

THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 6.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Justice Dons a Motley Garb.

Mr. Justice Grantham—who fell foul of the Liberals in 1906—should surely rank now as first favourite. He proved himself on Wednesday last at the trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans to be an apt and ardent imitator of members of the present Cabinet. The judge who could stoop to taunt a prisoner in the dock—a prisoner whom he was going to sentence to the horrors of the hunger-strike and the degradation of forcible feeding—with the statement that "she seemed to be enjoying herself very much." is a fit tool for the Cabinet that finds in the torture of women food for laughter, and the passionate desire for liberty and freedom a contemptuous jest. Mr. Grantham has surely by now wiped his former "indiscretion" off the slate.

The Light of History on "Justice" Grantham.

Far be it from us to suggest that this gentleman courts notoriety—that is left for bold, bad Suffragettes—but certain incidents in his career will effectually prevent his name from sinking into obscurity. One happened at the last General Election in connection with the Yarmouth petition, when he proved that no such trifles as evidence were going to deflect him from what he held to be his duty in pronouncing sentence in accordance with his (political) conscience. Bribery and corruption had been frankly admitted in this case, but, said Mr. Grantham, "to invalidate the election would be oppressive in an enlightened age." No one will dispute his claim to pose as an authority on what constitutes oppression.

Opinions in the House of Commons.

The motion by Mr. MacNeill in the House of Commons, which followed this action, "that Mr. Justice Grantham be dismissed from the bench because his mind was so biassed that he was incompetent to give fair and impartial judgment," received further confirmation on Wed-

nesday last. This impartial judge made a special request that the cases against the Suffragettes should be put upon his list. He was evidently fired with a desire to show a lenient world how they should be treated; he possibly realised also that they would provide him with an excellent opportunity of displaying his own peculiar brand of humour. It is interesting to recall Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's words of wisdom given during the discussion in the House on Mr. MacNeill's motion: "When a judge, whose proper function it is to try a case, steps down into the lower sphere, and assumes the right to use the position which he occupies, and the advantage he possesses of not being answered on the spot, to make little partisan speeches, he is as open to our criticism as any man in the street." He also added: "After the censure passed on his language and action he will not be likely to repeat his ill-mannered conduct." "C.-B." evidently did not shine as a prophet.

Advice from the "Times."

"It is reasonable and natural that he should seek a well-earned repose before the close of the long vacation." This was the gentle hint given to Mr. Grantham in *The Times* of July 27th, 1906. It is excellent advice, and still holds good. We can assure "Justice" Grantham that the country finds his humour and his justice very dear at the price, and would welcome the opportunity of a little wholesome economy in the direction of his salary.

Circumstances alter—Headlines.

The occasion of the "League Against the Lords" Demonstration in Parliament Square last week gave the *Daily News* an excellent opportunity of showing once again its wonderful adaptability to circumstances. The arresting of the hooligans who fought the police violently was described as "Tactless action on the part of the Police." Had a deputation of women been going to the House of Commons on a perfectly orderly constitutional mission, our *Daily News* would have blossomed out in headings like the following: "Many Women Arrested. Police Show Tact and Moderation under Extreme Provocation."

Who Man the Army?

The question of "depopulation" is greatly exercising the minds of French politicians. In a debate in the House last week M. Gauthier pointed out that in the last six months of this year the number of deaths in France exceeded the number of births by 28,203. "If this rate of decline continue for half a century," he said, "we shall have no workmen, no labourers, no soldiers, no taxpayers." Thus are the political equals of "lunatics, criminals, paupers," &c., found to be holding the fate of the State in their hands. "The women are ever driven to adopt their own special weapons against a system that denies them liberty what terrible reprisals they can take."

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"JUSTICE" AT THE OLD BAILEY.

Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans appeared before Mr. Justice Grantham at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, November 24th. Mrs. Chapin was charged with unlawfully and without due authority interfering with a ballot box by introducing into it divers liquid chemicals, and assaulting one George Thorley and causing him grievous bodily harm. Miss Neilans was charged with unlawfully interfering with a ballot box and attempting to destroy ballot papers.

In the case of Mrs. Chapin Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., and Mr. H. A. McCardie acted for the defence; Mr. R. D. Muir and Mr. W. H. Leicester for the prosecution.

A large number of members of the Women's Freedom League collected outside the Court, but at a very early hour the police announced that the public galleries were full, and that plea was used to prevent them from entering. After great difficulty Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Bennett, Mrs. Neilans, and Miss Chapin obtained entrance. An undertaking that they would create no disturbance of any kind was willingly given, and, needless to say, strictly observed. The public galleries were sparsely filled, but a good many well-dressed women occupied the seats reserved for the friends of the presiding judge and counsel.

Mrs. Chapin's case was taken first. After the circumstances attending the attack on the ballot boxes by the defendant at the Bermondsey election on October 28th had been recounted by the Public Prosecutor, Mr. Thorley entered the witness box. He described the effect of the liquid used by Mrs. Chapin on his eye and coat, and again reiterated his conviction that his injury was entirely accidental and unintentional.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gill: "When you got the splash, what was the first thing you did with regard to it?"—"I thought I was burned with some corrosive thing, and I turned round to the cupboard, because I knew there was some .880 ammonia there. Someone poured some out, and I told him to dilute it, but he did not dilute it sufficiently."

Harold Walter Stevens, poll clerk, told how he got the bottle of ammonia and put some of it on his handkerchief. Mr. Thorley refused to use it, saying it was too strong. Stevens then saturated his handkerchief with water, and put on more ammonia. "Mr. Thorley then took the handkerchief. I believe he touched his face with it, but I cannot say for certain."

Cross-examined by Mr. Gill: "Who got the ammonia from the cupboard?"—"Mr. Thorley."

"Did you take it from him or did he give it to you?"—"I cannot say for certain."

"You were all naturally excited, and you are a little uncertain about what really took place?"—"Yes, sir."

Dr. Marshall, who saw Mr. Thorley immediately after the accident, technically described the state of the eye, and said in answer to Mr. Gill that the action of vapour of ammonia would have a similar effect.

Dr. Reginald Francis, ophthalmic surgeon at Guy's Hospital, said the injuries were due to an irritant. He would call ammonia of the strength mentioned a very powerful irritant indeed, and if any had got in the eye it would have produced what he saw.

Dr. A. W. Ormond gave it as his opinion that there might be a slight permanent defect, but it was impossible to say with certainty.

Mr. Newton and Mr. Hayes gave evidence as to the state of the ballot boxes, and the papers that were affected by the fluid.

The Court then adjourned for luncheon. On the reassembling in the afternoon friends of the

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defendant were all refused admittance by Mr. Justice Grantham's orders. They were told by the police that no women were being admitted to the Court. After a good deal of trouble Mrs. Holmes, editor of THE VOTE, who attended to report the case, secured entrance, and later Mrs. Neilans and Miss Chapin were admitted also.

Mr. Gill, in his speech for the defence, said that the intention on the part of the defendant in entering a polling booth was quite clear. She desired to draw attention by a dramatic act to the fact that the women of this country are not allowed the franchise. There was no desire to deny that what she intended to do was an unlawful act. But the serious matter was the charge that she maliciously inflicted grievous bodily harm upon a fellow-being. That accusation she resented in the strongest possible way. Neither she nor the society to which she belonged believed in or approved of acts of personal violence. In addition the evidence of the man who should have been the prosecutor, but who was not really the prosecutor at all, but who was put forward as a witness, made it abundantly clear that he regarded the matter purely as an accident. In all the cases where the law had held a person responsible for the consequences of an act similar to this, malicious intent to inflict violence on some person or body of persons had been clearly proved. On the question that grievous harm had been inflicted, he submitted that the evidence was not at all satisfactory. It was the expression of the doctor in a very qualified way that there might possibly be some slight injury. There was also the evidence that the man did have some very powerful ammonia at a time when great confusion existed, that the ammonia was put on the handkerchief, and considerable uncertainty existed as to what he did with it. All the doctors agreed that all the effects noticed would be consistent with a slight quantity of ammonia entering the eye. With regard to the other charge, it was a political offence undoubtedly, and his client took the responsibility for what she did with regard to that. In doing what she did she hoped to succeed in obliterating some of the votes so that the election might be called into question, and this question of women's enfranchisement discussed in connection with it. That was her sole desire, and she absolutely repudiated the suggestion that her mind was either malicious or that she had any thought of inflicting personal injury in making her protest.

Mr. Justice Grantham, in summing up, said it was quite a simple matter. The woman went into a polling booth—where no women are allowed—carrying with her a bottle containing some liquid of considerable strength. She deliberately went up to the ballot box and smashed it over the aperture. The jury were aware of what happened when anything of that kind was done. The effect was very like a bombshell—the liquid splashed about and went on to the person near at hand. Why it was done did not excuse her. The law was quite clear on the matter. If a person did an illegal act the result of which was likely to injure anybody, then he or she was guilty of an assault. The defendant knew what she was doing, she knew what the result of her action would be. Mr. Thorley was struck on his eye, therefore she did assault him, but it was open for the jury to say that she did not inflict grievous bodily harm. That a corrosive fluid was used there was no doubt, a dangerous fluid, and the woman was very lucky not to be charged with that particular offence, and that the injury was not more. If a person had died from it what would have been said against her being tried for murder? If people would do these things they must take the consequences.

After an absence of five minutes the jury returned a

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verdict of "Guilty" on the charge of interfering with the ballot-box and also a verdict of "Guilty" of a common assault only on Mr. Thorley.

Miss Neilans then entered the dock. Mr. R. D. Muir and Mr. W. H. Leicester appeared for the prosecution. Miss Neilans conducted her own defence. She pleaded "Not guilty."

Reuben John Walker, Constable Diplock, and Mr. Hayes gave evidence as to the state of the ballot box and papers. Two of the papers in this box were rendered indecipherable.

Miss Neilans, addressing the jury from the dock, said: "My Lord and gentlemen of the jury, I feel to-day a special responsibility is resting upon you, for practically for the first time in the Women's Suffrage movement we have our case before a judge and jury of free men—that is, men who are not responsible to the Government, and do not owe their positions in life to the Crown, which is prosecuting us. But at what a cost! Here I stand—a criminal in a dock where thieves and murderers are wont to stand, and that is the only way in which we have been able to come before a jury of free men. You are asked by the Crown Prosecutor to condemn me as a criminal because I have been fired by that spirit of liberty which I hope breathes in every man and woman in this Court; because I have been fired to commit an offence against what is to woman an unrepresentative and tyrannical authority. I have pleaded 'Not guilty' to this charge for this reason, that although it is not for you to say whether I did this thing or not—I am not debating that point—it is for you to say if I have been guilty of crime in so doing, because to be charged and convicted as guilty in a criminal court is to brand me as guilty of crime, and I submit to you that I have been guilty of no crime whatever; that I have done what all true men and women must do—I have endeavoured to protest against tyranny. Gentlemen, I would remind you that in no other country in the world would such a distinctly political act be branded as criminal. It has probably been suggested to you that the Women's Freedom League (to which I am proud to belong) resorts to acts of personal violence, that we are careless of life and limb, and that we do not care what we do so long as we achieve our end. Now because my treatment here will affect not only myself, but the whole woman's movement—"

Mr. Justice Grantham: "You must not go into that—you can only make observations in reference to this charge."

Miss Neilans: "I will endeavour to conform to his Lordship's ruling, but the case is prejudiced, and I wished to make this statement. My society has never been guilty of any personal violence to any person whatsoever, and it is one of the ethics of our movement that we shall take no action involving penalty and suffering to anyone. You may say that in this case injury has been inflicted, but you have it on the man's own statement, given on oath, that it was accidental and unintentional. This case has been prejudiced by the statement that we were not careful with the fluid we used; that it was one likely to hurt people. But I assure you before I went to Bermondsey I had the fluid over my hands and my face, and I am none the worse for it. I submit that the idea we were careless in our protest is a wrong one, and not in our interest. I wish to plead justification, and in order to do that I ask you to forget that I am a Suffragist—remove from your minds even the fact that I am a woman. I do not want sex protection. I will ask you to look at my action of interfering with the ballot papers in the light of past history. England has won every privilege on which liberty dwells by struggles against constituted authorities. Gentlemen, the House of Commons, which is to-day the constituted authority of this country, won its authority by the act of a rebel. The rebel Simon de Montfort called the first representative Parliament, and in order to do it he imprisoned the King. To-day, why do we reverence Cromwell, Pym, Hampden, and others who have fought and made England what she is? Because they were liberty-loving, and rebelled against authority. And to-day the statue of Cromwell stands in front of what should be the House of the People, and sees women charged by mounted

police and thrown into prison. It looks serenely down on that and sees that we are fighting for the same principle of liberty for which he fought in his day. Will you try for a moment to see my point of view?"

Mr. Justice Grantham ruled this out of order. Miss Neilans: "I cannot justify my action unless I am allowed to point out the things that led up to it."

Mr. Justice Grantham: "I cannot allow you to go into your general principles as to what you are fighting for."

Miss Neilans: "Very well. Gentlemen, you are asked to condemn me, but I am not allowed by his Lordship to try to show you what I believe to be justification for what I have done. You are asked to condemn me as a mere disorderly law-breaker, and you have doubtless been told that we do this sort of thing for notoriety. Now, I appeal to your common sense—would any of you risk a period of imprisonment for the sake of seeing your name spelt wrongly in a halfpenny paper? It is not for notoriety. I myself could not tell you one quarter of the names of the women who have gone to prison because they believed it to be their duty. It is because we have behind us the driving force of a great ideal—an ideal which will not allow us to sit safely and comfortably in our own homes while our sister women struggle and die in the hardness of the unequal fight. That is why we make these protests. We see that women's needs are but superficially treated because they are not properly represented in the Government of this country. Put yourselves in the place of women for a moment—imagine yourselves in a country—"

Mr. Justice Grantham: "I cannot allow you to go into that."

Miss Neilans: "Well, gentlemen, I must not go into that either; but I will ask you to try to think it out for yourselves. You see how I stand here to-day. I am tried by a male Judge and a male jury. I am not allowed to have a woman barrister, because they are not allowed at the Bar. I have no friends here—by order of his Lordship they have been excluded, though apparently that order did not apply to his own women friends, only to those of the prisoners—except my mother, to give me moral support. Now, this is not fair. This is no question of mere prejudice. You know perfectly well women could not judge you honestly. We should be liable to try you unfairly. Yet you are given the power to condemn us, although with the best intentions in the world you cannot understand why we did what we did. The ballot-box to you is a symbol of your liberties, your citizenship—all that you hold dear. But what is it to a woman? It has no sacredness to her—to her it simply shows that she is outlawed and debarred from citizenship. I would ask you to remember that if by your verdict to-day I am sentenced to criminal imprisonment, that means not only imprisonment, but starvation, forcible feeding, and all the other tortures inflicted by those in authority. If I am sent to prison as a criminal my principles will oblige me to resist. If I am sent to prison as a first-class misdemeanant I shall accept my punishment quietly. But my offence is a political one, and for the sake of others I must claim the status of political prisoner. There—"

(Continued on page 70.)

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Mr. LAURENCE HOUSMAN. (An Impression.)

By ETHEL HILL.

A certain journal at the end of the last Old Year published the New Year wishes of famous men and women. Laurence Housman's wish was for the enfranchisement of women. He could conceive no better thing for the nation, or that was more earnestly desired by himself for the national good, than the political freedom of Englishwomen. He has the freedom lover's characteristic hatred of submission, which he considers bad for a sex as for a race. Capabilities in a sex or a race can only flourish in a free soil. Sometimes passivity is criminal.

How many of us read and will never forget the poignantly pathetic analysis of a woman's soul in "An Englishwoman's Love Letters"? Is it not fitting that they were written by a man who has so bravely and persistently with voice and pen championed the women in their fight for the means of self-expression in the essentials that affect the destiny of the nation they help to create? Suffrage writings have really run all through his books. You will find strong traces of "Suffragitis" in "All Fellows," the last story in which, entitled "When Pan was Dead," is a pure parable of the woman's movement. "Sabrina Warham" points in the same direction, so does "The Chinese Lantern"; and in "The Field of Clover" is a fairy story, called "The Bound Princess," devoted almost entirely to the enfranchisement of woman.

With those who, unable to refute the intellectual attainments of women and their mental fitness to vote, maintain that physical force is the true basis of government he has no patience. "Justice," he says, "is more persistent than injustice, and the position of the women's movement to-day demonstrates how the hardest prejudices and the most selfish interests give way to reason when once a hearing is accorded. And so in the world's history has every great cause won from a minority to a majority through the conversion of the physical by the moral power."

Mr. Laurence Housman asserts that the power to organise and the determination to agitate are in themselves the beginning of a qualification for political enfranchisement, for they are a proof of political vitality, and show that a fresh section of the community has awakened from sleep. As long as any class, through ignorance or lack of will, remains quiescent and consenting to the rule of others, as long as, in return for benefits real or supposed, it is willing to obey laws in the making of which it has had no share, so long can the State afford to withhold from it direct representation. But if its members become conscious that such conditions are ignominious and begin to rebel against them; if they say, "Though weaker than you in physical power or fewer in numbers we are willing and determined to take our share in the

government of the State," then you have a new force to reckon with. A section of the community which was previously, from a political point of view, a negligible quantity has taken to itself a new attribute, and presents, by the awakening of its will for citizenship, a claim which no democracy can afford to withstand.

Laurence Housman is one with many great thinkers when he lauds the supreme service of women to the State in motherhood. "Social instinct," he writes, "taught men quite early that the State could better afford to lose its males in war than its women; and the withdrawal of the latter from the fighting-line was a direct recognition that they had a higher value elsewhere." But Mr. Housman sees that in the present condition of society modern States are far more ruled by economic than by purely physical forces. He believes that the great strength of the woman's movement lies in the fact that it has a preponderance of economic forces at its back, and that no amount of physical violence can bring about their defeat.

For the women who are fighting in the face of misunderstandings and contumely the greatest moral battle the world has ever known he has the most profound respect and admiration. He has faith in the women and faith in the ultimate justice of the race out of which they have their being. He is a patriot in the truest sense of the word. He would share with Walt Whitman the sentiment that where the noblest men and the noblest women, co-equal, are to be found there, and there only, in the fullest sense, the great city stands.

A little time ago Mr. Housman, at the request of the writer of this impression, wrote the following introductory verses to "Great Suffragists and Why." I quote them in

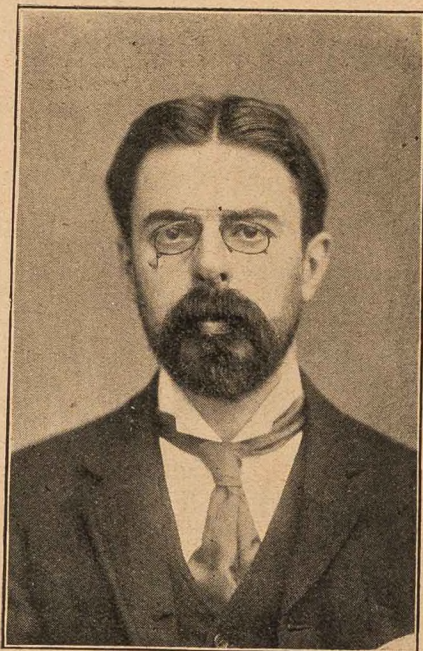
conclusion because they have never appeared in any journal:—

"O ye, that seek through blood and tears
The justice which kind earth hath lacked,
Marvel not ye because man fears
To drop the old Coercion Act.

"Whose record in the past was dark
Sees darkness in the future, too;
Because with iron he made his mark,
By that same brand he judges you.

"The unborn age afflicts his mind,
Of powers misused he stands afraid;
Haunted he goes, and hears behind
The worn and wasteful past upbraid.

"His stripes ye bear; but when ye gain
Your victory—then comes recompense,
And ye shall mend his muddled brain
With comfortable common sense."



MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

[Photo: Bassano,
25, Old Bond Street.]

Next Week: Mrs. H. W. NEVINSON.

GOSSIP.

"And they made a noise like crickets,
A chattering wise and sweet."

W. B. YEATS.

Out of the Mouths of Ministers.

It is not improbable, as events are showing, that in the near future certain gay deceivers of the Liberal Party may soon begin to give us what George Graves calls "the glad eye." In view of any such attempt at putting a glamour on the unfranchised it would be well to bear in mind a warning given last week by Mr. Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, to his constituents at the Drill Hall, Pontypool. He bade them remember the advice of the Quaker to his son, "If a man deceive thee once rebuke him. If he deceive thee twice rebuke thyself."

Political Housekeepers.

Not for the first time was attention directed last week to the casual procedure practised in the House of Commons. Lord Robert Cecil, the ever-watchful, declared that the deserted state of the Treasury bench when the Lords Amendments to the Developments and Road Improvements Funds Bill came on, and again when the Assurance Companies Bill reached the committee stage, was "most scandalous contempt of the House." "That," he remarked, "was the House which said it should be the whole arbiter of the business of the country!" It is useful to remember that these are the gentlemen who imagine that if a woman has a vote it will prevent her from attending to the business of her home. It would seem as if they were arguing from the way that they manage the affairs of the House of which they have unfortunately been put in charge.

Wanted—a Jury of Matrons.

During the hearing of the case concerning an under-study's dresses in "Dolly Reforming Herself," Mr. F. E. Smith deplored the fact that they had not a jury of matrons to decide questions of this sort. When a judge has to consider questions of fit and style he is, as Judge Bacon declared later on in the week at the Whitechapel County Court, occasionally confronted by women who have had clothes made that they subsequently dislike, and who then come into court and say they do not fit. His worship was also daring enough to observe that, instead of linen underclothes they put on woollen ones, and pad themselves out according to what they consider necessary. The indignant "lydy" against whom this insinuation was made called out to the judge to come down and see if she was padded, which he very naturally declined to do, and threatened her with contempt of court for the invitation. In such cases a male judge is certainly incompetent to decide, unless he happens to have had a previous training as a tailor, and it is easy to understand that where proof is difficult miscarriages of justice are not infrequent.

"Poor Prisoners."

There is much to be forgiven to the sweated labourer when he is living at the minimum point of subsistence, but even then one does not like to see him trying to strike at one feebler than his feeble self. Among a certain section of men in the metal trades there has spread a cunning device whereby the little there is shall be theirs and theirs alone. In these trades women have taken a small corner, and now an attempt is to be made to push them out. The men's representative will ask the Home Secretary early next year to institute a public inquiry to ascertain whether polishing, metal-turning, and metal-screwing are fit trades for women to follow. To quote the *Daily News*, "He has no doubt what the answer will be." In one of Maxim Gorky's books there is a scene where sweated bakers, working underground, turn on the girl who comes sometimes to their cellar for kringels. But when free of them the only retort she makes is a pitiful "Poor prisoners—poor prisoners." For they were bound by the tyranny of labour. And these poor English prisoners, like Gorky's "creatures that once were men," turn on the only helpless thing they have near them to vent their spleen for their sad state. Poor Prisoners!

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1909.

"JUSTICE" GRANTHAM.

The progress of the militant suffrage movement has been marked by constant repetitions of legislative corruption and administrative injustice. Police and magistrates have acted as prosecuting and punishing agents of the Government, and have revealed the nature of their understanding with those in power by a thousand injustices and illegalities. Both have been the accessories of this Government of cowards in its criminal attack upon the women who demand the vote. At last our women have come before a judge and jury, where, if anywhere in this country, justice should be obtained. But the same proofs of political corruption have been discovered at the Old Bailey as at Bow Street, Tower Bridge, and Rochester Row. The highest judges, like the meanest police officials, are the creatures of the Government.

At the Old Bailey, on November 24th, Miss Alison Neilans and Mrs. Chapin were tried for the Ballot Box Protest. Justice Grantham presided, *by his own request*, as the Recorder publicly stated at the New Bailey on November 18th, and he gave clear proof of his deliberate intention to prejudice and pre-judge the case against the Suffragette prisoners.

From the beginning his bias was clear. In the light of after events we may see that the cases were prejudged before the beginning of the trial. When the day arrived for the trial the friends and relatives of Miss Neilans and Mrs. Chapin attended at the court, only to be refused admission. Special orders had been given by Judge Grantham that no women should be admitted to the court. Yet his own lady friends were admitted. His order only applied to the friends of the prisoners! The prejudged women were to be robbed of that comfort and support which the presence of their friends would bring to them. The dangerous evidence which sympathetic bystanders might convey to the public was to be eliminated at its source. As far as he dare this unjust judge deliberately arranged to try our women behind closed doors.

He did more. He allowed the Public Prosecutor to follow an unjust and illegal line of attack. He refused to allow Miss Neilans to state her case fully. After the jury had given their verdict he accepted further evidence against the prisoner and refused to allow her to examine the witness who gave it. When the girl requested to be heard before he finally pronounced sentence he flung at her a petulant and wanton insult, saying, "You've said a great deal already. I really think you have enjoyed yourself very much"!!! Into the hands of this man the conscientious protestators against injustice and the poor weak victims of masculine misgovernment are given for—not justice, but—vengeance. Miss Neilans' retort that such an insult from the bench to a prisoner in the dock was scandalous errs only on the side of mildness.

Miss Neilans' defence was as brave and frank as the attitude of the judge was mean and cowardly. She emphasised the logical and political nature of the protest at Bermondsey. She admitted that she and Mrs. Chapin—two women—had registered their protest at the ballot-box because there women ought to have been registering their votes. She protested against the malicious attempt to increase her punishment by the hearing of further evidence against her after the jury had delivered their verdict. She declared that if the offence they two had committed "was not a political offence then a political offence had never been committed in this country."

The Government conspiracy against Mrs. Chapin, which has been persisted in despite the definite repudiation of Mr. Thorley, was crowned by a vindictive sentence from Justice Grantham. The magistrate at Tower Hill frankly stated that he believed the injury to Mr. Thorley was an accident. The evidence and the statements and precautions of the League emphasised its accidental nature. Medical evidence, and that given by the Polling Clerk and Mr. Thorley, the injured man, provided more than a presumption that the real injury was caused by the application of ammonia by the two latter gentlemen themselves. In spite of all this Judge Grantham practically doubled Mrs. Chapin's sentence. He stated that those who broke the law must be held responsible for all the consequences of their acts, whether those consequences had been foreseen or not. This decision our counsel seems to have accepted without protest, but Miss Neilans entered an emphatic remonstrance. She pointed out that injury caused by some persons, such as University students, was forgiven even when it was not accidental, but deliberate; and she quoted the case of Dr. Jameson, who, so far from being held guilty of the consequences of his raid, was given a comparatively light sentence, and in prison was placed in the first division, with additional special privileges.

To the special plea that was made that this offence should be recognised as political and given political treatment the unjust judge replied with brutal words. To these two women, willing martyrs in the cause of woman's liberty, to these two who were facing the heaviest legal penalty that a Suffragette has yet faced, to them, in spite of the brave and frank heroism of their protest and their defence, this judge said: "Having been convicted of this crime, you are both criminals, and I shall pass sentence on you as such." I dare to prophesy that future generations will call their deeds deeds of glory and that of Justice Grantham a crime.

Our women are both in Holloway now enduring the horrors of the hunger-strike because they will not consent to be classed as criminals. It is our business, nay our duty, to get them into the first division or to get them out. We do not protest against the punishment of our deliberate actions. We are willing to pay that price. We cannot expect the real criminals, the Government and its abettors, to come forward voluntarily to suffer the impositions they have earned; we cannot expect them to make any effort to secure justice for us; but we do expect that the corrupt tampering with legal machinery, which at the best is biased against us, and the deliberate classing of our women as criminals will be made the chief indictment against the brutal Ministry that is about to make its appeal to the country. The women in Holloway are not criminals. The public knows that they are not criminals. We must make it register that knowledge by our General Election Campaign. A generous response to our General Election Appeal will form the most effective defence of our prisoners, and it is the one they would most approve, because of its furthering of our great cause of Votes for Women.

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We want you to help us. Any appeal at this moment may look ungrateful to those loyal spirits who have given so much of their time and their energy to the service of THE VOTE both before and since its publication. The circulation is counted in thousands; we want it counted in tens of thousands. The paper as we see it, and as we mean it to be, is not merely the organ of the Women's Freedom League, but a woman's paper expressing the opinions of intelligent women on subjects of the hour. The ordinary so-called woman's paper appeals only to that side of her which down the ages has been labelled "womanly"—her love of finery, her love of admiration, and her pride in her cookery. These things in themselves do not mark the limits of a woman's thought; they are false boundaries, and only indicate the man's view of what women should think and wear and cook. For, strange as it may appear, nearly all women's papers are edited by men, who, under the delusive titles of "Aunt Emily," "Rosemary," or "Housewife," keep dinning into each woman reader how best to please her husband by giving him tasty dishes and wearing things which he may like, and which she is recommended to make out of ends of nothing. All this to keep the woman busy in his interests in the home that she may not have time to gad abroad. And that is why these papers fail. They are filled from cover to cover with the idea of the subject woman who lives a narrow life. We offer you something else. We come to fill, and fill adequately—if you will help us—a long-felt want. We offer you a woman's paper edited by women, and in the main written by women for women. We are not going to give away patterns of woolly waistcoats for men or hints on making ottomans out of egg-boxes. That has been done better than we could do it by our male contemporaries. We will give away stimulating matter written in a stimulating manner, not indicating to you how you ought to think, but telling you how other women and men think, and dealing from the woman's point of view with what they do or say on great and outstanding occasions.

A Few Suggestions.

If you want to see the paper successful—and we know you do—you will ask your newsagent for it, and see that he stocks it and displays the poster each week; you will offer to sell copies for your local branch both at your own and other meetings and outside theatre queues; and you will distribute on the appearance of the new issue such copies as may remain over from the last one in suitable districts where they will fall into the hands of the right people. This is also important from the advertisers' point of view. They come into the paper from business motives, and it is in their interests that returns, however small, shall be utilised in this way, so that their names may come before the largest possible public. A word as to the advertisers themselves. Because you and all of us want a vote it does not necessarily follow that we do not want other things—that we do not need food and clothes and house furnishings. It is because they realise these things that our advertisers take space from us. You can be certain that any names you see in our pages are those of reliable firms, and that whatever they can supply is of excellent quality. It will therefore be in your interests, in our interests, and in their interests to buy from them when you need goods of any description. If you do not live in town you can order by post. Most firms send everything, with the exception of certain heavy goods, post free, and special attention is always given to post orders. Christmas is coming on, and you will need many things for the household and for gifts. Get these through our advertisers and you will be helping us to give you a bigger and a better paper. This, you may be certain, we are most anxious to do.

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PROTEST AT THE PORTMAN ROOMS.

The "At Home" at the Portman Rooms on Monday evening last was turned into a special meeting to protest against the treatment of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans as ordinary criminals by placing them in the second division. In spite of the shockingly bad weather the room was well filled. The resolution calling upon the Home Secretary to remove the prisoners to the first division or immediately release them was passed with the greatest enthusiasm. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson occupied the chair, and rousing speeches were delivered by Miss Chapin, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Margaret McMillan, and the Rev. Hugh Chapman. Miss McMillan spoke most eloquently of the self-sacrifice shown by the Bermondsey heroines. Mrs. Holmes described the trial in the Court, and quoted some damaging statements against Mr. Justice Grantham. Mr. Chapman also spoke of the trial, and heartily congratulated the Freedom League on possessing members filled with such wonderful courage, dignity, and ability as Miss Neilans and Mrs. Chapin. A good collection was taken, and Lady Cook sent a generous donation of £50.

SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS.

NORWAY.—In the late elections in Norway, when women voted for the first time, a lady, Froken Anna Roystod, was elected as a "substitute" in one of the districts in Christiania. This means that, should the deputy for that district be at any time unable to fulfil his duties, his place in the Storting will be taken by Froken Roystod, who will then be the first woman member of the Norwegian Parliament. Froken Roystod has been a public school teacher since 1873, and is President of an Association of Women Teachers.

FRANCE.—The new French Union for Women's Suffrage makes steady progress, and *La Française*, which has constituted itself the organ of the Union, informs us that the President, Madame Schmahl, has been accorded an interview with the Prime Minister in order to lay before him the views and wishes of her association. A Bill to give women suffrage and eligibility for all municipal councils was introduced into the Chamber in 1906 by M. Dussaussoy, but not discussed. This same Bill has now been reintroduced under favourable auspices, and M. Briand expressed to Madame Schmahl his personal sympathy with its aims. The parliamentary franchise for women has already been mentioned favourably in the Chamber.

DENMARK.—Perhaps the most hopeful news comes from Denmark. Here a new Cabinet has been formed, one of whose members is Dr. Munch, husband of Fru Elna Munch, President of the largest Danish Suffrage Society, which in three years has founded 140 local branches. The Cabinet is in favour of Women's Suffrage, but the Radical party, which it represents, has not a

majority in the House. There seems a probability that after the next elections the parties that favour the suffrage will be in the majority. Should that be the case the women of Denmark will probably be the first to follow in the steps of the women of Norway.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"The Women's Charter of Rights and Liberties." By LADY McLAREN. (Grant Richards. 6d. net.)

Lady McLaren has sent us a copy of the preliminary draft of a Woman's Charter which aims at consolidating for redress the more pressing legal and social grievances of women. In outlining what must be an extraordinary measure she asks for the co-operation and suggestions of women, not only in this country, but all over the world, and of such men as shall have given the subject their attention. Before outlining the Charter as she sees it she explains, logically and without sentimentality or verbiage, the exact grievances she sees in immediate need of redress. We propose at a later date to give a rapid survey of Lady McLaren's little book, which should find a place on every woman's bookshelf, whether she feels in favour of political freedom or not—for the framer of this wonderful and brief Charter has dwelt at more length on woman the social serf than on woman the political person. Yet those who may travel with her, agreeing with every word, along the weary economic road will suddenly find themselves confronted with the only exit from economic evils—an iron gate, rigid and rusty, marked with the words "Political Franchise," and thus willingly or unwillingly, they will become converts to the cause of the open

door. From the Charter itself, divided into seventeen sections, we take the following points:—

- "(1) *Coverture.*—The whole doctrine of coverture shall be declared obsolete and abolished by Act of Parliament."
- "(6) *Assaults on Wives.*—Magistrates shall inflict heavier penalties on men convicted of brutality to women, and especially to wives. Wives and children of men so convicted and sent to prison shall be entitled to support, but not as paupers, during the term of the husband's sentence, by a rate levied directly on the locality where they live."
- "(8) *Children . . . (d).*—Children born to parents before marriage shall be legitimatised by subsequent marriage."
- "(11) *Inheritance (c)* . . .—Mothers shall inherit from children equally with fathers."
- "(17) *Political Rights . . . (b).*—No woman otherwise qualified shall be excluded by sex or marriage from exercising the Parliamentary Franchise."
- E. T.



TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)

No. 2.—THE MAN WHO THINKS "WOMEN ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INTELLIGENT TO VOTE, DON'T YOU KNOW?"

POLITICIANS AND PRINCIPLES.

SOME NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lord Rosebery, in the Lords' debate on the Budget, quoted "the maxim that has been burned into us by bitter experience"—that there must be "no taxation without representation in this country. The disregard of this maxim," he said, "lost us the United States, and we are not likely knowingly to offend against it again." And this was on behalf of the poor voteless peers in their hour of peril, lest their right to a word in the control of the State be taken away from them—a weighty reason why that sacred maxim should be kept in mind. One wonders if there was a peer among them who reflected that the disregard of that maxim is now causing open revolt in the land, and that every real claim for its fulfilment is being met with persecution and torture; that the disregard of that maxim is losing us all our right to call ourselves a free people, and giving rise to a situation that stinks in the nostrils of Europe. "We are not likely knowingly to offend against it again." The estate of the Pharisees still flourishes.

The following night the Marquis of Northampton described himself as "one who sees that the chief object of a Government should be to do what they can to better the condition of the men who live around us." So far, that is in truth the highest definition that the legislative mind as a whole has comprehended. Presumably the "bettered" men are then to proceed to better the conditions of their own womankind. And the women who have no master to "better" them, or who have a bad one, who neglects his property, must go to the wall. This is, precisely, the principle to which solely masculine legislation is committed.

The fact that Miss Tolson and two other prisoners, weak and ill from their hunger-strike, were smuggled out of Strangeways Prison (an institution whose name seems to have a certain evil appropriateness) at ten o'clock at night, and left at the doors of their closed and abandoned office, was made the subject of a question in the House of Commons by Mr. Keir Hardie. The Home Secretary's reply, received with the usual merriment and applause by a section of the House, was worthy of the worst traditions of evasion that Ministers have set up. He said one thing that bore the stamp of truth—that this action was taken through fear of a demonstration being made by the prisoners' friends.

It is to be hoped that when the House meets again some question will be asked as to the extraordinary action of Mr. Injustice Grantham (I quote a title that has become a byword) in excluding women—other than his own friends—from the trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans. The most dangerous and slavish principle has been maintained on a previous occasion that the conduct of his Majesty's judges must not be publicly criticised: it will be interesting to see whether this argument will again be used for the cloaking of wrong.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone has failed to make good his defence against the Fabian Society's indictment of forcible feeding. The old insult to the profession of healing, in the phrase "medical treatment," is repeated in describing a painful and nauseating operation performed upon persons of sound mind against their will—and performed in many cases with disgraceful roughness and brutality. And Mr. Gladstone makes a statement, unsupported by any evidence, that some Suffrage prisoners have abused the privileges of the first division, and for that reason others have since been placed in the second. If we carry out this principle logically, any suffragist may be imprisoned because another is said to have committed an "outrage."

HOW TO HELP.

We suggest that every member of the W.F.L. should make a special effort to circularise the present issue of THE VOTE, so that a true account of the trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans may reach the public. Let each one buy half a dozen copies and distribute them to friends or the general public. The good done will far outweigh the cost!

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND THE ANTI-MILITANTS.

By ENNIS RICHMOND.

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"JUSTICE" AT THE OLD BAILEY.

(Continued from page 63.)

fore if the Judge gives his decision that we are criminals, you know what you are sending us to. Gentlemen, I believe you will refuse to be made the defenders of an unjust and tyrannical system, therefore I appeal to you to give your verdict in such a way as shall be indeed just. I appeal to you on every ground of loyalty and truth and liberty to find me on this count not guilty."

The jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty."
Mr. Muir then read a list of Miss Neilans' previous convictions, and further said that he desired to call his Lordship's attention to an interview with the defendant that was published in the *Daily Telegraph*.

Miss Neilans: "I object to this being raised. I was not permitted to go into my motives in my defence."

Mr. Muir then put the journalist Mr. MacHugh into the witness-box, who stated that the interview published in the paper was a correct transcription of what had been said, viz., "that if this plan does not succeed we will employ worse ones."

Miss Neilans: "I wish to say now, at once, I object to this. I have no means now of cross-examining the witness, and I am advised this is a most irregular way of prejudicing my case."

Mr. Muir then said that he had a cutting from *The Times* containing what purported to be a meeting at which Mrs. Chapin had spoken. Mr. McCardie made formal objection to this, and as Mr. Muir had no evidence to bring forward that Mrs. Chapin had made any statement attributed to her, the matter was dropped.

Miss Neilans: "My Lord, before you pass sentence may I say a few words?"

Mr. Justice Grantham: "You have had plenty of time, and have said a great deal already. You seem to take it as very amusing, and to rather enjoy your position."

Miss Neilans: "I contend that is a scandalously unfair remark to make to a prisoner in the dock. I do not enjoy my position at all, and imprisonment is as serious to me as it would be to yourself."

Miss Neilans then put forward the case of Dr. Jameson, who had been convicted of a most serious charge, yet who—though sentenced in a criminal court—was given the status of a political prisoner, with many privileges. She asked that they might be made political prisoners, as their act had been purely political—if it were not so considered then there never had been such a thing as a political offence.

Mr. Justice Grantham, in passing sentence, said: "You have both been very properly convicted on the clearest possible evidence of a very serious crime, and having been convicted of that crime, you are both criminals." He then sentenced Miss Neilans to three months' imprisonment in the second division and Mrs. Chapin to three months for the same offence and four months for the assault, the two sentences to run concurrently.

His Lordship then said to the jury: "Gentlemen, in *The Times* of the 22nd you can read what the woman said on last Monday. Of course, I take no notice of it, because there was no one here to prove it. It is in *The Times* of last Monday under the heading of 'Women's Suffrage,' the second paragraph on page 8."

HOW YOU CAN HELP MRS. CHAPIN AND MISS NEILANS.

The detestation and horror we all feel at the forcible feeding of our dear comrades must not be allowed to waste itself, but must be directed to the end of giving Mr. Gladstone no peace or rest until they are placed in the first division as political prisoners or immediately released.

You should write to Mr. Gladstone and to members of Parliament, urging upon them the reasons for placing Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans in the first division, and also ask the members to see Mr. Gladstone personally to call his attention to the matter.

A few among the many reasons for thus altering the division of the imprisonment are:—

That the crime was a purely political one or it was no crime at all.

That men political prisoners like Dr. Jameson and Mr. McGinnel, M.P., were sentenced to the first division, though through the action of the first we were involved in the disastrous Boer War and Mr. McGinnel was convicted of cattle driving.

That Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans have no option of a fine or being bound over, and so the excuse that "they can come out when they like," which has been given so often before, is inapplicable to their cases.

That as Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans are both dependent on their own earnings it is of the utmost importance that they should be released from prison in as fit a condition as when they were committed. This will be impossible if they continue to be tortured by the stomach tube.

The following resolution should be carried at meetings, signed by the chairmen, and forwarded to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Gladstone, and the member for the constituency:—

"That this meeting, held under the auspices of the at on 1909, protests against the imprisonment of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans in the second division, supports them in the hunger strike forced upon them by the attitude of the Home Secretary, and calls upon him to remove them to the first division as political offenders or to order their immediate release."

Their crime, if crime it can be called, was a political one, and we must show the Home Secretary and the Government that a political agitation is not to be crushed by the brutalities which are now being practised on Suffragist prisoners. You will, I know, give every minute you can spare to rouse public opinion in the ways suggested above.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

A full report of Miss Neilans' speech will be published shortly by the W.F.L., price one penny.

Just as we go to press the following letter has been sent to us for publication:—

"H.M. Prison, Holloway, N., 29/11/09.
"Dear Madam,—In reply to your letter of inquiry, I beg to inform you that your daughter, Miss Alison Neilans is going on fairly well at present, and we have not observed anything in the state of her health to cause any anxiety about her. In spite of all our reasoning with her, she has persisted in refusing to take food voluntarily, and we have been reluctantly compelled to adopt the usual procedure, and to feed her. This was the only course open to us, to save her from the effects of her foolish conduct. I hope she may yet listen to reason, and enable us to give this up.—Faithfully yours,
"Mrs. Neilans." "JAMES SCOTT, Governor."

YULETIDE FESTIVAL.

The Yuletide Festival in the Royal Albert Hall is drawing very near. It is time for all members who have not yet done anything to make it a success to ask themselves seriously what they can do. There are a thousand things lying to hand calling out for workers. Mrs. Richmond is asking for more stewards. Who will volunteer? Members have sent in jam, cakes, sweets, and marmalade to be sold, either at the Festival or beforehand. Here is an example which members might well follow. Presents are arriving for the Christmas-tree, but we want far more yet. Whatever happens the children must not be neglected, so send in toys and sweets and picture-books to Miss Seruya.

Don't let any of your friends forget the attractions which the Yuletide Festival offers—the best speakers, the best actresses, the best plays. Mr. Israel Zangwill is speaking, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Billington-Greig, who will make her first re-entry into public life since her illness. "Press Cuttings" is offered at the trifling price of half a crown. Miss Craig's gorgeous Woman's Pageant is included in the entrance money, and this gives the chance of seeing Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Brown-Potter, Mrs. Langtry, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, and a host of others—surely the most marvellous shilling entertainment in London. For another eightpence you can see new plays by Cicely Hamilton, Christopher St. John, Bessie Hatton, and Mrs. Chapin.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

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The £1,000 Fund.—The Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the W.F.L. appeals to Scottish readers of THE VOTE for contributions to the £1,000 Fund.

The Scottish Council is anxious to be self-supporting, and so relieve the Central Organisation in London of burdens which it has, up till now, had to bear on behalf of Scotland at times of more than usual activity, such as bye-elections.

Also the demands upon the resources of the Scottish Council are steadily increasing with the marked and rapid development of the League in Scotland.

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Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 302, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

The Scottish Suffrage Centre will be opened on December 1st by Mrs. Teresa Billington Greig, and meetings have been arranged for that afternoon, Thursday evening, Friday afternoon, and Saturday evening. The speakers will include Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Anna Munro, Mr. Joseph McCabe, and Mrs. Billington Greig. On Monday, December 6th, the Scottish members will give Mrs. Billington Greig a welcome back to her old place in the fighting line. All these fixtures will be held in the hall of the new Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street.

The curtailment of space owing to the Trial makes it necessary to hold over the Glasgow Branch Notes until next week.

Edinburgh Central.—When Mrs. Humphry Ward published the discovery that Suffrage in America was dead or dying, it was remarked on as one of her best contributions to fiction. We can assure our fellow members that her statements with regard to Edinburgh, to be found in the *Anti-Suffrage Review*, may safely be dismissed with the same remark.

If there has been any effect on the local Branch of the Freedom League from the Anti-Suffrage meeting it has only been to stimulate its activities still further. At the Business Meeting last week, Miss Wood, the Hon. Treasurer, presented a most satisfactory financial report. This week we had two meetings—an afternoon "At Home" and a joint meeting with the Men's League. In the afternoon Mrs. Joseph Dobbie acted as hostess and speaker. Mrs. Scott, of the National Society, also spoke. In the evening the discussion: "What are Militant Tactics?" was opened by Miss Mary Jolly, M.A., for the Freedom League, followed by Mr. Holmes for the Men's League. There was a very large attendance, presided over by Mr. Rodbourne. The discussion which followed was extremely interesting, though, as the Chairman remarked, it was characterised by an almost entire unanimity of opinion as to the tactics that might have been monotonous, had it not been so encouraging.

We are now looking forward to our annual social meeting on December 7th, at which members and friends are to present the past, present, and future of the woman's question in dramatic sketches and a tableau. As we have taken the Oak Hall, we trust that every member will make a point of being present and bringing friends. Contributions will be gladly received for our stall at the Yule Tide Festival, and also for the Jumble Sale, which we are to hold on December 18th.

HELEN MCLACHLAN.

FUTURE EVENTS IN SCOTLAND.

- Thurs., Dec. 2nd. Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall St., Glasgow: Mrs. Billington Greig and Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 4th ... Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall St., Glasgow: Miss Anna Munro, 3 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 4th ... Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall St., Glasgow: Mr. J. McCabe, 7.10 p.m.
- Mon., Dec. 6th ... Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall St., Glasgow: Welcome back to Mrs. Billington Greig, 7.30 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 7th ... Oak Hall, Edinburgh Cafe, Annual Social: Dramatic Sketches: Scene from Crauford Suffragette Trial; Tableaux, 7.15 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 8th ... Kilmarnock: Miss Semple, 8 p.m.

- Thurs., Dec. 9th Lochwinnoch: Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 10th ... Glasgow, Hamilton Cres. Literary Society: Miss Semple, 8 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 14th ... "At Home," Cafe Vegetaria, Edinburgh: Hostess, Miss Clapperton; speaker, Miss A. B. Jack, 4 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 18th ... Jumble Sale.

LONDON ACTIVITIES.

Hon. Organiser: MRS. BORRMANN WELLS.

Portman Rooms "At Homes."

The Portman Rooms were the centre to which all those who had tried to gain admission to the Old Bailey and been refused gravitated last Wednesday afternoon. The speakers were Mrs. H. W. Nevinson and Mrs. Amy Sanderson, with Mrs. Hylton Dale in the chair. At the end of the meeting Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Holmes arrived, and roused the indignation of the audience with their account of the scandalous treatment meted out to the women at the Court—full accounts of which will be found elsewhere.

The "At Home" next Wednesday (December 8th) will be particularly interesting. The speakers are Mrs. Holmes, joint editor of THE VOTE, and Mme. Aino Malmberg. Mme. Malmberg belongs to Helsingfors, where she had a brilliant university career, and is a gifted author. Her translations from English, German, and Swedish are known in every part of Finland. Mme. Malmberg is keenly interested in all progressive movements, and has worked much against Russian oppression in her native land. She has suffered the horrors of imprisonment in a Russian prison, having been arrested some two years ago, and even now is living in exile.

Woman's Pageant at the Albert Hall.

Woman pleading with Justice for her freedom, Prejudice seeking by every plausible sophistry to warp the goddess's mind, the heroines of history marshalled with splendid pageantry, in concrete refutation of every argument, the defeat of Prejudice and the glimmering light of "fairer mornings mounting East than ever yet have dawned." Such is the argument, developed in symbolic fashion, of the Woman's Pageant which will be presented at the Yuletide Festival. The legend is dear to the heart of every woman in our movement. Its symbolism, as the unsympathetic *Times* confessed, is a thing to be remembered even by opponents of the cause. In quick succession the great women of history pass across the stage, the saints and thinkers, warriors, learned women and artists, Boadicea the avenger, Florence Nightingale, tenderness incarnate. From every age and every climate the strength and beauty and dignity of womanhood are gathered together, the flower of feminine chivalry.

And the greatest artists will interpret great art. To see Miss Ellen Terry as Nance Oldfield is an opportunity not to be missed. Mrs. Brown Potter in flaming scarlet will impersonate the revolutionary patriot Charlotte Corday. Mrs. Langtry, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, Miss Edyth Olive, and dozens of others of equal note will figure in this magnificent apotheosis of the heroines of history.

ALBERT HALL THEATRE.

- 3 p.m.—"Before Sunrise" (by Bessie Hatton), 1s. 6d.
- 4.30 p.m.—"How the Vote was Won" (by Cicely Hamilton and C. St. John), 1s.
- 5.30 p.m.—"Press Cuttings" (by G. Bernard Shaw), 2s. 6d.
- 6.45 p.m.—"The Pot and the Kettle" (by C. Hamilton and C. St. John), 1s. 6d.
- 7.30 p.m.—"At the Gates" (by Mrs. Chapin), 1s.
- 9 p.m.—Woman's Pageant, in the Main Hall.

FUTURE EVENTS IN LONDON.

- Wed., Dec. 8th ... "At Home," Portman Rooms, Baker Street: Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Aino Malmberg; chair, Miss Bennett, 3-6.
- Sat., Dec. 11th ... Yuletide Festival: 3-10.30.

REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES.

Liverpool and North Wales.—After holding three very successful meetings in Bangor last Wednesday, on Saturday we went to Bethesda to again hold a meeting for the quarrymen. The meeting was enthusiastic, and many requests were made that we should return soon to hold a meeting in the hall.

On the same evening a large meeting was arranged in the Guildhall, Carnarvon. As we approached the hall it was evident that mischief was stirring. There was a great rush to get in, and an organised body of roughs arrayed themselves in the gallery facing the speakers. At eight o'clock the storm began, and continued for more than an hour and a half, much to the indignation of the larger and serious portion of the audience. All the Liberal women were there, political men were there—to find no doubt if we should drop a hint as to our general election plans—the Mayor was there, and, addressing the audience, tried to get a hearing. The proceedings came to an end with the singing of the Welsh National Anthem. We were escorted home by a large body of police. Since the meeting we have received many letters expressing indignation at our treatment, and asking us to return at an early date, when the people will take every precaution that our meeting will be a great success. On Friday, in the Hope Street Church Hall, we held an "At Home." Plays were acted, songs were most beautifully rendered by Miss Laura Thraves, and a stirring speech was made by Mr. M. Lyon Blease. Miss Margaret Milne Farquharson also spoke.

M. FARQUHARSON.

Manchester.—We seized the opportunity of Mrs. Cobden Sanderson's visit to Manchester to gather together the workers of the various branches and Sale sympathisers. In spite of the dense fog forty members and friends found their way on Saturday evening to Harper Hill, Sale, when Mrs. Cobden Sanderson gave a most exhilarating address. Her speech was followed by a recitation by Miss Ruth Manning, Miss J. Heyes spoke briefly of the work in Manchester, and Mrs. Wallace added to the success of the meeting by a witty "speechette."

During the absence of the organiser the branch officials have been hard at work. Miss Heyes delivered addresses on Friday and Sunday to debating societies in Manchester and Pendlebury respectively. On Tuesday Miss Neal opened a debate on "Votes for Women" at the Young Men's Institute of the Moss Side Baptist Church. The debate was an animated one. An appeal for help for Mrs. Meredith Macdonald's defence fund met with a ready response, and 10s. was quickly collected for this purpose.

M. E. MANNING.

N.E. Yorkshire and Durham.—Our enthusiasts at West Hartlepool and Sunderland have been amply rewarded for the labours of the past few weeks by the splendid meetings of Monday and Thursday. On Monday, November 22nd, Mrs. Coates Hansen presided at the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, when the speakers were Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Manning, and Miss Schofield. The audience listened with attention, and at the close of the speeches made the best use of question time.

At the Alexandra Hall, Sunderland, our untiring hon. secretary, Miss Clark, had determined to have a meeting where the speakers should be heard, and she succeeded. The hundred or so students, armed with ammunition for wrecking the meeting, had more than their match in her. Sunderland was proud to have the honour of listening to Richard Cobden's daughter, and, to mark their appreciation, the branch presented Mrs. Cobden Sanderson with a beautiful bouquet in the League's colours. Mrs. Storey, the president of the branch, presided, and Miss Manning and Miss Schofield spoke.

During the visit of Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Miss Manning the Middlesbrough Branch held a drawing-room meeting at the Corporation Hotel. After the speeches a long and breezy discussion on tactics took place. We are doing famously in the North-East. We have lots of enthusiasm, but we shall be grateful for all donations, whether large or small. ALICE SCHOFIELD.

South Wales.—Our meeting in Barry on Monday last for women only was a great success. Mrs. H. C. Woolf took the chair, and her appeal, at the close of the meeting, drew many members. These, with members from Penarth, will swell the South Glamorgan Branch, which has been formed with headquarters at Cardiff. We are fortunate in securing Mrs. H. C. Woolf as hon. secretary. On Tuesday I journeyed to Carmarthen for the debate which had been arranged by the United English Nonconformist Debating Society. A crowded hall greeted us, many being unable to gain admittance. The president, the Rev. D. J. Thomas, was in the chair. I was supported by Miss Lewis, B.A., and Miss Marian Jones (one of our members). Our opponents were the Rev. G. E. Edwards, B.A., and Mr. David King—their sole arguments against the motion being physical force. The local paper devotes four columns to the debate, and in conclusion says: "The question was then put to the meeting, and the motion was carried by an overwhelming majority." This speaks well for the growth of our cause in Carmarthen, as prior to the appearance of the Freedom League no Suffrage meetings had been held. We attended Lord Tiverton's meeting at Llanelly on Wednesday night with the idea of questioning him. The *South Wales Daily News* states: "A number of questions were put. Miss Muriel Matters, who was received with prolonged applause, asked whether the prospective Unionist candidate would be prepared to grant the Parliamentary vote to duly qualified women." Lord Tiverton's answer was: "Madam, I will not say whether I am in favour or not, but this I will say,

that I shall not even consider the question until the militant Suffragette alters her methods." A typical answer of the politicians, which brought forth applause from Lord Tiverton's followers, but so much noise and opposition came from male sympathisers that, to quote the paper again, "the proceedings terminated abruptly, no vote of thanks or resolution being put to the meeting." Our friends in Carmarthen (part of his constituency) promised to attend to Lord Tiverton at the meeting held there last night. We are now in Llandilo, where we expect a good meeting in the Public Hall to-night. Our Llanelly meeting is next Monday, and we return to Cardiff Tuesday for fresh engagements, our address being 14, Coldstream Terrace.

MURIEL MATTERS.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Dec. 2nd **Manchester Central Branch**: Speakers' Class, 7 p.m.; General Meeting, 8 p.m.; Business Meeting, 9 p.m.
Gorseinon: Miss Muriel Matters.
 Fri., Dec. 3rd ... **Atheneum, Warminster, Debate**: Mrs. H. W. Nevinston v. Mr. E. E. Dent, 8.15.
 Mon. Dec. 6th ... **Penarth**: "How the Vote was Won." Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 7th ... **Central Hall, Bradford**: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Amy Sanderson. Rev. R. J. Campbell, Mrs. How Hartyn (chair), 8 p.m.
Town Hall, Pendlebury: Miss Farquharson, M.A., Rev. — McMullan, 7.30.
 Wed., Dec. 8th ... **Swansea, 4, Sketty Road**: Speakers' Class. Hostess, Miss Hutton, 8 p.m.
 Thurs., Dec. 9th **Neath**: Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.
Manchester Central Branch: Speakers' Class, 7 p.m.; General Meeting, 8 p.m.; Business Meeting, 9 p.m.
 Wed., Dec. 15th **Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells**: Mrs. Despard, Rev. W. R. Holman (chair), 3 p.m.
 Thurs., Dec. 16th **St. George's Hall, Liverpool**: Tableaux. **Cardiff**: H. Baillie Weaver, Esq., Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.

CASH RECEIVED, NOVEMBER 1—20.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss E. Diplock	0	1	0	Per Miss M. Matters			
Per Miss Schofield:				(South Wales cam-			
Miss J. K. Dicksie,				paign): Collec-			
5s.; Miss Clarke,				tions, £7 5s.; Mrs.			
10s.; collections,				D. A. Thomas,			
£1 16s. 9d.	2	11	9	£2; Miss Jewson,			
Miss L. Crates	0	1	0	£1; Mr. Jewson,			
Miss F. Crates	0	1	0	£2 2s.	12	7	0
Miss S. Seruya	6	1	0	Miss Mordan	0	10	0
Miss Hayward	0	2	0	Mrs. Bousfield	0	2	6
Mrs. L. Hicks	1	0	0	Mrs. Wyatt	0	4	0
Mrs. Tudor	1	0	0	Miss M. Kaye-Smith	0	1	0
Mrs. Drysdale	0	10	0	Miss C. V. V. Tite	2	2	0
Miss H. B. Hanson	0	1	0	Mrs. M. Radford	0	1	0
Edinburgh Branch	0	8	6	"Suffragist" Wolver-			
Miss E. Weir	0	2	0	hampton	0	2	6
Mrs. Thomson-Price	1	0	0	Miss M. R. Chandler	0	10	6
Mrs. Hartley Withers	1	0	0	Mrs. Arklay	1	0	0
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	1	0	Miss Annie Lane	0	1	0
Miss Alice Ames	1	0	0	Mrs. Edwards	2	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	0	10	0	Miss Busbridge	0	1	8
Lady Harberton	2	0	0	Mrs. M. K. Bertie			
Mrs. B. W. Oliphant	0	2	6	Clay	1	1	0
Dr. Annie Black	0	10	0	Miss A. A. Wilson	0	1	0
Miss L. Carr-Shaw	1	2	0	Central Telegraph			
Miss Caswell	0	1	0	Office (per Miss			
Mrs. Bowron	0	1	0	Vincent)	0	11	5
Miss J. D. Bowron	0	1	0	Miss M. Alder	0	2	6
Miss G. McGilchrist	10	6	3	Mrs. Eve	0	10	0
Mrs. Sargent - Flor-				Mr. A. G. Guthrie	0	5	0
ence	1	0	0	Miss L. Taylor	0	1	0
Miss Cicely Hamil-				Mrs. Winterne	0	10	0
ton	1	0	0	Mrs. Railton	0	5	0
Mrs. Balfour	1	1	0	Tottenham Branch	2	0	0
Mrs. E. F. Cartar	0	5	0	Miss Roles	0	4	0
Miss Ada Reid	0	5	0	Mrs. Arncliffe Sen-			
Miss S. Bennett	13	4	0	nett	1	0	0
Mrs. Snow	1	0	0	Miss Burton	0	5	0
Per Mrs. A. S. San-				Mrs. Fisher	4	18	8
der-son (Yorkshire				P. and A. Brigade			
collections)	1	10	0	(per Mrs. Borr-			
Miss M. Sidley	2	0	0	mann Wells)	0	10	6
Mrs. Saul Solomon	0	10	6	Miss Julie Ball	1	18	3
Per Miss E. Man-				Branch fees (affilia-			
ning: Sale mem-				tion, &c.)	2	0	0
ber, rs.; collec-				Collections	10	16	7
tions, £8 14s. 9d.	8	15	9	Tickets	16	2	6
Miss E. A. Dennis	0	1	0				
Mrs. E. Richmond	4	4	0	Total	128	6	10
Hon. Mrs. Haverfield	0	10	0	Amount previously			
Lecture fee (per Miss				acknowledged	4,066	0	4
A. Neilans)	0	5	0				
				Grand total	£4,194	7	2

Owing to the Trial it is unfortunately necessary to hold over all Branch Notices till next week.