

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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THE Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

In Piam Memoriam: Gabrielle Jeffery

"The just shall spring as the lily: and shall flourish for ever before the Lord."

As it was six years ago, so now, Holy Week brought a great loss to us of Saint Joan's Alliance. Gabrielle Jeffery died on March 19th and like Leonora de Alberti she was buried on Holy Saturday.

Gabrielle Violet Jeffery was the daughter of the late J. E. B. Jeffery of the Indian Civil Service, and of Mrs. C. E. Jeffery, herself a remarkable woman, who although born in the forties of last century, in an Anglican parsonage, entered the Church at the age of sixteen—an heroic feat of courage and originality at that time and in that society—and who was in her later years a doughty controversialist and a frequent contributor to the Catholic press. Mrs. Jeffery had six novels to her credit, and during her fifteen years in India she wrote many interesting articles on her travels and other experiences. She was a clever black and white artist who exhibited in various galleries and had success as an illustrator.

Gabrielle was the last of a long family, born in Devonshire after her father's death, and much of her early childhood was spent wandering with her mother through many countries—Austria, Spain, Portugal, the Canary Islands, Majorca, Switzerland, Germany—while her elder sister and brothers were at school. Later she herself was for some years at the Convent of the Cross in Boscombe.

She grew up in the days of the great agitation for votes for women, the first decade of this century, and she was still very young when she adopted the two guiding principles of her life. "Uncompromising feminism and unswerving loyalty to Holy Mother Church": she herself expressed them thus in her message to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN when it celebrated its silver

jubilee last January; and it is characteristic of her that, so near the end of her life, her ideals were still exactly those of her girlhood. She joined the W.S.P.U. soon after she left school and almost at once became an organiser for that society, during one of whose demonstrations she was arrested. But it troubled her in these years that Catholic women stood, with few exceptions, outside the suffrage movement, holding aloof, to their shame, from what she deemed to be a fight for a fuller realization of the Christian ideal. On the morning of December 8th, 1910, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, she was in the crowd who waited outside Holloway Gaol to welcome suffragette prisoners on their release, and found herself standing by another young girl. One of them mentioned to the other that she had been to Mass that morning; they hailed each other as fellow Catholics, and there and then these two girls, Gabrielle Jeffery and May Kendall, made their plan to form the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, which held its first formal meeting on March 25th, 1911, the Feast of the Annunciation. It was Gabrielle who chose as our patron Saint Joan, the Warrior Maid, herself young, unknown and without funds when she received her mission.

It is again characteristic of Gabrielle that she held office in the Society never as chairman but for a short time as honorary secretary, for thirteen years as treasurer, and from the beginning as committee member. She saw, straight and clear, the objects for which she worked, and she was neither an impractical idealist nor a fanatic but a woman of balanced judgment and unusual perceptiveness, who knew how to be wise and tolerant as well as uncompromising. But she had for publicity and the empty honours

of leadership a disregard which would have been superb had she been less humble. She organised a famous vote for women meeting during the Catholic Congress held in Norwich in 1912, when the society was still young, small, hardly known. Miss Abadam was the principal speaker, and those who remember her eloquence will not be surprised that clergy and laity, and especially clergy, packed the hall. As, however, the society advanced in years and influence, Gabrielle Jeffery tended to withdraw into the background. Exceptionally, last summer, she attended the International Suffrage Congress in Copenhagen as a delegate. She was, however, on the committee, first of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and then of Saint Joan's Alliance, from the day the society was founded until she died. For many years she was also on the editorial sub-committee of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. Only those who have worked with her on these committees know the value of her sense of proportion, intuitive vision, disinterestedness, steadiness, truth, courage and experience. From 1913 onwards the secretary of the Alliance has been her great friend, Florence Barry, with whom she lived and with whose activities she was always in closest touch.

One recalls two occasions—probably the only two—when she spoke in public. At the party given to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of that December 8th outside Holloway, she confessed that she was proud the idea of founding a Catholic Women's Suffrage Society had come from Miss Kendall and herself, but added that she was sometimes a little awed when she thought of its far-reaching consequences and its influence on some of its members, the course of whose lives it must have altered. She saw no limit to the work, so long as the way to be travelled before equality between men and women could be secured. At this party the Alliance presented to her a badge of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society—the fleur de lys on a blue field, worked in gold and enamel. "I can think of nothing that I should have valued more," she wrote in her letter of thanks. Four years later, on 8th December, 1936, she spoke of regarding this Silver Jubilee of the historic occasion outside Holloway as an opportunity for honouring Our Lady and St. Joan. Afterwards, in handing back to the editor of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, in memory of Leonora de Alberti, the £25 which was the Alliance's birthday present to her, she reminded us of the war of the spirit which all must wage from the cradle to the grave.

Duty as well as inclination kept her from playing a prominent role in the feminist movement, for her political work was a sparetime occupation, like that of many other devoted suffragists. In 1915 she joined the staff of the clerk of the Middlesex County Council and for the last twenty years of her life she was employed on maternity and child welfare work. For two of these years she lived in Hove with her mother, looking after her with great devotion until she died in her ninetieth year, travelling to her work every day. Recently she had acted as honorary secretary of the parochial council of Catholic Action in St. Mary's, Hampstead.

Any sketch of Gabrielle Jeffery would be incomplete which gave the idea of a grave and meek woman. She had a delightful sense of humour and also a sense of the ridiculous and she was a good fighter when she was convinced that a fight was necessary.

The writer of these lines cannot think of her without seeing her, slim, straight and pliant, walking with a light, firm tread at the head of a procession through the London streets, or through the streets of Rouen when Saint Joan's quinquenary was celebrated, carrying Saint Joan's banner, or carrying the saint's lilies tied with the colours of the Alliance—blue for Our Lady, white and gold for the Holy Father. Especially wearing a blue dress and holding lilies, for she seemed always to have walked out of a *quattrocento* fresco—a Florentine maid, pure, light and gold-haired, spiritualised a little beyond the human limit, who yet had come to life so that the fight in which she led us might never be sordid or mean. Miss Abadam, that early, valiant member of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, who first inspired Gabrielle with her interest in the Suffrage Cause and who survived her for so short a time, said once that she reminded her of "a lily or a flame," and Mrs. Shattock writes that "she seemed more than half of another world." "The just shall spring as the lily": those words occur in the Mass for St. Joseph's day, March 19th, which was the day of her death. Although she was fifty-three when she died, she still looked a young woman.

To the annual meeting of the Alliance, held three days before her death, she sent a message from her bed in the Royal Free Hospital: "Tell them Saint Joan's peace terms, political, social and economic equality between men and women."

She was buried on Holy Saturday beside her
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Notes and Comments

The following minute was passed by the Committee at its meeting on April 3rd:

The Alliance expresses its sorrow at the irreparable loss it has sustained by the death on March 19th of its FOUNDER, Gabrielle Jeffery. R.I.P. It desires to place on record its deep appreciation and gratitude to her to whose wise counsel and constant help the Alliance owes an immeasurable debt. It is due to her vision and courage in founding the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society that Catholic women have won their rightful place in the vanguard of the feminist movement both in this country and internationally.

The photograph reproduced on page 39 was taken during Miss Jeffery's voyage to Norway which was the Alliance's present to her after the Act granting equal franchise to British men and women had been passed in 1928.

Once more our thoughts turn with gratitude to our late editor and dear comrade, Leonora de Alberti, whose anniversary occurred on March 26th. We feel sure all our members have remembered her in their prayers. R.I.P.

In *Piam* Memoriam: Gabrielle Jeffery

(Continued from page 36)

mother, at Hove, on the downs overlooking the sea. The chairman and some members of the Alliance, members of the old C.W.S.S. among them, were present as well as her family. There were many wreaths and bunches of lovely spring flowers on the grave. The Alliance sent a laurel wreath, tied with our colours, which had the inscription: "In love and gratitude to our founder. The just shall spring as the lily: and shall flourish for ever before the Lord." Wreaths of flowers in our colours came from the Australian, Brazilian and French Sections and from the Liverpool Branch of the Alliance, and other wreaths from her colleagues on the Middlesex County Council. On the flowers she sent, Mrs. Laughton Mathews wrote: "Gabrielle Jeffery, true follower of St. Joan: in love and admiration."

It was while she was being buried that in the *Missa de Gloria* the song of Alleluia was given back to every Catholic church.

We record with sorrow the death on March 19th of the founder of our society, Gabrielle Jeffery, R.I.P. She died in the Royal Free Hospital after receiving the Last Sacraments.

Miss Jeffery had not been well for some months but until she went into hospital on February 19th, she continued to work for St. Joan's as a committee member and went on also with her work for the Middlesex County Council. That the Alliance was much in her mind to the end is proved by the message she sent to the annual meeting on March 16th. In hospital she underwent an operation which she seemed at first to have stood well, so that her complete recovery was expected. Complications set in, however, and she was for a few days critically ill, but rallied twice, and on the day of the annual meeting she was believed to be out of danger. The greetings telegram which the meeting sent her in answer to her message gave her much pleasure: "Saint Joan's annual meeting sends love, profound thankfulness for better news, thanks for message St. Joan's peace terms." She died suddenly three days later.

We offer our very special sympathy to her friend, Miss Barry, who must feel her loss even more than other members of the Alliance, and we tender our sympathy also to her family and all her friends. We thank all who have had Masses offered for her, all who have written letters of sympathy, all who sent flowers for her grave, and all who have contributed to her memorial fund.

A Requiem Mass (Month's Mind) will be said for the repose of her soul on Saturday, April 20th, at 10 a.m., at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, W.1. Two members of the Alliance will officiate—the Very Reverend Canon Reardon will say the Mass and His Lordship the Bishop of Pella will give a brief address. All members and friends are invited to attend.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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"True Follower of St. Joan"

Some Tributes to Gabrielle Jeffery

Very Rev. Vincent McNabb, O.P.

A good life ended fitly by a holy death.

Miss P. C. Challoner (Chairman of the Alliance)

I never knew Gabrielle Jeffery in the early days of the Catholic Feminist movement when she was its inspiring founder, nor well, as ordinary acquaintanceship goes, in the later years of her life, but I knew her well enough to recognise the power of her spirit and the strength of her convictions.

The self-effacement that made her utterances rare made them also the more highly valued, and there was no holding back when principles were at stake, and those who were at the Annual Meeting will remember the clarion call from what proved to be her death-bed—"St. Joan's Peace Terms."

We who felt a kinship with her spirit, in our small way, we may perhaps interpret it to a generation that needs such clarity, humility, and strength.

Miss Kathleen FitzGerald (First Chairman of the C.W.S.S.)

How can I express my admiration and affection for our dear "Mother Foundress" who has left us?

How many memories her death recalls to her fellow workers in the Suffrage Cause—I see her now quite vividly before me at the first public meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society—held in the Kensington Town Hall on May 10th, 1912.

Gabrielle had chosen the modest office of door keeper—our speakers were Mrs. Morgan Dockrell and Mr. Joseph Clayton with myself in the Chair.

When I rose to speak the first startling incident which met my gaze was our gallant Gabrielle using all the force of her 8 stone in

the attempt to keep out a male visitor who had evidently come to obstruct. Her efforts were successful and our first crowded public meeting was held without interruption. As on that occasion, she was on many others the ready helper and adviser. Farewell, my valiant little friend! You will be greatly missed in St. Joan's Alliance where your example and your dear memory will always be cherished!

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.

(ex-chairman)

It is so difficult to believe that she is no longer in this life, and yet in life there was so much of her which never seemed of the earth. She had an ethereal look as in a painting of a mediaeval Saint.

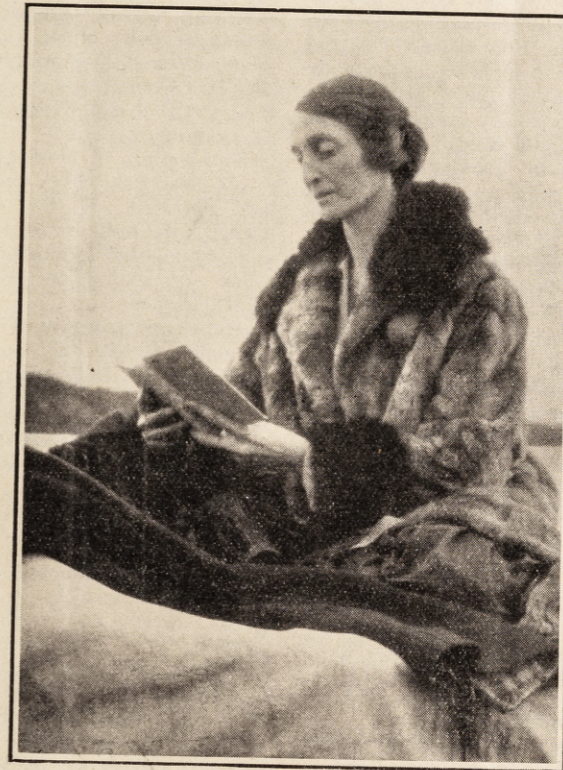
And yet how practical she was in matters where principle was concerned. Her opinion might come slowly but we waited for it and relied on it. Our trust in her judgment and in her knowledge was well placed. Her manner was gentle, almost diffident, but it covered a strength of purpose which no criticism or adversity could shake.

There are many who have ideas, many too who can put the ideas of others into operation. In one person, the combination of idealist and "man of action" is rare and it is such a combination which produces the great pioneer, the man or woman who makes history.

Such a one was Gabrielle Jeffery.

The thought might have come to many women that a Society should be formed to organise Catholic women in the woman Suffrage Movement, and the thought would have been still-born. Fortunately the thought came to a woman who could act as well as dream dreams and the Society was soon a living reality.

Mother Foundress, we called her in affection, often to the surprise of newcomers to the



O VALIANT HEART

Written on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of our founder, Gabrielle Jeffery

O valiant heart, so steadfast in the race,
Faithful and true, who dost thyself efface.
Crowned in our midst thou still shalt keep thy place—
While thy brave work goes on apace.

Mary the Maid, she took thee by the hand;
Joan, Warrior Maid, she bade thee understand.
Guided, inspired, thou ledest on thy band,
Marching towards a promised land.

Let us arise, refreshed, and forward go,
Strong to the end and strong in weal or woe.
They shall be high who now stoop down so low—
Greater reward no man can know.

CHRISTINE SPENDER,

Society who found it difficult to believe that this very youthful-looking woman could possibly have founded the Society 29 years ago. "Are you any relation to the Foundress?" asked a provincial member once on hearing the name Miss Jeffery. "I always pictured Miss Jeffery an old lady," she exclaimed in astonishment on hearing that this really was the Foundress.

Gabrielle Jeffery shrank from the limelight. She avoided prominence of any kind and on the rare occasions when she spoke in public, it was only to small meetings of friends in the Alliance.

Consequently her personality was not well-known to a very wide public. Only we who have worked beside her for so many years, know how much her wisdom, her steadfastness of purpose, her essential goodness, have influenced the counsels and the decisions of the Alliance which she founded.

And the work goes on. A living memorial.

Mademoiselle Lenöel (Founder of L'Alliance Ste Jeane d'Arc)

Je suis bien sensible au deuil qui atteint toute l'Alliance et à la perte que je fais personnellement en la personne de Miss Jeffery.

J'ai toujours eu la plus profonde estime pour son caractère et si elle n'était pas de celles qui invitent aux manifestations immédiates, le sentiment qu'elle inspirait n'en était sans doute que plus ferme.

Middlesex County Council

Miss Jeffery's death has been a very great shock to all of us and she will be very greatly missed. She has always given herself most loyally and unsparingly to her work and it seems very hard that this should happen just when she might reasonably be looking forward to a not so distant retirement.

G. W. RADCLIFFE (Clerk of the County Council)

Mrs. Lovibond (Chairman, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee—Middlesex County Council)

I had the greatest regard for Miss Jeffery and always admired the quiet manner and the great tact she used in dealing with all that came in contact with her. It has been a sad blow to the staff and a great loss to the County Council. As Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee I can speak with some knowledge and gratefulness for her help to me personally.

Miss Dorothy McEwen (co-worker with Miss Jeffery under Middlesex County Council)

By the death of Miss Jeffery the Middlesex County Council loses a valuable and greatly respected official.

For nearly twenty-four years she had been on the staff of the Clerk to the Council, twenty years of which were devoted to specialised administrative work in connection with maternity and child welfare, as Clerk to Local Welfare Committees, including amongst other things, the charge of applications for milk from necessitous mothers.

The welfare of mothers and young children is a cause Miss Jeffery had very much at heart, and although she had little opportunity of meeting the mothers personally, she seemed to understand their difficulties, and their applications for assistance always received every consideration.

Her death is deeply mourned and she will be remembered with affection, not only by those who worked with her daily, but by the members of the Local Welfare Committees and the members of the Staff of the Council with whom she was associated in the course of her duties.

Her loss to me personally is irreparable for she was not only a devoted friend but a loyal colleague, always ready to advise and help me in matters of doubt and difficulty.

British Commonwealth League

We are extremely grieved to hear of the great sorrow which your organisation has sustained in the death of your Founder Gabrielle Jeffery. What a loss she will be to you all and to the whole Women's Movement. She has however left behind her a lasting memorial in St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and so her inspiration and work will be carried on. Please convey to your Committee our deep sympathy.

DAISY SOLOMON.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship

I want to say to you how very deeply I sympathise with you and with St. Joan's. I know that though Miss Jeffery was so quiet and self-effacing she meant a very great deal to your work . . . Gaps in the circle of fellow-workers and perhaps still more of friends are very, very difficult to fill as the years go on, and of course nothing ever can replace just that one person. I hope you will let your Committee know that we are conscious of a great loss.

KATHERINE BOMPAS.

Open Door Council

I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Miss Jeffery: grieved for the loss to us in a movement which has owed, and will continue to owe, so much to her . . .

I never knew Miss Jeffery well in the ordinary sense. But having met her once or twice I realised that it was quite unnecessary to do

so in order to realise her character. She had in her person, for all to see, the mark of the high purpose which inspired and ruled her life and which flowed from her to others, strengthening their purposes and lifting up their ideals. She had, for me, what I can only call a dedicated look: and I shall not forget it.

ELIZABETH ABBOTT.

Suffragette Fellowship

. . . Your tragic loss may be somewhat mitigated when you remember her beautiful disposition and her great and disinterested services to the women's cause, but we would have liked her to be with us for many years longer . . . May your Alliance find fresh workers to carry on her work in her spirit of unselfish devotion.

EDITH HOW-MARTYN, *Chairman.*

Women's Freedom League

I have known and admired her for so many years and she was always so dear and kindly to me.

May I offer you and your colleagues my heartfelt sympathy in this loss? I know well how keenly you will feel it.

FLORENCE UNDERWOOD.

Miss Amalia de Alberti

She was a sweet and gentle soul, yet strong. I am so sorry for St. Joan's. How strange that she should die in Holy Week and be buried on Holy Saturday like Leonora!

Miss Evelyn Billing

Her work, triumphantly done and in complete dedication to God, must be carried on into the future.

Miss Barbara Barclay Carter

To us all it will be like the disappearance of a strong pillar that unobtrusively held up the roof. We shall all miss her gallant, unassuming personality. What a living memorial she has left!

Miss Annie Christitch

Gabrielle Jeffery has gone to her reward, we cannot wish her back. That pure unselfish soul who made one feel better, or want to be better, whenever one saw her. But knowing that she has at last reached whither she ever tended does not lessen the suffering for those left behind. We shall all miss her for we all loved her and we all knew how much she meant to St. Joan's from the early days of the gallant fight to establish the C.W.S.S.

Miss D. J. Collier, F.R.C.S.

Her inspiration has been a guiding influence for St. Joan's and the friends of St. Joan's so that her death will be felt as a personal

unhappiness even by those who did not know her intimately and we can appreciate the more the tragedy it will be for those associated with her more closely.

Mrs. Crossley

I am deeply grieved to hear of the loss of our dear co-foundress. I hope please God her help will always be felt even if she herself has changed places.

Mrs. Prister Cruttwell

How grieved I am for the Alliance in losing Miss Jeffery. I know what a wonderful personality she had and what faith she had, though I only knew her very slightly personally.

Miss Katharine Davis

I feel we are lucky in having that valiant soul in Paradise where surely she will be thinking of St. Joan's and bringing blessings upon the movement she loved so well on earth.

Miss Valentine Garnett

So many knowing and unknowing have benefited and blessed her for her great work. Though I knew her so slightly, personally, I always felt I knew her through St. Joan's.

Mrs. and Miss C. M. Gordon

My mother and I are completely saddened by the news of Miss Jeffery's death. It is crushing to lose such a unique personality and the blow to the Alliance is immense.

Miss Havers

She will indeed be a loss to St. Joan's, her child, that she loved so well, and who loved and appreciated her in return. To-day is the Annunciation and one cannot but picture her spending the beautiful feast, that meant so much to her here, in Heaven (as surely we may confidently hope), after all her patient labours here. May she rest in peace and remember us as we shall remember her!

Mrs. Hastings-Gray (Erica Butler-Bowdon)

We can never forget the great and unselfish work which she started for the emancipation of Catholic women.

Miss Sheila Hynes

She will always be remembered by those who knew her as one who contributed so much to our Cause in her own quiet way.

Lady Laughton

I am so sorry for you all—you will miss Gabrielle Jeffery so very much—a gentle personality which hid so much courage. So she, and Leonora, are united again—almost the same date in March, and Easter Day for their reunion! God's Peace be with them both.

Miss Geraldine Lennox (late sub-Editor of "The Suffragette")

I have known Gabrielle Jeffery since the early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and the impression she made upon me then has only deepened as the years passed—that she was one's ideal of a Christian. Gentle, kind with her charming smile she radiated her quiet happy personality on those around, and although the founder of the society she kept herself in the background and was glad when others who had helped her got the praise and applause. She will be a great loss—not only to St. Joan's and her own circle of friends—but to her Church and to the cause of women and children all over the world. To you and the members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance I send my sincere and deep sympathy.

Miss Stella Mannion, Founder of the Oldham Branch.

When I met her at the Annual Meeting I used to think how gentle she was and yet how active and courageous she must have been to found St. Joan's when the vote for women was anathema to most church-going people. I feel sure she is in Heaven but I will remember her in my prayers.

Miss Meredith

She was a sweet lady and will be missed.

Miss Minnie O'Sullivan

She was really a shining light—sincerity and sanctity shone from her. I admired her qualities very much and wondered how she found the strength for her enthusiasms.

The Misses Nancy and Mary Parnell

To St. Joan's her loss is a tremendous one, not only because she founded it, but also because she brought to its councils such good judgment and clear-sightedness combined with such great devotion to the things for which it stood—a rare combination.

A Religious (formerly a member of the W.S.P.U. and the C.W.S.S.)

May I say how deeply I sympathise with you in the loss of so true a friend and so valiant a soldier of Christ. What a glorious Easter we may well hope for her . . .

The pioneer work comes back to me vividly—and Hove! It was there that a little Serbo-Irish girl for the first (and last) time dared to harangue the British public on its attitude to women. . . . What a hard up-hill work it was dealing with the man in the street, and how much harder dealing as Miss Jeffery had the courage to do, with the good pious people who

could not see! She has left a magnificent work—the result of her true Christian charity and powers of self-sacrifice, and her reward will be in proportion. . . . It is a great joy to me to follow from afar the movement that I have never dissociated from my love of the Church, appreciating it, if anything, more as the years go by.

A Religious (Former Schoolfellow of Gabrielle Jeffery)

She was such a good and fervent Catholic and Our Lord will reward her for all her pious works. I shall think of St. Joan's Alliance, and pray that it may be a work always blessed and prosperous.

Mrs. Hope Robson

How we shall all miss her sweet face at our functions in the future. May the dear Lord rest her saintly soul in peace.

The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch

. . . She did a great work—and what was so wonderful about her, seemed to keep herself in the background. Only real holiness could do that. For her one cannot grieve—and to-day I am thinking not so much of her loss as of one who founded a big thing and through it has done great public work . . .

Miss Marie Rochford

She will be a great loss but a beautiful memory always.

Miss Christopher St. John

I once wrote a little play about Irena Macrena, a Polish nun who at the time of the Tsar Nicholas I was trying to extirpate the Catholic Faith in that part of Poland—once more in the occupation of the Russians—set a noble example of resistance, and was imprisoned. She escaped and her experiences were set down in a book from which I drew my material. Several members of her community were brutally murdered—and I remember that when she heard of the martyrdom of one, she exclaimed: "She was hidden from us all by her humility." I tell you this because that was my feeling about Gabrielle Jeffery. I had a great reverence for her. There was such strength behind that gentle fragile exterior.

(Her death) means a great loss to the Alliance, but her devotion to it, like that of Leonora de Alberti, will always be an inspiration to those who survive her.

Mrs. Shattock, M.B., B.Sc.

There is so little to say and, apart from us, so little to regret. She always seemed more than half of another world. So we, and especi-

ally St. Joan's, are the chief losers. Will Saint Joan awake a new young band of workers, not too unworthy of those who are leaving us?

Mrs. Helen Shorto

She was so quiet and retiring and I admired her very much . . . I wonder what form of memorial St. Joan's will have for Miss Jeffery. She deserves one, a live one too!

Miss Smyth-Pigott

I was so grieved to read your sad notice, it is a great loss to the society. She was so capable and so resolute and so gentle. I do not think she can ever have had an enemy in her life . . . I am having Mass said for her though a brave soul like hers must soon go to its reward.

Miss E. K. Spencer

She was too young for one to think of her leaving this world but perhaps she was too good and had done the work she was sent to do here.

Sister Mary Veronica, S.S.A.

It is like the removal, almost, of one's Angel Guardian. But our dearest Lord never does that, and she has simply joined the ranks of our invisible Guardians. Amen. Eternal Rest and Light Perpetual and Peace be hers.

Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund

At the request of many members of the Alliance, a Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund has been opened. Already many have sent donations, and we feel sure that there must be admirers of Miss Jeffery outside our own Alliance who would like to pay a tribute to her by helping the work that was so near her heart. In trying to interpret what would have been her wish, we have decided to apply the fund to the provision of regular clerical assistance in the office, after devoting a part to a small portrait or drawing.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Leonora de Alberti in the *Catholic Suffragist*, April 15th, 1915.

"A writer has said, that in quoting the text: 'Blessed are the Peace Makers' we lay stress upon the word peace, whereas we should emphasise the word 'makers.'

And that is true, for lovers of peace, and they exist in all countries, should combine and organise, work, prepare, and pray for peace, as militarists prepare for war. Love of country does not, should not, preclude the wider love of humanity, and in the love of humanity women must lead the way."

29th Annual Meeting

The 29th Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was held on March 16th at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., presiding.

The Meeting opened under a cloud owing to the grave illness of our founder, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery. Miss Challoner said how grieved we were that she was lying ill in hospital. Miss Barry brought a message from her. Miss Jeffery had said: "You know St. Joan's Peace terms—the political, social and economic equality between men and women." She had sent a cheque of £5 for the funds. A Greetings telegram was read from the Liverpool Branch and a message of good wishes from Oldham, both much regretting the absence of representatives, owing to war conditions.

The Annual Report was read by Miss Billing after which Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, M.A., moved its adoption. She was, she said, impressed by a report of intelligent and useful work and, after nine years absence, by the growing importance of St. Joan's Alliance as a political force. She paid tribute to the singular disinterestedness and directness of Miss Barry and Miss Jeffery who allowed no petty or personal elements to creep into their work. Miss Douglas Irvine had especially noted our work for African women and that women were incorporated in the fighting forces though there was a tendency to underpay them in this capacity and to keep them in a subordinate position. She would go back to Chile knowing that in England there was no work so worth while as St. Joan's and that the Society was indeed a vital force for Christianity and liberty.

Miss Neilson, a new Executive member, thanked her fellow members for asking anyone so young in membership to serve on the Committee and to speak on this occasion. In seconding the adoption of the Annual Report she emphasised the unanimity of a Society like St. Joan's Alliance, born of a common Faith and a common subscription to feminism, a unanimity which enabled us to leap promptly into action. Catholicism and feminism were different facets of the same jewel and should never be pigeonholed in separate compartments. Miss Neilson had one great regret, that the first chapter in the history of women's enfranchisement had passed without the election of a Catholic woman M.P. But for this end there should be numbers of potential Catholic women M.P.s. The words "Social and Political" in the title of St. Joan's Alliance were fraught with meaning since social and political action were complementary to one

another. Miss Neilson quoted from the letters of the late Winifred Holtby, when she wrote: "One must work both ends at once, at one end with individuals, at the other with 'questions'—these 'questions' and individuals, said Miss Neilson, surely corresponded with the "Social and Political" in our title and constituted the training and background of the ideal public woman.

The Financial Statement was presented by Miss Billing and moved by Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald. Miss Fitzgerald paid tribute to our new Chairman, Miss Challoner, saying that St. Joan's was always sent the right person at the right moment. She drew attention to the Government posters "Spend to Save" and pointed out that members of the Alliance must spend to save the magnificent work of the Alliance from annihilation. She hoped all would put their hands liberally in their pockets even if there was nothing much there.

Miss Pat Harrington, the youngest speaker, who seconded the adoption said that if variety was the spice of life, work in the Office was spice for it entailed much variety and had been a joy to her for the past month or two. She considered Miss Barry was a marvel and could even give nuns (famed for their economies) a few points in economising. But everything cost money—the office, the telephone, and office equipment and it was for each individual to do her bit in helping to supply funds, and not to "pass the buck," as the Canadian saying had it, i.e., not to sit back and consider that helping was her neighbour's duty instead of her own.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting. Miss Challoner said that of work accomplished during the year she had been particularly struck by that regarding the Equal Moral Standard. St. Joan's Alliance had been agitating for the withdrawal of prophylactic packets made available to the Forces, on hygienic grounds, which were in effect only an incitement to immorality. The Alliance was now working to have the "Maisons Tolérées" in France put out of bounds for British soldiers. It was difficult to think of this abuse as a "lesser evil"—evil was an absolute thing and nothing could change its evilness. This one involved human souls—souls of infinite value in the sight of God. We ought sometimes to think of the fate of these unfortunate girls besides thinking of the morals of our troops. Miss Challoner then told the meeting of the interest aroused by our work for African girls. Not only had we been visited by Bishop Kiwanuka, the first African Bishop, but

also by an English dignitary who had brought us a special message from the Cardinal saying how much he approved and appreciated our work on behalf of African women. Then there was the little thread of persistence running through various issues of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, concerning the provision of Chaplains for the women Undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge.

Canon Reardon entered during these remarks and said how very pleased he was to be a member of St. Joan's Alliance and how much he appreciated our great work to get temptation withdrawn from the way of "our boys."

Mrs. McFadyen then made a most successful appeal for funds. She made great use of a letter written to the Hon. Secretary by our Hon. Accountant, Mrs. Benjamin, in which the latter said:

"I do hope you will have a very good meeting and that all the members will really take to heart the position of affairs as disclosed by the financial statement and for the sake of the Society find a means of making its foundations a little more secure. I say *all* the members advisedly. . . I wish I could devise some scheme which would ease the burden of your labours and anxieties."

Being Scotch, Mrs. McFadyen said she appreciated economy, but money was badly needed. The appeal resulted in a welcome addition to the funds of £33.

It was suggested by the Chair and unanimously welcomed by the meeting that a Greetings telegram expressing sympathy and best wishes be sent to Miss Jeffery and this was duly done.

The following resolutions were then moved from the Chair and carried:

REAFFIRMATIONS

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance reaffirms the resolutions repeatedly carried at past annual meetings which urge (1) the grant of *equal political rights* throughout the Empire, including the admission of women to the *House of Lords*; (2) the repeal of the present unjust *solicitation laws*; (3) the better protection of young children from sexual assault; (4) the enforcement overseas of affiliation orders; (5) the establishment of *equal pay and opportunities* for men and women and freedom for *married women* to decide for themselves whether they shall engage in paid work; (6) the elimination of all differentiations on the ground of sex in *insurance and pensions legislation*; (7) the separate *taxation of married persons*; (8) the banning of the dissemination of *contraceptive advice* by public authorities, whether central or municipal, and of the further legalisation of sterilisation and abortion.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance urges the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State of the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry to cease making prophylactic packets available, on request,

for all men of the British armed forces; also to take all possible action to protect the men of the Home and British Empire Forces by insisting that, in France and in other countries where the system of licensed brothels still exists, these houses shall immediately be declared out of bounds to every member of the British Forces.

It further begs the Prime Minister and the responsible Ministers of State to insist that definite arrangements be made in all areas where our Forces are situated to provide social centres (huts or houses which can be used as cafes, reading and writing rooms and recreation centres, etc.)

EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance urges that women in industry shall be paid at the same rate as men and enjoy the same conditions of employment. In cases where women replace men on military service, they should clearly understand their obligation to relinquish their work in favour of the men who held it previously when the latter return to civil life. Otherwise all employment should be open to women on the same terms as to men.

WAR SERVICES

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance protests (a) against paying volunteers in civil defence services a flat rate one-third less than the payment to men for the same work; (b) the practice of paying one third less to women in the Auxiliary Fighting Services than to men doing similar work in the Navy, Army and Air Forces; (c) the practice of paying the dependents of women in national service, who are killed or disabled in the service of their country, less compensation than is paid in like circumstances to the dependents of men.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

The Alliance protests against the principle on which, in the Government's new Old Age Pensions Bill, old age pensions are granted to certain classes of women at a lower age than to men, this principle being inimical to women's true interests.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to adopt and pass into law without delay, Lord Alness's Nationality of Married Women Bill.

POLICEWOMEN

The Alliance calls upon the Government to make it compulsory for all Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint attested policewomen under the same conditions as policemen.

FORCED MARRIAGES

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance notes with satisfaction the further enquiries being made by the Colonial Office into the question of forced marriages of African women.

It calls for legislation, on the lines of the Decree Regulating Native Marriages recently passed for French East and West Africa, and reiterates that the following principles should be embodied in a uniform ordinance throughout the British dependencies:

I. No contract of marriage or betrothal shall be made for any girl under fourteen years of age.

II. No contract shall be made for a girl over fourteen years of age without her consent.

III. Any such contract shall be declared null and void.

IV. Any person who coerces any girl or woman to enter a marriage union against her will shall be guilty of an offence.

STATUS OF WOMEN

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance trusts that even in the present emergency the League of Nations will set up a committee competent to deal with the status of the women of primitive peoples, thus amplifying its present investigations into the status of the women of the world.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

(a) St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance expresses its satisfaction that the final text of the Convention for the *Regulation of Contracts of Employment of Indigenous Workers* omits any special provisions relating to women.

(b) While regretting the continuance of any restrictions on women's and girls' *Training in Technical and Vocational Schools*, St. Joan's Alliance is glad to note that the final Draft Recommendation of the International Labour Conference at least permits such training, for a short period, to girls and women on work which on grounds of health they are legally forbidden to do.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance notes the Statement of Policy on Colonial Development and Welfare (Cmd. 6175) and welcomes the more ample Government Grant which is to replace the Colonial Development Fund and which is to be partly available for agriculture, education, health and housing in the colonies and mandated territories.

In view of the lack of education facilities for girls in so many parts of the Colonial Empire it calls upon the Government to apply a due proportion of the grant to the needs of women in those areas, in particular to the educational needs of girls.

ALICE ABADAM. R.I.P.

We regret to record the death of Alice Abadam on March 31st.

Miss Abadam was a gifted and an attractive personality. With unstinted generosity she placed herself at the disposal of all suffrage societies; and as an original member of the C.W.S.S. she did incalculable service.

She was a calm woman of fine presence and her fiery eloquence and her wit did much to convert clergy and laity to the support of "Votes for Women."

Miss Abadam died full of faith and happiness, after receiving Holy Viaticum. Members of St. Joan's Alliance, especially those who knew her in the days of the suffrage campaign, will pray for the repose of her soul, and treasure her memory with gratitude for her stalwart help to the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in its early days.

Review

"The English Miss To-day and Yesterday.
By Alicia C. Percival. (Harrap 10s. 6d.).

The title combined with the many lively illustrations, quaint scraps of verse, original chapter-headings and bright, often colloquial style might at first glance lead one to suppose that this book was not intended for the serious student of social history. To do so would be to make a grave mistake. It is entirely serious in purpose and is in the same tradition as such classics of the feminist movement as Lyn Blaise's "Emancipation of English Women" or Ray Strachey's "The Cause."

Miss Percival is not attempting to write a history of women's education in England during the past hundred years—that ground has been frequently and adequately covered—but rather to indicate and to discuss, with an eye to the present and to the future, the varying ideals that underlay the enormous changes which have occurred in this sphere during the last century. To this task she brings not only great erudition and authority, but also considerable shrewdness, freshness and observation. At the end of her book one is left pondering on the very fundamentals of education and not altogether satisfied with even the best that has been achieved.

Catholics will naturally turn with especial interest to the chapter entitled "Off the Beaten Track" where the author deals specifically with convent schools, as forming a large group that has developed on independent lines. Miss Percival, here as elsewhere, has endeavoured to be scrupulously fair and objective in her treatment and has obviously gone to some trouble to acquaint herself with their history and ideals, but her survey is inadequate and her final judgment would not be ours. The fault is not entirely hers. The Catholic community in England has so far produced few works of outstanding merit which illumine even for the intelligent Catholic the principles and ideals underlying our prevailing educational system. Furthermore, as a writer of social history, she naturally and rightly gives some weight to the testimony of literature, and especially of fiction. Modern novelists cannot be said to have been kind to the convent school. There is room for Catholic writers in both these directions, if prejudice is to be overcome and justice done to these establishments and to our tremendous efforts generally to preserve our educational independence.

NANCY PARNELL.

Notes and Comments

The testimony which Mr. John Morgan gave in the House of Commons to the ability and usefulness of our land girls should be recorded. They had, he said, brought back into cultivation a derelict estate at Peacehaven measuring from two to three hundred acres. "One was a mannequin from Bond Street, one a tap-dancer . . . They have made such a good job of it that I am told by the organizer for East Sussex that every time he sees them on the tractor he feels obliged to lift his hat to them."

The Minister of Agriculture speaking in the House on April 4th said that many messages of appreciation of the work that is being done by the Women's Land Army volunteers are being received. The supply of this valuable additional labour was not only essential but both efficient and economical.

* * * *

Dr. Shattock, addressing the Aberdeen University Catholic Society, has protested for "good practical reasons" against the "non-sense" of speaking of Catholic Doctors and Catholic scientists.

"These labels, given very freely, are generally a burden to their recipient. They imply a setting apart, a privilege. And what is given in privilege, grudgingly, with one hand, is often exacted in penalties. Women know this very well and that is why they may sometimes be regarded as ungrateful because they do not wish to be privileged, and prefer to have their work assessed like everybody else's, no better and no worse, on its merits. These privileges, if you accept them, will very soon lead to protective legislation and this to exclusion. The terms are so often synonymous! Refuse the special label. Be content with being good scientists or good doctors. And shew your Catholicity by the measure of your honesty and efficiency."

* * * *

France. An early acceleration of the rate at which women are to be absorbed into industry is promised in a statement by the Ministry of Labour, which announces that within the next few days a decree will be published making compulsory the employment of a certain proportion of women—100 per cent. in some cases—in a number of industries.

Referring to what has already been done, the statement reveals that in February alone 170,000 women were taken on in war industries, including textiles, and points out that in the establishments directly under the control of the Ministry of Armaments 29 per cent. of the workers are women.—*Times*.

War-time Pensions

A deputation of Women's Organisations, arising from the recent Conference on "Women in Wartime," organised by the Women's Freedom League, was received by Sir Walter Womersley, Minister of Pensions, on March 19th. It dealt with the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, in connection with the differentiation of compensation between men and women without family responsibilities, the inadequate allowances for the wives and children of injured men and the absence of compensation for the unpaid domestic workers, including the wives and mothers, except in respect of the wages of a person to replace her in domestic labour in her home, to be paid to the person deprived of the injured woman's services. Our representative Miss Somers dealt with this last point, and was also called upon to deal with the second point. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, representing the Women's Freedom League, introduced the deputation.

On the differentiation between men and women it was pointed out that under the Government's scheme boys and girls under eighteen would receive equal compensation but at twenty-one there would be a difference of ten shillings a week in the boy's favour in the case of total injury. On the inadequacy of allowances for the dependants of injured men, including the lack of provision for more than four children at most, the Minister assured the deputation the position had been rectified on the lines of Service pensions and that an allowance would be made for each additional child.

On the question of the treatment of the injured wife Miss Somers pointed out that the loss to a family through the incapacity of the mother could not be measured by the cost of replacing her in her domestic labours, and that the indemnity should be paid to her so that she might not lose control and prestige in the home. Miss Somers had a splendid backing from the other members of the deputation, in this point of view, which appeared to be new to the Minister and his advisers.

Sir Walter Womersley promised to give sympathetic consideration to the various points put forward by the deputation, the first to approach him on this Act.

Obituary

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of His Grace Archbishop Kelly of Sydney, who died recently. His Grace was a friend of the Alliance and signed the Petition of Catholic men

and women presented to the 13th Assembly of the League of Nations, asking for equal nationality rights between men and women.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Hastings Gray on the death of her father, to Mrs. Shingler on the death of her mother, and to Mrs. Belloc Lowndes on the death of her husband.—R.I.P.

We are grieved to record the death of Mr. H. S. L. Fry, a member of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage and a member of the Women's Freedom League. He was a non-Catholic subscriber to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN until he became blind a few years ago.

Mr. George Elliot Anstruther, a good friend of the Alliance and an early member of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society died on March 20th. From 1920—1936, assistant editor of the *Tablet* he has since been assistant editor of the *Catholic Herald* and in its columns paid a tribute to the *Catholic Citizen* on the recent occasion of its Silver Jubilee. R.I.P.

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