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

Valiant Women

Address by His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley to Women in the Forces

Catholic women in almost every branch of national service attended Benediction in London on Sunday afternoon, January 26th, at the Church of SS. Peter and Edward, Palace Street, when His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley preached.

Mgr. Dewey, Vicar General for the Navy, and Mgr. Beauchamp, Vicar General for the Air Force, were present. Mgr. Coghlan, Vicar General for the Army, was prevented from attending by other duties.

His Eminence preached from the text: "Who shall find a valiant woman? Far and from the utmost coasts is the price of her."

"In speaking to you, the active women workers for your country's cause, I do not mean to exaggerate your importance; much less flatter you. But at times we all need encouragement, recognition, appreciation. You are doing your duty bravely, even heroically; with the best of intentions you are striving to serve God in serving those who are directly fighting for justice and peace: you are doing your good works not to be seen of men but finally for the glory of your Father in heaven.

"I cannot withhold my admiration of the courage, devotion and discipline you have shown before all the world in these times of hard testing.

"The place assigned to woman in the disposition of Divine Providence is described by Holy Writ in language of unmistakable grandeur. Through her the never ending war with the serpent and the serpent's brood will be brought to a victorious ending.

"We know that this supreme place belongs by God's own decree to the ever Blessed and Immaculate Mother of Christ, through Whom she has received the dignity of the ideal woman and became the Mother of all Christ's brethren in the order of grace. In and by and through her Divine Son she has a unique place and power in the Church of God.

"To her maternal care I earnestly commend you now in these days of trial and always, that you may all be safe under her protection and all live according to the model of her stainless example.

"As I stand before you and think of the heroic conduct of so many British women during these past months, I realise more than ever before how much the goodness of the world depends on the ways of a woman, though alas! we know also what harmful influence she may exercise. . .

"With the noblest of ideals before you you will see what a glorious mission is yours at all times but more particularly in these days when each one is called upon to give of her best for the welfare of the men with whom you are working in this travail of the world. And I must say that from all I learn you are splendidly answering the call.

"I would like to mention every branch of the women's services: they do not seek the limelight but deserve the full measure of the nation's gratitude. There are many who are doing highly responsible administrative work unseen. They are charged with anxiousd uties; they have the care of the health and happiness of thousands of workers, of evacuees, of refugees, of children severed from their parents. They are blamed if things go wrong but receive little credit for smooth, normal conditions.

"Here present are the W.R.N.S., the A.T.S., the W.A.A.F., the V.A.D., the Women's Volunteer Service, the nurses in our hospitals,

the women workers in the factories, in the hostels and mobile canteens, the visitors in the shelters, the ambulance attendants and drivers, the fire-fighters—these are truly valiant women whose price is beyond the treasures that come from afar and from the uttermost coasts.

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But there is a more sublime mission still which every good woman is summoned to fulfil.

"Not only by her very presence and bearing, which are the reflection of her inward womanly worth, but by her words on fitting occasions and by her example she will promote the high standard of decency, purity and honesty in the surroundings wherein she is placed. Such I know is the result of the influence of our Catholic women and girls on the men of his Majesty's gallant Forces among whom they are working.

'I recall the words addressed by our Holy Father in his first Encyclical to the women of the world. He reminded us all that we are living in a materialistic and mechanical age. In this century of machinery, owing to the rush and noise, the noblest moral values and every super-natural ideal are often forgotten or thrust aside in careless indifference, nay, even absolutely denied. The momentary things of the sense crowd out the things that are more real though unseen—the affairs of the immortal soul. The human person becomes a mere cog in the wheel—a routine tool of labour, even a piece of the war-engine.

"Human society in our day is in danger of destruction by materialistic selfishness and hatred. To heal the wounds of humanity there is only one sound remedy-the return of the that no memorial could have pleased her human mind and heart to the knowledge and love of God our Father and of Jesus Christ Whom He has sent to save the world.

"It is for you Catholic women and girls to stoop down to tend the wounds of men; guided and aided by God, you will relieve, you will encourage, you will re-make an organic society of the scattered multitude, respecting the rights and obligations of others in a well-ordered, united family of fellow-workers.

"Through you the many and varied races will find again the unity of Divine sonship and brotherhood.

"Each one of you will strive for the salvation of her country and for the happiness of her recently. Mrs. Huggett was an early and active

it calls for enthusiasm, for perseverance, for watchfulness, prayer, womanly reserve, it will sometimes need heroism.

"But it is assured of victory, because mind always ends by conquering matter and right (Continued on page 13)

International Notes

Basutoland. Matsaba Mantesaba, wife of the late Seiso Griffith, famous paramount Chief of Basutoland, who died last month, has been elected Regent of Basutoland at a meeting of the Grand Native Council. She is the first woman to be admitted to the deliberations of the Council Chamber, and the first woman Regent. General rejoicing followed her election. We offer our respectful congratulations to Matsaba Mantesaba.

Father Dames, of the Mill Hill Missionary Fathers, writes from his Mission in Uganda:

"Just a little note from an old friend in Africa wishing you a happy and holy Christmas. . . We are full of admiration for the courage which you all display in carrying on through these dreadful times and you may rest assured that no day passes without we pray during Holy Mass for the success of the cause of liberty and right.

"(This) is a very difficult place . . . only just beginning . . . few pupils and very remote. I ge great assistance from three girl teachers who have been successfully trained by the Dutch Sisters i another Mission. Though they are not from the tribe of this Mission they do their work well, and ever better than some of the men teachers; they certainly are better trained on the whole."

A library for the use of the native population of Johannesburg has been opened there as a memorial to the late Winifred Holtby, who spent so much of her life working on behalf of a people whom she loved. We may rest assured

Sweden. We congratulate Miss Hesselgren so well known to us at Geneva, on being reelected Senator in the Swedish Parliament. The last elections have increased the number of women deputies in the two Chambers from II

Obituary

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Huggett, who died member of the Alliance being a leading light "Here then, is your mission: it is very high; of our former Wimbledon Branch. She frequently spoke on Wimbledon Common during the Votes for Women campaign.

Owing to failing health for the first time last year she missed our annual meeting. At one of these meetings she spoke with great effect.

Notes and Comments

The 30th Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance will be held on Saturday, March 17th, at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, at 2-30 p.m.; members will gather for tea afterwards at the Interval Club, if they so desire. We ask all who can possibly do so to attend, as opportunities of meeting are few and far between, and the Annual Meeting is our most important function of the year.

The speakers will include Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Harrington, Miss Fugger Jabloner (Vienna), Miss Betty Lowe, and Miss J. Organ.

Though we had always taken it for granted we were glad to see the statement published in the Catholic Herald that all chaplains to the Forces are instructed in set terms that men and women are equally their charge. Mgr. Beauchamp, Vicar-General of the R.A.F., and Mgr. Coghlan, Vicar-General of the Army, lent their names to this statement.

Five women from the C.I.D. have been drafted into the Special Branch at Scotland Yard which deals with political and international investigations. They have won promotion for their skill at criminal investigations and their duties will include visiting night clubs and following up clues of dangerous aliens and international undesirables.

It was recently announced in the House of Commons that a scheme of dependents' allowances for members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service would shortly be produced. The scheme is to be contributory and members receiving 2s. 6d. a day or more will make the same contributory allotments as soldiers on the same rates of pay.

It is interesting to note in the Quarterly Leaflet of The Women's Farm and Garden Association that applications for trained women gardeners continue to pour into their offices, including head, single-handed and undergardeners, and that they "are now almost unable to meet the continued demand." "During last winter," states the Leaflet, "there were few gardening posts, and some of our trained women had to take other work, and many joined the Women's Services." Now "this demand is likely to increase," and "it is disappointing not to have enough workers to go round."

"On the farm side," continues the Leaflet, Duchesses.

"there are still vacancies for milkers and stockwomen, but not many posts for more responsible women who are capable of taking charge of a small farm."

Meantime between 30,000 and 40,000 more women must be recruited for work on the land next year to take the place of men called up, and Mr. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, has urged farmers to get on at once with the training of the recruits. Only 0,000 members of the Women's Land Army are now at work, compared with the peak figure of 16,000 in the last

"Cosmetic worries may come to an end when Parliament discusses the use of lipstick by women of the Red Cross, the Navy and the Air Force. Captain Plugge will ask the Secretary of State for War and the heads of the other two Services for their ruling on the matter."-—Daily Sketch.

According to the Daily Telegraph their answer will be "moderation in all things!" See our article in last month's CATHOLIC CITIZEN!

* * * * "It is interesting to recall that Florence Nightingale received the Order of Merit. Would she have had it bestowed on her to-day? Somehow. I think not. I feel pretty sure that any woman performing an equivalent heroic service would find herself a Dame of the Order of the British Empire."—Time and Tide.

* * * We congratulate our former Chairman, Miss C. M. Gordon, R.A., who has been appointed to the County Agriculture Committee, North Argyllshire, by invitation of the Department of Agriculture.

Mrs. Prister Cruttwell, of Bath, writes:

"I hope you will be able to carry on in spite of difficulties, as we should miss your paper very much. It gives one news you get nowhere else, and I hope may again be an International link in better days

Such words are most encouraging!

Miss Diana Denyse Hay, daughter of the late Earl Errol, who has been killed in an accident in Nairobi, succeeds to the earldom, and she also becomes Lord High Constable of Scotland. an office held by the Earl's ancestors for 600 years. She has precedence in the official table of the Lyon King of Arms, before Dukes and

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181 Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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Same Risk Same Rate

dealt with a new scheme under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act. We described the blatant discrepancies between raid injury allowances to men and women, in that men, married or single, in the gainfully occupied group were to receive 35s., women 28s.—while in the group "not gainfully occupied" men were to receive 21s., women only 14s. These discrepancies in compensation for war injury are particularly unjust since women share equally with men the dangers and difficulties to which the civilian population is exposed. The endurance and courage shown by women and their response to the call for national service are no less than that of men.

Nor, in the case of the gainfully occupied, are rates related to the earnings or responsibilities of the individual. They are based on the cost of living which, as we all know, is the same for men and women. In any case there is a for the job," if injured they are to be paid less compensation than that paid to a man doing the same job. Moreover, an injured man usually has a wife, mother, sister or daughter to nurse him, while many a woman would have to pay someone to look after her.

Allowances under the Workmen's Compensation Act (and the allowances quoted above are supposed to be commensurate with those paid under this Act) have a common maximum limit of 30s. and the basic rate for old age pensions, whether contributory or non-contribuof sex in assessing damage for physical injury.

As we noted in our last issue, the women M.P.s sent a letter of protest (sponsored by Mrs.

Readers will remember that last month we St. Joan's Alliance protested to the latter and to the Minister of Pensions at once, and asked for amendment of the scheme so as to make compensation equal between men and women

The Alliance took part in a meeting of protest convened by the British Federation of Business Women, on January 20th, when representatives of 60 women's organisations attended, and Miss Caroline Haslett presided. The meeting passed the following resolution:

'This Conference of Women's Organisations holds that the compensation rates for civilians under the Civilian War Injuries Scheme, should be equal between men and women.

In view of the fact that the compensation rates are based on the cost of living and that these costs are the same for men and women:

It calls on the Government to amend the rates so that they shall be equal for men and women." It was decided to ask the Minister of Pensions

to receive a deputation.

Women M.P.s were present at the meeting, and Dr. Summerskill put forward the feminist certain anomaly in the fact that whereas women arguments, while Miss Irene Ward dealt with doing munitions work are to be paid "the rate what we should do to counter a scheme soon to be embodied in regulations laid before the House. "Women have been extraordinarily patient," she said, "but 'keeping quiet' and not making a fuss politically does not pay. We must fight in the proper way and with dignity. Sitting quiet is the worst possible policy." On several occasions Miss Ward had approached Ministers on certain points that she wished altered and they had replied: "Does the Hon. Lady know that I have had no representations on the matter?" This is where individual members of St. Joan's Alliance come in. Do not let tory is the same. And the law takes no account this be said on the present occasion but write a personal letter to your own M.P. and to the Minister of Pensions, at once, protesting against the passing of the scheme in the form now under Tate, M.P.) to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. consideration and urging amendments to make

the rates of compensation equal as between men

15th February, 1941

The deputation of 40 women, representing some 2,000,000 women and accompanied by seven women M.P.s, was received by the Minister of Pensions, Sir Walter Womersley and Captain Crookshank on January 30th. Dr. Summerskill, M.P., and Mrs. Tate, M.P., Miss Godwin and Miss Colville most ably put forward the arguments for reconsideration of the regulations so that there might be equal compensation for equal dangers. After these speeches the Minister kindly asked if others wished to speak, whereupon he was questioned and heckled mercilessly and left in no doubt as to the resentment at this injustice to women. For one hour the Minister patiently listened and finally told the deputation that he would put their claim for "equal compensation for equal danger" before the War Cabinet.

The women M.P.s, with the assistance of the Women's Organisations will carry on the fight both inside and outside the House.

Miss Barry represented the Alliance on this deputation.

It is for each individual member of the Alliance to realise her responsibility in this manner and write to the Minister of Pensions and her M.P., thereby giving the struggle a solid

As Miss Reeves of the Women's Freedom League said at the meeting, we must neither betray the women of the past who fought the fight for women's enfranchisement nor those who are to come after us-we have a two-fold

VALIANT WOMEN -(Continued from p. 10).

by triumphing over the ruins piled up by

"History shows it, and God has promised it; the measure of our victory is that of our

"In my Mass and in all my prayers you who are doing such great work for God and for Fatherland have a very special place. May God keep you safe 'under the shadow of His wings.' May He reward you for your courage, selfsacrifice, for your devotion to the good of your fellow-country men and of the forces who defend our liberties and our lives."

"It is indeed true that most of the trouble in the world has nothing to do with men one way or the other but comes from women bothering what other women will think of them."-Christopher Hollis in The Tablet.

May we ask what evidence Mr. Hollis has for this statement?

"Women Are Growing Impatient"

The following letter appeared in "The Times" of January 20th:

To the Editor of "The Times"

Women are growing impatient. At the outbreak of war they were called upon to volunteer for national service. In their thousands they did so and were turned away discouraged by muddle and inadequate planning. Rallying, many of them took up hazardous work with the A.R.P., Auxiliary and other Services. Some have already paid with their lives. Now the call for them grows louder each week. Official utterances have praised their work and courage "in the front line"; they contribute financially equally with men through National Savings Schemes, increased income-tax and cost of living; the war could neither be waged nor won without their help and resourcefulness.

Yet the new War Injuries Compensation Scheme, with callous indifference to their sacrifices and responsibilities, proposes a heavy differentiation in rate of compensation between them and men. It is not a question of family responsibilities, for the rate for men is the same whether single or married. What possible argument can be put forward in justification of such discrimination? It is taking an unfair advantage of a loyal and keen section of the British public.

PHYLLIS DEAKIN,

Honorary National Secretary. National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland, January 16.

Women in 1641

Just 300 years ago on the 4th February, 1641, the women of Britain showed their keen interest in the Government of their country and their resentment at having their votes the previous year discounted by the High Sheriff of Suffolk, despite his admission that "in law they might have been allowed."

They crowded round the entrance to the House of Commons in such numbers that the Sergeant-Major enquired of the House what he should do with them, they having told him that for everyone present that day, there would be 500 the next. He was told "to speak them fair" (in modern English, deceive them). On the morrow they presented their printed peti-tion. It was in quaint language but asked for equal status "as women are sharers in the common calamities." Anne Stagg, gentle-woman and brewer, presented it, and Mr. Pym told them it would be "carefully considered." -Women's Freedom League Bulletin,

Reviews

McNabb, O.P. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 3s. 6d.).

speaking of the Mass and its variety of joys, His voice"; and the beautiful story has been Writ. The mediæval churches of Europe, in wide and deep knowledge of the Old and New illiterate as to the literate, desired, since the other women who were "looking on afar off" representations were sought and valued, by teachers and taught, that the reproach certainly slanders the pre-Reformation era. At most it may be said that legend in those days, not always reliable legend, sometimes mingled with scriptural fact. After the Reformation a reaction against the Protestant view of the Bible did indeed lead to its being read too little by the Catholic body as a whole. In recent times Pharisees; in order to touch once more the feet this tendency has been partly corrected, and in of Christ she was bold enough to brave the band England no one has done more than Father of soldiers guarding the tomb.' Vincent McNabb to increase knowledge of the Bible among Catholics. Father McNabb expounds the Scriptures as assiduously and learnedly and with as much convincing ardour who, from his pulpit, could vivify his words by pointing to the new, glowing fresco on the wall of his church—to the picture of the Nativity, of the kings who followed a star, of the home

In his book on Saint Mary Magdalen, Father McNabb is above all scriptural. He takes her story entirely from the Gospels and gives us all of it, from all four Gospels. Since he refrains Murder in a Nunnery. By E. Shepherd. from deductions unjustified by the Gospels, it it a relief to our anxiety that he maintains the satisfying traditional identification of Mary Magdalen and Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus; he deduces it from the very Gospels. He does not even mention the purely legendary additions to the saint's story; we follow him to forego images culled from frescoes, pictures, poetry. In the end his austerity leaves us the richer. A lovely fantastic, archaic figure goes but what supersedes it is movingly human, a woman too much alive to belong to mere fancy or any time, as true as eternity.

Father NcNabb shows us that the two great facts about the Magdalen were her charity and Saint Mary Magdalen. By Father Vincent her penitence. Both were magnificently generous—the love that not only Judas, not only Simon the Pharisee, but even Saint Martha It is related of Saint Louis of France that, could think extravagant, and the repentance through which this sinner "found her innohe said: "I had rather see my Lord than hear cence" so entirely that she could stand beside the spotless Mother by the Cross. The charity used by Protestants to illustrate a reproach to and repentance of Saint Mary Magdalen were Catholics, that of neglecting to study Holy not sterile emotions but transformed her being This saint was no sentimentalist and no indulger countries where their decoration has not been of facile emotional impulses; her love and her effaced or mutilated, contain such abundant grief cut into her heart, carving it anew. No evidence—in statuary, carving, painting—of a one was ever less futile. Father McNabb notices her strength, what he calls her royal quality. Testaments, held by the artists and those whose orders they obeyed, imparted as much to the and precedent," give her precedence over the at the Crucifixion and who saw the empty tomb and heard the angels. Father McNabb emphasises her "great energy such as Martha's most strenuous moods could not match. Before morning dawned on the entombed Saviour, it was Mary, not Martha, that was astir to embalm His dead body as she had embalmed His as the sole and exclusive repository of truth living body. She had been bold enough to bear undauntedly the sneers of the banqueting

Withal she was a contemplative and remains the type of contemplatives. Another fallacy is disproved. No more than a sentimentalist can be a great lover, can a quietist be a great conas any Friar Preacher of the fifteenth century templative. Saint Mary Magdalen, Saint Theresa of Avila: these masterly women, whose desires were strong, whose sympathies were wide and whose lives were filled with drama, are the great contemplatives of the Catholic Church.

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

(Catholic Book Club, 113-125 Charing Cross Road, 2s. 6d.)

The murder introduces us to such a delightful "nunnery"-such a charming Rev. Mother and taking school-girls, not to speak of the rest of the Community, that despite the fact that "murder" is quite "outside our scope" we cannot forbear recommending this book as being an excellent war-time tonic and pick-me-up for jaded nerves or outlook! It is worth joining the Catholic Book Club just to chuckle over the "tidying up" methods of Mother Porteress! C. S.

The Benedictines of Caldey. By Peter Anson. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 7s. 6d.).

In the latter half of the 19th century a small group of men and women in the Anglican establishment became conscious of the importance of the contemplative life, and its place in the body social. That is, they saw the need for specialists in prayer and tried to form their own societies for this purpose. One of these attempts was the Benedictines of Caldey, two congregations one for men and one for women. Here we can be proud to find that it was not only the women who first became conscious of the need for contemplative Orders, but they were also logical enough to see their false position and decide to remedy it at all costs. After submission to Rome these became the well-known Talacre nuns while the men's Order became the Benedictines of Prinknash.

Those who read this book seriously and sympathise with the Caldey Brothers will be quick o appreciate the humour which lightens it from time to time. There are high spots of fun in this pilgrimage toward Truth. One novice records the banning of two subjects at recreation -viz., "Food and Rome." M. G. C. N.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove.

Liverpool 8.

Letters were sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Pensions protesting against the allowances made to women in the new scheme under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, and asking for equal compensation as between men and women. Local M.P.s were also approached.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

We thank all those members who have sent in their subscriptions for the New Year so promptly and we beg defaulters to hurry up, as funds are very low at resent. Perhaps those members intending to come to the Annual Meeting would think out money-making suggestions. These would be most gratefully received.

J. M. ORGAN.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Mr. James Douglas quoted by Leonora de Alberti in the Catholic Suffragist, February 15,

"The reality of motherhood is the same in every race. . . Through the smoke of burning cities we can descry the sweet, sad face of the eternal mother, yearning over a thousand battlefields . . . shedding over all the wild chaos of carnage a hallowed radiance of undying devotion. . . The mothers of mankind will not have suffered in vain if their suffering be the redemption of humanity. . . Out of their anguish let the will of the world be born—the will to establish and keep peace on the earth against all its adversaries for ever.

Praise For Women Wardens

Quoted from the Woman Teacher

The "East London Advertiser" circulates in an area which has seen, to say the least of it, as much of the horrors of modern warfare as any in the land. Not only has it been more frequently and more heavily bombarded than other places, but the closeness with which its small homes and large factories are packed together has added to the toll that bombs have been able to take. This paper recently published an article on women as air-raid wardens and this is what it said:

"Great Britain's 100,000 women air-raid

wardens have won their spurs.

"A.R.P. authorities all over the country were uncertain if women could face the exigencies and emergencies of a warden's duties. In some areas it was decided that they should be kept at Post telephones during times of danger and emergency. At all events, off patrol.

'The blitzkrieg has made these ideas com-

pletely out of date.

"Women wardens patrol through the barrage and are equally ready, with their male colleagues, to deal immediately with air raid damage with all the speed that is the life-blood of the A.R.P. services.

"They take their turns at exposed Posts during the long hours of darkness, sleep on hard benches—claiming no privileges or concessions and in many cases working longer than the 48hour week laid down by the authorities for fulltime women wardens.

"In some particular branches of their work women have excelled. For example, in the training of voluntary squads of women, for daytime emergencies in suburban areas when most men are away at their work.

"They deal more practically with the difficul-ties of mothers with small children and make better shelter marshals than some men because of their knowledge of family difficulties.

"They have shown themselves quick-witted and cool when bombs fall, well able to tackle incendiary bomb fires and swift and accurate in calling in the other services, by means of their reports to their local control. In no way whatsoever have they failed to justify the faith in their abilities that prompted their inclusion in perhaps the most revolutionary of war work for women.

"And their reward is coming daily in the public's increasing forgetfulness to call them 'lady wardens.'' They are-wardens.''

THE OLDHAM BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Agnes Walsh, 33 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham, acted as above. (See Liverpool.)

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

NON-PARTY

Office-55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.I.
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ-"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

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