

# Women's Franchise.

No. 28.

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## Notice to Contributors and Subscribers.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions. Subscriptions for the weekly numbers to the end of March (1s. 8d.), or less if so desired, should be forwarded to the Publisher. Back numbers can still be obtained.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,  
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

## Notes.

NECESSITY forces the appeal which we make this week for the prompt redemption of the promises of financial help, upon the strength of which we have carried our publication into the first weeks of 1908. If the fulfilment of these pledges is delayed our sphere of usefulness must be grievously curtailed.

From the first it has been our aim to make our journal the channel through which a knowledge of the justice and expediency of the Women's Suffrage Movement should be brought to the large number of thinking people who had hitherto heard of one phase of the movement only, and that phase much misrepresented. Our own experience furnishes numerous examples not only of hostility removed, but of warm support gained through the direct medium of these pages—the breadth and strength of the movement as mirrored in them comes to the average man or woman as an astonishing revelation.

In order to reach the general public we have every week printed a large number of copies in addition to those necessary for immediate sale. Many who could not offer financial help have given time to addressing wrappers and in other ways have helped in the disposal of copies in suitable quarters, but *much remains to be done* in this direction—wrappers await postage stamps, copies await freightage (it may be mentioned here that for 1s. 6d. over a thousand specimen copies can be sent fifty miles by rail.) Presumably all who buy weekly a copy of the paper for themselves believe in the righteousness of the cause, yet the lamentable fact remains that but comparatively few spare time or money for a form of propaganda of which they cannot but approve.

If every subscriber were to give a shilling or an hour a week to forward *Women's Franchise* the continuance of the paper on a sound financial basis would be assured, and the object we all have at heart be brought much nearer of attainment. We write this with an all-prevailing consciousness of the fact that this measure of our utility is not brought about by our efforts, but is to be attributed to those who have been lavish of thought, time, and money in the making of a journal which is now received with respect and commendation in quite disinterested quarters.

WE have pleasure in noting that no member of the Cabinet need in future plead ignorance of current Suffrage news. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Birrell are indebted to Mrs. Heron for the receipt of their copies of *Women's Franchise*, Mrs. Shillington is supplying the needs of six other Cabinet Ministers, while the remaining six have Mrs. Boden to thank, who is also sending to the following twelve Members of Parliament:—

	CONSTITUENCY.
Acland, F. D. .. .. .	Richmond, Yorks.
Adkins, W. R. .. .. .	Middleton.
Agnew, G. W. .. .. .	Salford, W.
Ainsworth, J. S. .. .. .	Argyllshire.
Alden, P. .. .. .	Tottenham.
Allen, A. A. .. .. .	Christchurch.
Allen, C. P. .. .. .	Stroud.
Armitage, R. .. .. .	Leeds, Central.
Ashton, T. G. .. .. .	Luton.
Astbury, J. M. .. .. .	Southport.
Bell, Richard .. .. .	Derby.
Raphael, H. H. .. .. .	Derbyshire, S.

Miss A. M. Allen is forwarding a copy to W. H. Lever, M.P., Miss D. M. Coates to J. Elmslie Horniman, M.P., Miss Lila Clunas to the Right Hon. John Sinclair, M.P., and Miss Dalby is having a copy sent weekly to Henry Vivian, M.P.

WE understand that the Women's Liberal Federation is going to hold a large demonstration in favour of Women's Suffrage in the Queen's Hall shortly before the opening of Parliament. Mrs. Eva McLaren will preside, and only women will be allowed on the platform; the speakers also will all be women, and will include Lady Pearson, Lady Slack, Miss Florence Balfour, and other well-known Liberals, while delegates from the Federation's many branches will also be present. The object of the meeting is to impress upon the Liberal members of the House of Commons that the women of their party are in deadly earnest over the Suffrage question, and will not be trifled with on the subject any longer.

AN interesting article dealing with prison life for women is contributed to the *Sunday at Home* by Miss C. S. Rossie, hon. lecturer at H.M. Prison, Portsmouth. She comments severely on the fact that though an official attempt to reform men is sometimes made by means of the Borstal System—that of teaching special trades with subsequent advantages if the pupil prove satisfactory—nothing is done to improve the women, who are simply left to the moral persuasions of the chaplain or the sister. The whole of prison discipline, so far as women are concerned, appears to be a farce. They are punished without any chance of learning to do better, and Mr. Holmes, the London Police Court Missionary, is reported to have said that he has never known a woman reformed by it. We are told that

many respectable married women are imprisoned yearly for cruelty to children, and Miss Rossie suggests that these women should be taught home duties, such as cooking, cleaning, and the laws of health, and facts about baby management and child life. There appears to be an appalling number of unnatural parents in England. According to the last report of the N.S.P.C.C. no fewer than 40,433 persons were reported in 1906, involving the fate of 115,000 children, and the number of cases which are brought before the Society increases yearly.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**UNITED STATES.**—President Roosevelt recently received a deputation from the National American Women's Suffrage Association, which attended by invitation at the White House. He was sympathetic on the whole, reiterating his own personal belief in the cause, and promising to give the matter further consideration. As the next step for Suffragists he advised the attempt to secure another full Suffrage State.

"President Eliot of Harvard says what our American cities need is honesty. Why not give a vote to that half of the people which furnishes two-thirds of the church members, and less than 6 per cent. of the criminals?"—From *The Women's Journal*, Boston.

A new feature of the American propaganda is the establishment of Junior Suffrage leagues, which originated in Pennsylvania. Boys and girls between twelve and sixteen are admitted to membership.

**DENMARK.**—Women here are not only working hard for the Suffrage, but beginning to show enterprise in other ways. It is interesting to learn that what is called the "Event of the day in Copenhagen" is the decision of the Women's Reading Club to erect a really suitable building for its members, partly from subscriptions and partly with borrowed capital. The scheme originated with Miss Alberti, known to us as one of the Danish Suffrage leaders, and the enterprise seemed so new and daring that the members of the Society, over three thousand in number, flocked to the meeting at which it was discussed; the debate on the proposals lasted three hours, and was of the most animated description. Eventually the motion was carried, and Miss Alberti re-elected President. "And now," says my correspondent, Madame Mûnter, "we hope in 1910 to receive our friends from abroad in a fine locality, when they will give us the pleasure to visit us after that time. We are glad to bring this news to the friends of Miss Alberti from the Congress of the Alliance in Copenhagen." It is pleasant to note that here too the women who are working for the Suffrage are to the fore in other attempts to advance their interests.

On November 24 a new National Women's Suffrage Alliance was founded, with the name "Landsforbundet for Kvinders Valgret." It has already forty branches and a membership of 4,500. This is the first Danish society founded for the sole object of winning the vote for women.

**THE NETHERLANDS.**—In view of the favourable prospects for the Suffrage already mentioned in this column, the Netherlands Women's Suffrage Society has published a volume on the lines of the 'Case for Women's Suffrage,' which contains a short summary of the arguments in favour of this reform. A copy has been accepted by the Queen, and it has been sent to every member of both Houses of Parliament. The press has also accorded it a favourable reception. The title is 'Studie materiaal, voor Vrouwenkiesrecht,' the publisher F. van Rossen, Heerengracht, 281, Amsterdam, and the price, including postage 3s.

**ICELAND.**—The women of Iceland are not far behind their English sisters in winning the right to sit on municipal councils. The proposal has passed the Icelandic Parliament, and only awaits the signature of the King of Denmark, which may have been affixed before these lines are in print.

Loquitur his Country's Hope.

GENTLEMEN, courage all! We take the field To prove that we at least will never yield. Though this portentous horror gains apace, Its legions soon shall learn our band will face And fight them to the end—and after, too; For deathless roll the echoes of a "boo." By all tradition roughs and rowdies must Uphold the banner of their sacred Trust, To keep a female under firm control, Who claims to own her body or her soul. Though all men else admit th' insidious foe, Say, shall the Hooligan? Brothers, answer, "No!" 'Tis true the case grows desperate. When we find The ramparts we could always dodge behind, Monopolies of Press and Place and Power, Crumbling or being carried, 'tis an hour To make the stoutest wight who ever yelled Wish that to action he were not compelled. Yet, howsoever grim the prospect be, Can we permit such scandals? Nay, not we! If once they let 'em in to start all fair, Where shall we finish? Echo answers, Where? Our virtuous pain, disgust, and anger when A mere she-woman ups and heckles men, Plaguin' an M.P.'s self to keep his word, Foams up, and soon shall be both smelt and heard. If girls are going to make a public noise!— How the deuce dare they? They were never boys! We'll teach them sense, and—both together, note— Prove to the hilt our fitness for the vote. "Be bold, be bold, but—do not be too bold"; You know, we keep our prisons pretty cold. All right for getting rebels' spirits broke, For men a month in cells 's beyond a joke. Cheer up, though. Here we've still a real good pull; For we may always play the goat and bull. There 's benefit of youth to claim, you know— Poor little lads till twenty-five or so!— It 's axiomatic; long as we shall live Hooliganizing 's our prerogative. To wreck and howl and smash policeman's ribs, Or let off sparkling jests like arguing with squibs, Us franchise-owners don't disqualify; Presumptuous outsiders, sure, should die. That cheeky lot have surely done enough. Why, one once hit a bobby with her muff! Of course you understand me—all here friends? Our swelling indignation comprehends All unsexed creatures who respect all laws, But won't stop working for their blessed "cause." Any amount of these there seem about; As they won't chuck it, we will serve them out. What 's that? We'll meet some men? What 's one to three? (Lord send they do not run as fit as me!) If still Achilles lingers in his tent, Think of the shareholders we represent! Reflect that, were there none to cheer beside, The whole white slave-trade's solid on our side. There breathes no bully fattening on her pay But he would thank us for our work to-day. Everywhere, chaps who can't write their names Are sound and solid on these monstrous claims. The bloke who makes his vote eke out his pay, And works his kiddies fourteen hours a day, Their mother eighteen—when she's not too smashed— (Why, p'raps a British wife who wasn't bashed Into her proper place might some day doubt A Briton's sacred right to knock about His own, if once her kind got any power)— Such husbands plead to us, "Stave off that hour!" From every sweater's den, from every hole Where English children fester, body and soul, The owners' wail ascends, "Don't let them get control!" Inspired thus, forward! Up to dare and do! Raise high our war-cry in their camp—"Yah, boo!" (The name Dean Swift bestowed on all our breed Must now inspire us in this hour of need.) In this brief magic term there lie compressed Our logic, justice, wisdom—what 's the rest? Oh, ah! our humour, and the special brand Of freedom we go forth for, squib in hand. We'll show 'em, if we dislocate our necks With booin', how a champion of his sex

And country—how a genuine patriot fellow Treats British-born Outlander people. Bellow Your best and loudest there, for goodness sake! Because, you know, they're bestly wide awake, And spouting State-and-Constitution's note Safe now with all that awkward stuff they swot About Freeholders, and the Common Law, Reform Bills—ghastlier rot you never saw, A hundred things it 's like their cheek to know. What fools they were to ever let 'em go Up for exams and learn about the laws, And find so many points for their d—d "cause"! A Party Leader—or a Judge!—can't speak Without they're down on him. We're far too weak In English History piffle to reply With greater detail than our cherished cry, "Yah, boo—oo—oo, bow—wow—yow—ow, hee-haw!" And even that 's not quite a certain draw. You, see, so long it's been an English boast, Some rubbishy Englishmen grow best and most, As, dealing justice sans reproach or fear, A willingness the other side to hear, A sporting fair-play instinct, and—a word Which in this company should not be heard— Chivalry!—Yes, it's rot and drivelling rot, I've had to name it, be it swift forgot! Ugh! Where 's a drink to take the taste away?— That 's better. Now, what I was going to say Is, that as we've shed all that sort of thing, The silly fools of men who'd rather swing (Woe worth the day that thus our country shames When Englishmen back Englishwomen's claims!) They might say we seem anxious to disown All that might prove their race's blood our own. Well: that 's precisely what we've got to do, Or we shall never pull this business through. All hands agree, in keeping up a Trust You've got to do it thoroughly, or bust. Then, if no white men's weapons do the trick— It seems we're apt to find them all back-kick— With such vast interests as on us depend We mustn't grumble if we have to bend Before the wisdom of some deeper hue, Black, red, or yellow, anything must do! Take every dodge our memories can recall, John Chinaman's old stink-pot beats them all. In case our pride should show a reddened trace At monkeying the slithy slit-eyed race We'll go one better than they ever went; For war with men the Chinkies were content To keep this A1 weapon—that 's a fact! Just like the mugs they were. We're not so cracked. If there our yellow masters' sage resource In future frays we need to reinforce, Take courage! other colours yet remain! Gaze, oh my brothers, o'er the western main Where, in the land of liberty and hope, The Nigger finds his fullest, truest scope. I don't say all the darkies know so much; The slum-grown kind who, were he white, a touch Ought to come smutched off—your true "low-down" breed. 'Tis he must guide us in our utmost need. When all seems lost and even all boldest quails, Hold fast this thought—*Red pepper never fails!* But, lest we should meet any breeze to weather, Don't—*don't* sit less than thirty-five together!

NEMO.

[While admiring our contributor's vigour, we wish that an address had been given; a proof would then have been forwarded, and no doubt improvements could have been made.]

GUARANTEE FUND TO 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.'

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged .. .. .	80	14	6
Haslop, Mr. T. .. .. .	0	10	0
Heron, Mrs. C. May .. .. .	1	1	0
James, Mrs. E. S. .. .. .	0	5	0
Total .. .. .	82	10	6

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of "WOMEN'S FRANCHISE" do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

DEAR SIR,—The constant neglect of the Daily Press to report meetings held in support of Women's Suffrage was well illustrated recently. Knowing that there was an important meeting to be held on Tuesday in the Queen's Hall, arranged by the Men's League, I eagerly opened my *Tribune* on Wednesday morning, expecting to find, at any rate, a short report. I searched the paper through. There were three columns relating to a murder trial, nearly a column devoted to details of a divorce case, and the usual sporting news. Not an inch was given to an important meeting got up by a body of electors, in support of a cause that affects more than the half of the inhabitants of these islands. In these circumstances the Women Suffragists should devote their energies to sending out broadcast the *Women's Franchise*. If each person who now takes one copy would take two and post it each week to some prominent man in her own town or district, or arrange for a copy to be sent to the reading-room of some club or Free Library much good would be effected.

Suffrage societies might send it away in larger numbers. Our Society, one week, sent a copy to each of the 100 clergymen and ministers in the district. Another week copies were sent to the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Secretaries of the Liberal Ward-Committees. We intend next sending it to the members of the Conservative Association.

Yours truly,

A WORKER FOR THE CAUSE.

"British Freewomen."

SIR,—The reviewer of this book in your issue of December 26th evidently intends to be friendly. But he has entirely missed the meaning and scope of the work, which was practically a reply to the arguments in *Chorlton v. Lings*, the case which alone deprives us of our freedom.

This is the reason that Mrs. Stopes does not speak of the women of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Isle of Man, and does not give disproportionate attention to Saxon Queens and Norman Peeresses. She hurries on to show the bearing of her arguments on the present state of affairs, proving to every unprejudiced reader that by Constitutional and Statutory rights women have the *Franchise now* and are only debarred in its use by lawyers acting under the decision of *Chorlton v. Lings*.

Yours,

A. READER.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in the paragraph in your issue of the 19th as to the number of women who have signed petitions in favour of Women's Suffrage during the last ten years. But the right to vote is not claimed on the ground of the number of women who wish for it, but because "Taxation without Representation" is an unconstitutional condition of things; also why should it be demanded that all women wish to vote? Do all men yearn and long to vote? As a matter of fact, I understand not more than 60 to 75 per cent. of male voters are polled, and many of these have to be fetched to the polling-booth by women canvassers and motor-cars. No. Women are entitled to be enfranchised whether one thousand or one hundred thousand desire it.

Yours truly,

A LOGICAL WOMAN.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

**OBJECT.**—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.

Parliamentary and Organising Secretary: MISS EDITH PALLISER.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

Telegrams: "VOICELSS, LONDON."

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAREN.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON  
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR  
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE  
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.  
MISS EDITH DIMOCK  
MISS L. O. FORD  
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. PECHY PHIPSON, M.D.  
MRS. BROADLEY REID  
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL  
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHEY  
And the Hon. Officers,  
ex officio.

### Current Topics.

The evening reception on the 29th inst. at the Grand and Victoria Halls of the Criterion Restaurant promises to be a great success. Invitations are being sent to the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and all Members of Parliament who are known sympathizers. A large number of delegates from our different branches will also be present; for all who are attending the Quarterly Council Meeting held the same day are invited to the reception. Others interested may obtain tickets from our office, price 3s. 6d. including refreshments.

It is satisfactory to see how many London and provincial papers are now beginning to take more interest in our work. We are glad to take the opportunity of thanking the Editor of *The Daily News* for the excellent and sympathetic leading articles which he published last month on the subject of Women's Suffrage. We quoted from one or two of them in our 'Echoes' of last week. *The Daily Chronicle* has for some time been sympathetic, and its accurate news has been of great value. *The Queen* has also given prominence to the cause in a leading article and in occasional notes. *The South Wales Daily News* is coming forward on the question in a series of articles. The subject is also sympathetically dealt with in an interesting illustrated article in the December number of *Woman at Home*, entitled 'Some Leaders of the Women's Movement.'

### Mid-Devon By-election.

*The Western Morning News* compliments us on the literature and posters which we are using at the Mid-Devon election. We are glad to learn that they are considered to be "most effective and are attracting great attention." A compliment is also paid to the powers of the Artists' Suffrage League. The cartoons are described, and "Companions in Disgrace" is singled out as being particularly good. It is also satisfactory to read that "before this contest the claims for women's votes was only regarded by many in the district as an agitation on the part of a number of females of no particular standing, but the experience of the past few days has shown them that the representatives of the movement are educated ladies whose arguments are well thought out and are worthy of careful consideration." Meetings have been arranged in several towns and villages near Newton Abbot, details of which are given in Forthcoming Events.

The meetings in Mid-Devon are becoming more lively as the campaign proceeds. The cold is intense, but interest in the Women's Suffrage question still draws people away from the firesides to come and listen both at outdoor as well as indoor meetings.

Our meeting in the Town Hall on Friday the 3rd was well attended. The larger half of the audience were women, but a good

number of men were present, in spite of the attraction afforded by Mr. Masterman's speaking on the same evening in Newton Abbot.

Mrs. Stanbury spoke on 'Women and Citizenship.' Owing to Miss Hayllar's inability to be present, I took the chair, and gave a brief statement of our aims and object in being present during the by-election. At the close of Mrs. Stanbury's address questions were put, and a short discussion followed. Although opponents were invited to state their objections, none were made.

An elector asked why we had come to "upset the Liberals," but on my explaining that our position in this contest was a neutral one, the objector withdrew.

On Saturday evening we had a very delightful meeting at Ipplepen, a village about three miles from Newton Abbot. The meeting was held in a large barn or workshop, and though the drive out there in an open conveyance was cold, we received such a warm welcome, that the cold was forgotten. The owner of the barn had kindly arranged a platform of an inverted packing-case, and had covered it with carpet. On this were placed two kitchen chairs, two oil lamps were nailed upon the wall behind the platform, and some candles were placed on brackets round the barn. There was an audience of from 70 to 80 persons. On arriving I was greeted with cheers and "vote for Buxton." In my opening speech I explained that we had not come to oppose either of the candidates, but merely to lay our case before them, and to beg them to remember that there were women as fully qualified to vote as they themselves who were debarred from voting in the election simply because they were women.

Mrs. Stanbury spoke for half an hour, bringing forward the arguments for Women's Suffrage and pressing upon the electors present the need for women to take an active share in the National life of their country. When questions were invited we were asked if we wanted the vote for married women. There was no objection raised when we replied that we did ask that when a married woman was rated in respect to property which was her own she should be allowed to vote. "That's right," was the exclamation. There was evidently an objection to both man and wife having votes for the same property.

After questions had been answered I was called upon to speak. "I say, Missus," said a very shy farm hand, coming forward and addressing Mrs. Stanbury, "let the other lady have a say now."

I mounted the platform again and spoke for ten minutes. One member of the audience called out: "Now then, those who are for giving women the vote, up with your hands." The majority present held up their hands, and upon Mrs. Stanbury asking those who were opposed to put up their hands there was silence for a while, but no hand being raised there came a rousing cheer. An old farmer then asked for three cheers for the ladies, which was given with intense vigour. We had some talks with the men afterwards who gathered round us. There were about thirty women present; one white-haired old lady told us she had walked a mile and a half to hear us, carrying a lantern, and was going to walk back. The demand for literature was insistent. A kindly crowd escorted us to the carriage and gave us a very hearty send off. Our meeting was the first meeting ever held in Ipplepen on Women's Suffrage.

EDITH PALLISER.

## The Women's Movement Abroad and in the Colonies.

THE International Bureaux which are springing up in different countries ought to prove of great value to those seeking information on women's subjects in strange lands. The Frankfurt branch of the National Union of Progressive Societies has lately started a bureau in the town, where facts are being collected and classified regarding the work of women in Local Government. Various countries have already contributed valuable information on the subject, which is carefully arranged under separate headings. These include, Poor Law, Sanitary Inspection, the Care of Orphans, the Municipal Franchise, and Women's Position in the Local Government of various Countries, Educational Administration &c. The Secretary will be glad both to receive and to give information. All communications to be addressed to Frau Apolant, Brockenheimerstrasse, 104. III., Frankfurt on the Main.

Among the women lawyers of the United States is an Indian lady, belonging to the Winnebago tribe. She is held in great esteem by the members of her own and other tribes, who constantly come to her for advice and follow her counsel. It is owing to her influence that many legal cases which would entail much pecuniary loss to the Indians are settled without coming into the courts at all.

The Bavarian Young Liberal Party, who have recently held their annual convention, have unanimously invited women to become members of all their societies as soon as the hoped-for change takes place in the law which at present forbids women to become members of any political association.

It is encouraging to see how Spanish women are gradually establishing themselves in the learned professions. Great success has already been achieved by those among them who have taken up the study of medicine, and the prejudice against women doctors, born of ignorance, is being gradually overcome. Señora Doctora Alejandre's practice at Madrid is now so large that her house and courtyard are always filled with patients waiting for her advice. Two other doctors, Señora Arroyo de Marquez and Señora Sotes de Reyes, have also won the confidence of the women of Madrid and are ably helping their husbands, who are also in the same profession.

*L'Association Vaudoise pour le Suffrage Feminin* is the title of the Women's Suffrage Society which has been lately started at Lausanne. Its members intend to draw the attention of the Government to the unfranchised condition of women by petitions, and to interest the women of the Canton in the subject by lectures. They are qualifying themselves for giving these lectures by attending all courses held at the University

which bear on questions concerning the government of a country in its relation to women.

One of the most encouraging signs of the advance of female education in India is the number of native women who are passing the matriculation examinations. Mrs. Kamalakar, L.M.S. Madras, has lately received a scholarship of four thousand rupees from the Rajah of Pittapore, to enable her to continue her medical studies in Europe, while Miss E. Janaki, a Tiyya matriculate, has been appointed to an office in the Madras Postal Department.

The Austrian Council of Women, which was started seven years ago, now numbers about fifty associations, several having become affiliated within the last two years. Owing to the injustice of the Austrian laws, which forbid women to organize for political purposes, efforts for their enfranchisement cannot

be included in the work done by the Council. The officers and many members, however, joined forces with the Women's Suffrage Committee, and organized a series of most successful meetings in honour of the two distinguished Suffragists, Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the President of the Netherlands Suffrage Society, who recently passed through Vienna on their way to Hungary. The Austrian Women's Suffrage Society has displayed much ingenuity in evading the law which forbids women banding together in political "associations." They have called themselves a "Committee," and though the difference may appear altogether too subtle for a practical English mind to grasp, it is apparently quite clear to Austrian legislators, for the Austrian Women's Suffrage Committee has already done excellent work for the cause.



We learn from *The Daily Chronicle* that a scheme for international and inter-colonial scholarships for women, similar to those founded by the late Cecil Rhodes for men, has been drawn up by Madame Thayer, a well-known American educationalist, and brought before the Education Committee of the Society of American Women in London, of which she was at one time chairman. It is proposed to raise sufficient money to send Englishwomen for a two years' post-graduate course of study to American or Canadian universities, and also to supply distinguished American women graduates with funds for a similar length of time, to study at Oxford, Cambridge, or London universities. It is hoped that enough money will be forthcoming to endow about a hundred American scholarships. American women have welcomed the idea with enthusiasm. The Society of American Women in London has undertaken to provide for a student. Madame Thayer is collecting funds for another, and she expects that valuable financial help will be given by wealthy Americans both at home and abroad.

Women in Parliament.

WORKING OF THE NEW SYSTEM IN FINLAND.

UNDER this heading there appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of January 2nd an interesting and instructive article by a Finnish correspondent.

After briefly tracing the reasons and causes which led to this peaceful revolution—a revolution brought about because it was found impossible, we are told, to carry on the duties of statesmanship while the wishes of a large proportion of the population remained unknown and unrepresented—the writer goes on to state “that at the first election for the reformed Diet, the proportion of the enfranchised population (i.e. all over twenty-four years of age) which went to the poll was extraordinary, being in some places over 90 per cent., and the women were fully as eager to register their votes as the men. Yet out of the 200 members of the new Diet only nineteen are women.

As a matter of fact, those who guided the movement, before the elections, were careful to impress the women voters with the view “that while there are certain subjects which men do not and cannot understand as well as women, and that in legislation on such matters women must have a voice, nevertheless, it might be wiser and more prudent for women to make their way gradually into the National legislature,” in this way following the example of our own countrywomen, who have gradually made their entry on to local Councils and Boards.

“This,” as the writer points out, “at any rate shows that ‘votes for women’ do not, as some fear, lead to a conflict between the sexes.”

The fact that in Finland women have eagerly used their vote, while showing no undue haste or frantic desire to enter the Legislature, should tend to reassure those of our timid countrymen who profess to fear that it is not “votes,” but “seats in Parliament,” for which women in this land are working.

Further, it will be encouraging to those of our friends who place party first to learn that in Finland “there is no more solidarity among the nineteen women who sit in the Diet than there is among the 181 men,” while all who have at heart the uplift of humanity will rejoice to note that “the twenty-six motions and petitions introduced by one or other of the nineteen women have been almost entirely in the direction of social and domestic reform.”

The result of the enfranchisement of the Finnish women is only an additional proof to that already given by our Colonies—that the fears of our opponents are groundless, and are based entirely on prejudice and sentiment.

No one—not even the most bigoted opponent of the movement—would venture to suggest that the women of Great Britain are less fitted by nature, or less able to exercise a vote than the women of Finland or our Colonies.

Further, experience goes to prove that in these countries good, not evil, has been the result of the experiment.

Surely, then, the time has come for the men of Great Britain to take their courage in their hands (for that is what it really amounts to), and insist upon this reform being granted to their own countrywomen without further delay. BERTHA MASON.

Women in Burma.

THE following Extract from *Harper's Magazine* shows that some parts of the East are quite as far advanced as we are:—

“If women had the franchise in Burma, you should see them holding all the offices, acting as mayors, sheriffs, judges, and I doubt not, as police likewise: for Burma is possessed by its women, and (whether the facts have relation I know not) it is by all odds the happiest country from Switzerland to New Zealand. Such freedom and independence as the Burmese women have are hardly to be equalled even in the West. In public they appear on equal terms with their husbands; they can get a divorce for the asking; they are not property, but partners; they manage their households, finance the family, and do most of the business that is done in Burma by Burmans. So strange that will sound in your ears I know; yet it is perfectly true. In all Burma are very few shops of any kind

(Government opium dens excepted) that are kept by Burmese men. Cheroot and cigarette making is a great industry, but all the factories I ever saw there were owned and managed by women, and all the workers in them women. Go back to that great bazaar at Mandalay; you find there to sell your goods one hundred women to every Chinaman, and scarcely shall you find a Burmese man. Or at Nyaungy, here on the river, where the Burmese lacquer work is made so cunningly and handsomely, all the industry is in the hands of women. Except for here and there Chinese and Hindu merchants, the rice crop is financed, managed and sold by women: and Rangoon is the largest original rice-market in the world.

“The Burmese woman is clever, witty, well-informed, one of the shrewdest of business persons, usually an excellent housekeeper as well as a good merchant.”

Branch Societies.

**LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.**—A most interesting debate on Women's Suffrage was held on December 28th, by the Jewish Literary and Social Union, in the Vestry Hall of the Great Synagogue, at St. James's Place, Aldgate, E.C. Miss Bompas was the principal speaker, and several members afterwards took part in the discussion. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried.

The Artists' Suffrage League has designed some excellent Suffrage postcards, which can be obtained at the Office, price 1d. each, or 2d. coloured. We hope our members will use these whenever possible, to foes as well as to friends. It will be an excellent piece of propaganda work, and will interest many who would not trouble to read any literature on the subject. The price of the pictorial leaflets published in our columns is three for 1d.

Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer will give a lecture on ‘The Women of the Novelists,’ at 10, Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, W., on February 5th, at 5 P.M., by kind permission of Mrs. Lewis T. Wright. Tickets 2s. 6d. (numbered and reserved), and a few at 1s., can be obtained from Miss F. Gladys Wright, at the above address. The lecture is given in aid of the funds of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

**WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.**—A drawing-room meeting was held on Tuesday, December 31st, at Melford, Leamington, by kind invitation of Mrs. Dykes. Mrs. Dykes presided, and Miss Blanche Leppington gave an interesting address on the present position of politics and its bearings on the question of Women's Suffrage. The following resolution was carried unanimously, and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the member for the United Boroughs: “That this meeting of the Warwick and Leamington Women's Suffrage Society urges the Government no longer to put aside the just claim of women, but to introduce, during the forthcoming session, a Bill for their enfranchisement.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. January Meetings.

9th	Chudleigh Town Hall		P.M.
10th	Bovey Tracey Town Hall	Mid-Devon	7.30
11th	Moretonhampstead, Smethurst Hall	Election Meetings	7.30
13th	Abbotskerswell		
15th	Redland Park Parlour, Subscribers' Meeting		3
15th	Invitation Meetings, 9, Hyde Park Square, W.	Miss Bertha Mason	8.30
16th	Fleet W.S. Society.	Hon Sec.: Mrs. Kayser	8
22nd	Annual Meeting	Speaker: Miss Bompas	
23rd	London Society "At Home"	25, Victoria Street, S.W. (6th floor)	4-6.30
	Leeds, 10, De Grey Terrace, Drawing-Room Meeting	Miss I. O. Ford	3.30

\* \* All communications intended for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' columns should be addressed to the Secretary, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and should reach the office not later than first post Saturday each week.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.  
MRS. COATES HANSEN  
MISS HOBGSON  
MISS IRVINE MILLER  
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

MRS. DRYSDALE  
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL  
MRS. WINTON-EVANS  
MRS. JOSEPH CLAYTON

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.

MRS. SANDERSON  
MRS. BELL  
MRS. HOLMES  
MISS MANSELL

Notes.

**POLICE-COURT PROTESTS.**—Last week's demonstrations, which passed off quietly enough, were thought by casual observers to be futile, because nothing apparent happened as an immediate consequence. It is difficult to see what immediate consequences could be expected. Women are beginning to understand that silence in these matters implies condonation, and that although protestation, which only leads to the interruption of business for a few minutes, does not apparently advance the cause of women's freedom; silence most certainly retards it. It must also be remembered that the surest progress is that which is not apparent—that, for instance, which goes on inside those wonderfully thick skulls in which our countrymen treasure up their brains. It is only right that precious things should be kept in safe places, but in this instance it is a drawback, because, owing to the thickness of the receptacle, an idea takes a very long time to get either in or out. Our only chance of getting a new idea into an Englishman is to keep on hurling it at him until it loses its freshness. An Englishman never takes to an idea until it is old and battered. It is our business, therefore, to see to it that this new (and therefore to him dangerous) idea of women emerging out of serfdom meets him at every turn. In his police-courts, his churches, his law courts, his Houses of Parliament, his offices, his jealously guarded workshops, his universities, his homes, let him be met constantly with the cry, “I protest against your monopoly of these privileges and responsibilities; I protest against the exclusion of women from them.” No single protest will show any apparent result; but neither does the single drop of water upon a stone. It is the constant dropping that wears away the stone.

**DISTINGUISHED INVALIDS.**—Our Honorary Secretary and the men's Prime Minister have both been over-working themselves. Both have been sent away by their medical advisers. The men will be pleased to hear that the Prime Minister is much better, and will soon be back “in harness.” We are more than pleased to welcome Mrs. How Martyn back, not in harness, but to her seat on the box. She will not find her team out of hand, as they are possessed of unusual intelligence, and jog along without much driving, knowing they are on the right road—unlike poor Sir Henry's, who have usurped his place on the box, put the bit in his mouth, and at every cross-road one tugs one rein, one tugs the other, one shouts “Gee up!” another shouts “Whoa!” until the poor leader does not know whether to back or to gallop forward, or to jib or to buck-jump, so ends by doing a little of each, with the result that the old-fashioned State coach remains in about the same place as it was at the start.

Mrs. How Martyn has over-worked herself in the cause of liberty. The Prime Minister's breakdown was due (largely) to the strain of the effort to reconcile the feuds of ambitious party-politicians; so in apportioning our sympathy to them, we must assuredly give the larger part to the Prime Minister.

**OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.**—Woman's duty just now is to prepare herself and her friends for the task of making the opening of Parliament a great fiasco from the point of view of the Government. A democratic Parliament ought to come together cheered by the plaudits of the happy and contented people whom it represents. Let the present oligarchy realize on this occasion that the citizens whom it deprives of their citizenship refuse to bear its yoke any longer.

“Profit” for the Local Government Board or Starvation for Women?

MR. JOHN BURNS is going to carry out his threat of curtailing the work of women by making a beginning in the East End upon the widows and spinsters who are keeping hunger and cold from their doors by the work supplied by the Central Unemployment Fund. These women are making clothes for which there is no sale. Mr. Burns and his Board are very shocked at the notion of the State being unable to make a profit out of poor women's work; so for this reason a workshop is to be closed. It must be remembered that 750l. only has been grudgingly doled out of the Fund for women, and that even this would not have been done but for the persistent clamouring of philanthropic women, who refused to allow the whole of that great sum subscribed for the unemployed to be spent on men only. Mrs. Margaret Moore, a member of this League, has done splendid service to these poor souls by her determined efforts to keep the workshops open. But it seems now that more has to be done, if this disgrace of casting women adrift in this awful winter weather is to be averted.

We are told that 28,000l. of the Fund has been spent on one farm colony for men. Out of that sum 1,000l. only has been repaid. 27,000l. has been cheerfully given without complaint and without profit, yet we do not hear of the closing of that farm colony. Once more we are forced to realize the awful tragedy of being a woman in this country. It is obvious in this case that it is not profitless work that is objected to—it is profitless women's work. One can imagine the horror expressed by the well-fed and satisfied gentlemen on the Committee when the report was read, dealing with the garments which are left on their hands unsold. “What are we to do with all these petticoats and pinafores if we cannot make money out of them? These useless women must not have good money lavished on them like this. Women mistake their position if they fancy that we can bother about their unemployment, unless they can prove that men can get something out of it. Mr. Chairman, I move that we close the workshops.” Seconded and carried with acclamation. Result: a few more deaths from starvation, a little more misery and suffering; but what of that? They are only women. And the stupidity of it all! Here we have a pile of warm clothes; there we have hundreds of human beings unclothed, but for a few rags. One would think that the richest country in the world might afford to give away the clothes, to forego the “profit,” to keep the women at work. But, no! Our sage masculine rulers decree that the clothes shall rot away unless a profit can be made out of them, and that wretched women may rot too if they cannot justify their existence by putting money into the Exchequer.

Men dare to do these things because they think that women are helpless. It is our duty to show them that they are wrong. Women are patient, not helpless, but their patience is at an end. We of the Women's Freedom League now declare that these atrocities shall cease, that the unemployed women are not defenceless, because they have us to defend them; that we have power even without the vote, and that we shall not fail to use it.

MAUDE FITZHERBERT.

### Demonstrations in Police-Courts.

ON January 3rd protests were made in six London police courts by Miss Pearson, Miss Lenn, Miss Benett, Mrs. Crummie, Miss Neilans, and Miss Hicks. At Lambeth Mrs. Duval was refused admittance on the ground that she might be one of "those dreadful Suffragettes." She made up for not being admitted by expressing her opinions to the constable, who was doubtless quite as intelligent as the magistrate, and probably not so deaf. Miss Baenziger's protest fell through, owing to there being no charge against a woman at her court. All the protests were accompanied by supporters. At Brighton Mrs. How Martyn and Mrs. Billington-Greig made effective protests which were courteously listened to by the magistrate, a great contrast to the Lavender Hill affair, at which both the protesters, the prisoner, several policemen, the magistrate, and the public all held forth at the same time, which rather spoiled the oratory, though adding to the excitement.

### Demonstration at Essex Hall.

ON the evening of the 4th there was an enthusiastic gathering of members and friends of the Women's Freedom League at Essex Hall. It was quite a welcome change for some of the speakers to address a wholly sympathetic audience, instead of one armed with the only arguments the opposition seem capable of using, namely, cayenne pepper, evil-smelling chemicals, and rats. Mrs. Billington-Greig, who was in the chair, urged women to resist the payment of taxes as a protest against a Government which imposes them upon an entirely unrepresented class. She made a stirring appeal for new members and helpers of the League, and especially for assistance in the forthcoming sale of work, so that people might see that Suffragettes could really sew, darn, and cook quite as well as other women.

Mrs. Despard spoke upon the subject of the unemployed women, and protested against the unfair manner in which the Unemployment Fund was allotted, 28,000*l.* being spent in connexion with men, and only 750*l.* being applied for women. She went on to show that this state of affairs could not have come about if women were enfranchised equally with men. Miss Irene Miller spoke upon the disparity between the wages of men and women, afterwards giving a humorous description of the adventures of herself and her friends at a meeting addressed by a member of the Government, when they were so ill-advised as to ask the terrible question, "What about Votes for Women?"

Mrs. Heasman also spoke, and a collection was taken, amounting to 27*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* M. H.

### The Guarantee Fund.

THE Finance Committee heartily thanks the members and friends who have so readily responded to its appeal.

In addition to

100 guaranteed subscriptions of 5*l.* per year.

500 guaranteed subscriptions of 1*l.* per year,

we are now asking for an indefinite number of guaranteed subscriptions of either larger or smaller sums than the above, so that no member may feel excluded or limited.

During the week the following promises have been received:

5*l.* per year.

Miss Hicks, Mrs. Keningale-Cook, Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Sime Seruya, Miss Scriven, Mrs. Tudor, Miss Thornhill, Dr. Alice Vickery.

4*l.* per year.

Mrs. Moss.

1*l.* 1*s.* per year.

Miss P. Nevinson, F. A. Carlton Smith, Esq., Miss Ella Tulloch.

1*l.* per year.

"Babs," Eva Drysdale, Miss Hodgson, Mrs. Meeson Coates, Mrs. Morrow.

10*s.* 6*d.* per year.

Mrs. J. S. Brown.

### Central Branch.

SPEECH BY MRS. DESPARD.

THE branch meeting on January 2nd was to have been addressed by Mrs. Tweedy, who was, however, unfortunately unable to fulfil her engagement, owing to indisposition. Mrs. Despard, was pressed into service, and, with characteristic good-nature, consented to deputize.

Dr. Thornett, who presided, impressed upon those present the necessity of renewed and concentrated effort during the coming year, and expressed the hope that each member would take an individual share in the work of the League, and feel a personal responsibility in carrying out that work.

Mrs. Despard spoke at length on 'Women in Politics, particularly in relation to the home.' She alluded not only to the women who had no homes at all, but to the working women of this country—the clerks, teachers, &c. Where, she asked, were their homes? In a great many cases their homes were in one single room. This argument had recently been reiterated by a correspondent of hers, who stated that women had no place in politics; that their proper sphere was the home. Politics, she maintained, were very closely connected with the home, and touched it at every point. Proceeding, Mrs. Despard gave many instances where the home is affected by what we call "politics," which she defined as "housekeeping on a large scale."

Touching upon that very large question of education, Mrs. Despard declared, with passionate emphasis, that women cared very earnestly, very ardently indeed, for the children of the whole nation. We know that it is necessary for these children to be properly fed in order to be properly taught, and to have their bodies developed as well as their minds. We want an England that is great and strong, rich and powerful through the perfection of the men and women in it. We know perfectly well that will not come about until this question of education is taken up—not in the little way that men have taken it up—but earnestly and adequately. We saw what might be done—what sort of an Education Bill we might have had—if we all of us, men and women alike, cared for the children. In concluding, Mrs. Despard declared her belief in an ideal State, which we called Utopia. Perhaps she was rather modest in her dreams, but she dreamed of a Utopia in which, at least, every child would be properly fed and properly clothed. The resources of the country, she maintained, were quite equal to that.

### Man.

I am Monarch of all I survey,  
My rights there are none to dispute,  
When I open my lips, as an Oracle may,  
Let Womanhood hear, and be mute.

Justice is slave to my will,  
And the Law my exclusive domain,  
I may trample on right with impunity still,  
I have done it again and again.

Fair Woman—I call her my Queen,  
And I set her to rule o'r my hearth,  
But I keep her well under control, or I ween  
She soon would be ruling the Earth.

Most devoted she's been as my slave,  
But of late I uneasily note,  
She's beginning her freedom to crave,  
And is clamouring now for the Vote.

But clamour as loud as she may,  
No sympathy can she evoke,  
For my masculine humour is called into play,  
And I treat the whole thing as a joke.

I am Monarch of all I survey,  
And my sovereignty never shall fail,  
For if She dare ever my will disobey,  
Why, I clap her in Holloway Gaol!

OULIELMA KITCHING.

### Scottish Notes.

THE opening of the Scottish Office of the League has been delayed for a week, and is now fixed to take place on Thursday, January 16th. While regretting the delay on other grounds, the Scottish members will welcome it gladly on one, for it brings Mrs. Despard again amongst them. She will perform the opening ceremony in the afternoon, and receive the guests at the evening At Home on the great day.

A new and attractive form of propaganda is to be initiated at this opening ceremony. We are going to have suffrage speeches by gramophone! Not only must we employ modern methods of protest against our exclusion from political liberty, but, if we are to reach the ear of the man and woman in the street, win their sympathy, and arouse them to activity, we must employ modern methods of education. Speeches by gramophone by the women and men of name and weight in the movement can leave nothing to be desired on the score of modernity. The wings of science will bear words of wisdom to the far corners of the land. The many will come to hear from curiosity and return from interest. The suffragette on a gramophone will be irresistible as an attraction, and the strength of her cause will do the rest.

The furnishing and fitting of the office goes on apace. Several useful gifts—pictures, tables, and crockery—have been received, and the Glasgow Western branch has voted a share of the profits of the Cake and Candy Sale for furniture. Further gifts are required. Bookshelves, chairs, and desks are the most needful. They can now be sent direct to the office addressed to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

One good feature of our new office is the opportunity it gives for advertisement. In addition to good window advertisements we shall be able to have a hanging sign seen by thousands of people daily, and by night an illuminated advertisement from a large window will announce our meetings and literature, sow the seeds of wider education, and emphasize our work of protest by attractive and striking texts.

The Scottish Council meets on Saturday, January 11th, at 3 p.m. in the Scottish Office. The final arrangements for the opening and for the most important work of the next two months will then be made. It is especially necessary that the enthusiasm and effort of the past year should be redoubled during 1908. The branches will have little excuse for any lack of devotion—a centre has been provided for their work, special organizing help is to be given to them, and new avenues of protest and education are constantly being opened in which their members can do service to the cause. Not that any lack of devotion is apparent. On the contrary, the sacrifice and personal service and enthusiasm of the Scottish members of the League are showing steady growth. The promise of the future is very bright. We shall lack neither the spirit nor the opportunity.

Amongst the more strenuous efforts of the next few weeks the sale of Suffragists' work must not be forgotten. Mrs. Bell, 39, Comely Bank Place, Edinburgh, expects a great influx of goods made by members and friends during the holidays. I have tried to oblige her myself, and hope that I am in a very numerous company.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

### Memorial Hall Meeting, February 1st.

THE tickets for the meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on February 1st, are on sale at the Office, 18, Buckingham Street. It is hoped that all members will work in order to make this meeting a great success. We have, in addition to our own well-known speakers, promises from Mr. Joseph McCabe and Earl Russell. The meeting must be well advertised, and members who intend to help are requested to distribute leaflets, sell tickets, act as sandwich-boarders, send notices to their friends, and in every way possible help to secure a crowded audience.

### A Morning Walk.

SANDWICH-BOARDS were taken out once again to advertise the Essex Hall meeting. This time seven fresh volunteers joined, showing that when there is disagreeable work to do, there is no hanging back on the part of members of our League.

Nothing exciting occurred during the march. The police, who are getting used to our vagaries, treated the procession with politeness. The street jokes, which we once thought so funny and original, are getting so stale, that it is impossible now even to put on a polite society smile in answer to them. The "darn your stockings" joke and the "Go and drown yourselves" joke, which are on the lips of every self-respecting 'busman, must really give place to something new if these humourists are to retain their character for wit. A slight variation on the husband-joke was made by a man who asked one of the younger members, which she would prefer, a husband or a vote. Our well-trained young sandwich woman promptly and very properly replied, "A vote." "It is more useful." One well-dressed lady encouraged the procession by saying, "I admire your pluck." "What's on," said another. "This is on!" replied the middle of the sandwich, striking her hand dramatically upon her front layer. The usual photographing by members of the Press brought an enjoyable morning stroll to an end.

This form of advertisement is excellent for the present; but there are already signs that a *blasé* public is getting accustomed to unconventionality on the part of women. Soon we shall have to startle the civilized world by sending out well-dressed gentlemen in top-hats with our sandwich-boards. Would they do it? We wonder. We know they are not afraid of mice. When a man sees a mouse he summons up all his British pluck and faces the enemy. But a mouse is not a 'busman or a cab-driver or a street-boy or a "pal." Could a top-hatted gentleman face these enemies, while marching up Regent Street bearing on his manly form, back and front, notices of a women's meeting? Answer: Not unless he is effeminate.

### Propaganda by Gramophone.

MEMBERS will be interested to hear that a series of gramophone records of speeches on Women's Suffrage are in preparation. These will be available for meetings all over the country, and will prove both attractive and educational. Among those who have already consented to make records are Mrs. Despard, Lady Harberton, Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mrs. Snowden, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Lady Gnone, and Mr. William Stead.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From January 9th to January 17th.

			P. M.
Thurs.	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Murby	3.30-6
	"At Home," Tottenham Branch, 91, Mount Pleasant Road	Miss Neilans	8
	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street, Business Meeting		8
Fri.	Hackney Branch, 24, Lower Clapton Road	Miss Ridler	8
Sat.	Scottish Council	Mrs. Billington-Greig	
Mon.	Ingle Cottage, Letchworth	Mrs. Peters	8
	Lanark	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Tues.	Hillhead, Glasgow	Mrs. Despard	8
		Miss Munro	
		Mrs. Billington-Greig	
Wed.	Public Meeting, Leith	Mrs. Despard	
		Mrs. Billington-Greig	
Thurs.	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street,	Mrs. Nevinson	8
	Opening of Scottish Office		
	Tottenham Branch, High Cross Institute	Mrs. Barrass	8
Fri.	Hackney Baths	Miss Cicely Hamilton	8

\* \* \* All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

### Notes and Comments.

A CORPS of men is being formed in connexion with the League for the purpose of being present at Suffrage meetings where there is reason to expect disorder. The object of the promoters is not to offer undesired assistance, or in any way to interfere with other people's arrangements. It is felt, however, that under present circumstances it is highly desirable that we should have first-hand knowledge of what may occur. The less responsible Press is shameless in its determination to identify the Women's Suffrage movement with cheap sensationalism, and in this spirit it perverts and misrepresents the facts in the most dishonourable manner. In the second place, however courageous and undaunted the women may be, it is wrong for men to allow them to fight an unequal battle with the idiotic hooligans who have exhibited their puerile ruffianism in recent public meetings. For the honour of our sex it is time that we took such action as may be compatible with the entire independence of the women organizers.

All men who are willing to assist in this enterprise are invited to communicate at once with Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, Hon. Secretary, who will notify them, as far as possible, in advance, of meetings which it is proposed to visit. Any who know of such meetings reasonably near to London will greatly help by sending notices of them.

The end of the Christmas season plunges us back into the arena. Mr. Jacobs, the Chairman of the Executive, the Hon. Bertrand Russell, Mr. F. R. Cana, and Mr. J. M. Mitchell, are down to speak. The actual dates of Mr. Jacobs's meetings are not yet fixed. Mr. Mitchell is speaking on the 13th at the Debating Society of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bayswater, and at a drawing-room in the house of Miss Bertha Mason, Hyde Park Gardens, on the 16th. At the former meeting Miss Frances Stirling, of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and Mr. F. R. Cana, of the Men's League, will also speak, while the latter is under the auspices of the National Union, the chief speakers being Miss Frances Stirling and the Hon. Bertrand Russell, who fought Wimbledon in the Women's Suffrage and Liberal interest in the recent by-election.

### The Press and the Queen's Hall Meeting.

#### A SUMMARY.

It will probably be of interest to our readers to know what importance was attached to our Queen's Hall demonstration by the Press in London and the provinces. The list which we give below is probably not complete, but at all events it provides some striking statistics. There was nothing sensational to report or misreport, and therefore the imaginative reporter was at a loss, and certain papers did not bore their intelligent readers with what must have been merely a succession of sober arguments.

Of the London papers the Unionist papers were not enthusiastic. *The Times*—seniores priores—gave us 46 lines of small type. As a report it was meagre, and failed to point out the significance of the gathering, but it was dignified and serious. *The Telegraph* briefly noticed us in 19 lines, explained our point of view, selected one of Mr. Zangwill's epigrams, and avoided committing itself in any way. *The Morning Post* was much more generous, with a 70-line report and two headlines! More than a third was devoted to Mr. Zangwill's epigrams; the speeches of Mr. Campbell and Canon Hicks were merely mentioned, and no attempt was made to reproduce the arguments. As a report it was, however, by far superior to those

in *The Times* and the *Telegraph*. The *Daily Express* had 19 lines, including a list of the speakers, an estimate of the audience, and 7 lines of summary of Mr. Zangwill's speech. The other four speakers, not being of particular interest, perhaps, to readers of the *Express*, were not reported.

The Liberal papers exhibited much more understanding. *The Daily Chronicle* gave 76 lines, nearly two-thirds of which were devoted to Mr. Zangwill. It was the brilliant epigrams of this speech more than anything else which attracted the reporter, but still it was a more reasonable report than that of any Unionist paper, save the *Morning Post*, and, perhaps, *The Times*. *The Tribune* was eminently disappointing; 37 lines of very meagre summary showed but slight interest in the occasion, and even these paragraphs were omitted in some editions. Still, the report was friendly and serious. *The Morning Leader*—which had previously given us an advance notice—gave half a column on its front page. It was, as we expect from the *Leader* reporters, bright and readable, and by no means unsympathetic. The *Star* gave nearly 60 lines under the somewhat far-fetched title, 'Adam's Diary,' which was generous for an evening paper with not much space, but it was lacking in understanding and non-committal. Incomparably the best account was given by the *Daily News*, which, in addition to a good report, amounting to nearly a column (rather more than 150 lines), devoted its first leading article to the subject of Women's Suffrage in immediate relation to the existence of the Men's League. We hope to circulate copies of this article, because it puts the case for Women's Suffrage in relation to men, and in particular to Liberals, in a very impressive manner. We are glad to see that our esteemed contemporary, *Votes for Women*, approves this statement so far as to quote a passage from it, even though it expresses disapproval of the extreme militant methods. Quite apart from this controversial question, with which we have nothing to do, we regard this article as a great result of the meeting, inasmuch as the true Liberal attitude to Women's Suffrage is here categorically asserted by a paper which, by its tradition and by its practice, is, on the whole, most representative of practical Liberalism.

Passing from London, we find that the chief provincial Liberal newspaper had by far the best report. The *Manchester Guardian*—probably the most generally respected journal of any political colour outside London, if not to a great extent inside—gave a full column. The *Daily Dispatch* (Birmingham) ran it very close, in marked contrast to the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, which contented itself with two short paragraphs. Among others we noticed short reports in the *Birmingham Daily Post* and the *South Wales Daily News*. Similar reports appeared in many other provincial papers.

#### THE LESSON OF ALL THIS.

Perhaps the most striking fact about the whole thing is the silence of the *Daily Mail*. So far as we were able to discover, that Argus-eyed journal disregarded the meeting altogether. It is said that the *Daily Mail* is read by some 750,000 persons. This means (1) that the *Daily Mail* authorities judged that all these readers did not want to know, or that it was not good for them to know, that a number of men are working for Women's Suffrage, and (2) that a great number of people presumably did not hear of the meeting at all. Why? We know that *Daily Mail* readers are, by hypothesis, extremely interested in the Women's Suffrage movement, in so far as it provides opportunities for sensational copy. It would seem that they care nothing for the reasonable arguments of responsible representative men. We should be the last to claim that the Men's League's meeting is of unique interest, and we have not discovered the *Daily Mail* attitude now for the first time. But we desire to emphasize the fact that, while all the Liberal halfpenny dailies gave

long accounts, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* were practically silent, in respect of a large orderly meeting on a current political topic, free from party bias, and attended by some 2,000 people. There are many who talk about Shanghai telegrams, and openly accuse the *Daily Mail* of preferring the "sensational which is not" to "the unexciting which is." But the *Daily Mail* is a great patriotic organ, and we cannot associate patriotism with a tendency to delude the British elector for the sake of halfpennies. Still, it seems clear that for real Suffrage news we must not depend upon Carmelite House.

We are not unduly depressed by the facts above summarized. But what lesson must we derive as regards the respective attitudes of Conservatives and Liberals? Between official Conservatism and official Liberalism our summary provides us no data for comparison. But it does seem difficult not to conclude that the Liberal Press as a whole cares more for our cause than the Unionist, or at least, judging by a purely commercial criterion, that those who direct its policy have more reason to believe that its readers care for Women's Suffrage than those of the Unionist Press have as regards their readers.

### Woman's Freedom.

#### CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

##### No. 1.—Mrs. Aphra Behn and her Works—(concluded).

In the number of her works Mrs. Behn was only surpassed by one male writer, her friend John Dryden. Space prevents us from giving a full list of her comedies, histories, novels, essays, and poems. Mrs. Behn enjoyed a well-earned success, and wrote as uncleanly as any of her male rivals. In most of the theatre pieces of that age the epilogues were horrors! But let us not judge the moral standard of the seventeenth by that of the twentieth century.

As to her position among the writers of the seventeenth century, we should say it is good. Genest considers "that she deserves very high rank among dramatic writers, for all her comic scenes are good, and many of them excellent. Mrs. Centlivre, Mrs. Cowley, Mrs. Inchbald, and other females have distinguished themselves by their plays, but no female is to be put in competition with Mrs. Behn." Mary Astell calls her the incomparable Mrs. Behn, and this eulogy demonstrates the sisterhood existing among the female writers of that age.

"Before her death," Leslie Stephen says, "in a beautiful copy of elegiac verses which she contributed to a volume of poems in memory of Waller in 1688 she speaks of long indisposition and toils of sickness which have brought her almost as near the tomb as Waller is." She died on April 16th, 1689, for want of skill in her physician, and was buried in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey, where her name may still be seen inscribed on a slab of black marble. She was mourned by most of the great writers of her day, who were her friends.

In conclusion, we give a short character-sketch by her lady friend which, from evidence we have been able to collect, we believe to be true in substance and in fact:—

"She was of a generous and open temper, something passionate, very serviceable to her friends in all that was in her power, and could sooner forgive an injury than do one. She had Wit, Honour, Good Humour, and judgment. She was mistress of all the pleasing arts of conversation, but us'd them not to any but those who love plain dealing. I knew her intimately, and never saw ought unbecoming the just Modesty of our Sex tho' more gay and free than the folly of the precise will allow. She was, I am satisfy'd, a greater Honour to our Sex than all the canting Tribe of Dissemblers that die with the false reputation of saints."

##### No. 2.—Mary Astell.

In diving into the literature of the seventeenth century we meet what almost amounts to a mania for anonymity. Both men and women seemed reluctant to affix their names to their writings. The probable cause for this may perhaps be found in the severe punishment inflicted upon those who happened to

differ from "the powers that be" and boldly broached new and rebellious ideas. Women, in addition, had to bear with the libellous suggestions of their male rivals, who in the spirit of that and later times sought to keep the female sex in permanent subjection. Aspersions were cast on the character of Mrs. Behn, nor did her contemporary Mary Astell escape her burden. Both wrote anonymously, Mary Astell under several pseudonyms.

Mary Astell came to London about 1688, having spent the first twenty years of her life at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Her abilities were early recognized by her uncle, a clergyman, who attended to her education; from him she imbibed those strong leanings to religion and the Church which coloured her projects. In one of her works she pays a tribute to the learning of the clergy of her time.

She finally lived in Chelsea, which has since harboured "George Eliot" and other distinguished lady writers. She was the life-long friend of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, and was in correspondence with distinguished writers of her age. Her work 'A Serious Proposal to Ladies' was published anonymously in 1694, and in her time was considered her most important effort. In 1697 she brought out a second part. She wished to erect a monastery, but it is quite clear that what she really intended by this retreat was not a religious prison, but a kind of academy where women desirous of a retreat would have the opportunity of being educated and educating themselves, so that by this means they would be fitted to do "the greatest good in the world." Sojourn in this "monastery" was to be voluntary, and it was to be carried on in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. She held that "ignorance and a narrow education lay the foundation of vice."

Her method was offered "for the improvement of women's minds." What a revolutionary proposal! The age was hardly conscious that women had minds. It redounds to her honour that she was painfully anxious for the education of women, and dimly, though nobly, foreshadowed what Mary Wollstonecraft a hundred years later boldly lays down in set terms: "The good effects resulting from attention to private education will ever be very confined, and the parent who really puts his own hand to the plow, will always in some degree be disappointed, till education become a national concern." If Mary Astell had only had her projects scouted, we might charitably suppose that her contemporaries were not advanced enough to receive her teaching; but, alas! her opponents said all kinds of evil things—they would not even give her credit for good intentions. True, she found well-wishers, and one lady is said to have subscribed 10,000*l.* to her project; but it failed and brought a storm of obloquy.

It is certain, that Mary Astell led a pure and blameless life, that her aspirations were of the finest and her ideals lofty. Her greatest work, to our mind, was her 'Essay in Defence of the Female Sex,' 3rd edition, 1697, which appears to be the one which, curiously, in years to come was to be forgotten. We hope in rescuing this gem from oblivion we shall only do justice to a great woman of the past, who fearlessly stood up for her sex when women were still in bondage. We offer no apology for giving copious extracts and letting Mary Astell speak for herself, convinced that our readers will neither object to the manner of her writing nor to the substance, but that they will appreciate her points and probably finish by loving her indomitable spirit. The essay is dignified, witty, well reasoned, and convincing.

A male admirer of her work says of her, under the initials J.D.:—

"To your correction freely we submit,  
Who teach us Modesty as well as Wit.  
Our Sex with Blushes must your Conquest own,  
While yours prepare the Garlands you have won.  
Your Fame secure long as your Sex shall last,  
Nor Time, not Envy shall your Lawrels blast."

E. DUVAL.

(To be continued.)

\* \* All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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