

Men's League for Women's Suffrage

Office: 136, ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.
No. 46. Telephone: 4276 VICTORIA.

Monthly Paper.

ONE PENNY.

President: THE RIGHT HON. THE
EARL OF LYTTON.

Chairman: HERBERT JACOBS. July, 1913

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

July will be a great month in Suffrage annals by reason of the Great Pilgrimage organised by the National Union. From all corners of the land women are marching upon the capital, holding meetings along the route, and assembling for the grand finale in London on July 26. A huge demonstration will fill Hyde Park, and speeches will be delivered from some 20 platforms. No Suffragist will be absent from this great assembly, we are convinced. We who have studied the reports of the initial stages are not blind to the fact that this modern Pilgrimage of Grace is doing more than any suffrage enterprise yet attempted. It is propaganda on a heroic side, and it will, we believe, result in a wave of public sympathy.

The departure of Mr. John Simpson to Australia has left in our ranks a gap which it will not be easy to fill. His stalwart personality, his elastic and resourceful mind, his abundant humour, and his unlimited cordiality have won over hundreds of intractable crowds, and those of us who have had the sheer joy of watching him mesmerise a peevish, fretful mob into a happy responsive audience have not only realised his value as a colleague but also learned the prime lesson of the open-air platform. A small body of old friends entertained him the day before he sailed and presented him with a silver cigarette box. The League Committee appointed him representative in Australia, and the Women's Freedom League also gave him a memento of his association with them.

A prominent Liberal Anti-suffragist M.P. received, we are told, a very plain hint in a vestry the other day. When he raised a doubt as to the propriety of a certain lady signing the register, the officiating clergyman replied: "I do not know how it may be in the House of Commons, Mr. —, but in this vestry there is no sex distinction."

An interesting point is raised by Mr. McKenna's assurance that the interests of lay churchmen shall be fully safeguarded in the constitution which will govern the disestablished Welsh Church. The Political Secretary has written to the Home Secretary pressing for an explicit declaration that the interests of lay churchwomen will be equally safeguarded. Otherwise, women, who have always shown an interest in religious matters at least equal to that of men, will be actually worse off than they

MEN'S DEPUTATION FROM THE NORTH.

A body of influential men are coming to London to seek an interview with the Prime Minister, arriving July 18th. Hospitality is asked for. The League is arranging a Reception on July 18th.

TICKETS ON APPLICATION.

were in the Middle Ages, when they were eligible as churchwardens.

The fact that Women's Suffrage is to be discussed at the Church Congress at Winchester—a fact to which allusion is made elsewhere in this issue—is only one more proof that it is an issue which no Government can afford to disregard. The public mind is responding readily to the view that it must be settled soon; there are, and always have been, few rational opponents, and party convenience is not an argument which in the long run commends itself to the ordinary man.

We have great pleasure in reprinting from the *London Budget* several passages from Mr. Housman's article on Miss Davison's funeral. Some of our members doubted whether a constitutional society could properly take part in the procession. With those who feel that our appearance might be held as a recommendation that other women should give their lives in a similar way we have every sympathy. A pro-militant man whose position and responsibilities debar him from personal self-sacrifice must have many qualms when he applauds the martyrdom of women. Vicarious courage is supremely unconvincing. None the less we feel that the League could not do otherwise than join in a tribute of respectful admiration for a life spent daily, and finally given altogether, under whatsoever circumstances, for our common cause. It is the primal instinct of humanity which says, "She gave the final gift of all for the faith that was in her."

OUR NEW TREASURER.

We have the utmost pleasure in welcoming our new hon. treasurer, Mr. Fox Bourne. He is a business man, and a keen suffragist; he has lately resigned from the Wimbledon Liberal Association as a protest against its attitude to Women's Suffrage. May his term of office be coincident with a great increase in the strength and usefulness of the League!

THE HYDE PARK MEETINGS.

The injudicious attempt of the Home Office to suppress or hinder Suffragist meetings in Hyde Park—instead of relying on its admitted powers to prosecute speakers—has only resulted in an increase in the number of Suffragist meetings, and a considerable increase in the size and the friendliness of the audiences.

The surprising action of the authorities in bolstering up their unconstitutional methods by deliberately winking at the organised rowdyism promoted by the pickpocket brigade proved to hasten rather than avert their defeat. The Men's League may congratulate itself in having played a leading part in this fight for constitutional freedom of speech for unenfranchised women.

Startup, who made a really delightful maiden speech on June 22.

The Council of the National Political League has passed a very friendly resolution of congratulation to the Men's League on the score of the above enterprise.

SHOULD WOMEN BE SOLICITORS?

Rarely have we seen a neater array of dilemmas than that with which Mr. Buckmaster, K.C., surrounded the Law Society on behalf of Miss G. M. Bebb's claim to be admitted to the examination. The Solicitors Act, 1843, provides that "No person shall act as solicitor . . . unless such person . . . be admitted and enrolled"; any person acting as solicitor without having been admitted shall be punished for contempt of court.

In refusing the application, Mr. Justice Joyce practically said that all laws must be read in connection with the Common Law. The difficulty arose mainly from the fact that a woman could not exercise public functions. We are aware that on the Jus Civile this is good law, but we thought that the case of the Empress Matilda had settled the custom of England for all time.

THE SUFFRAGE TRAGEDY.

[We reproduce Mr. Laurence Housman's article on the death of Miss Davison, with the permission of the Editor of the "London Budget"—Ed.]

Emily Wilding Davison died as the result of an action about which public opinion is still divided. So far as the Press of this country has been able to lead it that action has been condemned. Yet when her death was announced from the Men's League platform in Hyde Park . . . there was a strange flutter of movement amid the crowd—here, there, and everywhere hats went off in instinctive reverence for one who had given her life for a cause.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA. Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

"THE COMMON CAUSE," Weekly - 1d.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS K. D. COURTNEY.

OFFICE HOURS 9.30-5.30. SATURDAYS - 9.30-1.

Secretary: Miss CROOKENDEN, M.A.

MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary).

DEAR SIR,

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is organising a Demonstration, to be held in the ALBERT HALL on Saturday, February 14th, in support of the demand for a Government measure for Women's Suffrage.

We believe that the men of this country are recognising more and more not only the justice of the demand for the enfranchisement of women, but also the fact that it is a question of urgent political importance. We are anxious therefore that this great Demonstration should be an expression of the support which men are giving to Women's Suffrage, and we are specially inviting men to be present (either as delegates from some society or as individuals), and to occupy a portion of the Hall reserved for them.

If you are a supporter of Women's Suffrage we heartily invite you to come to the meeting, and earnestly hope that you will be able to help us in this way.

We propose in addition to ask Mr. Asquith to receive a deputation from the men who have attended the meeting, so that they may lay before him their reasons for regarding the enfranchisement of women as one of the most urgent political questions of the day.

If you are able to take part in the Demonstration, will you kindly fill in the accompanying form and send it to the Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, who will send you a complimentary ticket later.

Yours faithfully,

Millicent Fawcett

conviction which are, to those who have eyes to see, the most convincing proof. And because of her death "the man in the street" has come nearer to understanding the depth and force of the Woman's Movement than ever he did before.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

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FORM TO BE FILLED IN BY THOSE WHO ACCEPT Mrs. FAWCETT'S INVITATION.

I desire to attend the Meeting in the Albert Hall on February 14th, at 8 p.m., to demand a Government measure for Women's Suffrage and to support the speakers.

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....

A Complimentary Ticket for the Arena will be sent on receipt of this Form.

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persons before the close of the meetings. Mr. Simpson, who has done yeoman's work at the meetings, will be missed, and many others who have done fine work are D. W. Caddick and G. E.

life for a cause. And yesterday, in the streets of London, when the men's societies brought up the rear of that vast procession organised to do honour to her memory, hundreds of men were

still standing bareheaded until the whole cortège had passed by—and, for the most part, they were working men.

I cannot give a description of the procession itself; those who took part in it did not see it. But for those who brought up the rear it had left the stamp of its spirit upon the faces of the crowd—a curious wonder, a bewilderment, as if at last they were beginning to think and to realise that this woman's movement, against which the party Press and the party politician have so long directed their hostility and their scorn, was something really big and had come to stay.

Why She Gave Her Life.

Those women, who endangered no lives, who offended against no law, whose only offence was the reassertion of an old constitutional right made of no effect by our modern police regulations, served their sentences, and the men of this country, from the King downward, were apparently content that they should do so. That indifference of men to the hampering by our Government of the women's means of constitutional approach played its part in driving Miss Davison to take her life in her hands and offer it in such a way as to make further indifference impossible.

Had the electors of this country shown themselves really open to reason and justice, and prepared to put principle before party, such an act might have been regarded as mad and unreasonable. But when men show themselves blind to justice and deaf to reason, then there does come a time when to reason with them any longer is unreasonable.

Others Ready To Do Likewise.

The death of Miss Davison has proved to the man in the street that that spirit is alive with the woman's movement to-day, and it warns him that if he delays to secure that justice shall be done, others will follow.

That fact—for it is a fact—accounts, I think, for the tone adopted in certain papers which have been friends of the Suffrage cause when dealing with Miss Davison's death; they know that there are others who are prepared, if the worst comes to the worst, to follow her example; and, being horribly and rightly afraid of such a sequence of events, they think that the best form of prevention is to depreciate the heroic action of the woman whom so many thousands came out to honour yesterday.

They are mistaken: nothing will prevent other and similar tragedies from following, except justice and redress—no argument, no scorn, no condemnation will turn back some of these militant women from the final and supreme act of sacrifice. Those thousands who walked in the great procession on Saturday know it, and the "man in the street" is now beginning slowly and dimly to understand.

It is quite beside the point to argue that such acts of self-immolation are "unreasonable"; the opposition which the Woman's Movement has to meet is itself of the most unreasonable kind. Reason alone does not appeal to it; it is directed neither by principle nor by logic.

In the face of it, women have shown patience for over forty years, and some women—perhaps a minority—impatience for seven. Now we have one dead woman—who, without actually intending to die, faced a great risk—simply to show on which side in this great fight lay the intensity of courage and conviction which are, to those who have eyes to see, the final proof. And because of her death "the man in the street" has come nearer to understanding the depth and force of the Woman's Movement than ever he did before.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

**CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST
WOMEN'S FRANCHISE REVIEW**

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Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Price 2d.

The JULY number contains detailed accounts of the various activities of the Association, and the following articles:

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

By LORD ROBERT CECIL, K.C., M.P.

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY.

By MRS. CORBETT ASHLEY, B.A., B.L.D.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN GERMANY.

By MARION CHADWICK.

WOMEN'S WORK.—The British Women's Emigration Association.

By LADY KNIGHTLEY OF FAWSLY.

WOMEN'S SHARE IN AUSTRALIAN LIFE.

By EVELINE MITFORD.

PLOUGHING THE SANDS.

By OLGA HARTLEY.

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CHURCH AND STATE.

The Church Congress is to be held at Southampton in September, under the presidency of the Bishop of Winchester, and the woman's movement is to be one of the leading subjects there discussed. The Bishop has already let it be known that the question of women's political position, and even references to the Parliamentary franchise, will not be out of order.

It is not for us to criticise the arrangements of the Congress, but even good suffragists may sympathise with a lay Churchman resident in the Bishop's diocese in his objection to "converting the Congress into a political forum." When, however, the said Churchman makes nine-tenths of his protest "as President of the National League for opposing Woman Suffrage" we cannot resist a smile. The anti-suffragists, we gather from Lord Curzon's letters, have received the announcement "with apprehension and even dismay." Why is it that they should be so afraid of discussion, whereas the suffragists "will take every advantage of the opportunity," and are so immodest as to "give thanks" for the occasion offered them?

The Bishop, on the other hand, is convinced that "altogether below and beyond the suffrage question, and on the part of those who take different views of that, there are deep thoughts stirring, and serious questions being asked, about what women's ideal, sphere, education, usefulness are—and that Christians ought to consider this quietly and in Christian light. The existence of a burning controversy may create some risk or difficulty, but it increases rather than diminishes the need of such deeper discussion." The Bishop further points out that it is not easy to

draw a line excluding political questions—least of all, he might have added, in a State Church. “The Welsh Church, for instance, is a highly political question in Parliament at this moment. . . . But a more analogous case would be that of discussions on social and economical subjects, in which incidental references to the measures of this or that Government would quite naturally come in.”

On the whole we prefer the broad-minded attitude of the Bishop. The question is a profoundly serious one, touching the deepest springs of human action. It may be difficult to withdraw for a space from the heat and dust of embittered political controversy; but the attempt surely is worth making, and should be welcomed by everyone—anti-suffragist or suffragist—who desires to build on a really firm foundation. Let us remember now and again that some, at any rate, of our opponents are just as honest in their endeavours for the good of the nation and of its womankind as we are ourselves. Let us use gatherings like the Church Congress to clear away superficial differences and to penetrate to the bedrock of the dispute. Contest there must be, no doubt, but it is a contest to be approached by both sides in a serious, a chivalrous, and, may we not say, a Christian spirit. Nothing will be gained by those who, like Lord Curzon and Ashur, “abide in their trenches.”

ODDS AND ENDS.

By THE DEALER.

Mr. Lloyd George has just recently, for the second time, called upon the Opposition to work with him for social reform. He says, “Let us do it together.” When the Honourable Andrew Fisher, as Prime Minister of Australia, said, “Let us do it together,” he meant the men and the women. Our fathers taught us that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance; it is our children, it seems, who are teaching us that the price of true progress is complete co-operation.

It is suggested in the Press that the anti-Suffragists are making nothing of a show at present because no subscriptions are forthcoming. Surely this sort of thing does not cost much!

“AN ANTI-SUFFRAGIST DEMONSTRATION.”

“A woman was charged at Westminster Police Court with making use of insulting words and behaviour likely to provoke a breach of the peace.”

From a religious publication:—“Women engaged in agitation for the complete political emancipation of their sex, and men associated with them in this movement, are at present indulging in quite reckless charges of bad faith, of broken promises, and so forth, against politicians that have not seen their way to do exactly what was expected of them by these would-be dictators of politics.” I have had a sleepless night pondering over what the writer's politics could be.

**DEPUTATION OF MEN FROM THE NORTH.
SPECIAL HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION,
SUNDAY, JULY 20th, 6 p.m.**

The poster writer sees the connection:—

BRUTAL MURDER OF
A SCHOOL-GIRL
—
SUFFRAGETTE'S FUNERAL.
—
MRS. PANKHURST
RE-ARRESTED.

A scientist is explaining in the papers how working-men may live on 3d. a day. One dish is hot water, with a touch of milk. This reminds one of the Duke of Norfolk's recommendation to the starving poor in the hungry forties, of hot water with a touch of curry powder, and that in turn reminds one of the present Duke, whose recommendation to the women is a political diet of nothing at all, which to many of them means a physical diet very like it.

The death of Mr. Wyndham caused the papers to recall his close connection with and constant support of the Primrose League.

If writers for the Press were left free by their anti-Suffrage editors, they would be taking occasion to draw the obvious deductions from the existence of such a body.

Perhaps it was a journalist struggling under difficulties who managed to make so much in this connection of the vast Primrose League meeting at the Albert Hall, where the late Lord Salisbury recommended the League to form rifle clubs all over the country. But then this great Premier said of Women's Suffrage that he knew no reason against it. Mr. Asquith may know one, but he doesn't let on.

REPRESSIVE ACTION BY THE RUSSIAN POLICE.

A telegram from St. Petersburg states that the police have suspended the Conference of Democrats.

What a scandalous affair! I hope Sir Edward Grey is looking into the matter.

A WELCOME SIGN.

It is stated that Sir Almoth Wright has written a book on the subject of Votes for Women. The granting of them in England must surely be in sight. The first edition should have a ready sale as a humorous publication in the countries where women already are voters. Illinois should increase the demand for this work.

Mrs. Humphry Ward wants someone to provide the Anti-suffragists with new arguments. This is very like an admission that the old arguments have proved useless. The only novelty is that the Anti-suffragists should have been brought to recognise this.