

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

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## THE STATESMAN HOMEWARD WENDS, &c.



(The Speaker of the House of Commons, in distributing prizes at Framlingham College, is said to have quoted the following lines from Crabbe, saying that they reminded him of the attitude of the modern politician towards the Suffragette:—"Women and men he strove alike to shun, And hurried homeward when his work was done.")

### TIME—MIDNIGHT

**Policeman (in a hoarse whisper): "All clear, gentlemen! If you run, you'll get home safe."  
(General stampede of Cabinet Ministers.)**

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To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

### THE OUTLOOK.

The Government have lost their seat at Crewe. They have escaped defeat in the House of Commons by three votes only, and if the twelve Labour M.P.'s who voted for them in that division had voted against them, we should now be rejoicing in their downfall. They are very truculent and very brutal in their

opposition to Votes for Women, but at any moment the Liberal leaders may find themselves thrust out of office and powerless to continue their policy of disfranchisement and coercion. The North-West Manchester by-election has now to be fought and won by the militants. Fresh from their success in keeping the Liberal out of Crewe, the W.S.P.U. representatives are already at work. To defeat the Government nominee in North-West Manchester will be to repeat the triumph of 1903, when Mr. Winston Churchill was defeated by the opposition of the W.S.P.U. Manchester was true to the women then, and we believe it will be true to them now. There is no constituency in the whole kingdom whose verdict is so significant as that of North-West Manchester. To the managers of the political parties it is known as the key constituency. Our hope is that it will, by rejecting the Liberal candidate, pass censure upon the Government's evil dealing with the Votes for Women question. As it happens, the Unionist candidate, Sir John Randles, was the successful candidate at the Cockermonth by-election, the first in which the W.S.P.U. was successful in "keeping the Liberal out."

### The Labour Party's Position.

For the Labour Party the Crewe election has the same moral as that of Hanley. The electors will not give first place to the nominee of a Party which they

regard as a mere handmaid of the Liberal Government. By none except themselves are the Labour Members regarded as an independent force. The Liberal Whip condescendingly says that "When any test of the Government's strength has come, they have turned up magnificently." The *Daily News and Leader* says, "Test Liberalism and Labour on any specific issue of immediate practical politics, and they will speak with the same voice!" This alliance with the Government having reduced the Labour Party's strength and influence in the constituencies, the Liberal machine is now proposing to capture the seats held by the Labour Members. To crown it all, the *Nation*, the Liberal weekly, stigmatises the Labour Party as "weak, complacent and ineffective," accuses it of being more responsible even than the Government for the mishandling of the Dock Strike, and says:

The Labour Party neither stands for an uncompromising theoretic creed, nor is it a competent Opportunist group. It shows an approach to passion when one of its seats is menaced. It dissembles its feelings, or delegates them to its extreme Left, when its comrades are starving in the East End. And where is the competence of its tacticians? Its work and its future are marred by defects of character and intelligence to which it cannot rise superior; and because it is weak, and deservedly weak, a folly of Syndicalism rages among the workers, while reactionary or conservative tendencies in Liberalism develop without any sustained, or thought-out, or convincing criticism.











