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THE VOTE.
January 2, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

OLIVE SCHREINER IN LONDON.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. IX. NO. 219.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1914.

NEW YEAR'S]

Edited by C. DESPARD.

[NUMBER.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

JUSTICE!

KVINDELIG [SEE PAGE 103.
LÆSEFORNING

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Olive Schreiner: "An Abiding Friend."

Women are kept busy exploding fallacies, usually man-made, about themselves. A hoary one, which takes a great deal of killing, is that their attitude to one another is full of envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness. The Suffrage movement has given it the lie direct, and has broken down class distinctions in a way our critics cannot understand. It would have enlightened them considerably had they heard the emphatic declaration of Mrs. Rentoul Esler—a keen, Suffragist—at the Lyceum Club, on December 29, when women—with many men as guests—gathered to do honour to an outstanding woman of to-day—Olive Schreiner. "We admire our own sex," said Mrs. Esler, and added, "women are extraordinarily intelligent; when we find an intelligent man we admire him, too!"

After an absence of sixteen years, Olive Schreiner is paying an all too short visit to this country on her way to Italy to undergo a lengthy cure. The dinner in her honour at the Lyceum Club was her only emergence from the quiet retirement which is essential in her present state of health, and a speech was prohibited by her doctor's orders. She was moved, however, to speak briefly to explode the fallacy, which has gained currency in the Press and was repeated at the dinner, that George Meredith induced her to alter "The Story of a South African Farm" before publication. She told how the story had been accepted, and was in the printer's hands for some months before her first brief talk, in a waiting-room at Messrs. Chapman and Hall's, with an unknown gentleman whose face haunted her by its beauty, and whose name, she was afterwards told by Mr. Chapman, was George Meredith. One further remark was elicited as a comment on the speeches about the Twentieth Century women. "I never feel any doubt about what the Twentieth Century will bring because of the beautiful young women I see growing up and the equally beautiful young men."

It was a memorable tribute to the influence of a woman who, as Mrs. Montefiore said from the chair, has been known by the many in the spirit, though not in the flesh, as an interpreter of life. "Most of us meet to-night for the first time one who has companied with us in our youth and remains through life an abiding friend." On Olive Schreiner's old friend, Mrs. Havelock Ellis, fell the duty of acknowledging for her the tribute of welcome, and she summed up her influence thus: "She has made us feel that the one great quality in life is sincerity, and that the future woman will combine in herself the man, the woman, and the child." Man's voice was not silent on the occasion. Mr. Jerome K. Jerome declared that the three women who had influenced him strongly were Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, and Olive Schreiner. Mr. W. L. George urged patience with the Twentieth Century woman who was only thirteen years old, and would live to be one hundred, while the remedy for any uncomfortable symptoms was to give her her just rights and responsibility. Mr. Cunningham Graham led the three cheers for Olive Schreiner, and crystallised the impression of the women's speeches in a Spanish proverb: "Blessed be the lips which utter such words of their own sex." We extend to Olive Schreiner our sympathy in her physical weakness, our desire for her full recovery, and our hope that after her sojourn in Italy, she may return to this country refreshed and strengthened, and ready to meet the many who would fain meet her.

"Pressure of Business"—Not of Votes.

Miss Mary MacArthur and other practical people have been jogging the memory of the Prime Minister with regard to a definite outcome—in the form of legislation—of the deputation of working women which he received last May. Mr. Asquith replies that "for several years" improvements in legislation affecting

women's work have been contemplated but crowded out. However, a Bill is now being drafted, and "the Home Secretary hopes to be able to introduce it next Session." The hope rests on a flimsy foundation; for the Prime Minister proceeds to explain that again this "large subject" may be crowded out "in view of the claims of necessary business," and the earnest people who look to the Government, which has just enjoyed a five months' holiday on full pay, to deal with a vital question of national life are left with the consolation that it is "fully alive to its urgency and importance." The moral of it all is that where there is no pressure of votes, there is no hope for justice from our so-called Democratic Government. In the meantime we note that Mr. T. P. O'Connor measures true democracy by Ireland—his view of Ireland—in his "Christmas Reflections" in *Reynolds's* this week. If a democrat "does not see the pathetic and irresistible appeal of the long-suffering people of Ireland to all his love and assistance, then he is no true democrat; he has not the root of the matter in him." Nay, more. If this appeal is not more dominating than any other issue to-day, arousing "passionate response to the rights of the oppressed," he is not worthy of the name of democrat. Mr. T. P. O'Connor's democracy stands in sore need of becoming "true," for he shuts out the larger half of the people. To continue this blind policy means ruin to any Government. Only votes count, and women are determined that their votelessness shall end. It may end the Government, despite Mr. Asquith's New Year's message to his Party, about achievements in "the best traditions of Liberalism," but it will mend our national existence.

Mrs. Gonne Declines a "Doubtful Privilege."

All Suffragists know the devoted service of Captain Gonne to the cause of justice for women; they will be interested to hear of the plucky fight which Mrs. Gonne is making on behalf of her husband, with regard to his recent tax resistance protest. During his imprisonment, she sent a telegram, giving the facts of the case, to His Majesty the King through his private secretary. A reply informed her that petitions to His Majesty, must be submitted through the Home Secretary. To this, her reply is that she declines "the doubtful privilege"; she would rather die first! She asks for a faithful officer, who has nobly borne His Majesty's Commission, and is "struggling to keep his King's Honour as untarnished as his own," the right to present a petition through a military officer approved by His Majesty. She awaits the result. We echo her declaration to the King's private secretary, that things have come to a pretty pass, when the only use England has for an honest and courageous gentleman is to break his back and fling him into prison. Capt. Gonne's serious injuries are due to the violence of Liberal stewards in ejecting him from meetings at which he has protested against a Liberal Government's injustice to women; it is those who are under the sway of Mr. McKenna who discharged him, crippled as he is from Lewes gaol, after a forty-eight hours' hunger strike, and sent him, in a state of collapse on a two hours' railway journey involving two changes. Surely the refinement of cruelty and a near approach to tragedy. With Mrs. Gonne we ask of His Majesty: Is the sacrifice of an honoured officer's life necessary in the denial of justice to women?

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW. C. DESPARD.
A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE. C. DESPARD.
THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK. C. NINA BOYLE.
LET GLASGOW FLOURISH. EUNICE G. MURRAY.
NOW. G. COLMORE.
THE SIGN POST. MARY MAUD.
TO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS.
THE NEW COMMANDMENT: AN ALLEGORY. BEATRICE KENT.
JUSTICE. C. NINA BOYLE.
WHAT THEY DID NOT SAY. H. S.

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A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

FROM OUR HOLIDAY HAUNT AT ENGELBERG.

Dear Colleagues and Fellow-Members,—From this lovely Alpine valley, grand and impressive at every hour of the day, our friend and colleague, Mrs. Harvey, and I send you cordial New Year's greetings. We only wish that many more of our tired fellow-workers might have the privilege that we are enjoying; for rest and recreation, fresh air, the keen wind of the mountains and soft, white snow, unsoftened by the toil and traffic of cities, have a restorative effect upon jaded nerves and mind-muscles perpetually on the strain. We hope to return from our holiday in full working order, which is well, as certainly there is plenty of work before us. I think most of us must be glad to bid 1913 farewell. We repeat with unusual emphasis Tennyson's words:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light!
The year is dying in the night.
Ring out, wild bells, and let it die!

Let it die, we women say. It has brought with it sorrow and pain, frustrated hopes and disappointed aspirations; sacrifices which may seem to have been in vain; pleasure and comfort foregone; hardship, contumely, even death deliberately chosen.

Outside the movement expressly of women, but not apart from them (we are learning that neither man nor woman stands alone) it has been the same: we have had industrial unrest in every form—discontent, vigorous protests, indignant abandonment of work, and, with these, sinister revelations of age-endured wrongs. The profound inability of the law and its administrators to make the law respected, and the discovery by the people of the law's futility has formed another feature in the miserable retrospect.

Yet, with it all, we are able to rejoice. First, because in spite of every difficulty, hindrance, deception and delay we have not despaired of our Cause or of ourselves. Notably during the past year we have grown in numbers and resources, while none who observe the signs of the times can fail to see the changed attitude of the public towards our demand for political emancipation.

I feel sure that those who through the columns of the VOTE have followed our progress during the year must be struck by the honest hard work that has been done, not only in the line of demonstrations, protests, tax-resistance and other similar methods, but also in claiming the rights which have been allowed by women to lapse through disuse and by enlightening the public mind as to the urgent need for the Woman's movement.

Therefore we begin the New Year with hope: we enter upon its tasks with confidence. Whether or no it is to bring to us the victory we seek, we cannot tell, nor do we seek to know. What we do know is that with brave heart and strong will, we of the Women's Freedom League, will take up our part in the struggle.

This, then, is our message to you, fellow-travellers and fellow-fighters:

Never allow your hope to slacken. We have sown, we shall reap if we faint not.

Take to yourselves—a heavenly gift—the joy as well as the toil and smoke of the battle.

Be ready for service, knowing that when, with the gallantry which has ever characterised those who act and fight in our League, you put your shoulders to the wheel, not one of your efforts is wasted. The result

may be greater or less, nearer or further away. It cannot fail. Look out across the sea of difficulties. The land of promise is there; and for that you are working.

With all my heart I wish to you happiness throughout the year, and, to all of us, success in the great enterprise upon which we are engaged.—Yours sincerely,

C. DESPARD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

A NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.
£500 WANTED.

To our readers we send New Year's Greetings, and at once make an urgent appeal for funds and for personal service to help us through the coming months. Our Scottish members are working in fresh districts, and forming fresh Branches; in the South we have groups of members in various new districts, and these groups could be transformed into Branches of the Women's Freedom League at an early date if we had the necessary funds to engage fresh organisers to help us extend our work. In the meantime our Southern Branches show great activity. Winchester has arranged a meeting at the Masonic Hall, Parchment-street, on January 8, at which Miss Andrews and Mrs. Hyde will speak, and another on January 29, when Miss Boyle will be the speaker. Southsea is making great preparations for its public meeting at the Lower Albert Hall on January 27. Miss Boyle will also speak at this meeting and at an open-air one in Southsea the following day. Southampton has arranged a public meeting at Morris Hall for Wednesday evening, January 28, the speakers being Mr. Laurence Housman and Miss Nina Boyle. On Friday evening, January 30, they will both speak at a public meeting at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, and we feel confident that those of our readers who are in the neighbourhood of these meetings will rally to our support and do their best to make them a success.

In London we shall begin our weekly Wednesday afternoons at Caxton Hall on January 21, when we hope to have Miss Cicely Hamilton as our principal speaker.

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These meetings will be continued until the week before Easter, and we have secured a splendid list of speakers to take part in them. Our Discussion Meetings will begin on Monday evening, January 19, at 1, Robert-street, when Madame Aino Malmberg will lecture on "Is the Woman's Movement Identical with the Eastern Revolutionary Movement?" Admission to all these meetings is free, and members and friends are very cordially invited to attend them.

Young People's Corps.—The work at Headquarters has increased so much recently that we are getting together a band of our younger members who are willing to help us by arranging open-air meetings, VOTE-selling, and other work in and around London. Will all volunteers for this special service communicate with us at an early date? The VOTE Sellers' Brigade is doing excellent work, but we should welcome more sellers, not only in London, but in every district where we have a Branch or Group of the Women's Freedom League.

E. KNIGHT.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

With the advent of 1914, a careful survey, not only of the political situation, but of the work and achievements of the Women's Freedom League, becomes necessary. Notable efforts have been made, we are aware, by all the important sections of the movement. The educational work of the National Union, the Great Pilgrimage, and the position taken up of late by Miss Maud Royden in connection with meetings organised by churchmen, have been of extraordinary value. The indomitable struggle against all the odds of brute force and officialdom, the forming of the East London Federation, and the successful defiance of the Cat and Mouse Act, which have been the outstanding features of the W.S.P.U. campaign, have riveted public attention on the unequal fight. The brilliant theatrical achievement of the Actresses' Franchise League has added greatly to the prestige of the woman professional worker. What, we must ask ourselves, has been the record of the Women's Freedom League?

A certain measure of triumph has attended our path in every direction of work. At a great number of by-elections our speakers have met enthusiastic welcome, and our propaganda has won sympathy and confidence. The membership and scope of the League is increasing; and several points have been scored against the Government. The recovery of the right of free speech, the successful attack on the prison van system, the enforcement of right of entry to courts of justice, are all on the right side of the balance-sheet; and an interesting line of action in pursuance of the principles involved in this kind of protest has been mapped out for the early future.

The passive resistance, or defiance, policy of the League has been successful also in so far as the non-payment of tax and insurance contributions goes. The Government, however, has not taken proceedings against the League in respect of these omissions, and

it is strongly doubtful whether it ever will. In so far, therefore, as the final climax is avoided, the policy remains ineffective. Methods of extending and reinforcing this policy must be discussed, and the League must make up its mind to action more drastic and resolute if resistance to the increasing loads of taxation laid on women without their consent is to be rendered sufficiently striking and useful. Insurance inspectors call at Headquarters office, and threatening-looking documents arrive, but the Government plainly avoids the final issue, or is unwilling to give the advertisement of a serious prosecution. If the pace is to be forced, it is from our side that the provocative action must come.

The political outlook is so confused that, while beyond doubt the Cause has made tremendous strides in importance within the last year—to the extent of creating some very plaintive rifts within the Liberal lute—there is ever-present danger of serious trouble in the political firmament, which would, beyond doubt, cloud the horizon for us. Rebellion in Ulster or a European war are possibilities staring us in the face, possibilities which would so monopolise the attention of our rulers that the Cause would suffer seriously. We cannot too strongly impress on our members the necessity for concentration should any such disturbing contingency arise. There would be voices calling in distracting conflict, urging women to give their service in all directions, and hinting at the political rewards such service would win. We hope our women will stand firm and give no more service until they are free citizens.

There can be no service of any value given without pride in that service. To allow the world to claim our service and yet to hold it cheap has been the sin of woman against womanhood. The servile, inefficient races bred by wrongly submissive and intimidated motherhood stand thick on the face of the earth; the evil is greater, the danger nearer, than we dare admit. The word for women to-day is, no more sweated, unrecognised, despised, unpaid service. No more patching of ills we may not prevent, administering laws we may not alter, competing under rules we may not help to frame and shape. Revolt, against the destruction of beauty and joy, against the degradation of things holy and pure, against the wrongs inflicted by human beings on humanity, has become the most sacred duty of women, standing high above the old rules of submission and service. The Freedom League, within the women's movement, has to lend its aid to spread and preach and organise that revolt, and a strong and stern policy is wanted. At our forthcoming Conference the delegates from our Branches will in council together have the duty laid on them of co-ordinating the ideas and suggestions put forward into a cohesive policy for the year. We make an appeal now, to all to whom the Cause is dear, to close up the ranks, to disregard other claims, to face the forthcoming difficulties unflinchingly, and to instruct their representatives to vote for a strong forward policy, and to allow no call, of however urgent a nature, to side-track their energies until victory is won.

C. N. BOYLE.

LET GLASGOW FLOURISH!

THE GLASGOW TOWN COUNCIL AND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

On Tuesday, December 23, the Glasgow Town Council passed a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage, and at the same time appointed two members, one of whom was the Lord Provost, an ardent supporter of the present Government, to wait upon the Prime Minister in February, and point out to him that it is the desire of the Glasgow Corporation, that the Parliamentary Franchise be extended to women. Before this resolution was passed, a deputation of the anti-suffragists, was introduced by Councillor MacCulloch, in order that

they might lay before the Corporation the reasons why "Women do not wish the vote." Miss Deane was the first speaker.

She said, in the opinion of her League, the larger part of the population, particularly amongst women, were not only indifferent, but actually opposed, to Female Suffrage, believing it to be undesirable and against the interests of women, and in direct opposition to the welfare of the State.

Mr. William Langland, who also spoke on behalf of the deputation, said—

that it was a political question of the most far-reaching description. It had been admitted by both sides to be something of a revolution. He held that no one knew the opinion of the electors on the Woman Suffrage question, and that certainly no one could know the real opinion amongst women themselves. Wherever a canvas had been taken he maintained the vast majority were against it.

The Lord Provost then thanked the speakers, and assured them that due weight should be given to what their deputation had said. Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell next moved, in a vigorous speech, that the Corporation accede to the request contained in a letter from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for Woman Suffrage, that the Corporation appoint two of their members to represent them in a deputation which is being organised to wait upon the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet on this subject in February. He pointed out that sex should be no disqualification for citizenship, and showed that even the anti-suffragists, just heard, had been unable to bring forward one argument against the principle of Woman Suffrage; all they could say was that it was not a matter in which the Town Council should interfere. He decidedly thought they should interfere. Glasgow had never taken a limited view of its powers, and had been accustomed to be in the van in all reforms, including the Reform Bill of 1832. Mr. Alston seconded the resolution, and agreed that if the Council failed to carry out the resolution they would stultify their previous conduct. Mr. Bruce Murray moved a direct negative. He expressed no opinion on the merits of the question, his position being that they, as a Corporation, had no right to spend money in the manner indicated. They had, he said, no mandate from the electors, and therefore had no right to take upon themselves to instruct the Imperial Parliament as to how it should act.

The Lord Provost objected to the suggestion that they had no right to send a deputation to the Prime Minister; he contended that in former years, on exactly the same question, namely, an extension of the Franchise, the Glasgow Corporation had sent deputations to London, notably in the years 1831 and 1832. It was again a question of the Franchise, not of party. When the division was taken, sixty voted for the motion, twenty-seven for the amendment that the Town Council do not send a deputation, and four declined to vote. The Lord Provost and the Senior Magistrate, Bailie McMillan, were then appointed to represent the Corporation on the deputation in February.

Once more Glasgow has shown that it stands for Justice and Progress. Our Liberal Provost, unlike Lord Strathclyde, is not afraid to put his principles into practice; he recognises that taxation and representation go hand in hand. He and his colleagues are not afraid to extend the hand of fellowship to women. They are alive to the benefits that have followed the granting of the municipal vote to women, and they know that as soon as women have political rights, political parties will gain as much as the Town Councils and other Public Bodies have already done by the advice and co-operation of women in the affairs of the nation. All great reforms have been won by the united efforts of men and women, and so we welcome this practical sign of the help given us by such an important body of men as the Corporation of Glasgow. We are confident that when a great city like Glasgow leads in this way other towns will speedily follow her excellent example.

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"VOTE" APPEAL: WANTED £100.

Dear Readers,—Again I wish to thank all who are responding to my appeal for £100 for the enlargement of THE VOTE, and to say how deeply I appreciate their help. We have not yet attained our goal, but every gift, large or small, helps. I want to be sure of success, so that we may go forward with confidence in this New Year. I know you will be interested to read the subjoined letter, sent to Miss Eunice Murray, showing how THE VOTE cheers lonely workers.

I need only repeat briefly the reasons for the appeal: the importance of our paper in the work of the League and the demand of advertisers for space in it. I renew my appeal for VOTE sellers in all parts of the country. A definite promise of a stated time each week is what we desire, so that the work may be well organised. Our circulation must go up; it is you who can help.—Yours sincerely,
C. DESPARD.

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"THE PAPER WHICH BRINGS LIFE AND JOY."

Dear Miss Murray,—Every week I look forward eagerly to THE VOTE. I am a teacher, and am very shut off from the world. I feel THE VOTE brings me in touch with the greatest movement of the day, and makes me, even in this lonely spot, know that I am one of the army of women who are out to-day demanding justice for their sex.

I often see your name in the paper, and I have had the great pleasure of hearing you speak. I enclose you 5s. for THE VOTE collected by me from women about here; we send it with every good wish for the success of THE VOTE, our VOTE, the paper which brings life and joy to many a lonely soul, both in the Highlands and the Lowlands.—Yours in the Cause,
MARY MACPHERSON.

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AN APPEAL FROM INDIA.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras, India.

Dear Madam,—The Suffrage movement has done so much to dissipate rivalry and to create and encourage a spirit of chivalry amongst women towards each other, that I venture to ask for space in your columns in which to call attention to a state of things that demands chivalrous action on behalf of English women.

The White Slave traffic claims its victims in the West, in the East, the helpless woman, or rather the helpless child, falls a victim to the cruel system of "child marriage." She has her babies in her arms when she ought to be carrying her books and a slate. The Indian nation is becoming awakened to this gigantic evil; it realises that if a nation is to rise it must be upon two pinions—its manhood and its womanhood. It now seeks education for its women—such education as is based upon the fundamental truths common to all religions. On behalf of their Indian sisters, therefore, I appeal to the Suffrage Societies, since their members are trained in self-sacrifice, in endurance, and in public spirit. A few such women, lovers of humanity in general, and willing to undertake to study the Indian people in particular, would be invaluable out here in India.

They need not be particularly learned as long as they possess that culture, refinement, and gentle womanliness so much prized in India. They would need to have small incomes—say £150 to £200 a year, and to have six months' preliminary training at the Theosophical Headquarters at Adyar, Madras, or at Benares.

All that Mrs. Annie Besant has done for India is well known. The study of her life and works (and also those of Miss Margaret Noble, Sister Nivedita) may be recommended as the best preparation for this work. Those desiring further particulars may communicate with me at the above address, and particulars with regard to them would be laid before the "Theosophical Educational Trust," of which Mrs. Besant is the head.

If heaven helps those who help other people, we do not believe the cause of Women's Suffrage would lose in the end, if a few of its members responded to the cry of the child-mother, and, worse still, the child widow of India.

Thanking you in anticipation for your courtesy, believe me,
Yours faithfully,
K. F. STUART.
November 5.

Your Little Sister.

A daughter of the Motherland,
And full of infant grace,
She stole away the heart with her
Bewitching baby-face:
"Behold it was but yesterday
That you were born," I sighed,
"But by the jewel at your throat
You are a baby-brid!"

A widow's white embroidered veil
They wove the little wife
To show her how the glory had
Departed from her life;
And she sedate and solemn-eyed
Must sit in solitude.
Alas! the locust-eaten years
Of hopeless widowhood.

Now though men quake at Death, he is
More merciful than man;
He does not seek to lay upon
A babe a widow's ban.
When Death held out his mighty arms,
A refuge and a rest,
Your lonely little sister fell
Asleep upon his breast.

K. F. STUART.

Wages in Belfast and Dublin.

While the conditions of labour in Dublin are under discussion it is interesting to note some recently published facts concerning the wages of the Ulster factory workers. The women, who constitute about three-fourths of the workers, are very badly paid, the average weekly wage for an adult working full time being only 10s. 10d. in Belfast. The average, according to recent returns, for girls is only 7s. 11d., while half-timers receive 3s. 7d. On the other hand, in Cheshire and Lancashire the average weekly wage for a woman in the mills is 19s., and 11s. 1d. for girls. Many women in Belfast earn less than the average of 10s. 10d., while the best paid do not make more than 15s. 4d. The men, however, earn an average of 26s. 2d. a week, and this is a far higher wage than is paid to the unskilled Dublin worker. Indeed, with all its sweating, Belfast pays on the average higher wages to men and women than the rest of Ireland.



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THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, January 2, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER. Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free. "THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

NOW.

In the week that joins the old year to the new it is well to look back and also ahead, to consider the things that have been and the things that may be, or should or shall be, from the point of view of the things that, at this linking time of an end and a beginning, actually are.

What, then, is the state of England to-day? Has she who has been wont to count herself the queen of nations, basing her claim to the title on the conception that she leads the progress of the world, has she progressed during these last three hundred and sixty-five days that form the year 1913?

And first, what essentially is progress? Is it compatible with tumult, with rioting, with the hunger striking of multitudes? I say of multitudes, for in the strikes of industrial workers, as well as in the strike of politically rebellious women, there is always the suffering of the hungry, famine widespread in proportion to the numbers of the rebellious; and again and again, all through this year that is near to passing, not women only have hungered, solitary or in their thousands, in prison cells and in poisoned slums, but the children of women, babes and sucklings, and the husbands and fathers and sons. And looking back we see no sign of the spirit of peace, no single phial of oil poured out on the troubled waters. Force, and always force, has been the agent sent out to deal with the cry of demand that has rung through the country month after month. In Dublin, in all the centres where the right to a living wage has been urged, and all through the land where the right to vote has been put forward, it is the policeman, backed up by the politician, who has been sent to settle the question, never the peacemaker, inspired by the statesman; the Cabinet, the anti-suffragists and the capitalists have joined hands, and together they have sought to strangle, not to still, the cries for justice.

And because of this, England is still rent with suffering and with wrong; on the surface even, so that he who runs may read; and below the surface, very deep down, in chasms, widening each to each, till meeting they may merge into an abyss. An abyss; for the people, bringing progress to a standstill? for women, slaying liberty? Nay. For the men who govern, certainly, in so far as they form a corporate governing body, disaster waits: for the workers much of suffering, of privation, of the gauntness of famine; for women, fighting with active or passive force, resisting taxation or breaking laws, week after week, month after month, it may be, of struggle and endurance; for England as a nation a setting back perhaps in the esteem of the nations.

Nevertheless, progress is not stayed, cannot be stayed, essentially and fundamentally, since evolution is a law of God, and though here a nation may falter or there a movement pause, humanity moves on; in tears it may be, by blood and fire, in the heart of a whirlwind. For individuals may be slain, but never justice, and the voice of justice once raised may never rest till her cry becomes a song.

Fight on, then, and fear not, all ye who walk beneath

her banner! Enter with courage and with trust the gateway of the dawning year! You are fighting not only for this movement or for that, but for the freedom, the glory and the gladness of the world, and the march of the world is upward. Women, most of all, must be of good cheer; since theirs is the hardest task, since against them the odds are greatest, so is their goal most glorious, lifting humanity to a conception greater than has ever graced it; a conception implicit in much that men have imagined; and made definite, concrete, by the sex that brings all things to the birth. Implicit this conception is in the poetry pertaining to the thought and nomenclature of the world about us, in the personality ascribed to things called lifeless or abstract in their being. Why is it that ships, the sea, nations, the earth, Nature herself, mercy, justice and peace are all accounted feminine? Because the female principle, now to be made manifest in the social, political and economic worlds, has been, though denied by the minds of men, for ever acknowledged in their hearts; because poets have a clearer vision than politicians; because all through the darkness there has been no quenching of the gleam sent out from the light that is to be. That is the reason. The nations that walked in darkness have ever sensed the light though their eyes have been dim; and more and more the blurred sight will strengthen and grow clear.

Follow the light! It was the watchword of one of the most ancient of religions; and if it be but a gleam, follow it still, faithfully, and with courage and resolve. Follow it into 1914! It cannot fade; it will grow and spread and strengthen. Who knows when it may burst into the dawn? That dawn may be near, for it follows the darkest hour, and the hour is dark now as we stand upon the threshold of two years. But near or far it cannot fail to break; and, marching towards it, there is always, unquenchable, immortal, always the light.

G. COLMORE.

WHAT THEY DIDN'T SAY.

IX.

J. R. Green: History of the English People.

With the new century has come a new spirit. The reaction from the dominance of convention which was so marked a feature of the preceding century has now begun. The whole construction of society, in all its intricate ramifications, is now laid open to criticism in a way of which the most daring spirits of the past had scarce dreamed. Nothing is too high or too low to be placed under the microscopic lens of a newly awakened public conscience. On all sides old ideals are shattered, accepted truths proved false, old falsehoods exposed. A new conception of brotherhood, of justice, of human responsibility has loosened the old bonds of class distinction, of social convention, and is leading to new belief in the dignity of labour, the prevention of crime and the spiritual equality of men and women.

H. S.

X.

Tennyson.

Break, break, break,
On thy cold grey stones, O sea,
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

Cold are thy waves, O sea,
As they break at the foot of the hill,
Hard are the stones on thy beach,
But hearts can be colder still.

O well for the fisherman's boy,
That he shouts with his sister at play,
O well for the sailor lad
That he sings in his boat on the bay.

But what of the city child,
In the rat-haunted alley at play,
By squalor, disease and vice,
Shut in from the light of day?

The sea shall give up its pearls,
Every morn a new sun shall arise,
But what shall restore those poisoned souls
Or cancel those ruined lives? H. S.

The Sign-Post.

Road to 1914.

It was dark, and as "the night stole on in silence" there came to the cross-ways, where stood the sign-post, three figures.

A man laid his bag of tools wearily at the foot of the post and

tried to read

the indication with the help of a match which he struck on his boot. But it spluttered out before he could raise it to the letters.

The second figure was huddled in a shawl, and

bent over a bundle

she carried in her arms. She sank down on the man's bag and rocked herself to and fro.

The third figure, a slight form in a draped cloak, stood in the background, watching

the other two, expectant.

One of the arms of the sign-post pointed to the east, and faintly, very faintly, in the dim distance dawned a little light. It separated earth from heaven; as it grew stronger, it seemed as though some voice had passed into the silence and had said,

"Let there be light!"

The woman's eyes saw it first.

She raised a sad face and whispered as though to that faint promise—

"Will the night soon pass?"

The man looked down at her and laughed bitterly. "Oh, the night will pass—and then comes the day, and trudge, trudge, off I must go to work. Night or day! what does it matter to us?"

The light grew stronger, but with the dawn came a cold breeze. The man looked down at the bundle the woman clasped to her, and said more gently:

"You won't rear that child!"

And as he spoke the first streak of the coming sun shot across the sky and touched the woman's face.

She raised it and her expression changed with the light.

"Yes, I will. You and I together!"

At that he laughed.

"Oh, I am off. Get off my tools. I can't stay here wasting my time."

For answer she rose, and placed the child in his arms, and turned to the bag of tools.

"They are rusty. Hold the child while I clean them."

He stood irresolutely, but turned with the child to face the coming sun.

She stood beside him with the workman's bag in her hand.

"When the sun rises we will start," she said.

He laughed awkwardly.

"You arrange things nicely! I am going my own way, and you and the child go yours."

"They are the same,"

she said, pointing down the road that, now clear and white, lay shining before them.

"I don't think so. I am off down there." He looked back where the night still lay over the sleeping land.

"You have tried all the ways, but this one; this one that goes into the sun-rise."

"I tell you they are all alike—vanity and weariness; out I must go, I must find work," he answered impatiently.

"This one is different. Can't you see? It is new and

It leads into the sun-rise. Come!"

She gave him his bag, and took the child, then turned to look at the silent figure. "And you?" she asked. He stepped forward, and his long cloak shone white in the light:

"When you two go together, I will follow."

The woman held out her hand to the man, and he took it. "Well, I will try it," he laughed.

And as the two stepped forward the sun, with a sudden spring, seemed to rise out of the glowing East, and

the woman turned to look at the shining figure who followed, and she saw that he was Joy.

MARY MAUD.

TO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS.

IMPORTANT.

I owe you a special apology for not having published at once the news you sent in response to my letter asking help for our International column. I feel it must be a little difficult for you to understand the cause of delay and the apparent dropping of a scheme in which I had seemed so keenly interested. My excuse is this: I had not realised that imprisonment would shut me off so absolutely from my work, therefore no sufficient provision was made beforehand for its continuation during my absence, and unfortunately my subsequent illness made it impossible for me to gather up the threads for many weeks. I trust this explanation will make the matter clear, and that you will continue to help me by every means in your power to increase the spirit of International co-operation, which we realised so fully at Budapest.

K. HARVEY.

Our Aim.

Comrades, all the world over, we send you greeting! What is best, that best we wish you for 1914, and may the New Year bring new and closer ties between us!

It is our earnest desire to join in one great International Sisterhood the women workers of the world. Thus united we could work effectively in the underworld of want and misery, and—slowly, it may be, but surely—attain our ideals. Standing solid for freedom, we could bring hope into the hopeless lives of our sweated sisters, we could stamp out the Traffic in Women, annihilate war and bring to earth the day of universal peace.

We have learned in a very practical way that no man, no woman can live unto himself or herself; now we are bidden to "come up higher" and learn that no nation can live unto itself. Fellow-members of the League, you who have always answered to the "forward" call, will you help us with the work? Remember it will bring responsibility to each one of you. You must all support THE VOTE loyally, otherwise our work will be in vain, for only through the medium of our paper can our scheme be carried out. One copy a week, at least, must be taken, and it must be brought to the notice of friends, especially of those who live out of England. Our success or our failure will depend upon you. If any think the scheme too small to accomplish so great an end, we must remember that great results have often had even smaller beginnings.

Already the desire for co-operation exists. Miss Caroline J. Reilly, of New York, writes: "Thank you for your splendid spirit in trying to develop a feeling of fellowship among the women of the world," and the words of Miss Selina Solomons, which we publish to-day as the first of those articles we have received in answer to our request for help for our International column, are full of encouragement for the year just dawning upon us, and they show how close is the tie that already binds us to women in far countries.

The birth of this new sense of the Unity of Nations, is a sign of the times; are we of the Freedom League to lead the movement with courage and forethought, or are we to creep in at the rear when it is no longer possible

to stand aloof? Are we ready to "dare" all things for Freedom, not only for ourselves, but for the Women of all Nations?

C. DESPARD.
K. HARVEY.

From San Francisco, California.

I write these lines to express the very deep sympathy we all feel with the splendid work the "Women's Freedom League" is doing. I have read every issue of the little paper with the greatest interest, more especially the column called "How Some Men Protect Women."

The case of Violet Parrott has particularly attracted my attention, as it is startlingly similar, in many respects, to one in the Recall of our Police Judge Weller. I am so glad that you have taken the bold stand that you have done in saying, "Public Prosecutors who do not Prosecute must go," and in the Memorial of Protest to your Secretary of State.

We in this happy State of California have the advantage of you in possessing the Vote, that weapon with which to bring about needed changes in the law and its administration, and thus we appreciate all the more the heroic efforts of your women who are still powerless politically.

The great history of the Recall movement, which you have already noted in the paper, was the work of the women of San Francisco and is universally admitted to be such. The story of the fight reads like a romance, and I am going to write it up in my new book, "How We Use the Vote in California." One of the chapters in that book will be called "The Mark of the Beast," from G. Colmore's article.

We shall not abate one jot of our demands until our Courts are what they should be—Tribunals of Justice. At least those hateful words, "All women leave the Court," are not heard there!

Our hearts beat in unison with yours across six thousand miles of land and ocean. The "Woman Voters' Club of San Francisco," which has been formed as a successor to the "Votes for Women Club," sends heartiest approval of your course, and I feel that the heart of every true woman in the world is with you, throbbing for throbbing. More I cannot say, only I wish I might clasp your hands in the flesh. Cannot some of you come out to our Congress of the World's Panama Pacific Exposition? We want to make it the greatest Women's Convention ever held.

San Francisco.

SELINA SOLOMONS.

Chapter 5

Steam is Necessary for Engines.

—there is no need for it in the wash-house.

With ordinary soaps, perhaps. But not with Fels-Naptha.

Clothes are whiter, sweeter, cleaner when washed with Fels-Naptha in the Fels-Naptha way.

Just soaking and rinsing in cold or lukewarm water, with a very little rubbing to bring out the loosened dirt.

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E.C.

309

THE NEW COMMANDMENT.

AN ALLEGORY.

[CONCLUDED.]

"The dawn has come," said Knowledge, with great gladness, "see, the sun is rising over yonder mountain." A beautiful light had spread itself across the sky, and bathed the mountain tops with pure gold. The women gazed in awe; then in silence they continued their journey, walking towards the East.

The pure atmosphere dispelled the fatigue of their toilsome ascent; the women were thrilled with the rapture of unexpressed joy. The wondrous light spread wider and higher, and grew ever brighter. On the wings of a gentle wind was borne soft, sweet music, such as they had never heard. And with the music came a chorus of song. They turned to see whence it came. From the midst of the burning light, to the hearing of the women, came the words:—

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!

The voices ceased, but not the sweet music. Silent and expectant, the women stood in the midst of the light. As they looked steadfastly, the golden light began to take shape, and there before them, far away, and yet so near, stood the Mighty King they sought. Ineffable love was in his face, and on his head he wore a crown. 'Twas a crown of thorns.

The women fell on their knees; the music played on. "Oh for a message!" they prayed aloud. Still kneeling, they waited and listened. Then a voice sounded through the golden light, tender, gentle and firm:—

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you.

The voice ceased, but the sweet music played on. With bowed heads the women still knelt; perchance they might receive another message. Then came the clear sweet voice once more.

Go ye into all the world and preach this gospel to every creature

When they slowly rose from the ground, the King was gone, but the light remained. "We will not be disobedient to the heavenly vision," they said one to another. "We will go back and proclaim this gospel of love."

The women came down from the mountain. They were no longer sorrowful, but with great joy they returned to their own country. The people flocked to hear them, for they took notice of them that they had seen the Great King. The sorrows of the women had increased during the absence of their friends—some had died from the effects of their cruel treatment; many more had been cast into prison when they pleaded more earnestly for justice and mercy for themselves and their little ones. One of the rulers, because he had not much to do, took example from a ruler of ancient times, and invented new tortures for the Christian women, whereby he might be amused. These tortures were so grievous that the men who taught the people religion were roused to anger against this great evil in the land. By silence they had long conspired against the women slaves, but now they began slowly to think that those who preach of universal brotherhood must themselves be brothers.

When Knowledge, the Scribe, and the Gleaner saw what had come to pass, they said to the women who had leisure and ease:—"Arise, gird on your shields, be strong and of good courage, dread not nor be dismayed; let us fight for our poor sisters who languish in prison; why sit you in idleness and ease, while they are so sore oppressed? Injustice must be blotted out for ever, and they who are not upright and just must not rule the people!" They spoke with new power, and all the women, aye, and many men, too, listened to them. Now the people joined themselves together into a great army. The faithful Knight Templars with the

women; then came also the judges, the jurymen, the magistrates, the counsellors, the churchmen, and last of all came the scribes also. They all cried with a loud voice:—"We will fight, we will work, we will speak the truth, we will boldly rebuke vice, we will suffer no bribery." And the judges and magistrates said, moreover, "We will execute justice to all the people." Now at this time their enemies began to be sore afraid.

Each soldier wore a shield, a sword and a helmet. They took for their battle-cry the words of the New Commandment. The battle was swift, and the victory sure. Their enemies were vanquished, and the rulers were banished from the land—men of integrity and justice reigned in their stead.

On the day of their election the new rulers made a proclamation, and issued a decree throughout the length and breadth of the land:—

To none will we deny,
To none will we delay,
To none will we sell,
The right of Justice.

When Knowledge and the Scribe and the Gleaner heard this, they smiled and said one to another:—"After seven hundred years!"

So the women were made free and their sorrow was turned into joy.

A little band of twelve women stood before the door of the People's House, where the new rulers sat in conference; they rang the bell, and asked the door-keeper if they might have speech with the Chief Ruler. The man took the message, and in a few minutes the Chief Ruler stood before the women. Bowing very courteously, he prayed them to enter, "for," said he, "this is the People's House." In great surprise at the invitation, they entered timidly. Then the Ruler, smiling encouragingly upon them, waited to hear the nature of their petition.

"Sir," said the spokeswoman, "we wish to know if we are persons." "Surely, surely—all men and women are persons," replied the Ruler, laughing heartily, "it seems a strange question."

"Aye, Sir; but the last rulers made a law, and by that law, which was more strange than our question, only men were persons, and only persons could be free."

Then the Ruler said something aside, which the women could not understand. "My good women," said he aloud, "you are free, and we will make new laws to ratify the decree."

Full of thankfulness, the women went their way.

In a very large building, in the chief city of the country, the people had assembled, in order that they might publicly rejoice over the decree of the new rulers. A woman stood up to address them. She had borne torture and imprisonment many times; the traces of past suffering lingered on her patient face; she cared nought, however, for her own suffering; her warm and tender heart throbbed with compassion for the wrongs of her countrywomen. There was no trace of sadness about her now; her noble face glowed as she spoke of the joy and the duty and the dignity of labour for free women.

"Friends and Comrades," she said, "the Home is our sphere, and the whole world is our Home, and all men and women are our brethren; our brothers will work with us now for the regeneration of our land, our work has only now begun, we must work"—and she held out her arms to the vast multitude of people in an attitude of loving appeal—"we must work—because we love. Let us never again forget."—The people reverently rose to their feet. "The New Commandment!" they said, with one voice and heart.

BEATRICE KENT.

WHETHER THE SUN SHINES OR THE RAIN DESCENDS, you will do well to visit Messrs. A. and P. Kuchemann, 1, Arundel-place, Coventry-street, London, W. (near the top of the Haymarket), and supply yourselves with both sunshade and umbrella. You may be sure of excellent value for your money, and an old umbrella can be re-covered for 3s. 6d. or mended while you wait.

SPECIAL NOTICE

THOUGH it is not our general rule to make reductions of any kind, we have decided during the month of JANUARY to give a special discount of

2/- in the £

in order to compete with the Sale prices of other firms.

THE material, cut and workmanship will be as always, and, considering we only produce the best class work, this is a large reduction of which we hope all our Patrons will take advantage.

CORRECTLY TAILORED SUIT as sketch, to measure, in Navy Blue Serge or Tweed Suiting,

4 Guineas.

Less 10% discount during January.

Knight Bros
34 & 36, Oxford Street,
(next to Frascati's)
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Patterns of newest materials with Booklet of Styles and perfect self-measurement form sent post free.

JUSTICE.

During the recent festive season a Judge made an important pronouncement. He refused to sanction civil action taken in the Courts to prevent some wrongdoer pursuing an evil course, because a criminal action had not been inaugurated first by the complainants. The Judge was quite indignant. He spoke strong words about the "duty" that lay on law-abiding citizens of assisting in the administration of the law by themselves taking action to bring wrongdoers to justice, and not overlooking offences that deserved punishment. In fact, the worthy gentleman got quite earnest; and we believe he really was not joking—at any rate, intentionally.

Judges—always excepting the humourful Darling—are not endowed with a powerful equipment of wit. They can, of course, see a really broad joke. They enjoy themselves when the counsel on the one side is Mr. Dickens and on the other Mr. Pickwick. The Bench has been known to relax quite affably when three Smiths, each spelling his name differently, were parties to one case. And the pronouncement of a foreign name, or the marriage-laws of an American State, or a more than liberal interpretation of marital authority has often been sufficient to set genial thrills of mirth vibrating from Bench to Bar. On rare occasions the jury also is allowed to participate; and the Press treasures and preserves these fragments in the public interest. Judicial pronouncements such as the one we quote are, however, not only not intended to make us smile, but actually seldom do so. Yet for all that, and in spite of the grim tragedy lying below, they are comic beyond any description.

It is the duty of the citizen, injured and innocent, to set the law in motion against the criminal! We have it in our minds that this course was undertaken by Mrs.

Parrott not so long ago. The net result was that all the forces of the Law and the Administration combined not only to deny her justice but to inflict on her a heavier injustice than the original burden. A young girl, thrice drugged and assaulted by her employer, recently set the law in motion. The man received no punishment; he was only ordered to pay some damages.

In this case the girl was permanently injured and brought near her death. £350 damages relieved the criminal of all further consequences. Yet, when Mr. Pethick Lawrence, with the loftiest motives, was concerned in actions which resulted in the smashing of a few window-panes, he received (a) a sentence of imprisonment; (b) damages; (c) costs. And the law of 1908 was put in force against him to recover the costs; whereas we have no manner of doubt that, should the brute who assaulted an unfortunate girl refuse to pay up, on her will be left the business of recovering the money, and the Government machinery will not stir to help her.

If it is the duty of the private citizen to put the law in motion against criminals, it is still more urgently the duty of those who are paid by the nation for that purpose to do so. That strange intangible something known as "the Treasury," and the Attorney-General are far more slack in performing this duty than even the private citizen. In the case of Violet Parrott, the police-officers who did not do their duty and who gave perjured evidence are protected by "the Treasury," which will not prosecute them for failing to report their knowledge of a criminal offence. The Public Prosecutor (agent for the Treasury) would not act for his client, the injured citizen, in any effective manner. The Treasury will not proceed against the coloured doctor (who was not, but who should have been, imprisoned) for the recovery of the costs of the criminal prosecution. We want to know why.

If Judges want someone to rebuke or to dictate to in matters of public interest and duty, they have not far to seek. They take office from the men who most urgently demand their rebukes. They are the colleagues and official comrades of the worst offenders against public interest and public decency. It ill becomes them to instruct the public in its duty when they condone such scandalous disregard of duty and decency in office-holders of high as well as low degree. It would be refreshing to find that some resolute reform were to be the outcome of these judicial pratings; but it is daily more insistently borne in on us that reforms will only come when we are in a position to get them for ourselves.

C. NINA BOYLE.

N.U.T. CONFERENCE: FOREWORD.

In view of the campaign to be held in Easter week, during the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers, at Lowestoft, we appeal to members and friends of the Cause to rally to our support. The St. Aubyn's Hall has been booked for an evening meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at which we hope Mrs. Despard will be one of the speakers. Vote sellers, speakers for outdoor meetings, and help of other kinds will be much needed, so we ask our Teacher members to make a great effort to attend the Conference. Look out for further particulars!

M. KATHARINE TROTT.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. T.—"Marriage as a Trade," by Cicely Hamilton, is published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, Henrietta-street, London, W.C.

"THE KEYSTONE OF HEALTH."

It is undoubtedly a fact that the mineral water treatment of rheumatism, gout, gouty eczema, gravel and other uric acid troubles, is most efficacious.

You should therefore try "Vitaregis Aperient Water," which contains "Sulphur" in the most palatable form yet discovered, and is endorsed by the medical profession.

It is used in the leading Hydros, and has the decided advantage of being quite odourless, as well as palatable, and is also a mild and effective Aperient.

Half a tumblerful taken before breakfast, once or twice a week will make you fit and keep you well.

Excellent for the Complexion. An ideal Aperient.

Of all Chemists, or The Vitaregis Water Co., 39, Aldermanbury, E.C., price 1s. 3d. per large bottle.—[Advr.]

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds Not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	1,890	0	10			
<i>President's Birthday Fund—</i>						
Croydon Branch (additional)	3	17	6			
<i>Additional Organisers' Fund—</i>						
Mrs. R. Tudor	3	0	0			
Dr. D. M. Tudor	1	0	0			
" Kenneth	10	6				
Miss E. Phipps	8	0				
				4	18	6
<i>The League's Christmas Present—</i>						
Amount previously acknowledged	59	17	3			
Sheffield Branch	4	4	0			
Miss M. Campbell	4	0				
Miss Robertson	3	0				
Miss Young	3	0				
Miss Fraser	0	6				
Goods sold at office	2	0	0			
				66	11	9
<i>For Political and Militant Work—</i>						
"Anon." per Miss Boyle	9	16	0			
Miss Violet Cummin	10	0				
				10	6	0
<i>Special Bye-Election Fund—</i>						
Mrs. K. A. W. Beaumont Thomas	1	1	0			
Mrs. Schofield Coates	1	19	9			
Mrs. Fisher	1	6	8			
Mrs. Meredith Macdonald	1	5	0			
Mrs. D. Meeson Coates	1	1	0			
Miss E. Reid	1	0	0			
Mrs. Huntsman	15	0				
Mrs. Tippett	14	0				
" Kenneth	10	6				
Mrs. Arnold Brown	10	0				
Mrs. M. Cunningham	10	0				
Mrs. Gugenheim	10	0				
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0				
Miss M. Smith	6	0				
C. T. O., per Miss Alder	3	4				
Miss E. M. Baker	2	6				
Miss E. K. Biggar	2	6				
Mrs. Grace Hyde	2	6				
Miss R. Beach	2	0				
Miss A. Caswell	2	0				
Miss E. M. Evans	2	0				
Miss H. Grant	2	0				
Miss Mallett	2	0				
Mrs. W. Varian	2	0				
Mrs. Prowse	1	6				
Miss Berkeley Smith	1	0				
Miss Doe, per Miss Berkeley Smith	1	0				
Miss Henry	1	0				
Miss L. M. Jennings	1	0				
Miss Dorrie Johnson	1	0				
Miss I. B. Longwill	1	0				
Mrs. F. Spir	1	0				
Miss D. K. Taylor	1	0				
Mrs. Turton, per Miss Elphick	1	0				
Miss White	1	0				
Miss Baker, per Miss Elphick	1	0				
Collections	1	4	0			
Office Sales			6			
<i>Branches: Capitation Fees—</i>						
Birmingham	8	6				
Bowes Park	8	6				
Clapham	3	0				
Croydon	2	1	0			
Dundee	16	0				
East London	11	6				
Glasgow	7	0	0			
Herne-hill	6	0				
Manchester (Central)	1	6				
Middlesbrough	2	16	0			
Mid-London (First Instalment)	1	15	0			
Potteries	6	0				
Scottish Scattered	1	0	0			
Sheffield	5	6				
Southampton	8	0				
Swansea	1	0	0			
Waterloo	13	0				
West Hartlepool	9	6				
<i>Groups: Affiliation Fee—</i>						
Sale	4	0				
Waverton	2	6				
				£2,011	8	7

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Ltd."

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Now Ready.

- "Liberal Cant." By Eunice Murray. Price, 1d.; post free, 1½d.
- "What is Womanly." By L. Housman. Price, 4d.; post free, 5d.
- "The Traffic in Women." By C. Nina Boyle. Price, 1d.; post free, 1½d.
- "Prejudices Old and New." By Eunice Murray. Price, 1d.; post free, 1½d.

SUCCESS AFTER REBUFF.

Under the auspices of the Tottenham and Stamford Hill Branch of the Women's Freedom League, the much-discussed public meeting, held at the Municipal Hall, Tottenham, on December 16, showed what can be done by good organisation. Owing to the council's doubt about our good behaviour, we were refused the hall, but on the advice of several Progressive councillors this was rescinded, with the result that we received a free advertisement.

Having started, Miss Trott (whose capabilities as an organiser we cannot praise too highly) continued—by canvassing, distributing THE VOTE and chalking—to acquaint the neighbourhood with our views. The day before the meeting, Mrs. Huntsman kindly organised a poster parade, in which she was nobly aided by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Harbord and the Misses Trott and Smith.

Mrs. Mustard presided over our meeting in her usual charming way, and was supported by Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Alison Neilans, Mrs. Harbord, Mrs. Thompson and Councillors A. E. Harvey, W. H. Cleach, C. E. Brown and Mr. Abel. Unfortunately, Mr. John Scurr, who was announced to speak, was unable at the last moment to keep his appointment. Miss Boyle's eloquent speech will not be readily forgotten in Tottenham, and we only hope we may have the pleasure of hearing her again soon. Miss Alison Neilans dealt with the economic side of Women's Suffrage, and showed that our Movement has done more than any other to break down the class distinction among women. Councillor Harvey proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by Mr. Abel. The audience was certainly most sympathetic, and the few noisy youths, who came with rattles and squibs, kept themselves well in hand, being no more than an "irritant." The hall was decorated with our colours. THE VOTE sold well and a good collection was taken. We hope to add fresh members to our Branch as the result of this effort.

CHESTER'S NEW ENTERPRISE.

In connection with the Suffrage Shop, 45, St. Werburgh-street, Chester, Mrs. du Plerney, assisted by several other active members and friends, has started a Women's Work Exchange for the sale of articles produced by women. There are many women in Chester and the vicinity who, though not actually engaged in productive employment, are, nevertheless, desirous of disposing of the products of their labour, either to augment a slender income or to earn a living. The difficulties which, in existing circumstances, are in the way of their success on terms fair to themselves and to possible purchasers, are well known.

To meet these difficulties the Exchange has been established at the Suffrage Shop; everything produced by women in their own homes will be placed on sale at prices fixed by the producers and sold subject only to the deduction of a percentage graduated according to the value of the article. One of the principal objects of the Exchange is to do something towards the abolition of "sweating," and to this end the Exchange reserves the right to decline to accept for sale any article of which the selling price precludes the possibility of a living wage being earned by persons regularly employed in producing similar goods. All enquiries should be addressed to The Secretary, The Women's Work Exchange, 45, St. Werburgh-street, Chester.

A PLAY NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS OLD BY A BENEDICTINE NUN.

On Sunday evening, January 11, and Monday afternoon, January 12, the Pioneer Players will produce at the King's Hall, Covent Garden, *Paphnutius; or, The Conversion of Thais*, a play written about 960 by Hroswitha, a nun belonging to the Benedictine monastery of Gandersheim in Lower Saxony. It is one of six dramas written by the nun-playwright "in imitation of the manner but not of the matter of Terence," and will be produced by Edith Craig on the simple lines demanded by its construction. These plays by Hroswitha are the only ones that have survived from the long period between the decay of the Pagan theatre and the rise of the popular mystery and miracle plays; as far as is known they have never before received a public performance so the production of *Paphnutius* by the Pioneer Players will be a highly interesting dramatic event. *Paphnutius* has been translated from the original Latin by Christopher St. John, and at certain points during the action, music of the best period of plainsong, specially arranged for this production by a Benedictine nun of to-day, will be sung. Mr. Harcourt Williams will play the monk Paphnutius; Miss Miriam Lewis the penitent Thais, and Miss Ellen Terry the kindly Abbess who receives her after her flight from the world. Full particulars of the performances can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Pioneer Players, 139, Long Acre, W.C.

"THE ATHENEUM."—With the New Year Mr. John Edward Francis, representing the third generation of the family, will assume entire responsibility for *The Athenaeum*. Supplements devoted to special subjects and forming a part of the paper will be issued at short intervals. The first, dealing with French literature, will appear with the New Year. The price of *The Athenaeum* will be 6d. weekly.

GREAT WINTER SALE

Commences
on
THURSDAY,
JANUARY 8th.

BARGAINS in DEPARTMENTS.

The Two Special Days
for
REMNANTS & ODDMENTS
are
THURSDAY, JAN. 15th
and
THURSDAY, JAN. 29th

F. MEDHURST, Ltd.
FASHION DRAPERS AND ART FURNISHERS,
BROMLEY - KENT.

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Wanted: An umbrella stand, a square of carpet, and a small cupboard with glass doors. These would make welcome New Year's gifts to the office. Mrs. Ackroyd has kindly promised to conduct a party of members over the workhouse on Friday, January 9, 1914. Will those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity send word to the hon. secretary? She will meet members at the W.F.L. office at 2 p.m., or at the workhouse gates at 2.30 p.m. on that day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 6. The annual Branch meeting was held on December 19, at the office. The meeting expressed complete satisfaction with the reports of the year's work and the balance-sheet. Honorary officers re-elected—Mrs. Abbott, Literature sec.; Miss M. Stericker, Merchandise sec.; Miss K. Stericker, Vote sec.; Mrs. Terry, General sec. Much regret was expressed at Mrs. Snow's resignation from the office of treasurer. Three nominations were made for a new treasurer; the office is not yet filled. New committee members: Miss Bennett, Miss Becher, Mrs. Osman, Miss A. Sinclair. Re-elected members of committee: Mrs. Ridley, Miss Jessett, Miss Dickson, Miss Cooke. First committee meeting of the New Year on Friday, January 9, at 8 p.m., at the office, to consider immediate work and matters to be brought forward at the Conference of the League in March.

East London.

Members are invited to bring as many friends as possible to the next Branch Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 1914, at 8 p.m. There will be a paper and discussion on "Militancy" and plans for the forthcoming social will be discussed. The hon. secretary will be glad to hear of volunteers who will sell THE VOTE in the streets or in their places of business. Do not forget to send orders for merchandise.

West Hampstead.

Will all members kindly make a special point of attending a Branch meeting on Tuesday, January 6, at 8.30 p.m., at 23, Pandora-road, West Hampstead?

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.

At our last members' meeting, at Norfolk-terrace, with Miss Hare in the chair, Miss Andrews, from Headquarters, gave a very inter-

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Sun. Jan. 4.—REGENT'S PARK, Open-air Meeting (weather permitting), noon. Speakers: Miss Andrews and Mrs. Hyde.

Wed. Jan. 7.—STREATHAM, 67, Groyhound-lane (by kind invitation of Mrs. Macgregor), Whist Drive, 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 1s.

Thurs. Jan. 8.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Quarterly Meeting, 7.30 p.m. East London Branch Meeting, 37, Wellington Buildings, 8 p.m. Miss Gunner on "Militancy."

Fri. Jan. 9.—CAXTON HALL, Tango Practice Class, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., under the auspices of the London Branches Council. Tickets 2s. each (including tea) from Mrs. Huntsman, W.F.L. (including tea) from Mrs. Huntsman, W.F.L.

Mon. Jan. 19.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Madame Malmberg. Subject: "Is the Woman's Movement identical with the Eastern Revolutionary Movement?"

Wed. Jan. 21.—Caxton Hall, 3.30 p.m. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Cicely Hamilton and others.

Sat. Jan. 24.—Folmers-square Institute, Drummond-street, N.W. London Branches Council Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 28.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting 3.30 p.m., Sur-Gen. Evatt, C.B.: "Florence Nightingale."

Fri. Jan. 30.—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Mon. Feb. 2.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Mrs. Nevinson. Subject: "That men having sole political power are to blame for the present middle of Society."

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Tues. March 3.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of Madame Marcella, by Miss C. Maud, and Courage (a Dutch play), by K. H. (Evening).

Tues. March 24.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of Hiawatha (afternoon).

PROVINCES.

Fri. Jan. 2.—Fawley (Hants), The Rectory (by kind permission of the Rev. Gore Browne). Drawing-room Meeting, 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.

Tues. Jan. 6.—Chester. Free Library, 8 p.m., Debate on "Woman's Suffrage." Opener: Miss M. Neal, of Manchester.

Wed. Jan. 7.—Chester. The Holborn Restaurant, 7.30 p.m., Whist Drive for members and Friends. Hostess: Mrs. Gambrell. Tickets, 1s. each.

Thurs. Jan. 8.—Winchester. Masonic Hall, Parchment-street, Public Meeting, evening. Speakers: Miss Andrews and Mrs. Hyde. Liverpool. Branch Meeting, Aintree Institute, 8 p.m. Miss Richardson on "Woman and the Home."

Mon. Jan. 12.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Cafe Branch Meeting

Tues. Jan. 13.—Portsmouth, Castle Tea Rooms, 7.30, Members Meeting. Speaker: Miss Phillips.

Mon. Jan. 19.—Middlesbrough. Hinton's Cafe. Speaker, Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Thurs. Jan. 22.—Chester. Brown's Sale Room, St. John-street, Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: H. F. Brown, Esq., LL.B., on "Liberalism and Women's Suffrage."

Mon. Jan. 26.—Middlesbrough. "At Home." Rev. T. C. Gobat (Darlington). "Ethics of Woman's Suffrage."

Tues. Jan. 27.—Portsmouth. Lower Albert Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Speakers: Rev. G. W. Thompson and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wed. Jan. 28.—Portsmouth. Dockyard Gates, Dinner-hour Meeting. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Southampton, Morris Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Laurence Housman. Chair: Mrs. Rothwell.

Thurs. Jan. 29.—Winchester. Public Meeting, evening. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Fri. Jan. 30.—Bournemouth. St. Peter's Hall, Hinton-road, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Laurence Housman, Esq., and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Underwood.

SCOTLAND.

Thurs. Jan. 8.—Dundee. Whist Party.

Wed. Jan. 14.—Edinburgh, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. Murray.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

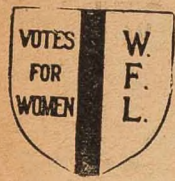
Sun. Jan. 4.—Chester, Labour Church Service, The People's Hall, Delamere-street, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. R. R. Howroyd on "Woman's Suffrage."

Fri. Jan. 9.—Wallington, WOMEN'S ADULT SCHOOL. Speaker: Miss Munro.

Fri. Jan. 16.—THORNTON HEATH PARLIAMENT. Debate, "That this Parliament Provide for the Representation of the People by Granting Votes to Women Without Delay." Affirmative: Miss Nina Boyle. Negative: Miss Mabel Smith.

Sun. Feb. 8.—Kington Humanitarian Society, 7 p.m., Miss Anna Munro, W.F.L.

Tues. Feb. 17.—WEST ESSEX WOMEN'S FRANCHISE SOCIETY, Buckhurst-hill Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, W.F.L.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Office. Party of Croydon Branch members to visit Croydon Work-house, conducted by Mrs. Ackroyd (Poor Law Guardian), 2.30 p.m. Croydon Branch Committee Meeting at Croydon Office, 8 p.m. Vote Rally, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. 8 p.m.

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BRANCH NOTES (Continued).

esting account of the recent work of the League throughout the country. A programme is being arranged for the New Year's work which will be submitted to the members after the holidays.

Chester. A few days before Christmas Miss Woodall, assisted by several other members of the Branch, gave a Snowball Party to a number of working mothers and their children at 13, Abbey-square. The snowball, which was a kind of bran pie, gave much pleasure to the children, who enjoyed a good romp together, while the mothers conversed in another room. Later, all assembled for a play, entitled Wanted, A Lady's Companion, the artistes being Mrs. Crosland Taylor and Miss Mona Smith, of the Repertory Theatre, Liverpool; Miss Betty Marston, who very kindly came from near Mold, delighted us all with her singing, and the Tiny Tots gave a pleasing variety of recitations. The party (numbering more than 30) broke up about 9 p.m., having enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant evening. Offers of help for our shop were given, and new members were made from among the friends who joined the festivity.

Ipswich. The club room was crowded out on December 18, when the result of the Christmas competition was made known. The hon. secretary thanked all who had helped to make the Christmas show so great a success. Mrs. Tippett, who was warmly welcomed, gave an interesting address on the political situation and the woman's movement. Members are requested to keep February 2 free for our Fête at St. Lawrence's Hall.

Manchester (Central).—Office, 79, Piccadilly. A very enjoyable evening was spent on the occasion of the Christmas Tree Social, and thanks are due to the members from Sale for the undoubted success of this effort. Although money-making was not the object of our gathering, the fact of having raised £5, and of thus being free to start the New Year with a balance in hand contributed greatly to the pleasure of those present. Yet it was with feelings of

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND READERS OF "THE VOTE."

WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL to all who support our Advertisers to send receipts or amounts spent with these firms to the Advertisement Manager before January 9.

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This Laundry is now being generally recognised for FAMILY WORK OF THE FINEST KIND. BABIES' DAINTY FROCKS AND LACES, LADIES' SILKS, LAWNS, MUSLINS, AND LINGERIE of the most delicate description may be sent to us without hesitation.

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341, Gray's Inn Rd., King's Cross, W.C., Phone 3656 North.

WOMEN BELL-RINGERS.

The Rev. Albert Rust, Vicar of Hishornie, Crawley, Bedfordshire, and secretary of the Bedfordshire Church Bell-ringers' Association, endorses the opinion of the Rev. E. Creswell Gee, Rector of Twineham, Sussex, that there is no finer exercise for chest development than bell-ringing. Mrs. Rust, he writes, is a church bell-ringer, and rings the treble, or second, in bob minor (six bells) and bob doubles, the weights being 6½ cwt. and 7½ cwt. In the association are two other women ringers, the Misses Steele, of Bedford, one of whom took part in a peal of grandsire triples rung by eight women.

SUFFRAGE SCHOOL.—The East London Federation of the Women's Social and Political Union are combining with the Kensington W.S.P.U. in an important piece of propaganda and educational work during the Christmas holidays, which is to take the form of a Suffrage School to be held for one week in the East End, and one week in the West End; from December 29 to January 4 in St. Mark's Hall, Old Ford, East London, and from January 5 to January 11 in the Horbury Rooms, Kensington Park Road, West. The School Course is to include lectures on Social Problems which may be effected by the use of the Parliamentary Vote, such as the legal position of the British Wife and Mother, Wages, Housing conditions, White Slavery, the Social Evil and Infant Mortality; also the history of the Suffrage Movement, the effect of forcible feeding of Suffragist prisoners, and other matters connected more especially with the fight for the Vote. Experts will lecture on these subjects. The small sum of 10s. is charged for the fortnight, or 6s. 6d. for either week; single lectures 6d. For tickets and programmes apply to Miss Jenkins, 321, Kernan-road, Bow, E.

AN APPEAL.

"THE VOTE" ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT (Extract from the Report of the Directors.)

AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

OUR SHOPPING GUIDE.

For Addresses see Advertisements near Reading Matter & on Cover. Some of these Firms advertise alternate weeks.

- BOOT MAKERS. HALL AND SON. CLEANERS. ACHILLE SERRE, LTD. COALS. W. CLARKE AND SONS. CORSETS. MISS LANGRIDGE. DENTIST. CHODWICK BROWN. DRAPERY. DEBENHAM AND FREEBODY. PETER ROBINSON. MEDHURST. GRANT BROS. THOMPSON. WILLIAM OWEN, LTD. D. H. EVANS. T. J. HARRIES, LTD. HUNTLEY AND CO. DRESSMAKING. MORA PUCKLE. MADAME JARDINE. FLORISTS. ALEXANDER AND CO. FLOURS. BROWN AND POLSON'S. FURNITURE. THOMPSON & CO. WILLIAM OWEN, LTD. GOLDSMITHS AND LEATHER GOODS. MESSRS. JOHN POUND. GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS CO., LTD. HEALTH WATERS. VITAREGIS WATER CO. HOTELS. KINGSLEY AND THACKERAY HOTELS. STRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL. INSURANCES. CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD. LITERATURE. MESSRS. GEO. BELL & SONS. MILLINERS. THOMPSON AND CO. PETER ROBINSON. GRANT BROS. DUNHILL'S, LTD. MOTOR OUTFITS. DUNHILL'S, LTD. NAIL POLISH. KRASKA CO. NATURAL FOODS. MESSRS. MAPLETON'S. OPTICIANS. A. E. MCCLEAN AND CO. PLATED GOODS. L. WIENER AND CO. RESTAURANTS. DUTCH OVEN. VEGETARIAN LUNCHEON ROOMS. SOAPS. JOHN KNIGHT. FEIS-NAPTHA. STORES. ARTHUR'S STORES. COOPER AND CO. TAILORS. BAIRD LEVISE. BUILT. COLLOA. JORDAN BROS. KNIGHT BROS. HUNTLEY AND CO. TAXPAYERS' AGENCY. MRS. AYRES PURDIE. UMBRELLAS. MESSRS. A. & P. KUCHEMANN. WOOLLEN GOODS. MESSRS. JAEGER. MEETINGS, LECTURES, etc. WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE. CLUBS. THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.

real regret that we separated, and, as a Branch, left the office which has so many pleasant associations, and to which most of us have become so attached. Members are greatly indebted to Mr. Hinos for the use of a new office at an almost nominal rent. With the lessened financial burden, there is every prospect of greater success and prosperity, and of 1914 proving to be a year of growth both of membership and of enthusiasm. The first Branch meeting will be held at the new office, 79, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, January 7, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough.

A Christmas party was held on December 23, in the Victoria Hall, which was prettily draped in green, white, and gold muslin. The Christmas-tree was heavily laden with presents. Most of the evening was spent in dancing, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Ruth Dawson sang "The Awakening" and other songs, and was accompanied by Miss Frances Richardson. Mrs. Schofield Coates made a short speech, in which she expressed the regret felt by everyone that Miss Heyes was unable to be present on account of illness; a message of sympathy and good wishes was dispatched to her from the party.

WALES.—Cardiff. We found our funds considerably increased by the Christmas competition, which aroused great interest and support, culminating in the meeting at the hon. secretary's house on December 19.

SCOTLAND.—Bromburgh. We were very fortunate in having with us at our second Branch meeting, on December 15, our honoured president, Mrs. Despard. The audience received her with great enthusiasm and heard her address with keen interest. Miss A. B. Jack, secretary Scottish Council, presided, and there was a good attendance. The resolution in favour of votes for women was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Despard was moved by Mrs. Robert Small, president of our Branch. A good collection was taken and new members were enrolled. Literature and badges sold very well. Our best thanks are due to the members of the Edinburgh Branch, who have worked so strenuously on our behalf. The next Branch meeting will be on January 12.

Dundee. At the usual meeting of the Branch just before Christmas (Miss J. A. Smart presiding) Mr. David Peat took for the subject of his discourse "Will the Enfranchisement of Women be Brought about by the Referendum?" His forecast was a General Election in two years, the Conservatives in power, and though not favourable to Woman Suffrage, they will, to get out of a hole, apply the Referendum to it and boast of having "done something." A good discussion followed.

Dunfermline. At a meeting held in the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, on December 18, the following resolution was passed:—"That this Dunfermline Branch of the Women's Freedom League are strongly opposed to the treatment given to Mrs. Pankhurst and other political prisoners; we consider this inhuman form of punishment belongs to past ages and ought to be dispensed with if we are to be a nation of any moral standing in the civilised world."

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road. The first half of our Winter session came to an end with an "At Home," at which we were fortunate in having an address from Mrs. Despard. Mrs. Bell presided over a good attendance, and Mrs. Despard's speech on the aims and work of the League was much appreciated. An interesting syllabus is being prepared for the Spring session, which starts with an "At Home" on January 14. We are looking forward to hearing Mrs. Murray on that occasion, and hope for a good attendance.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road. At a debate arranged by the Bridgeton Junior Liberal Association, Miss Sheenan took the affirmative on the question: "Should Women have the Parliamentary Vote?" Several other members took part in the discussion, and although no vote was taken, we felt that much good had been done. The following week Miss Semple took part in a debate on the same question, under the auspices of the Giffnock Literary Society. This time the question was put to the vote, and the affirmative won by a large majority.

OTHER SOCIETIES. Women's Tax Resistance League. Mrs. Kington Parkes spoke at a public meeting in Oxford, organised by Mrs. Gillett; also at a meeting of the Oxford Branch of the W.S.P.U. on the subject of Tax Resistance, and at a drawing-room meeting at Abingdon given by Mrs. Dawson Clark. Many members have been enrolled in Oxford and the district.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. A Christmas supper party on December 27, took the place of the ordinary monthly meeting of members of the Northern Men's Federation, Midlothian centre; the proceedings were most lively and enthusiastic. It was announced that a Convention of the Federation would take place in London on February 14, and many present intimated their intention of taking part. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and three rousing cheers for Mrs. Archibald Tennent, brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

A WEEK'S CAMPAIGN IN KILBIRNIE. Miss Ada Broughton was in charge of a week's campaign just before Christmas at Kilbirnie, where women workers predominate, being engaged in the cotton thread mills or in the manufacture of fish-nets. Quite recently the fish-net workers brought a strike of twenty-two weeks' duration to a victorious issue through the concession of most of their demands. During the week nearly every house was visited, leaflets left at each, and without exception a friendly spirit was manifested. On Thursday evening a meeting was held in the Masonic Hall. Miss E. J. Read, who presided, outlined the policy of the League, and Miss Ada Broughton stated the case for Woman Suffrage; both speakers received a most attentive hearing, and Suffrage literature was sold. Two dinner-hour meetings were also held at which several hundred girls were present. The campaign was brought to a close with a successful open-air meeting on the bridge on Friday evening; Miss E. J. Read presided, and Miss Broughton addressed the crowd.

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