

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XIV, No. 8. 15th SEPTEMBER 1928. Price Twopence.

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

Crosby Hall.

By C. COIGNOU.

The formal opening of Crosby Hall in Chelsea last July by Her Majesty the Queen, marked the fruition of a long cherished desire on the part of the Members of the Federation of University Women to possess in London a Club house of their very own. Crosby Hall is open to all members of the British Federation, but it is more than a Club house for these, it is completely international, for it is built and furnished by contributions from all the 28 National Associations of the Federation, as a place of residence for women graduates of all nations, and its service in the cause of international amity and understanding will be far-reaching and incalculable.

Already guests from over 20 nations have stayed in Crosby Hall and already is pressure on the existing accommodation being felt and the hope expressed that the building of the second wing might not be long delayed. But that, of course, is a question of finance, and offers a great opportunity for would-be benefactors who have the cause of the advancement of women at heart.

It is a wonderful experience to stay in Crosby Hall. Its delightful situation on the Thames Embankment with an open grassy court in front and a bank on which daffodils have bravely bloomed this spring, give one an impression of space and air not often possible in London. The interior is even more attractive. The bed-sitting-rooms in the new wing are no two of them alike, the

colouring is quiet, restrained and has a simple dignity that is rest-giving and stimulating to thought and work. Above all there is the glory of the old Tudor Hall and its associations. This is used as a stately dining-room and it is to be hoped that it may once more expect to see under its superbly carved roof the illustrious of the earth, and that students and scholars will once more grace its board as in the time of Sir John Crosby and his doughty successors.

The story of Crosby Hall is an interesting one. We know that in the year 1466, John Crosby, a wealthy wool merchant, leased from the Nuns of the Benedictine Priory of St. Helen, lands and tenements making extensive additions to his already large house and gardens, the whole being called Crosby Place.

These were troublous times in England and Crosby bore an honourable part as Sheriff and Mayor of the Staple of Calais. He died in 1475 leaving "Crosby Place" as his memorial. Its further history can be found in detail in a book written by Mr. Chas. Goss in 1907. It is known that it was tenanted by Richard Plantagenet, and that at one time Blessed Thomas More acquired the lease. It housed many different tenants, and at the beginning of last century, only the Great Hall remained standing. It underwent many vicissitudes being used as a storehouse for wine, a Presby-

terian meeting place, a School, and finally a generation ago, became a restaurant well-known to city men and travellers—indeed to lunch at Crosby Hall was one of the "things to be done" when visiting London. But the neighbourhood had greatly changed and the congestion in Bishopsgate necessitated its demolition. Mighty efforts were made to save it, but the cost was too great; however, the "University and City Association of London" at the last moment nobly rescued the fabric, and in 1909 Crosby Hall was transferred, stick by stick and stone by stone, to its present situation and re-erected in the garden of Blessed Thomas More at Chelsea. Even here its perils were not over. The transportation of the Hall had absorbed so much money that there remained no adequate funds to support it. There was at one time strong hope that it might form part of a new University for South London, but that project fell through, and during the War it once more became a store house, and then a home for Belgian refugees (as witnessed by a tablet erected in the Hall with a delightful dedication by M. Cammaerts). Finally it became derelict and there was danger of its conversion into a Kinema when "it was happily discovered that the need of the Hall for good inhabitants and the need of the University Women for a good habitation coincided." Thanks to the generous help of the University and City Association, of the friends and members not only of the British Federation of University Women, but of members of the International Federation of University Women all over the world, Crosby Hall stands to-day dedicated to the encouragement of learning and the promotion of friendship between the women of all nations.

The feminist societies, including St. Joan's, have been pressing for the appointment of women to the Commission which is to enquire into police methods and their powers and duties generally. We are glad to note that Miss Margaret Beavan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and Dame Muriel Talbot, have been appointed. Viscount Lee, of Fareham, is Chairman.

The Victory Party.

A very successful Victory Party was held on Thursday, July 26, by kind invitation of Mrs. Laughton Mathews, at 57 Carlton Hill. The occasion was to celebrate the final granting of Equal Franchise, and to offer congratulations and thanks for their devoted work for so many years, to Miss Jeffery, foundress of the Society and hon. treasurer; to Miss Barry, hon. Secretary and our leaders, and to Miss de Alberti, editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, the gallant little paper, which has helped to keep our members united and has carried the Society's messages far and wide. Mrs. Laughton Mathews' beautiful drawing room was decorated with white lilies, cornflowers and yellow gladioli; the banners of St. Joan's Alliance hung on the walls and there was easy accommodation for the forty to fifty members present. Mrs. Laughton Mathews said a few appropriate words of welcome, and also read extracts from some of the many appreciative letters received.

Miss Fedden, as the oldest member of the Committee available, was asked to speak for all those present. In a most eloquent speech she spoke in turn of the particular work of each of these three officers of the Society, with very special reference to Miss Barry—her power as a leader and her loyal devotion to the Society's aims. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell—hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Branch, and representing that Branch as well as the young women, now no longer voteless—followed with a speech, sincere and to the point. She also spoke of Miss Barry's work for the Liverpool Branch and their admiration and affection for her. Miss Hall also represented the Liverpool branch and a telegram of congratulations came from Mrs. Parnell. Miss Fedden then presented framed addresses—beautifully illuminated by Miss Butler Bowdon, and inscribed with the names of all subscribers to the presentation fund—to Miss Barry and Miss Jeffrey and to Miss de Alberti.

Little Elvira Laughton Mathews, dressed in white, wearing a wreath of forget-me-nots and the St. Joan's badge, presented them with beautiful Chinese embroidered purses,

(Continued on p. 71.)

Notes and Comments.

We again remind our members that a special meeting will be held in the autumn to discuss the future of the society. Notices will be issued in due course. Meanwhile we beg members to give the question their earnest consideration.

* * * *

We are glad to note the following recently passed unanimously by the Medical Women's Federation. "That, in the opinion of the Council of the Medical Women's Federation, the limitation by legislation of the amount of weight to be lifted by women, as separate from men, is unwise as well as unscientific. The amount lifted depends not solely on sex, but also on physique, general health, and training: such limitation if enforced, might do serious harm by further restricting the employments open to women."

* * * *

The death of Ellen Terry on July 21, was a loss to every section of the English people. The great actress was beloved by one and all. She was a keen feminist, as is her daughter Miss Craig, who designed our beautiful banner of St. Joan, presented by Miss Christopher St. John. Miss Barry represented the Alliance at the funeral.

* * * *

We are glad to record that the Royal Assent has been given to the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1928, which amends the Act of 1922 by increasing the time-limit from nine months to twelve months in which proceedings can be taken against a man for a criminal assault upon a girl. Mr. Hurd, N. Devizes, introduced the Bill on July 24, it met with no opposition, and has quickly passed into law. It comes into force in January next.

League of the Church Militant.

We regret to hear from the League of the Church Militant—formerly the Church League for Women's Suffrage—that at a meeting of members held recently, it was decided to dissolve the League at the close of this year. By the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill, part of the League's work is done, while the question of the admission of women to Anglican Orders has reached a stage when it is felt it can be safely left to be carried on through other channels.

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee has decided to have a "Victory—and—After Day" celebration on Wednesday, October 24. There will be a Luncheon at the Hotel Cecil at 1 p.m. to 1-15 p.m., the Chairman being The Viscountess Rhondda. Tickets 5s. each from all societies belonging to the above Committee. In the evening there will be a Reception at Caxton Hall.

* * * *

We much regret that reports of the N.U.S.E.C. Victory Garden Party, and the Women's Freedom League's Victory Breakfast, at both of which St. Joan's S.P.A. was well represented, have been crowded out.

* * * *

We ask prayers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Radclyffe, who died on August 20. She kindly helped us some years ago at St. Joan's Fair. We offer our sincere sympathy to her sister, Miss Fedden, and to her daughters, Mrs. Keogh and Miss Mimosa Radclyffe, members of St. Joan's S.P.A.—R.I.P.

* * * *

The usual meetings of St. Joan's Alliance, held on the first Monday of the month at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square at 6 p.m., will be resumed on Monday, October 1, at 6 p.m., when Miss Fedden will speak on the Nationality of Married Women. Members are invited to bring their friends.

The Victory Party.—Continued.

which each contained the gift subscribed to by members of the Society.

She thanked each of the recipients by name, and was so obviously delighted at being included in the Victory Party, that it seemed to promise well for her future use of the vote! Miss Jeffery, Miss de Alberti and Miss Barry all made characteristic speeches of thanks, and the company sang in hearty unison: "They are jolly good fellows."

The refreshment table, in the dining-room, carried out the blue, gold and white of the Society's colours, and in the centre of the table stood a Statuette of the winged Victory, and a fairy-like glass ship—the Suffrage Ship come to harbour! A pleasant hour, in the garden, lighted with coloured electric bulbs, brought a memorable evening to a very friendly, happy end.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MISS LEONORA DE ALBERTI, Editor, <i>Catholic Citizen</i> .	MISS SHEILA HYNES
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COUNCILLOR MRS. V. M. CRAWFORD.	MISS MARY WALL.

Victory—and After?

Mr. Joseph Clayton ends his fine message to the Victory number of the *Catholic Citizen* with the words: "For all who strive for justice find the battle never done, the field never quiet."

And indeed, as Miss Abadam reminded us, it was the cry in the old suffrage campaign, that the vote was but a means to an end, a lever to remove obstacles from the path of justice and freedom. And so we have found it in the last ten years; Dame Millicent Fawcett has written a pamphlet, published by the N.U.S.E.C., giving a list of bills of particular interest to women attributable to the enfranchisement of women, and their new power in the political world.

Now that Equal Franchise is a *fait accompli*, we are free to concentrate our efforts on other inequalities. For only a man could have said, as Mr. Baldwin said in the House of Commons, that with the passing of Equal Franchise every vestige of inequality, between men and women, would disappear.

There are no women in the House of Lords, and but a handful in the House of Commons. Do the political parties give women a fair chance to be elected? If women enjoyed equality with men, should we have to press—and in vain—for the appointment of women to such a Commission, for instance, as recently enquired into the Savidge case?

The Sex Disqualification Removal Act was passed in 1919; it should have given women

a fair chance in the Civil Service, but it does not. A Clause was inserted reserving to men posts involving service overseas. In reply to a question in the House of Commons last month, Mr. Samuel stated that under this clause and the authority of the Order in Council of July 22, 1920, all posts in the Diplomatic Service and in the Consular Service are closed to women, all posts in the Government Services of the Colonies and Protectorates to which appointments are made in the United Kingdom, other than posts for which women may be specially recruited; all posts in the Commercial Diplomatic Service and the Trade Commissioners Service, provided that this reservation is not applicable to the post of chief clerk in the respective offices of His Majesty's Trade Commissioners. Mr. Samuel enumerated other posts such as Veterinary Inspectors, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, assistant fishery officers, assistant naturalists in the Fisheries Department, live stock officers, etc., etc.

It is a strange idea of equality that excludes women from all these posts. We are grateful to Mr. Briant for eliciting this plain answer, it is well that the House should be reminded from time to time, of the inequalities still existing.

St. Joan's S.P.A. stands for Equal Pay and Opportunities, for the removal of the restrictions on women's work, for a married woman's right to engage in paid employment; for a married woman's right to retain or change her nationality. Women are

being constantly dismissed from work on marriage, in spite of the Sex Disqualification Removal Bill, which forbids it.

St. Joan's S.P.A. stands for an Equal Moral Standard and for the repeal of the unjust Solicitation Laws. We have not yet obtained the total abolition of State Regulation of Vice throughout the *British Empire*—and our work is international.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the work still to be accomplished by feminist organizations. Equal Franchise is a stepping stone to victory in all these spheres—but there is still a long long trail to Equality between men and women.

L. DE ALBERTI

In connection with the article on "Crosby Hall" on page 69, our members will be interested to know that efforts are being made to raise £1000 to endow a "Margaret Roper Room" for some student at Crosby Hall. Margaret Roper was, of course, the oldest and favourite child of Blessed Thomas More and she and her sisters formed that "dear School" at Chelsea to which Sir Thomas so frequently referred in his letters. The story of Margaret's devotion to her father makes her worthy of an honoured place in Crosby Hall, but also as a fine Scholar, and the friend and correspondent of all the European Scholars of her day, Margaret Roper's name should be associated with the Hall of Residence for Women Graduates from all countries.

A member writes:

I am very glad indeed that the franchise on equal terms with men has at last been granted. It astonishes me to see the apathy of the younger generation of women on this matter; young English women seem to think it a matter of entire indifference whether they have the vote or not.

It is to be hoped that the members of St. Joan's Alliance will realize that in the coming General Election it will be their solemn duty to organize their votes and to use all their influence to check the spirit of neo-paganism which threatens to overwhelm the Nation.

Simla.

British Commonwealth League.

The report of the B.C.L. Conference held in July, will be ready shortly, and can be had from the B.C.L. Office, 17 Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

The Conference, to which we sent delegates, discussed many important matters, such as the enfranchisement of women in South Africa, Quebec and Bermudas. The appointment of women on Commissions, Boards, and other groups dealing with Empire policy, women in industry, &c., &c. A resolution was moved: That in any plans for the establishment of an Empire Secretariat or Consultative body, all positions in connection therewith should be open equally to men and women, thus carrying out the principle established in article 7 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. St. Joan's S.P.A. proposed as an amendment that in the proposed Secretariat there should be equal pay, equal opportunities and equal promotion for women. This was carried.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and women delegates attended from many parts of the Empire.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

July 1st to August 15th.

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Butler, Bowdon, Miss E.	5 0 0
Connolly, Dr. R. M.	2 6
Despard, Mrs.	1 10 0
Ellingworth, Mrs.	1 6
Gordon, Miss C.M.	2 6
Jeffery, Miss	1 0 0
Lucking, Miss	1 0
Roberts, Miss	1 0
Sheehan, Mrs.	2 6
Wall, Miss	12 0
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	9 0
			£9 7 6

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Now that the holiday season is drawing to a close I would remind members that the work of the Alliance must go on apace this Autumn and that funds are very low at the moment. I shall be particularly grateful to receive subscriptions for rent, which is due on Sept. 29th.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

By the request of the Branch the half-past nine Mass on Sunday, July 15th, was offered up at St. Philip Neri's in thanksgiving for the granting of Equal Franchise.

The Josephine Butler Centenary Council in Liverpool, to which the Branch is affiliated, has been able to hand over to the Central Committee in London the magnificent sum of £119 4s. 3d. after paying all local expenses, which were by no means light.

The prayers of members are asked for the repose of the soul of Mr. Murphy, husband of our Chairman, Mrs. Murphy, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Messages of Congratulation.

AUSTRIA.

I am very overworked and have still much to do before I can think of leaving Vienna. You must therefore excuse the form of my message of congratulation. It is not as good as I should like. But take the good will and accept my heartfelt congratulations on your brilliant victory.

The great day at the Cathedral will never be forgotten and I envy you the event that marks a stage on the way of woman's progress.

Olga Rudel-Zeynek,
(Senator, Austria).

BELGIUM.

From Princess Marie de Croy.

I was indeed interested to see that English women had got the full franchise, and I feel sure they will act in such a way as to convince the adversaries of the Bill that they were wrong to oppose what is only a tardy act of justice. Please convey my hearty congratulations to all your workers. We are very backward in Belgium, but have the sympathy of most of the Elite of all parties. It is a question of opportunity, and we have been the victims of party politics.

* * * *

C'est avec une sincère sympathie que je vous adresse, au nom des féministes chrétiennes belges, nos cordiales félicitations pour l'aboutissement de la longue campagne suffragiste à laquelle la *St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance* a pris une part si active depuis tant d'années.

Dieu veuille continuer à bénir vos efforts en vous aidant à donner aux nouvelles générations électorales féminines la formation civique et la maturité nécessaires pour que leur vote serve la cause du Bien!

En Belgique nous sommes encore, malheureusement très loin du but. On s'accorde généralement à reconnaître que les femmes sont capables de voter et ont intérêt à le faire, et que, *en principe* on ne peut leur en dénier le droit dans un régime politique démocratique. Mais *en pratique* les partis antireligieux leur refusent le suffrage législatif et avouent avec cynisme qu'ils ne le

leur accorderont que le jour où ils seraient parvenus à les déchristianiser!

Dans ces conditions le lutté est extrêmement difficile, beaucoup de femmes subissant l'emprise du parti auquel appartiennent les hommes de leur famille. Il nous faudra beaucoup de patience encore et une persévérance opiniâtre pour obtenir gain de cause. Les conquêtes suffragistes des pays voisins hâteront l'heure de la nôtre. Aussi, tout en félicitant nos soeurs anglaises, nous voulons aussi les remercier de l'exemple que nous a donné leur activité inlassable et de l'encouragement qu'est pour nous leur complète victoire.

Louise Van den Plaz,

Présidente de la *Ligue catholique du Suffrage féminin*.
(filiale du Féminisme Chrétien du Belgique).

CANADA.

The members of the Canadian Alliance for Woman's vote in Quebec rejoice in your success. You have at last received the reward of your marvellous efforts. Sixty years of striving has brought you to the realisation of that which you were so courageously pursuing.

I thank you for your kind wishes regarding our cause. May the women of the province of Quebec, who are actually the only women in the Dominion not enfranchised, enjoy the same victory in a very near future.

May our legislators understand that justice and civilization go hand in hand, and that by the conquest of selfishness and the recognition of everyone's rights, humanity is gradually progressing.

Idola Saint Jean,

President.

Montreal, August.

FRANCE.

It was with great joy that I read of the Equal Franchise Bill. I followed with keen interest and sympathy the battle that was so bravely fought by English women. As a Catholic I feel proud of the part that was taken in this struggle by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

It is to this loyal co-operation, to this great urging of all English women whatever their religious or political convictions, and also to your never daunted will of conquest even by partial victory, that you have now your political rights. But working for yourselves, you worked for us: you showed us the way. If they see us work as strenuously as you did, thinking of your total enfranchisement, may our senators feel ashamed of their behaviour towards us.

Mme. Vallé-Genairon,
Présidente Fédération Suffragiste du Sud-Est.

GERMANY.

The German Branch of the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom sends its heartiest congratulations and greetings to their English sisters for the final and complete victory of the Equal Franchise for women.

In England the fight for Woman's Suffrage was a hard and long one. Women have suffered greatly for their just cause. May they now rejoice the more in their victory and use their rights to vivify that spirit of justice, freedom, and peace which is lacking in all modern states where men alone have had power. This can only originate and permanently continue where women and men co-operate on equal terms in the formation of the state and society.

Anita Augspurg,
Lida Gustava Heymann.
Munich, July 25, 1928.

* * * *

During the year you were kind enough to send me the *Catholic Citizen*, I was able to realize with what great zeal and ardour the English Catholic women fought to secure equal franchise with men, and I now wish to express my own personal pleasure at your final victory.

Wishing St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance further success in their work.

Elisabeth Vincenz,
Frankfurt A. M.

HOLLAND.

My best wishes for the success of having reached at last the aim for which you strived so many years. I offer you the expression of my great admiration for the

courage you have always shown in face of attack.

I hope that the publication of the *Catholic Citizen* will not be stopped and that it will be published many years in favour of the Rights of Women.

Clara Mulder v. d. Graaf de Bruyn.
The Hague, July 14, 1928.

SWITZERLAND.

Ce n'est qu'aujourd'hui que j'apprends que l'assentiment royal a été donné à la loi reconnaissant aux femmes anglaises l'égalité politique complète avec les hommes. Aussi ai-je hâte, au terme de cette longue campagne de plus de 60 ans, menée avec tant de vaillance, de foi et de persévérance par les femmes anglaises, de venir vous exprimer les chaudes félicitations des suffragistes suisses pour le succès final, en Angleterre, de notre cause commune. Et à ces félicitations, je tiens à joindre aussin nos remerciements pour l'exemple que vous, les suffragistes anglaises, n'avez cessé de nous donner, et l'encouragement qu'a été votre activité pour nous, suffragistes suisses, qui sommes si loin encore de notre but. Car nous savons, en regardant à vous, que nous finirons comme vous, par obtenir le succès un jour, et nous vous sommes reconnaissantes d'éclairer ainsi le long chemin sur lequel vous avez marché devant nous.

Emilie Gourd,
Présidente, Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin. Geneva.

U.S.A.

I not only rejoice with you in your victory, but I take great satisfaction in having marched in the equal suffrage parade in London on July 3, 1926 with the National Woman's Party delegation. Many things have I done for woman suffrage in my own country, but I never marched for it. With deep appreciation of your most charitable efforts to improve the condition of the womanhood of the world I promise to support you in any way I possibly can.

You have vision and courage and I hope you will speedily secure a firm grasp on this new tool for which you have laboured so untiringly.

Eleanor Calnan.
Methuen.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London. W.
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.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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[Entrance in Porch of Church].

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1st, at 6 p.m.,

on the

"Nationality of Married Women."

Speaker : MISS FEDDEN.

Chairman : Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.

ADMISSION FREE.

Tea may be had before and after the Meeting.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.

Wednesday, October 24th.

"VICTORY & AFTER DAY."

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