

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners St., London, W 1.

VOL VI, No. 12

December 15th, 1920

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.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE CHURCH.

BY WALTER CORNISH.

Some time ago, one of our great daily papers sent out a special correspondent to find out whether there was any evidence of the new world coming to birth. The new world that was to be born as a result of the war. He went through the length and breadth of the land in his quest; he visited our cities; our centres of industry; our universities; our villages; he talked to men in the train, in the tram, in the tube and in the streets; he went to our churches and to the Salvation Army; and his verdict was, that everywhere he found men too busy and prosperous to bother about the new world. They had no time for idealistic ideas, and even for such a magnificent idea as the League of Nations it was difficult to whip up sufficient enthusiasm for a successful meeting. There was not a vestige of evidence to be found that this much advertised new world was being born. If this is true, (and there is not much reason to doubt it) this is a severe indictment of the church; for christian men and women are the ambassadors of the New World.

The establishment of the League of Nations has not received, from the church, either the attention or support that it deserves. We are not concerned here with the mechanism of the League (that is the work of statesmen) but we are concerned with the ideas behind the League. These are so important as to deserve our closest consideration.

People must be reminded that if ever this great Covenant is to become operative in the councils of the nations it must be rescued from becoming the tool of politicians, it

must be made the ideal of the people. The only way in which it can be made effective is to lift it into the moral and spiritual sphere and preach it as a holy crusade against the savage and barbaric forces of war. It will never be born in the Council Chamber, it must be born in the hearts of all good men and women in Christendom. That is where the church is affected, the people must be behind the compact. We are not concerned whose seal and signature adorns the document; if it remains a treaty it will die. It is in the region of ideas and spiritual aspirations that the league must be born, not on paper. You can't bind nations over to keep the peace, when there is no disposition to keep it—no goodwill. The world wants goodwill. Is there not a great opportunity here for the church to lead the world into this new atmosphere of goodwill and brotherhood. Are we to listen to the materialistic philosophers for ever?

The league stands for a new idea in our thoughts about the human race, at least in the realm of politics. Men are not accustomed to it. To put this great conception into a few phrases is an impossible task, but there are at least three fundamental ideas behind it. (1) It is an attempt to apply the law of Brotherhood in the government of nations, in place of suspicion and enmity. (2) It is a recognition of the fact that we are dependant upon each other; that the world is a commonwealth, rather than a collection of separate hostile camps. (3) That the argument of force has utterly failed as a means of settling national disputes. This all sounds very modern, but the ideas are as old

as the New Testament. There is a New Testament flavour about these things that we cannot mistake. We have preached it for years, but this is the first great attempt to apply our principles in the government world. We have grown up to the idea of the nation. Our country has claimed our affections and our noblest endeavours; it has grown up in our minds as an entity, something complete around which we have built a wall that has tended to limit our ideas and enclose our sympathies. In the primitive days the clan and the tribe served the same purpose. The Nation is the development of the clan—ininitely multiplied. Our great men lived and fought and worked for their country; and we have glorious traditions. But in the evolution of civilisation we have arrived at a period when our great men must think in terms of the whole race. The international idea has emerged. Patriotism is no longer a question of geography. In the light of this magnificent conception purely national aims appear selfish and parochial. We have visualised the whole Earth as the possession of mankind, to be passed on to posterity pure and clean. That is our plain duty, and the man or the nation that neglects it, is out of touch with the spirit of the age.

It is worth remembering that while such ideas are new to the realm of politics, they are not new in the realm of religion. These ideas interpret the message of Christianity to the world, but the national spirit has proved too strong and tenacious, and our witness has been too weak and ineffective. There is no nationality in the gospel of Christ, no bond or free, no master or slave, no black or white, only the recognition of common interests of mankind.

One of the objections to the league is that the idea is too utopian; too far removed from reality; too good to be true; a dream. But is the idealistic always wrong? What about the dream of Christianity—the kingdom of God upon Earth? Are the materialists to dominate our thinking for ever? But is it utopian? No nation under the Sun can be said to be in the least degree self-supporting. Our education is international; our commerce is international; our music is international; our Art, our pleasures; our literature; our culture and our religion, all are

pre-eminently international. It is the other point of view which is absurd, the man who tries to live an insular life in an international life in an international world. Our greatness is due to the fact that our culture is world-wide. No great man is purely and simply a national—all great souls belong to the race. There is no nationality in knowledge or music or poetry or deep religion. This is not utopian or dreamy, it is putting ourselves in tune with the spirit of the age; falling in, and keeping step with the march of mankind.

The national idea is very strong in all Englishmen, probably because of our insular position. He has a fixed idea that a foreigner must be inferior. A wider culture will kill that savage idea, but it will die slowly.

Another objection is that we have always had war and we shall always have war—it is inevitable. One hundred years ago if you had a difference of opinion and you expressed your opinion passionately, the only decent thing to do was to go out and fight a duel about it. If you refused, you were not considered a gentleman. Duelling as an institution had the sanction of society, and while it was considered fashionable, it remained War is sanctioned in exactly the same way. We do not consider it decent to go out and kill a man for calling us a liar, but it is still permitted to order armies out into the field to slaughter each other. There were men who argued that the abolition of duelling would shake the foundation of society—that it was inevitable. Duelling has gone; and war can go; we want a revolution in the realm of ideas about it. Men said slavery was inevitable; indeed practically all the ugly things we have left behind, have been considered inevitable.

This is why the league wants the backing of all good men and women. We want a league of free peoples to exert such a moral influence that governments will not dare to recourse to this savage method of settling disputes. People will predict the end of all things, they have done so before. War belongs to the past. There was a certain appropriateness about a primitive man fighting, he lived in its savage atmosphere. If he was angry he must fight, he knew no other way, and was proud of his powers and skill in war.

(Continued on page 97).

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The ideal underlying the League of Nations, is one which must doubtless appeal to all Christians, to whichever Church they belong. It is a question on which all Christians can combine to promote that spirit of goodwill among men, without which all hope of permanent peace vanishes. We are happy, therefore, to publish the eloquent appeal to Christians, which we have received through the kindness of the League of Nations Union. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne has recently reminded Catholics that the League of Nations, whatever its imperfections is carrying out the desire of the Catholic Church for peace, and the wishes and intentions of our Holy Father the Pope. "Every Catholic when he is tempted to criticise, and find fault," his Eminence said, "should rather go down on his knees and beg of Almighty God to draw out of this imperfect instrument something more perfect, something which will realise better His own Divine purpose. If the late war is indeed to be the last war, this can only be brought about by some such instrument as the League of Nations, and it is for us to make that League of Nations a useful instrument for the purpose for which it has been set up. We pray day by day in the Mass for peace, and we have to recollect that there is no peace except the peace which Almighty God alone can give."

We can offer our readers no better Christmas wish than that each one may have some share in establishing God's peace on earth.

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society will hold a meeting on Saturday, December 18th, at 3 p.m. at the Caxton Hall. The object is to call upon the Government to proclaim a truce of God in Ireland at this Christmas season. The speaker will be Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, who is at present in Ireland making personal investigations. The chair will be taken by the Rev. H. F. Hall. The meeting will be in no sense partisan but as responsible citizens, it is our duty to do our utmost to bring about a cessation of the tragic events in Ireland. We urge all our readers to come, and bring friends.

Admission is free. Reserved seats, one shilling.

We have received a letter from Sister M. Schlachta, member of the National Assembly of Hungary, and member of the Social Mission Society, thanking us for sending the Catholic Citizen, and asking us to continue to do so, that the society may keep in touch with the C.W.S.S. and follow its activities. We shall be very happy to keep in touch with our colleagues in Budapest, whose progress we, too, are watching with interest and sympathy.

* * * * *

The supporters of Women Civil Servants in the House of Commons have secured a real victory by the definite promise which the Government, through Mr. Bonar Law, has been at last compelled to give, to the effect that the Orders in Council controlling the admission of women to the Civil Service shall give explicit and detailed regulations, open to amendment by the House. The Government is stubborn, but it will finally realise that women intend to be taken seriously, and that their supporters are earnest in their desire to obtain fair play. The days when it was safe to put women off by trickery and subterfuge are past.

* * * * *

By 904 votes to 712 Cambridge has refused to admit women to degrees and the full privileges of the University. It seems to have been the Cambridge of the past rather than of the present, that decided to continue this churlish and unjust attitude to women. The adverse vote is damaging to the prestige of the University, the women will, of course, win, and probably before long.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Annual Subscriptions to the C.W.S.S. and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due this month. If Subscribers would kindly remember to send these in at once it would save considerable trouble.

The subscription to the paper is now 2/6 post free.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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

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

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GREETINGS TO AMERICAN WOMEN.

The mass meeting in London on November 29th was primarily convened to greet Mrs. Chapman Catt, the president of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, the great woman who led twenty-six million American suffragists to victory. British women were eager to show their gratitude for all that their American sisters have done for our common cause, and to offer them cordial congratulations. It was a sight to gladden the hearts of suffragists to see the leader of American women, and the leader of British women come on to the platform together, and it was a spontaneous feeling of joy which prompted the audience to spring to its feet and cheer. America and England how a stricken world turns to them for some hope and comfort, and how much the realisation of such hopes may depend on the women of both nations. It was the American women, so Mrs. Fawcett reminded us who sowed the seed of internationalism among suffragists, it was they who were the pioneers of the women's movement in all parts of the world. Seventy years the women of the United States laboured and women all the world over have profited by their labours. Both Mrs. Chapman Catt and Mrs. Fawcett told the audience something of the friendly rivalry between the two nations. If American women won a victory it was shortly afterwards reflected in English politics; did England make an advance? America did not lag long behind. Senators and Congress, said Mrs. Catt, knew that their doom was sealed when Great Britain enfranchised her women, and the United States have now outstripped England and their women have equal political rights with men; and American suffragists, with all their splendid powers of organisation can turn their zeal in-

to other channels. Shall England lag behind much longer? The second part of the evening's programme was devoted to that question, and the meeting passed a unanimous resolution moved by Lady Astor, calling on the Government to redeem their election pledges, by giving English women equal voting rights with men. Then again we went further afield, and the officers of the Alliance from various European countries paid their tribute to America, and delivered friendly messages to their English colleagues. This note of international goodwill was indeed the key note of that historic meeting, and remains in the memory as a happy omen for the spread of internationalism, and the bringing of peace to a distracted world. Speaker after speaker urged women to put their hearts into the League of Nations, and make of it a practical and effective weapon for the stamping out of war. To prevent the making of war was the real task of the Alliance, said Frau Schreiber, a German M.P.; the League of Nations was the special concern of women said Madame de Witt Schlumberger, the representative of France. We should keep before our eyes, Mrs. Chapman Catt told us, the big things of the world, and the biggest of all was the prevention of future wars. I do not know whether the pilgrim pessimist who has been wandering round London to discover the woman's point of view came that night to the Central Hall, if he did so he will have heard the authentic voice of woman.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Since the above was written an article has appeared showing that the pilgrim was at the Central Hall; it also shows that he does not know the voice of woman when he hears it. Or is it the malady of not marking that he is troubled withal?

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

Gifts for the Xmas Sale are also gratefully acknowledged from the following persons:—

Miss L. de Alberti, Mrs. Anderson, Miss F. Barry, Misses Brady, Misses de Bulnes, Miss Burman, Misses Cochrane, Mrs. Crawford, Miss Cullen, Mrs. and Miss Fedden, Miss B. Gadsby, Miss Gorry, Miss Greenwood, Mrs. Groves, Miss Hinton, Miss Holmes, Miss E. C. Hughes, Miss Johnson, Miss Jolly, Miss Meyer, Dr. Morice, Miss Musson, Miss Northcote, Miss Olsen, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, Miss Petty, Mrs. Poundall, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Rochford, Mrs. Sandham, Miss Stafford, Miss Tynan, Miss Wall, Mrs. Whately, Miss Wheeler, Miss R. Williams, Mrs. Worters.

Our stall realised the goodly sum of £24 and our best thanks are due to these kind contributors.

In wishing all our members a very happy Xmas it is my unfortunate duty to remind them that annual subscriptions to the Society and "Catholic Citizen" fall due at this season. The subscription to the paper is now 2/6 post free, and it would save much trouble and expense if these were sent before January 15th, when the next issue appears.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

Mrs. Chapman Catt's Message to the C.W.S.S.

On Sunday, December 6th, the C.W.S.S. gave a dinner to Mrs. Chapman Catt, and the officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at the Florence Restaurant. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., in proposing the toast of Mrs. Chapman Catt, gave a brief sketch of the history of the C.W.S.S. Mrs. Catt, who was received with great enthusiasm, said no invitation had given her greater pleasure than that of the C.W.S.S. She wanted to meet the members, she had a message for the Society. She had no doubt that the C.W.S.S. has done its part in the suffrage fight in England, but she was convinced that the great work of the Society lay ahead. Whoever might think their work finished the C.W.S.S. and its paper must go on until women were enfranchised all the world over. There was work to be done that only Catholics could do, and other women looked to them to do it. The world needed the C.W.S.S. They must not tire, but go on, she knew they could be trusted to do their duty. On returning to the States she was going to ask the Catholic Group, that had worked for suffrage to form up again, so that they too might affiliate to the Alliance and strengthen its hands. Mrs. Walter Roch proposed the toast of the International Suffrage Alliance, and Frau Schreiber, M.P., and spoke eloquently of the work she hoped women would do for humanity in the prevention of wars. Frau Schreiber in replying spoke of the cordiality with which she had been welcomed on her visit to England, and of her work in the Reichstag. Apologies for absence were received from Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, representative of France, Dr. Ancona, representative of Italy; and from Mrs. Meynell, Miss Christopher St. John, Miss Christitch, and Lady Laughton.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix contributes an eloquent article to *La Française* (Nov. 11th), in which while associating all Frenchwomen whole-heartedly with the recent National Fête, she reminds the Republic that owing to its laws being so largely Roman in origin and spirit, French women still find themselves excluded from a great portion of her public life. And she adds that to-day in all international gatherings of women French women are being compelled to take a back seat for they have not been entrusted with the political rights that the women of England, Germany, the United States and others now freely enjoy. How long, she asks, are these disabilities to weigh on the Frenchwoman? What has she done that this public affront should be laid upon her?

* * * *

We learn from *La Femme Belge* (Oct.) that the Minister of Agriculture has organised an Institut Normal Supérieur d'Economie Ménagère Agricole, the object of which is to educate a feminine *élite* to develop all forms of social and educational work in rural districts. It is pleasant to add that he has appointed a committee of women to direct the new college which is situated at Laeken, near Brussels, and will carry on classes both in French and Flemish.

The Belgian Chamber has admitted women to sit on juries practically without opposition.

* * * *

The *National Catholic War Council Bulletin* (published in Washington) which is now the organ of the National Catholic Welfare Council, gives an inspiring record of Catholic social activities in the States. We note, however, that singularly little space is allocated to the doings of women, perhaps because the National Council of Catholic Women, which is a department of the Welfare Council, is to have its own official paper, *The Catholic Woman*. The training of women social workers is to form one of the most important duties of the Women's Council.

* * * *

Jus Suffragii (Nov.) contains a singularly interesting account of the social effects of factory labour on Chinese women "after 3,000 years of skilled hand industry." We are told that Canton already has its Chinese Women's Suffrage Society.

Mrs. Anna Wicksell, 4th Vice-President of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance has been appointed by Sweden one of its alternate delegates to the first Assembly of the League of Nations now sitting at Geneva.

The Swedish Riksdag has passed a law allowing women to fill the higher posts in the Civil Service hitherto closed to them.

The Labour Government of New South Wales has established a Ministry of Motherhood which will carry out many of the duties of our Ministry of Health. We trust it will not be wholly staffed by men.

Three women now sit in the Lower House of the Danish Parliament, and seven in the Higher.

The Corporation of Bombay has resolved to admit women as Municipal Councillors.

* * * *

Mgr. Besson, Bishop of Geneva, has been urging on girls of the upper classes the absolute need of proper training for every form of social and professional work whether paid or unpaid. Nowadays goodwill, he declares is not enough, and Catholic girls must follow the example largely set by Protestants in seeking definite training for whatever work they wish to undertake. The town of Fribourg with its many institutes, offers every facility for really specialised training. (*Le Travail Feminin*, Nov.) V.M.C.

* * * *

Dr. Lamont has received the following letter from Rome:—

Mrs. Margaret Lamont, M.D. and B.S.

The Sacred Congregation of "Propaganda Fide," which knows well what care and praiseworthy solicitude you have shewn till now, in aiding the work of the conversion of the heathen, by dispensaries and hospitals for the poor and sick, learns also with pleasure that you are devoting yourself to the formation of a little Society, lay, but pious and apostolic, of women doctors for the Missions, supported by Catholic doctors, both men and women, in every country.

You have already had, in your audience of March last, the assurance of the satisfaction of Propaganda with these plans.

And truly, I have pleasure in repeating, it is a holy work and most opportune, to procure by the charitable assistance of the wretched and neglected, not only health of body, but health also of the soul.

Happy those who shall be so fortunate as to have the assistance of women doctors, exercising their holy mission, both humanitarian and Christian, in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

I therefore pray God to bless your efforts and grant all your desires.

(Signed) G. M. GARD. VAN ROSSUM, Prefect.
C. LAURENTI, Secretary.

(Translation.)

"—For Girls, too."

(Continued from page 92).

Among recently published books is one entitled, "An Elementary Commentary on English Law," by His Honour Judge Ruegg, K.C.

It is to be welcomed as offering the public an essentially clear and simple explanation of the chief branches of a proverbially complex subject. It explains, for example, the laws regarding personal property, the rights of landlords and tenants; the legal rules for the making of wills; of contracts, or agreements as to work and wages between employers and employees; etc.

How few of us have any real grip on these matters? And how important it is that we should understand them. There is much talk to-day about everybody helping to "make England a fitter land for heroes," but before we can help reform the laws we must surely know how they "stand" at present. Moreover there are two well-known truths about the Common Law that should never be lost sight of; namely:—"Everybody is supposed to know the Law," and "No-one is excused for not knowing the Law." How often do we find especially among the poorer classes, victims of the grossest injustice, because through ignorance of the law, they have unwittingly committed some legal offence, or fallen into the hands of unscrupulous rogues who deliberately take advantage of their ignorance and whose own knowledge of the law secures them from prosecution.

For "Catholic Citizen" readers however a more particular point of interest of this book of Judge Ruegg's lies in the very sensible views and practical advice contained in its preface.

He observes that "the foundation of every state is the education of its youth," and, lamenting the general ignorance of law, suggests as a remedy that *the rudiments* of his own country's laws should be a part of every boy's education. An admirable suggestion! but why confine it to boys? Do women-breakers of the law suffer a lesser penalty? By no means. The contrary is only too often the case.

Let us, as Catholic citizens, then, help forward any plan for elementary instruction in the laws that govern us, but let the women citizens see to it that such instruction is for girls, too.

E.C.H.

Man is no longer proud of, and devoted to the arts of battle, his time and energy are given to the pursuits of peace. It is an industrial and commercial world. This fact makes war impossible. The great war differs from any war before it, not alone by its magnitude, but by its character. Other wars have been local in their extent, and could be circumscribed in their influence. But this struggle threatened to drag the whole of civilisation into its terrible vortex. Whole nations at war, and it is not too much to say, that practically the whole generation will be affected directly or indirectly. Men do not fight because they are angry, but because war is still a permissionable institution in Society. Thoughtful men agree everywhere that it is barbaric, and are ready to give their voice against it as a method of settling disputes.

The solution of the league of nations is the recognition that moral law underlies all things, and that righteousness is the only sure foundation. The power of treaties and armies and navies will never establish peace. It is in the hearts of all good men and women where the real dynamic lies, not in cabinets. It may be urged that this is not the work of the church. Can we contemplate the building of civilisation without the ennobling and refining influences of religion? Can we stand aside and watch preparations for another horrible ordeal, and not raise our voices in protest? Let us not be deluded, the League is the only barrier between us and that. The church raised her recruits for war, let her now raise her recruits for peace. Where is the unifying force to come from if not from the church? What are the church's ideals? Here is a task worthy of her mighty power, for I am convinced that she has yet the key to men's hearts and will yet lift the world to higher things. No agency can usurp her place. The League of Nations will fail without this potent force behind it, no matter who signs the agreement. Can we imagine a more holy work than the attempt to rebuild the work on christian lines. It will bring the grand consummation of our faith a gigantic stride nearer completion. Nothing can hold the world together but love, everything else will fail. It is fitting that men should unite beneath the wings of the church, for is she not the mother of the nations.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A PUBLIC MEETING

To call upon the Government to establish
a

"Truce of God" in Ireland

will be held on

Saturday, December 18th

At 3 p.m.

in the

Caxton Hall, Westminster

COUNCILLOR

Mrs. V. M. Crawford

(just returned from Ireland)

will speak on

"What I saw in Ireland."

Chairman:

THE REV. H. F. HALL.

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[N.B.]—The C.W.S.S. is entirely non-
party and asks members and friends to
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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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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.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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Wed. Jan. 19 3 p.m. Speaker, Councillor JESSIE STEPIEN,
Subject "Woman's right to work"

Wed. Jan. 26 3 p.m. Speaker MRS K. RALEIGH. Subject, "What
St Paul really said to women" (Part 2.)

Wed. Feb. 2 3 p.m. Speaker, F. THORESBY, Esq. Subject, "A
New Approach to Education."

THE

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The Monthly Organ of

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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under the name of 'Capillose Co.' "Mutesco" prevents
hair falling, cures baldness, eradicates dandruff, brings
back original colour to grey or faded hair. Post free
3/9 per bottle from JOHN LAFFERTY, 16A, Dundas Street,
Sunderland.