them mental pain, physical risk, and bodily suffering, and often the endurance of imprisonment and its many accompanying indignities, and if you cannot be with us in person on the 13th, at least, be with us in spirit on that date in Parliament Square!" The only answer was the solemn wagging of several heads at the shocking proposal. Well; we are at the parting of the ways. Reading through the current number of your paper, I am surprised to find that in making my protest at the Kensington meeting, I was only voicing a feeling that has hitherto been inarticulate, but is now on all sides plainly finding tongue for protest. Our common enemy, the Government, has declared for war. It is no time for slackness or neutrality. They that are not for us are against us.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CAMERON GRANT.

London, October 20th, 1908.

STR,—The meeting at Kensington Town Hall on October 7th at which I took the chair, was called by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for the purpose of passing a resolution urging the Prime Minister to act in accordance with the manifested desire of the women of England for the parliamentary franchise. When Mr. Grant handed up a question in which he asked in effect why the N.U.W.S.S. did not adopt the policy of the Women's Social and Political Union, it seemed to me that he was inviting a discussion that would have been entirely out of place then and there. I did tell him that it was because we believed our policy to be the right one, and I went so far to give him one or two reasons which in my opinion justify that belief. If he likes to call that 'collapsing,' I don't mind; I can assure him that I hold to my belief quite as passionately as he does to his, as he will find if he looks for instance at my chapter on 'Tactics' in the "Case for Women's Suffrage," published by Mr. Fisher Unwin last year; but a meeting in support of the cause is the last place in which I should desire controversy with any of its supporters, however much I might differ from them.

Mr. Grant then proceeded to attack both the Men's League and the National Union for allowing themselves to support the present Government. I know enough of the Men's League to be able to declare that so far as it was concerned the charge was absurd; but as Miss Cicely Corbett knew the facts to which Mr. Grant referred in connection with the N.U.W.S.S., and I did not, I naturally left her to speak of them; and if that constitutes 'seeking the protection of a woman' I hope that I shall always do so in similar circumstances.

I do not propose now, any more than at Kensington, to enter into argument on the question of tactics; but I cannot help being grateful to Mr. Grant for the touch of humour in that part of his letter where he alludes to the supporters of militant tactics as 'inarticulate.' I hardly think that they would thank him for it.

Yours faithfully,

R. F. CHOLMELBY.

\* \* All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

