

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. III. No. 54.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WHAT WE THINK.

A Change of Tone.

The first sign of the change that appears to be taking place in the heart of the Premier was evidenced at Aberdeen, when, in a notable rectorial address on "Culture and Character," to the rowdy young men at Marischal College, we find him saying: "To be open-minded, to struggle against preconceptions and hold them in due subjection, to keep the avenues of the intelligence free and unblocked, to take pains that the scales of the judgment shall be always even and fair, to welcome new truths when they have proved their title, despite the havoc they may make of old and cherished beliefs, these may sound like commonplace qualities well within every man's reach, but experience shows that in practice they are the rarest. The temper which I am endeavouring to describe is not in any sense one of intellectual detachment or indifference. It implies, on the contrary, an active and visible mental life, equally directed against the fallacies of the market-place and the cave, animated by the will to believe and to act, but open always to the air of reason and the light of truth." Somebody has been opening windows in Mr. Asquith's mind during the recess, and the "air of reason and the light of truth" must have been let in, for we find, instead of his usual abrupt refusal, that an explanatory reply was given to Suffragettes at East Fife on Friday last, stating that facilities could not be given "because the present Session would only last a month"—not, as he has hitherto declared, because he was against the Bill; and he added a snub for the noisy members of the Cabinet, Messrs. Churchill and George, in stating that their vote could not bear the most serious interpretation. Mr. Birrell's statement that "the time for shuffling has gone by" was made the same day, and is another straw showing which way the wind blows. At the meeting of unemployed school-teachers on Saturday last Sir George Kekewich said if they wanted justice they must put the fear of death into the heart of the Government. Like Mr. Asquith we, too, have had our *annus mirabilis*, and many of our good results have come from advice given by our leaders which bears a family resemblance to that of Sir George Kekewich. Any counsel of delay is

a counsel of weakness. The first crack of the party whip will be an echo of the Suffrage whip. As no Cabinet Minister has given an adequate reason why any Bill should have preference to ours, we look to the new session with reasonable hopes.

At the Divorce Commission.

Some interesting evidence was given at the continuation of the adjourned Divorce Commission on Wednesday last, when all the witnesses were women. One and all demanded that the absolute equality of their sex with men should be fully and fairly recognised in any reform of the law of divorce. Some of the statements made by women representing widely different standpoints were of considerable importance. Lady Bamford Slack, giving evidence on behalf of the Women's Liberal Federation, was reminded by Lord Gorell that at present, if a wife brings an action for divorce, the husband has to lodge security, not only for his own costs but also for her costs, and her answer was that women were prepared to take the rough with the smooth, that they took their stand on equality. As this point has been raised by those anti-suffragists who at various times have described women as the "spoilt darlings of the law," and who, while cognisant of this unfairness to the husband, were conveniently blind to the gross cruelty involved in the different grounds upon which the sexes could claim divorce, we are very glad to hear it firmly answered. Women want no favours from the law—they only ask for justice.

Lord Curzon's Advice.

At the opening of the new buildings at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Lord Curzon made some notable pronouncements which needed subtle casuistry to utilise for his own ends. He gave an excellent and interesting history of the higher education of women, and affirmed that this development was but one sign of the universal movement for the emancipation of women. He observed that he knew of no particular in which Oxford had lost by the advent of women students into its midst; on the contrary, he knew of many in which the University had gained by the presence of women who had accepted the discipline of the University, had absorbed the inner spirit, and shown the fullest intentions to profit by the educational opportunities of the place.

So far one might have almost imagined that an enlightened Suffragist was speaking, but "emancipation" does not mean the same thing for everyone, and presently the portly pro-Consul showed the cloven hoof. He urged them to extend their fields of usefulness into journalism, to become librarians and secretaries, and landscape gardeners! Imagine the gratitude with which the male Oxford students who pass the same examinations as the ladies, the sole difference being that to the latter the privilege of writing B.A., Oxon, is denied, would receive suave advice as to their future careers as librarians, journalists, secretaries or landscape gardeners! If they were told that only the petty side-tracks of life were open to them, and that these privileges were a sign of the extension of their capacity! In such a case the exit of the paradoxical pro-Consul would have been hastened by adventitious means.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., Nov. 3.**—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Inaugural "At Home." Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Sproson, 1, Robert-street, 6.45 p.m. London Branches Council. St. Augustine's, Highbury-new-park, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard. Lavender-road, Falcon-road, 8 p.m. Mrs. Reader.
- Fri., Nov. 4.**—1, Robert-street, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Harvey's Farewell Supper and Members' Meeting. South Norwood Clock, 7 p.m. Mrs. Tanner. Winders-road, Battersea Park-road, 8 p.m. Mr. Franklin.
- Sat., Nov. 5.**—Thornton Heath Clock, 7 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 6.**—Small Queen's Hall, 7.30 p.m. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," by Mrs. Despard. Tickets: 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.
- Mon., Nov. 7.**—7.30. Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace. Miss Gibbs.
- Nov. 7 to Nov. 12.**—**Suffrage Mission Week.**
- Mon., Nov. 7.**—Mossburn-road, Lavender hill, 8 p.m.
- Mon., Nov. 7.**—Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. Inaugural Meeting of Suffrage Mission Week. Mrs. Despard, Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Muriel Matters, Mr. Granville Barker.
- Tues., Nov. 8.**—Taybridge-road, Lavender-hill, 8 p.m. Mrs. Duval and others.
- Tues., Nov. 8.**—9, Morland-avenue, Croydon Branch Committee Meeting, 7.45 p.m.
- Thurs., Nov. 10.**—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Miss Margaret McMillan, Mrs. Kineton Parkes.
- Fri., Nov. 11.**—South Norwood Clock. Miss Fennings.
- Sat., Nov. 12.**—**Royal Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m. United Mass Meeting.** Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Earl of Lytton, Archdeacon Escreet, Mr. C. S. Goldman, M.P. Mr. H. N. Brailsford. Tickets from W.F.L. Offices: 5s., 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s., and 6d.

WALES.

- Thurs., Nov. 3.**—Barry, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cleeves, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Frid., Nov. 4.**—Pontypridd, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cleeves, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sat., Nov. 5.**—Pontypridd, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cleeves, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sun., Nov. 6.**—Briton Ferry, 3.30 and 7.45 p.m. Mrs. Cleeves, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. Howard Hyde, Miss Marguerite Sidley.

GLASGOW.

- Frid., Nov. 11.**—Glasgow, Athenaeum, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Neilans. Chair: Mrs. Billington-Greig.

- Sat., Nov. 12.**—Bo'ness, Market-square, 6 p.m. Speakers: Misses Murray and Semple.

EDINBURGH.

- Sat., Nov. 5.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Cake and Apron Sale, 3 p.m., to be opened by Councillor Rose. Open-air Meeting, Castle-terrace, 8 p.m.

- Tues., Nov. 8.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 4 p.m.

- Wed., Nov. 9.**—Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest-road. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Alison Neilans. Chair, Rev. Wm. Main.

- Frid., Nov. 11.**—Heriot-Watt College. Joint Debate: Adult Suffrage v. Sex Equality. Leader for W.F.L., Miss H. McLachlan, M.A.

- Tues., Nov. 15.**—Y.M.C.A. Hall, Kirkintilloch. Speaker, Miss B. Semple.

PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Nov. 3.**—Portland Café, 114A, Portland-street, Manchester. Whist Drive, Manchester (Central Branch).

- Frid., Nov. 4.**—Suffrage Shop, 21, Northenden-road, Sale. Miss Neal, Miss Manning, 8 p.m.

- Tues., Nov. 8.**—Suffrage Shop, 21, Northenden-road, Sale. Miss Duncan. "At Home," 3.30 p.m.

- Tues., Nov. 8.**—Norwich, Mrs. Despard.

- Thurs., Nov. 10.**—Suffrage Shop, 21, Northenden-road, Sale. Mrs. Rutter. "At Home."

CHESTER.

- Tues., Nov. 8.**—Free Library, 8 p.m. Debate.

THE Manchester Council, in the course of a notable debate last week, resolved by a majority of forty-three to ten to petition Parliament in favour of granting facilities for the Third Reading of the Conciliation Bill. The Lord Mayor was in the chair, and in the course of the debate one councillor said that the Council were the representatives of the people, whereas the M.P.'s were only the representatives of men. The result of the voting was greeted with cheers.

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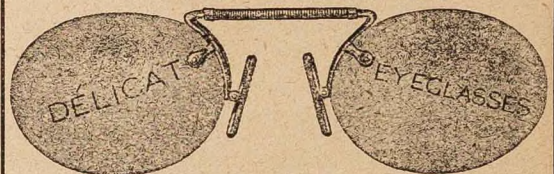
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