

THE VOTE.
August 29, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

"HUMAN NATURE." BY G. COLMORE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

SWEEPING CLEAN.

I.—"BLACK MARIA."

"The complaints which Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Anna Munro, of the Women's Freedom League, recently made about the scenes which women and girl prisoners are called upon to witness while being conveyed in prison vans in the company of male offenders . . . are being investigated by the authorities."
—"Daily Citizen," July 8, 1913.

"Motor prison vans will be seen in the Metropolis in the course of the next few weeks."
—"Globe," Aug. 23, 1913.

WOMEN WANT THE VOTE

BECAUSE

Parliament makes laws which deal with matters of grave importance to women, such as marriage, divorce, the custody of children, the care of the destitute, feeble-minded, lunatics, education, unemployment. Women demand the right of citizenship to make known their views on these and other vital questions.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Piccadilly Flat.

Those who believe that there has been much ado about nothing in the Queenie Gerald case, as well as those who feel sick and indignant at the miscarriage of justice, should read Mr. Keir Hardie's pamphlet, "The Queenie Gerald Case." Mr. Hardie quotes from the debate in the House, hardly a word of which was reported by the Press. He tells how the magistrate who committed the case for trial outraged decency by clearing the court, by stating, "This is a secret inquiry," and by telling the Press they were there "as a privilege," and must not report the names of the woman and her accomplices. He tells of the instruments of chastisement found in the luxurious flat, with its 16 dozen arum lilies and its hot scented baths. He tells of the vast sums of money made by the traders, and mentions, as clear proof that all this parade was not based on the employment of the three girls produced in court, that two of these children were *close on their confinement* at the time of the raid. *Who were the whips for?* Where are the other girls, asked for in the infamous letters read out? What has become of them? We remember reading an effusion of Mr. Filson Young's in *The Pall Mall Gazette* pooh-poohing the tales of luxurious traps in which girls were ill-treated and saying that these tales were laughed at "in every club in London," "by the very men who were supposed to use them." No doubt the tales were laughed at; they came too near the truth to be pleasant. *The Pall Mall Gazette* would not print a rejoinder from Miss Boyle; it would not print the facts of this case; it will not print letters asking for further publicity, but it cannot stop Mr. Hardie from doing his duty as an honest man, and enabling us to learn how true are the horrible tales, circulated last year by those who desired to get the Criminal Law Amendment Act passed and since ridiculed by *The Pall Mall Gazette*, Mrs. Billington Greig, and others. In Mrs. "Gerald's" ledger there are "scores and hundreds of entries of sums paid." Who are the men who pay these sums—"scores and hundreds of them"? Are there more of these dens, and is it likely the police will ever bother to raid any of them again, after coming up against all the might, majesty, dominion and power of the Law and the Bench, and the Government and Society in this honest and useful attempt to clean out our plague-spots? What did Mr. Mead mean by calling it "a secret inquiry" and threatening the Press? Let us mark down Mr. Mead, as well as Mr. McKenna, as one of the prominent protectors of vice; and let us support Mr. Keir Hardie in every possible way in his brave efforts to clear up this scandal. The pamphlet is published by the National Labour Press, Ltd., Manchester and London, price 1d., and may be applied for at our Literature Department.

Where Our Strength Lies.

It is refreshing to hear a woman voter's candid opinion of the great struggle for Women's Freedom in which we are engaged, and the news just received from Mrs. Ada

Holman, wife of the Prime Minister of New South Wales, on her return to Australia is both welcome and encouraging. Our readers will remember that it was Mrs. Holman who opened our International Suffrage Fair last November, and amused us by telling how she had "cornered" professed Suffragists—Cabinet Ministers, too—in Parliament by asking why all their protestations and convictions in favour of Votes for Women ended in words. Not one of them gave her a satisfactory answer, and this opened her eyes to the meaning of militancy. Interviewers thronged round Mrs. Holman on her arrival at Sydney eager to know her impressions of her first visit "home." They heard from her some plain speaking about the Woman Suffrage movement here. "You may take it from me," she said, "that every intelligent woman in Great Britain is on the side of the Woman's Franchise fight. Only the Government and certain interests have now to be moved. Did you ever hear of a movement so wide and so earnest failing?" We commend the woman's insight to our politicians at play, assuring them that Suffragists do not know the word "failure," and that "pretence" and "procedure" are no longer safe shelters for men who make the laws which voteless women are expected to obey. Mrs. Holman put her finger on the vital power of the Cause when she said: "The whole fight is a wonderful movement stretching from the highest to the lowest, from Bloomsbury and the East-end to Princes-gate and Mayfair. Its strength lies there, and its effect is as wide as Britain itself. It has done more to break down class feeling and bring about a mutual sympathy among women than anything that has happened for centuries. In doing this something great has been accomplished. 'Being in gaol together makes you friendly,' said a titled woman to me. The woman's movement," added Mrs. Holman to her interviewers, "has wakened the women of England, and I feel that, not only must they win their battle for full citizenship, but that when they get the Vote they will use it with an enthusiasm and intelligence that will do great things for England. You cannot now escape the question of Woman Suffrage; it is discussed everywhere." We appreciate Mrs. Holman's championship and the way in which she has enlightened Australians as to the true situation, pointing out the garbled misrepresentations and utter unreliability of the ordinary Press reports of Suffragist doings. What we have to fight continually is the prejudice and perversion of politicians and Press.

A Good Object Lesson.

We are glad to note that at the recent opening of the Federal Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth there was a welcome innovation which helps to demolish the sex barrier. Our readers are already aware that Mr. Justice Isaacs has his daughter as a Court Associate. Now Mr. Justice Isaacs was one of the two Commissioners who "swore in" the members of Parliament, and at the ceremony he was accompanied by his daughter. Miss Isaacs is not only the first woman to be a Judge's Associate in Australia, but also the first woman to accompany a Judge to the opening of Parliament and the swearing in of members. *Pace* Mr. Marriott Watson and other who fear the encroachment of women in men's preserves, especially at Westminster, we welcome this news as evidence of the common sense of the Commonwealth, which is evidently not going to stop at giving women full citizen rights, but is breaking down the prejudice and tradition which exclude women from rendering public service to the State simply on account of their sex.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

SWEEEPING CLEAN.—I. "BLACK MARIA."
OUR POINT OF VIEW.
POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK: SPECIAL FINANCIAL APPEAL.
HUMAN NATURE. G. COLMORE.
THE STRIKE OF THE KILBIRNIE FISH GIRLS. E. G. M.
THE MEN WHO GOVERN US. C. NINA BOYLE.
THE KEY STONE OF THE ARCH. C. DESPARD.
THE NEW SOCRATES. H. S.
THE POLITICAL FIG-STEY. C. NINA BOYLE
THE "PROTECTED" SEX

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

Black Maria Goes.

The brief but pregnant announcement, unobtrusively stowed away in a corner of last Saturday's *Globe*, that "motor prison vans will be seen in the streets of the metropolis" at no very distant date, chronicles another triumph for the political and militant action of the Women's Freedom League. To break down the pertinacity in untruthfulness of the Home Office and to overcome the stubborn reluctance of the Commissioner of Police was no easy task; but it has been apparently accomplished; and a more humane, modern, and civilised mode of conveyance for the Government consignments of flesh and blood that daily make the dreary route between judgment and gaol is to be instituted.

We will not omit to make our acknowledgments in hailing the advent of this much-needed reform to Sir Frederick Wodehouse and Mr. Dryhurst, of Scotland-yard and His Majesty's Prisons Commission; for it is to their courteous attention and prompt action that our victory is due. We trust that they have also given equal and thorough attention to the two other matters which we laid before them and left with confidence in their hands. One was to make some recommendations to the authorities concerned in regard to the conveyance of women prisoners outside the metropolitan areas—in connection with which scandals of an almost incredible character are alleged. The other—within their own jurisdiction—is the provision of trained nursing staffs for prison hospitals.

A Crying Need.

Since laying the matter of untrained prison nursing before the gentlemen mentioned, two things have happened. One has been the manifesto of the doctors on the subject of venereal disease, and a sudden flash of light across the mind of the general public in regard to the appalling prevalence of these complaints and the dangers of infection through touch and common use of linen, utensils, &c. The other is the receipt of a piece of information. An authoritative statement, bearing the impress of reliability, has been made that there is *only one* trained nurse in the prison hospitals of the country and that one is at Aylesbury.

A fellow-Suffragist in Holloway communicated to her comrades some intelligence gleaned during her imprisonment. It concerned the death of a woman prisoner who should long ere her death have been removed to a Lock hospital. The details of the death are unrepeatable. They may be left to the knowledge of those whose dread task it has been to tend and watch such cases. The point laid before the Prison Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner of Police was that the dying woman was tended by wardresses who took their turn of duty in the hospital and subsequently—next day, or week, or month—took their turn in the ordinary wards, where they have the handling of the food and the linen and the persons of the ordinary prisoners.

The disease in question should be nursed with masks and rubber gloves. The prevalence of this ruthless disease among the innumerable "unfortunates" singled out for police attention makes the question a serious one. The prison doctors have acquiesced without one word of dissent in the absence of trained nurses in the prisons—without, so far as we can find, even the informal and incessant agitation carried on by the one woman whose trained knowledge recognised the dangers of this condition.

The members of the League who discussed these dangers with the Commissioners expressed themselves satisfied to leave the inquiry in their hands, provided always that the prison medical staff was not regarded as the final authority on what constituted safety and propriety. Recent events have considerably shaken public faith in the professional—shall we say honour?—of the Holloway medical staff; and no such matter could be "safely" entrusted to them. But we do not hesitate to remind Sir Frederick Wodehouse and Mr. Dryhurst of the trust we reposed in them, and are confident they will not fail in their obligations to the public in this so much more serious a question than even the notorious prison-van scandals.

SPECIAL POLITICAL AND MILITANT FUND.

WANTED, MORE MONEY.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to address a meeting of the Welsh National Liberal Council at Colwyn Bay on September 6, and to open his land campaign at Bedford on October 11. The Prime Minister is to rally the Liberals at Oldham in the autumn; and with a little good luck, as well as our usual good management, the Women's Freedom League ought also to be carrying out energetic campaigns in those places at those times. There is also a threat of several more bye-elections as a result of the game of General Post that the Government is contemplating with the occupants of safe Liberal seats. The Chesterfield election must be followed up, and an energetic attack organised on the strongholds of Liberalism; and so the Treasury and the Political and Militant Department want More Money!

We want to follow up advantages gained and secure more reforms; we want to have Branches working in the constituencies where we may be called upon to fight elections; we want to renew the fight in old strongholds and to establish our forces in new ones. We have good speakers, good organisers, willing workers, and the best Cause in the world; and we ask for the sinews of war in greater abundance to make all this good material more effective. In calling on members and sympathisers to assist the funds we know that what we ask must inevitably entail sacrifice. But the stake is so great and the reward so heavy that we do not hesitate; and we remind one and all that in the very delicate position of political conditions just at present, now is the moment for redoubled efforts. The smallest amounts will be welcomed, as well as large sums; no contribution need be considered too trifling, while we shall find ample use for the largest. Now is the time to show what the Women's Freedom League can do, and friends and sympathisers who support our Special Political and Militant Fund will enable us to do it well.

E. KNIGHT.
C. NINA BOYLE.

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.—Whether some of the speakers in the House of Commons ought not to take lessons from some of the Suffragettes, who, at least, can make themselves heard.—*Mrs. Bull.*

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POLITICAL NEWS.

Mr. Keir Hardie's Forecast.

Mr. Keir Hardie, who was present at the funeral at Zurich of the late Herr Bebel, was interviewed on the subject of the Suffragist movement by the representative of a Geneva journal. According to the Geneva correspondent of the *Echo de Paris*, Mr. Keir Hardie remarked that there were two kinds of Suffragists, the Concessionists and the Militants. Those who followed Mrs. Pankhurst were the minority, but with such activity as was foreseen, after the next General Election the Suffragists would obtain a victory. The new House of Commons, said Mr. Keir Hardie, according to a Central News cable, would adhere to the principle of Woman Suffrage, and in the present House the partisans of Votes for Women were in the majority.

Mr. Hardie is reported to have added that if the question had not been discussed and decided under the present Legislature, it was on account of Mr. Asquith, who was opposed to the principle. But Mr. Asquith would not continue in power and he would be succeeded by Sir Edward Grey. From that time there would be no reason why Woman Suffrage should not be adopted.

Woman Suffrage at the Church Congress.

The general secretary of the Church Congress, to be held early in October at Southampton, writes as follows to *The Globe* on the subject of the discussion of "Womanhood," which has aroused protests from Lord Curzon and others:—

"As you have given some prominence in your paper to a protest against the action of the President and the Subjects Committee with regard to the discussion of Womanhood at the Church Congress, I hope that I may claim your leave to point out:—

"1. That though the President has declined to rule all reference to the Suffrage out of order, he has also said that it would be entirely contrary to his own purpose that the discussion should become a Suffrage debate.

"2. That nothing would have been so likely to promote the violent and disorderly courses which your correspondent apprehends as a decision which arbitrarily ruled out what might be a perfectly relevant and lawful reference to the subject.

"3. That Miss Maude Royden, to whom your correspondent objects, is not speaking in that debate at all, though addressing mass meetings uncontroversially before the Congress.

"4. That it is a rule of the Congress that no resolutions are passed, and therefore all apprehensions of a decision for or against Women's Suffrage, or upon the Women's question in any form, are obviously groundless.—Yours truly,

WALTER P. SMITH."

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NEAR MAPLE'S

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Woman Suffrage in France: Voters from 1302 to 1789.

According to *The London Budget*, "France will probably have Woman's Suffrage long before England. The Paris Municipal Council has given the signal for a vigorous campaign by passing a resolution in favour of it, and when Parliament re-assembles in the autumn M. Ferdinand Brissson will move the discussion of a Universal Suffrage Bill. There is a strong pro-suffrage section in the Chamber of Deputies, including several party leaders, and the debate is sure to be a most interesting one."

The well-known Paris journal, the *Matin*, has found the question important enough to open an inquiry into the views of French women on Woman Suffrage.

The Dowager Duchess d'Uzès expresses astonishment that the nineteenth century should not have witnessed female suffrage. "Since the Revolution," she remarks, "it has been sought to destroy all privileges, but the suffrage, so-called universal, has created an undeniable privilege by excluding women from the vote, for from 1302 to 1789 they voted. If you honestly consider the countries in which the female vote is in force, what will you see? The moral level rising; alcoholism diminishing; the birth-rate quite as high as elsewhere, and politics quite as clean as in the other countries."

Maitre Hélène Miropolsky denounces "that law made by the greatest despot of modern times," and declares that if they knew it, all women would be feminists. She quotes recent cases in which women have been surreptitiously divorced by their husbands, and then, passing on to the criminal code, remarks: "Is it not flagrantly unjust that women should not be allowed to sit on a jury? The essence of the law is that all citizens should be members of it, in order to avoid the possibility of class verdicts. But how can you expect a man to understand a woman's soul as we could? 'Sex' verdicts have only too frequently taken the place of 'class' verdicts, and they are not a whit less cruel or erroneous."

Baroness Fanguieux, who is greatly interested in social work, declares that it is beyond question that the law does not protect the working woman, nor even the woman who possesses some means. Maternal authority is insufficiently established, and the time has arrived for modern legislators to make a modern code.

Mlle. Hélène Dutrieu, the flying woman, whose pluck has won her the ribbon of the Legion of Honour, says: "I shall never vote. Female Suffrage, which would do no great harm in Paris, would be disastrous in the great provincial industrial centres."

Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage.

At an open-air meeting of the Berwick Branch of the Federation speeches in favour of Woman Suffrage were made by Mr. R. K. Gaul, hon. secretary, who presided, Councillor Crawford of Edinburgh (one of the Scottish deputation to the Prime Minister), Mr. J. Cameron, Mr. T. G. Stanier, and others, and the following resolution, afterwards forwarded to Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting desires to express its disapproval of the treatment that women who are identified with the Women Suffrage movement are being subjected to, and calls upon the Government to repeal the "Cat and Mouse" Act (The Temporary Discharge of Prisoners for Ill-Health Act), or cease to make it operative, and to introduce a Government measure giving votes to women on the same terms as men."

If It Had Been On the Home Rule Bill.

The Nation, discussing at length the Prime Minister's reply to the National Union deputation, declares that it is a dishonourable interpretation of facts to consider that through the Speaker's ruling on the Reform Bill the Government was absolved from further responsibility with regard to Woman Suffrage. The Speaker, it insists, is the servant of the House of Commons, and his rulings are designed to facilitate its business. If the Speaker disallows one plan for redeeming the Government's pledge, another must be produced, or the procedure of the House of Commons altered.

"Let us suppose," says *The Nation*, "that this *contretemps* had occurred not on a Franchise Bill but on the Home Rule Bill. If the Speaker had given a ruling that made it impossible to proceed with the Home Rule Bill, would Mr. Asquith have said to the Irish Party: I am very sorry; I said I would introduce a Home Rule Bill, and I have done so. Unfortunately, the Speaker has made it impossible for us to proceed, by a ruling that none of us ever anticipated. It is unfortunate; a blow to your hopes, but also a blow to our pride. There it is, and we must accept it? Nobody imagines that this would have happened, and that the pledge given before the General Election could have been regarded as redeemed by this misadventure. Nobody, on the other hand, will readily believe that a pledge made to a party that can evict the Government is treated more solemnly than a pledge given to women who have no votes."

"It is universally admitted that the party system creates a situation in which it is very difficult to do justice to a cause like that of Women's Enfranchisement. Nobody admits this more emphatically than the Prime Minister. But this admission involves an obligation to consider how a question that does not adapt itself easily to our institutions is to be discussed and settled. Those who merely shrug their shoulders and say that it is very unfortunate for Woman Suffrage, would make the

party system into the end rather than a means of government. Those, again, who say that the situation will be solved so soon as the unenfranchised can create such an overwhelming and angry body of opinion as to compel Members of Parliament, in whose election they play no part, to insist upon this reform at the sacrifice of all considerations of party convenience, and in spite of all the pressure of tacticians, are stating that nothing short of a revolution can attain this reform. The Prime Minister last week dropped once or twice into language that almost amounted to this. But to the majority of Liberals such an attitude would seem to be an abnegation of statesmanship, and from other remarks of Mr. Asquith's it is clear, we think, that he appreciates the consequences to the credit of Parliament, a subject on which he feels deeply, of the breakdown of its machinery on a question of indisputable importance.

"No confession could be more inglorious for Parliament than the confession that its forms cannot be adapted to such a difficulty as this. We hope that Liberals will make up their minds that a solution has to be found, that in a novel situation novel remedies must not be allowed to terrify our minds, and that it would be treating the Prime Minister dishonourably for any Liberals to put any personal considerations in this matter above their clear duty as democratic politicians. Mr. Asquith's speech last week lends strong support to each of these three contentions, and the strongest of all to the last."

Cat and Mice: I am "The Cat."

On August 13, Mr. Chancellor asked whether the release of prisoners under the Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-health) Act depended entirely on the doctors' reports; whether the length of licences was determined wholly or in part by the doctors; or, if not, on whose authority did these decisions rest.

Mr. McKenna replied: The decision whether the prisoner is to be released, and for how long, rests entirely with the Home Secretary. I receive reports from the medical officers of the prisons and give due weight to them, and in some cases I have given a limited discretion to the governor as to the time of discharge; but in all cases the decision rests with me.

Norway's First Woman Judge.

Norway continues to make remarkable progress in the abolition of the sex barrier. Recently she adopted Womanhood Suffrage; now news comes of the appointment of the first woman judge, Miss Ruth Sørensen. She passed her examination as a lawyer in 1900 and is to be judge at Hammerfest, an important town in the North of Norway.

Women and Peace.

The following resolution was presented to the Twentieth Universal Peace Congress, which met at The Hague, Holland, from August 18 to 23, 1913. It was moved by Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, London, delegate to the Congress from the Men's International Alliance for Woman Suffrage, and seconded by Lieut.-Colonel W. Mansfeldt, Utrecht, delegate and hon. secretary of the same Alliance:—

"That in view of the fact that women are not less deeply interested in the blessing of peace than men, and are indeed, by their natural maternal instinct, even more anxious for the lives, health and happiness of their sons, but being deprived in most States of the Parliamentary Vote, cannot help fully and effectively the cause of International Arbitration by direct influence upon Parliament and Governments, the Twentieth Universal Peace Congress expresses its conviction that the political enfranchisement of Women is most desirable on this as well as on many other moral and economic grounds and would lead to a speedier cessation of the arbitrament of war in cases of international disputes.

For the Release of Mrs. Pankhurst.

The following letter has been sent to Mr. Asquith:— "As you are doubtless aware, the present administration of the Prisoners' Temporary Release Act has had, in the case of Mrs. Pankhurst, the effect of causing grave injury to her health, and placing her life in serious danger. She has three times been re-arrested after having been released on licence, and should the Act continue to be enforced in the present manner it will inevitably bring about her death, as it is impossible that any other issue could follow on a prolonged succession of periods in prison, during which she abstains from food, interrupted only by intervals when she can partially recuperate. You may also remember that the Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons on June 2 last that no steps would be taken for the rearrest of a prisoner who had been convicted of serious assaults on young girls, but released on grounds of health. We would urge that the moral turpitude involved in the latter offence is much graver than that of which Mrs. Pankhurst has been convicted, and we request the Government, of which you are the head, to take such measures as will prevent her being subjected to so much severer a punishment."

The letter is signed by Lord Ashbourne, General Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, and Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Bishop of Kensington, Sir William B. Richmond, R.A., Mr. William Morgan, Mr. H. Granville Barker, Mr. H. W. Massingham (editor of *The Nation*), Mr. Albert Dawson (editor of *The Christian Commonwealth*), Canon James C. Hannay (George Birmingham), the Rev. W. Osborne Jay, Mr. Israel Zangwill, Professor R. Ramsay Wright, Mr. E. B. Cuminghame Graham, Vis-

countess Dupplin, the Hon. Lady Anderson, Nina Countess of Seafield, Lady Caroline Ogilvie Grant, Sir Victor Horsley, Mr. C. Mansell Moullin, and others.

"Mice" at Play.

Of the thirty-four prisoners who have only served small fractions of their sentence at least ten have left the country. The remaining twenty-four are at liberty in various parts of the country, and no attempts are being made to interfere with their liberty, though most of them have sufficiently recovered to justify return to prison.—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE.

(With acknowledgments to Rudyard Kipling.)

I.
Who hath desired a land of freedom and justice unbounded?
A fair land of order and law upon which these essentials are founded?
Where one can fulfil and enjoy a life that is full worth the living,
Relieved from the spectre of want and the shadow of craven misgiving,
Where men are the equal of kings; where none to his fellow is servile;
Where rich over poor cannot gloat?
For such just cause as this; for such just cause as this,
Women desire the Vote!

II.
Who hath desired the sense of security that is engendered
By citizenship of a state where unselfish service is rendered?
Where the privileged few cannot thrive and batten on dispossessed workers,
Where scorn and disgust and disdain would be the sure guerdon
Of shirkers!
Where merit receives due reward; where talent not lucre is valued;
Where genius is worthy of note?
For such just cause as this; for such just cause as this,
Women desire the Vote!

III.
Who hath desired a voice in the counsels and laws of a nation
That disregards clan, creed, and class; and scouts mere distinction of station?
That lauds those who essay to make humanity's burden the lighter,
That deprecates martial exploit, but acclaims the industrial fighter,
Who seeks neither pelf nor renown; whose aim is to succour the weakling;
Whose ideals his actions denote?
For such just cause as this; for such just cause as this,
Women desire the Vote!

IV.
Who hath desired to build a nation to which is accorded
Equal rights irrespective of sex, and to which equal scope is afforded?
That looks to the progress which comes from the fusion of
Sundered endeavours
Into one grand harmonious whole which no carping dissension
Dissevers—
A nation of women and men; not warring internecine factions;
A nation from ruin remote?
For such just cause as this; for such just cause as this,
Women desire the Vote!

—A. BURFIELD.

It has just leaked out that some unknown lady with Suffragette sympathies wrote in the visitors' book which was kept on board the Royal yacht during Cowes week, "Stop torturing women."—*Reynolds*, August 24, 1913.

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HUMAN NATURE.

"Gladys Smith, you are not paying attention."
"Gladys, stop talking at once!"

She really was a naughty girl in the sense that her whole child nature was impelling her towards movement and speech and laughter; whereas, in order to be good she had to sit still, be silent and do her lessons. When school was over the teacher called her aside. "I don't want to punish you, but I must if you are not a better girl to-morrow. But you must promise me to try. Will you promise, Gladys?"

Gladys promised. The teacher liked her and she knew it, and liked the teacher. She would try, she would be good—to-morrow. She went out of school sober and quiet; for the first few yards she walked and did not run. Then the joyousness of her seven years swept through her little healthy body. School was over and she was free to jump and laugh and shout. She was a pretty child and made a pretty picture as she went dancing through the fields towards home, not thinking of to-morrow.

The teacher hoped with all her heart that Gladys would be good, for she very much did not want to punish her; but on the morning there was no question of punishment, for Gladys did not come to school. Not that she was playing truant, not that she was leaping and laughing when she should have been doing her lessons; no, she was lying on her bed and the only sounds she made were moans of pain. For, as she danced through the fields on her way from school, she had been met by a man who, seeing her, had been seized by an impulse said, by men, to be, in men, part of human nature, and because the child was helpless and alone there was nothing to stand between the impulse and its satisfaction.

The magistrate who tried the case of criminal assault on Gladys Smith was a tolerant man—when dealing with cases such as this. On those who stole or begged, or tramps or vagabonds or loose women he had scant mercy, for he had never thieved, nor been confronted with the alternative of selling his body or begging his bread; but he understood "human nature," knew that it was rife in the most respectable men, knew that impulses such as had dominated Gladys Smith's assailant might come to the best people, and in the dispensation of justice between a little female child and a male adult was loyal to the freemasonry of sex. The offender was sent to prison for a few months. Gladys Smith was in the Lock Hospital for many months.

The man for a few months was shut up with his evil thoughts; for that is the prison system—to put a prisoner and his thoughts into a cell together, with the idea that the companionship, as little interrupted as possible, will work reformation of character. This prisoner came out no worse in bodily health than when he went in, but more lustful in mind and without any change of idea or intention.

The body of Gladys Smith came out of the Lock Hospital damaged for life. Gladys herself never came out; but indeed she never went in; for the child Gladys had been crushed to death in a sunlit field by "human nature."
G. COLMORE.

BARONESS ALETTA KORFF, of Helsingfors, Finland, says: "Experience has proved here, at least, that with the aid of the vote and their direct representation in Parliament, women can accomplish so very much in the way of social reform that the attitude of the Anti-Suffragists in America and in England seems almost incomprehensible." The Baroness is an American, and the wife of an official in Finland.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convince me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may obtain the utmost value for their money.

STRIKE OF THE KILBIRNIE FISH-GIRLS.

"Why do women eat less than men, and why do they accept such inadequate wages that they cannot get a proper meat dinner every day, instead of living on a cup of tea and a bun?" This was the question flung at me by an Anti-Suffragist at a meeting at Rothesay. I believe this man genuinely believed that the average woman worker preferred a small wage to a good one, and chose as her daily portion a cup of tea and a bun in preference to a mutton chop and a glass of beer. Though I must say my questioner was properly shocked when I suggested the glass of beer. He insisted that the economic position of woman had nothing to do with her voteless condition, and was firmly persuaded in his own mind that woman's inability to secure for herself the good jobs of the world and the good pay resulted from this preference for buns and tea and slops, and had nothing to do with the jealousy and greed of man, who prevents her from earning good wages and keeps remunerative professions tightly shut in her face.

At the end of the meeting I was told that a lady wished to speak to me. This was Miss Kate MacLean, who had just come from Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, where she had been working amongst the girls on strike in the fish net industry. From the story she told me of these girls' work, their pay and general conditions, I could not help thinking it was hard necessity that made them put up with insufficient food. It is dire want, not choice, that makes women work for a low starvation wage. Yet when women rebel and ask for better conditions and for fair pay, is man as a whole, sympathetic? Does his chivalry extend the length of meeting her half way saying, "Now that I understand that you find it as difficult to live as we do, I shall see that you are properly paid; when I realise you find it as hard to starve as men do, I shall see that you earn enough to get sufficient food." This is not what man says.

Take the case of these net workers. There are 400 of them employed, and they earn 12s. 9d. a week. For the last eighteen weeks they have been out on strike. They demand 6d. extra on each net. The work is hard and monotonous, the machinery is old-fashioned and clumsy. Each machine has seven treadles, and the girls, bare-footed, jump from one to another thirty-five jumps per yard, and in a day it has been calculated they walk and jump round, up and down these treadles nine to fourteen miles. The strike shows no likelihood of coming to an end. Although these women are in a Union, the heads of the firm refuse to treat with Union women. But the women are firm in their attitude. "No surrender" is their motto. The men's Unions throughout the country are, I am glad to say, rallying round the women and are generously supporting them. They have already subscribed £1,000 towards strike-pay. Is it not a mockery for any man to talk of women preferring poor food to good food when, if she be a wage-earner, she has seldom the option of buying anything but the poorest food both in quality and quantity?

How can a woman who is earning 12s. 9d. a week clothe herself, feed herself, and pay her lodgings out of this paltry sum? I do not know about rents in England, but here in Scotland they are cruelly high. No woman on a wage of 12s. 9d. could possibly indulge in a daily meat dinner however much she wished to do so. Think of the determination of these women, who have for eighteen long weeks remained on strike, preferring rather to suffer hunger than concede the principle for which they are fighting—a living wage. The extra 6d. on each net which they are asking would bring them in a few extra shillings in the week. If they were men with the vote behind them, we might ask, "Would this strike have been allowed to continue for so long?" Assuredly not. These strikes amongst women in their underpaid work are but a sign of the times. Woman is at last awake. She is realising her power in the industrial, social and political world, and rather than sur-

render her rights she is willing to undergo, for the time being, want and suffering.

We can but honour these women and wish them success in their struggle. To-day they are not alone. The women of the world are now banded together to fight oppression and injustice, and as long as there is one law which presses unjustly on women, as long as she is treated unjustly and unfairly in the labour market, so long must our voices be lifted up in protest; nor can we rest satisfied until we have won our rights, until justice is appeased.
E. G. M.

THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

There is no lack of entertainment in the political Punch and Judy show, if only it could be looked upon with an impartial eye. Mr. Asquith has retired to an entrenched fastness constructed with special regard to the ingenuity of Suffragettes and hedged about with miles of barbed-wire entanglement, within which the Prime Minister can enjoy his foursome with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Co. without fear of any such untoward event as overtook him and the Home Secretary on a similar occasion. The display of masculine "physical force" which has to resort to such devices to keep out of the clutches of indignant women is indeed impressive.

The versatile Welshman who dabbles in national finance as a pastime, and does agent-in-advance for Providence in his earnest moments, has probably recovered from his depression by this time. While confident in his power to patronise the Almighty, his latest public utterance betrayed some anxiety as to his capacity for influencing his fellow-men. He had, apparently, almost given it up. His wail over increasing expenditure on armaments was a piteous one. There was no hope for it, he lamented. It had got to go on. No one could stop it. We were all searing each other to death. No one could keep out of it. It would end in disaster. It wasn't his fault, and no one must blame the Government. It was "a sort of mad humour which was eating up the vitality of nations, and creating an atmosphere in which people could not judge a situation rationally." It was all terrible and diseased, and few people realised how near we had been to disaster in the last twelve months. He was "genuinely alarmed," was poor Mr. George; but what interests us is, not his alarm, or his concern, or his failure to direct Providence aright in this matter, but his frank admission that the masculine mind, so innately and occultly competent to deal with vast questions of Imperial concern, should have run so far off the rails as to cause this alarm and concern. As a confession of abject failure, and a complete "give-away" of his sex and their capacity for statesmanship, we commend Mr. George's speech to the male electorate which placed this poor shaken thing in his present uneasy eminence.

Sir Edward Carson is, to use Mark Twain's expression, busy raising Cain in Ireland; and Ireland is responding manfully. The generalissimo has sown the wind; others less fortunate are reaping the whirlwind. Women who think must stand aghast at the light-hearted way these men have stirred up passions, political and otherwise, whose consequences are so terrible not only to those concerned but to thousands who have no real concern in the quarrel, but who will none the less be called on to bear and share the suffering. History has already found a name and a place for these irresponsibles; we do not envy them their classification.

The Speaker has twice in one session intervened to prevent women getting justice, once over the Franchise Bill and recently over the Government amendment to the Revenue Bill on the question of the Married Woman's Income Taxation. He has now distinguished himself afresh, in a way we believe no Speaker ever has offended before, by his gratuitous insolence to that gentle lady, Mrs. Cecil Chapman, who gave him the opportunity to apologise for what took place under his aegis, inasmuch as it occurred within the precincts of the House over

which he has jurisdiction. In answer to Mrs. Chapman's restrained statements, Mr. Lowther could only repeat the official denial which springs eternal to official lips. When informed that he had been misinformed, this superior person took refuge in insolence. Knowing the result of Mrs. Chapman's case against P.C. Trudgell, the Speaker coolly "presented his compliments," and said that "If Mrs. Chapman can substantiate her charges of assault against the police, she has her remedy in the Courts of Law." Suffragists who know the value of that "remedy" will appreciate the impudence of this reply and will endorse Mrs. Chapman's retort that it is plain "the police believe themselves free to treat women who visit there (the House of Commons) with any indignity they please." Nay, more; there are few of us who will not, after reading Mr. Lowther's offensive letters, believe that it is with his sanction, and probably under his instructions, that the House of Commons police adopt their peculiarly offensive tactics to women. It would be difficult to match the insult of their manner, outside the walls of Brixton or Pentonville. And if there is one thing that could make us more indignant than the affront to Mrs. Chapman, it is the knowledge of the injury inflicted on Margaret MacMillan, who is of more value to the country than twenty Mr. Lowthers. She is still suffering from the results of the brutal attack of the Speaker's bullies.
C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds Not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

Amount previously ac-		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
knowned...	908 12 8	Miss E. Rushbrooke ..	0 3 0	Madame Helene Putz ..	0 2 6
Special Political and		Mrs. Bigger ..	0 1 0	Miss H. Astley Camp-	
Militant Fund—		bell ..	0 1 0	Miss Maud Dyne ..	0 1 0
Miss Eunice Murray	1 6 0	Madame M. Faudelle ..	0 1 0	Miss Warrington ..	0 1 0
Miss E. Gore Browne	1 0 0	Tickets ..	0 1 0	Office Sales ..	0 3 4
Mrs. Walter Carey ..	0 10 0				
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Miss Nina Boyle ..	2 2 0				
Miss C. M. Richardson	0 18 0				
Anonymous ..	0 10 0				£934 15 4
Miss M. I. Saunders ..	0 10 0				
C. T. O., per Miss Woolf	0 5 7	Cheques to be made payable			
Miss Margaret Chick ..	0 5 0	to the "Women's Freedom			
Miss H. Thompson ..	0 5 0	League," and crossed "London			
Mrs. J. Winterbourne ..	0 4 10	and South-Western Bank, Ltd."			

THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

This fund is not included in the above list. Next week I shall publish the third Birthday list. All contributions not yet received should now come in.
E. KNIGHT.

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN WOMEN ARCHITECTS.

Women architects have distinguished themselves in the competition for the woman's house held by the committee of the Cologne Exhibition of 1914. Time was short and the candidature was limited to women of German and Austrian origin. When the plans of the great exhibition were discussed it was felt that the housing of the women's section ought to be done entirely by members of that sex, and so the conditions attached to the competition included the right, not only to design this important setting, but to build it. The verdict of the judges is highly favourable to the women who are training as architects, to their powers of realising what is necessary for the proper display of exhibition goods and their capacity for applying artistic ideas. High praise is given to designs other than those shown by the prize-winners, for a dozen women entered for three prizes.

The first prize-winner is a German, and her plans are for a wide and spacious building, well proportioned and dignified. Very few alterations will have to be made in her projected scheme. Second in order comes a lady who has already won distinctions in the Viennese school where she is studying. The drawing of her plans is criticised as a trifle superficial; her design is typically Viennese, charming in conception, capricious and artistic in every curve and line. The third prize goes to Berlin, and the architectural suggestion is qualified as much less artistic than the others. Within this notable tribute to the success of women-builders will be included exhibits of artistic works, such as statuary, drawings and paintings, graphic art applied to decoration, fashion designing, ceramics, and toys.

THE VOTE.

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, Aug. 29, 1913.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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THE KEYSTONE OF THE ARCH.

All great arts like all human societies have their revolutionary moments. Such a moment came to architecture when the principle of the arch was discovered. Since the initiation of the arch it has taken many forms; the Greeks, the Romans, the Normans, the Moslems, the men of the Middle Ages who conceived and perfected the glorious Gothic architecture—all these have in their different ways used it; but the principle remains the same. Without the interdependence of the stones, each shaped to its own place; without, above all, the keystone towards which they lean and upon which they depend, the arch would be impossible. Take the keystone away or try to compass the arch without it and the result would be confusion—a heap of stones, finely shaped it might be, but no order or cohesion, nothing to give strength and beauty to the building.

Such a discovery as that which revolutionised architecture in its early stages is breaking upon the world of human society to-day; and one of the signs of its coming is that we are beginning to recognise in ourselves in our laws, our institutions, our way of regarding one another, even our religions, a fatal absence of that order, strength, and beauty without which no true art can exist.

Even as the artist dreams of his perfected work, so do men and women—all but the thoughtless and selfish—dream of and desire a beautiful social order. They have not achieved it because only a few have been able to see that all piecemeal efforts after piecemeal reforms will fail; that until they have discovered and made their own the principle—the keystone—which, bringing all the best energies of the people into action, will bind the living stones of the temple together in service and strength, nothing of permanent value will be done.

We believe that keystone to be equal citizenship of men and women, which cannot come to pass until women, left so long in the background, are allowed to take their true place in the nation.

It may be instructive to notice the spasmodic effort being made by blind party politicians of to-day to preserve the main features of the "man-made world" and, at the same time, to minimise the discomfort arising from its follies and blunders. Time was when it was not necessary for these exalted persons to trouble themselves about anything but party interests and foreign relations and keeping open markets all over the world. That day has gone by. They find themselves faced by problems—diseases, of which in those good old days nobody spoke at all, they were felt to be inevitable, something that belongs to fallen human nature: infant mortality, the growth of insanity, the breeding of degenerates, the appalling prevalence of certain dangerous forms of vice. These things are ugly and uncomfortable. Something must be done to check them. Nothing thorough, of course; no going to the root of the matter and making war boldly against the cause of the misery. That would be impolitic. The real man's

world must be allowed to go on, while by some dexterous legerdemain, which works out generally as restriction to the weak and licence to the strong, some evil consequences may be averted.

Witness the Mental Deficiency Bill, meant, we presume, to check the breeding of degenerates, gentle detention of the unfit—the girls and women who go in and out of workhouses, persons without visible means of support, peculiar people, uninteresting people. No word of altering the conditions which are the fruitful parents both of mental and physical deficiency. If our cities were well-built and sanitary; if, as it might be, there was room in every house for a family to live decently; if the people's food was pure; if the children had the opportunities which are their just due, there would be no need for Mental Deficiency Bills.

In *The Observer* of August 17 we have a glimpse of how matters of this kind are treated. The close of a Parliamentary Session brings an enormous accumulation of business that must be got through, and this is how it is done. In his Parliamentary sketch Sir Henry Lucy writes:—

This week has provided the spectacle of the Lord Chancellor entering the House of Lords four days before the prorogation loaded with ninety-one amendments to a Government Bill affecting the welfare of tens of thousands of sorely-afflicted people. Recognising the impossibility of discussing the amendments in the time available, he presently declared he would not move them.

Then, the opposition proving troublesome, "he reconsidered his decision and finally the ninety-one amendments, undiscussed, were engrafted upon the Bill. This," the writer concludes, "is a lack of business that would be scouted by the obscurist of Parish Councils."

We prophesy that the Mental Deficiency Bill will be either futile like the Cat and Mouse and Criminal Law Amendment Acts or dangerous, and the real evil will remain untouched.

The Annual Report of the Women's Trade Union League, a fine record of abuses exposed and such legal protection as is within the reach of working women enforced, makes it easy to understand why in a rich and not over-populated country there should be such problems as infant mortality and mental deficiency. Under the heading of "complaints" we read:—

Fines and deductions: A girl eighteen years of age, earning 2s. 8d. a week, was fined 1s. for bad work.

Eighteen girls for talking at their work 2s. each.

Overtime: Girls working from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. were compelled to take home bundles. Sometimes they worked until 10 and 11 o'clock.

Insufficient heating: Women packers who work on the ground-floor with the door open sometimes hit their fingers instead of the nails, they are so cold.

Girls stand all day in damp places, partly in the open-air. Their hands are so covered with sores and chilblains as to be almost useless.

Lack of ventilation: Girls making medicated lozenges work in a room full of fumes. These have often to eat lunch at the bench where they work.

One could scarcely imagine a state of things less likely to produce sane and healthy mothers.

Another problem to which the Government have been forced to give attention is venereal disease, and their report and recommendations have just been issued. Here we find the same tendency as in other legislation. Compromise! Making things as easy as possible. Compulsory notification is not recommended—at present. What may be done in the future it is impossible to say. There are some dangerous evidences of a trend in that direction. The one and only real solution—an equal standard of morals and equal treatment of men and women does not appear in this report.

But that will not come about until women have won their victory—until, in all citizen rights, they stand side by side with men.

For this is the true keystone of the arch—that thing of strength and beauty which fitly symbolises the social order that will be when women are permitted to bring their energy, their wisdom, and their experience to the service of the nation.

One of our members whose initials are now familiar in connection with the important work of attending

criminal courts in the interests of women and children relates how a passage of arms took place between a judge and a restive juryman. As the case prolonged itself the juryman complained. His enforced attendance at the court, he said, was interfering with his own interests. To which the judge answered, "You must remember every citizen has to assist in the administration of justice."

That is true; and all citizens who are patriots should count it a privilege, no less than a duty, to render service to the community.

But how about women? Surely her help in the legislation which concerns herself so deeply—her help in the administration of the laws—would not only be good for the country, but would also lift from man a part of the burden concerning which he complains.

In any case it is our profound conviction that we shall never solve our problems, we shall never build up in beauty and strength the world temple that is to be, until we discover and use the keystone—equal citizenship of men and women. C. DESPARD.

THE NEW SOCRATES.

PHÆDRUS and SOCRATES.

PHÆDRUS (*log.*): Well, Socrates, you who are always in the Agora have, of course, heard of the latest outrages of these wild women—militants, I believe they are now called. What is your opinion of such doings?

SOCRATES: Indeed, Phædrus, I should like first to know what you think yourself.

PHÆDRUS: Why, I think what all sensible men think; I think it is a shameful thing for women to behave in such a scandalously indecent manner. And injuring the property of innocent people too.

SOC: You consider yourself a sensible man, then?

PHÆDRUS: Why surely, Socrates, I hope I am.

SOC: What is a sensible man? I wish you would tell me.

PHÆDRUS: I cannot say other than that he is a man possessed of plenty of sense.

SOC: But how does he use his sense—in accepting the opinions of those about him, or in learning facts and drawing his own conclusions therefrom?

PHÆDRUS: Surely in drawing conclusions from the facts and forming his own opinion.

SOC: Then I suppose you, being a sensible man, have digested a great many facts and learned much, before you formed your opinion of the militants.

PHÆDRUS: Well, Socrates, you know I am a busy man. I have not had time to think much about the matter at all.

SOC: Then you have accepted the opinion of others?

PHÆDRUS: Well, surely, Socrates, there can be but one opinion on the matter.

SOC: Well, but I am not at all clear now. Is it their object you condemn, or their method of seeking to attain it?

PHÆDRUS: I do not understand what their object can be.

SOC: They say they want certain grievances redressed.

PHÆDRUS: But they have no grievances. Women here have every care, every consideration shown to them, and it would be far more sensible to show a little gratitude. We earn their bread, we guard them from every ill, we keep them in luxury as far as we are able, yet they are dissatisfied and ungrateful.

SOC: I have heard, Phædrus, and no doubt you have heard too, that in some countries women do all the manual work for the community and act as beasts of burden as well. Do you approve of that?

PHÆDRUS: No, certainly not.

SOC: But why not?

PHÆDRUS: Because that is compelling them to do work beyond their strength.

SOC: And that is not right?

PHÆDRUS: No, certainly not.

SOC: Then women have a grievance.

PHÆDRUS: But, Socrates, that is in a foreign land. We are considering the women of our own country. They are not compelled to do work that is beyond their strength.

SOC: But are no women in our own land compelled to do work beyond their strength?

PHÆDRUS: I do not think so.

SOC: Have you not seen or at least heard of women blacksmiths, women making chains, labouring at machinery, and heavy scrubbing and cleaning?

PHÆDRUS: Yes, but they are not compelled to do such work. They could work at some lighter employment if they chose.

SOC: Why does any man or woman work?

PHÆDRUS: To earn money.

SOC: And why do they want money?

PHÆDRUS: To buy food.

SOC: And if they have no money they can have no food?

PHÆDRUS: No.

SOC: And if they cannot get work they cannot get money?

PHÆDRUS: That is so.

SOC: Then they are compelled to work?

PHÆDRUS: Yes.

SOC: Then if they cannot get lighter work they must take heavier work?

PHÆDRUS: I suppose so.

SOC: Then they are compelled to do work that is beyond their strength?

PHÆDRUS: So it appears. But, Socrates, these are really exceptions. There are not many women working at employments of such a nature.

SOC: Perhaps not. But I heard the other day of a man who, it is true, was doing work that was quite light and by no means beyond his strength, but though he worked all day and every day and far into the night, he earned so little as to be often on the verge of starvation. What is your opinion of that?

PHÆDRUS: I am afraid there are others in the same sad case.

SOC: Is it not a fact that women are paid at a lower rate of remuneration than men?

PHÆDRUS: Yes, and rightly so.

SOC: Rightly or wrongly, is it not true that since women are worse paid than men there must be a much larger proportion of women working for a starvation wage?

PHÆDRUS: I suppose so.

SOC: Then, again, these women have a grievance?

PHÆDRUS: Yes. But all these women are of the lowest class, and in an industrial community there are always evils that press hardly on the poor.

SOC: That is so. But the wife of a late acquaintance of mine, a highly-educated, cultured and talented lady, found to her horror that her deceased husband had willed the bulk of his property away from her and her children. Do you consider that she had a grievance?

PHÆDRUS: Yes, undoubtedly she had. But again you quote an exceptional case.

SOC: Not as exceptional as you think. But we have in our midst many women scholars, artists, sculptors, and I leave you to say whether or not they obtain official recognition of their work.

PHÆDRUS: Well, Socrates, I am willing to grant you that women do labour under some real disabilities; but I do not think that justifies them, as I said before, in destroying the property of innocent people.

SOC: In the recent wars of which we have all been hearing so much, hundreds of innocent people have lost their homes and their whole means of livelihood.

PHÆDRUS: Oh, that is inevitable in war.

SOC: You do not consider, then, that these women are fighting for their own rights and those of their fellow-women?

PHÆDRUS: Then, Socrates, you approve of militancy?

SOC: Is it ever right to do evil that good may come?

PHÆDRUS: Then you do not approve? I wish you would tell me plainly what you mean.

SOC: Let me first ask you another question. How long have women been seeking redress of their grievances?

PHÆDRUS: I think, Socrates, it must be between forty and fifty years.

SOC: And how long since they began militant methods?

PHÆDRUS: I do not know. But I do not think it can be ten years.

SOC: Then if they asked in a peaceable way for what they wanted for so long, why did they not continue in that way?

PHÆDRUS: I suppose because they found they could not get what they asked.

SOC: Yet they were only demanding their just rights?

PHÆDRUS: I begin to think so.

SOC: And their demands were perfectly reasonable?

PHÆDRUS: Yes.

SOC: Yet they were not granted.

PHÆDRUS: No.

SOC: Then may we safely say they were provoked and rendered desperate.

PHÆDRUS: I think so.

SOC: If a man torments a bull till the animal is beyond control, and it rushes wildly about till much damage is done, do we blame the bull or the man who provoked him?

PHÆDRUS: Surely the man.

SOC: Because he made the animal desperate?

PHÆDRUS: Yes.

SOC: And the militant women have been made desperate?

PHÆDRUS: I think I see what you mean, Socrates. You mean that the blame rests not on the women who do these things, but on those who refuse to grant them their just rights.

SOC: Yes. Although it is true that if an action is wrong in itself nothing can justify it, yet if we wish to apportion the blame justly we must go back to first causes, and find who committed the original wrong whose offshoots we so plainly perceive.

PHÆDRUS: Indeed, Socrates, I think you are perfectly right. And I am very glad I met you this morning, for I begin to see that if I wish to keep my character as a sensible man in my own estimation, I shall have to revise entirely my opinion on the whole matter. H. S.

THE POLITICAL PIG-STY.

The Derbyshire miners gave our speakers a fine reception and gave our candidate a good hearing. They liked John Scurr, and believed in his complete honesty (who could help it?), they liked us and saw the reason and logic of our demand. They were fair-minded, quick-witted folk, with a keen ear for a joke and broad minds for a historic parallel. They understand militancy, and admire a plucky fight. But they put the Liberal in and left John Scurr at the bottom of the poll.

There are several lessons in this. We may learn that the Parliamentary Labour Party has no hold at all on the working-man, especially if he is a miner. Holmfirth, Hanley, Crewe, East Carmarthen, Mid-Lothian, Houghton-le-Spring, Leicester and Chesterfield have made this plain beyond words. Working-men who do not vote Unionist prefer the Liberal colours, party and name, to Labour. The Liberals were right when they said Labour had got into Parliament on Liberal votes; and wherever they have been challenged they have made the statement good. So far as one can see, they look on the Parliamentary Labour Party movement as an experiment which need not be pursued with any earnestness. And that being quite undeniably the case, makes us rejoice that we did not accept the Brailsford policy of supporting the official Labour Party as our anti-Government weapon. The position of giving support to the third candidate—no matter of what complexion, Socialist, Independent, or Official Labour—as a form of attack on the Government, appears to be more logical, seeing it commits the League to no special consequences, than a hard-and-fast alliance with a party too small ever to hold the majority in our day and palpably growing smaller. Unless a Liberal Government takes office with a very small majority, and unless the Parliamentary Labour Party abandons its present dislike of threatening the Government with an adverse vote, it would seem that little satisfaction is ever likely to accrue from support of the official Labour Party.

And also we may learn another lesson. It is that men may love women, reverence them, admire them, work for them; they may attend their meetings, cheer their speeches, sympathise with their cause and applaud their spirit; but they will not go to the poll for them—or, at any rate, not in the bulk.

We may, I think, assume that the ordinary man takes his politics with the smallest possible grain of reasoning. In a number of cases he has a very genuine conviction that, even if his party politicians are dishonest, or their measures mistaken and vexatious, that party and that party only has the welfare of the country really at heart, and is the only one to be trusted with the helm. But the great mass of voting men, especially among the working-men, take politics as a recreation and a sport, and back their colours and their candidate like they back horses, colours and jockeys on a race-course. And when they have put their favourite Government in, or when they have changed it to "give the other side a chance to show what they can do," and wish to bring pressure to bear on their elected masters, they prefer the clumsy weapons of strike and riot to the negotiation of the ballot. But they will not change their colours, nor poll their votes, for any amount of sympathy with the Women's Movement or the wrongs of women—never have; for in all the long history of politics, no politician has ever been rejected and no Government has ever fallen, no fight has ever been made to turn on a question of women.

This seems to show that the victory will depend either on the accession to power of an honest Suffragist Prime Minister, or on the return of a Government with a very narrow majority, or on the creation of situations which the Government cannot face. It is almost certain it will not be won for us by the present electorate, although it is increasingly apparent that candidates will not face the public as anti-Suffragists. The extraordinary number of candidates who stand as Suffragists,

and the few who stand as out-and-out "Antis" is remarkable; and while none has ever yet been rejected because he was for the Suffrage, none has been clearly elected for that reason. It is impossible to say, without appearing ridiculous, that the question has never been put to the country, seeing the number of men returned to the House of Commons who have put it; still, it is not yet clear how far the elector thinks he has committed himself to the question when he returns a convinced Suffragist to Parliament because he is a Liberal or a Unionist.

And this last paragraph brings us to the point that makes our head-line appropriate. The inherent dishonesty of the political mind and the political machinations is such that few electors really care a straw about the principles their votes or their party ties commit them to. If the candidate has an awkward principle, he can put it in his pocket the moment it threatens embarrassment for his party. If he has a principle the electorate does not appreciate, they lightly vote for him all the same if he is the "right colour," and consider themselves still entirely uncommitted to his awkward point of view. No clearer example of this could have been given than at Chesterfield. Mr. Christie stood "as a Unionist, an Imperialist, and a Tariff Reformer"; but his first powerful supporter was Lord Robert Cecil, who himself refused to stand as a Tariff Reformer. Neither Tariff Reformer nor Free Fooder cared a button about the strangeness of this combination, nor did their supporters; it was the party colour, the party platform—that was all that mattered. Nor did Lord Robert, the convinced and ardent Suffragist, trouble himself that for all the mention of them Mr. Christie made in his election address, there might be not a woman, let alone a Suffragist, existant in the world.

Mr. Kenyon, in his address, promised "unqualified support" to any Bill establishing the principle of One Man One Vote and simpler registration; but in a letter to us promised to oppose any alteration of the franchise that did not include women. "Which of us does he mean to sell?" we asked the miners; and they, quick to see the point, laughed heartily. But they voted for him, although they accepted the position as frankly dishonest. Mr. Kenyon further improved his standpoint by getting Miss Violet Markham to speak for him all over the constituency—a valuable signal to those who might still wonder whether he meant to keep faith with the Suffragists or the Liberals! The N.L.O.W.S. wrote a pleasing letter to the local press repudiating her action as being on their behalf, and pointing out that though a member of their League, she was supporting Mr. Kenyon as a Liberal and not as a member of the N.L.O.W.S. So delicious a position will appeal to all Suffragists, who will remember the attitude taken up by this lady in regard to women's place and women's mission, and that sublime phrase, "Woman has always found her highest achievement in renunciation." Miss Markham, like other party politicians, knows how to dispose of inconvenient principles. She does not "achieve" by renouncing party politics, although she implores us to do so by renouncing votes.

The dishonesty is crusted so hard, dyed so deep, into the party politician, that he no longer recognises his trickery as dishonest. As Mr. Brailsford wrote, it would be amusing to watch the tricksters if it were not tragic to be governed by them. We remember—with some vagueness for which we apologise—a scathing comment in G. B. Shaw's preface to "Man and Superman," in which he opines that until humanity really desires better things, better things will not be forthcoming; and humanity in the bulk does not desire better things, only more of what there is. We fear this is true. The bulk of electors like their politics as they are. They enjoy its tricks and like matching dodge against dodge. They do not want earnest reformers or honest candidates; they do not want anything much cleaner than it is. In short, like the great majority of

humanity, they are fairly content with the pig-sty, but want a larger share of the pig-wash. And those who would fain make short work of sty and wash win but a reluctant response and a small following.

C. NINA BOYLE.

SLACKENED STRINGS.

We have fallen on peace. Without honour perhaps, but peace. Though millions of folk teem in every direction, the fact remains that a large slice of London has gone, and it would seem to be the restless portion. House after house shows darkened windows save where the single light reveals the caretaker or the burglar. The traffic is appreciably less, and one is reminded of the days of the strike when the Strand looked like a village street; there are no straphangers in the morning—we could have two seats apiece if we wished them; the restaurants show no signs of rush. I experience the marvel of having two waitresses asking for my order in as many minutes, and this at one o'clock!

People have poured out of town in an increasing stream. Parliament has risen and withdrawn to enjoy a well-earned holiday, sanctified by the King's prayer. The rich folk have departed, making lackeys elsewhere dance attendance on them; the great class of clerks is taking its fortnight, leaving big gaps in the offices. Everywhere a sense of hush.

All these impressions may be partly due to reflex action, for it is undeniably quiet in my office. Where a few weeks ago we would get pages of typed matter bristling with statements that called for action, we get a picture postcard with "Glorious weather. Here for six weeks!" pencilled thereon and bearing a view of Alpine snow, wind-swept heather or sea, blue as it only is on postcards.

But undoubtedly there is a lull in London. The great city seems to have fallen into a pleasing vacuity of mind and to doze in the August sun. It has time now—in its less serious moments—to titivate itself. The decorators' cradles swing on ropes from many a house, and men are busy scraping and painting, making a dazzle of white in the midst of the black walls. Now that it is free from Suffrage meetings Nelson's Column is being cleaned, and I should not be surprised to see the lions licking their paws catwise, if that is their form of ablution. Buckingham Palace is shrouded in scaffolding. Whitewash and yet more whitewash!

It is true that there has been a mighty inrush of visitors, but they do not make up for those who have gone and they add to the gentle mood of the moment. They go about in clusters, and by their gaping admiration rouse one anew to look at things one has passed unnoticed hundreds of times. Guide-books are flourished on all hands, kindly, country faces confront one in the restaurants, family reunions are seen on every side. The naïve remarks give a freshness to life. "I can't get over the crowd of people," a youth says. "Where do they all get fed? Where do they all sleep? Nobody seems to care if you look tired or hungry. Now in the country people notice." The indictment is true, and he might have added that nobody would care if you were knocked down by a motor. You would be carted off to hospital or mortuary, and your relatives would have a job to find you. Careless, callous London!

The tension of life is relaxed. Need it be renewed? It will be. I know that as certainly as I know there is a fly walking unmolested over the keys of the typewriter. In a short time the postman will thrust handfuls of letters through the box, the telephone will tinkle like one demented, and people will flash in and out the office all day. But why all this rush?

In the first place to get riches. The speeding-up of to-day is mainly due to money-grabbing, but not entirely; that does not explain the Suffrage activity. The second reason is not far to seek. Behind all this seeming-fair is injustice. Not mere theoretical wrong which though demonstrable on paper does not affect practical matters, but an injustice that keeps life from

being what it might for the majority. To bring home these wrongs is a colossal task and to abolish them a greater one. Apathy on people and rulers, and worse than that, the force of unrighteousness, expressing itself in many ways, these call for concentrated effort to contend against them. Perhaps we overdo it at times and stun with sound the ears we want to listen to words, and yet I do not know of any one form of activity that could be stopped. A graver menace is that we lose our sense of proportion and in gazing fixedly at one side of life ignore the others.

Not that this easy time is the ideal either. It is not conducive to thought as these ramblings testify:—

The string o'er-stretched breaks and the music flies,
The string o'er-slack is dumb and music dies,
Tune me the zither neither high nor low.

It should be possible to maintain the equipoise in life. I think so now; but when the rush comes, what then?
M. L.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX. AT THE CRIMINAL COURTS.

At Clerkenwell, on Tuesday, August 19, Charles R. Woods was convicted of inflicting grievous bodily harm on his wife, Maud Louisa Woods. The wife begged the judge, Mr. Allan Lawrie, to be lenient with him as "she was sure he would not do it again." Mr. Lawrie said: "If I am lenient it is solely for the sake of your wife and children; for their sakes let this be a lesson to you and never come here again." **Bound over.**

On Wednesday, August 20, Gertrude Savag, 15, charged before Mr. Lawrie with not surrendering to her bail, pleaded guilty. She had been charged with stealing a violin and case. Mr. Lawrie advised the jury to acquit her, the prosecutor himself being wanted by the police. [It appears the prosecutor had taken the girl to live with him, had proceeded against her for the theft; on bail being allowed he had sent her to Paris, whence she returned of her own accord and surrendered to the police. The man is now wanted to answer the criminal charge of immoral conduct with a girl under sixteen. Meanwhile the girl is expecting to become a mother.]

Jennie Stafford, 27, was charged before Mr. Lawrie with stealing 30s. from Eli Gutenberg. Prosecutor said he met her at Charing-cross at midnight and got into a taxi-cab with her, and she robbed him. Prisoner said that 10s. had been given by a girl friend (this was corroborated) and that Gutenberg had paid her £1 for what took place, and afterwards apparently wanted it back. **Not guilty.**

Before Mr. Thomas Spokes the same day, Susan Duvall, charged with soliciting, having several previous convictions, was **bound over.**

Contrast the case of Susan Duvall with that of Bessie Stagg, charged with soliciting in Hyde Park, who pleaded "not guilty." "I have earned my own living all my life," said prisoner. "I am not a prostitute, but the police are down on me and take me whenever they see me. Mr. Lawrie gave me four months the last time. I am quite honest." **Guilty: Three months' hard labour.**

Also with this case: Albert Gyles, charged before Mr. Spokes with maliciously wounding Catherine Sullivan by cutting her under the eye with a penknife. Had had several previous convictions for similar offences. **Guilty: 14 days' hard labour.**

Before Mr. Lawrie, on Thursday, Lizzie Boniface, charged with attempting suicide. She was in custody for drunkenness, and was found in her cell with a staylace tied tightly round her neck. **6 weeks' remand.**

On Friday, August 22, Edward Powell was charged before Mr. Lawrie with assaulting Ellen Leard. He had cut her head open with a saucepan, had punched and kicked her in the chest. Prisoner in witness-box, admitted knocking her down and kicking her while she was on the floor. Counsel: "A very honest man to say that!" Found guilty of common assault. **3 months.** Prisoner had to answer a further charge of living on the immoral earnings of Ellen Leard. She was unwilling to give evidence against him on this charge, and contradicted the statements she had made at the police-station. Prisoner said he had tried to keep her away from the streets even when they had no food or fire in the house. "She has lived with two men before who knocked her about when she did not earn enough," he went on. "She was ruined by a man when she was eighteen." Ellen Leard's sister said she had seen him take money that had been earned on the streets. **Guilty: 4 months.** Contrast this sentence with that of three years' penal servitude given to Thomas Mason by Mr. Lawrie on Tuesday, August 19, for stealing a collar-stud and 2s. 4d. in a purse. (There were 23 previous convictions.) E. M. W.

AT THE POLICE COURTS

Killed.

Mrs. Anderson, of Sunderland, murdered by her husband, who poured paraffin over her and set her on fire in a drunken bout.

Elizabeth Barr, Driffild, shot while cycling, in the presence

of her young sister, who was also threatened, and who saved herself by flight, by her lover, who was the father of the dead girl's child. Had not supported the child. Pleaded jealousy and despair in a letter. Attempted suicide, but is recovering.

Attempted Murder.

Wife and step-daughter of dock labourer, of Limehouse, murderously attacked with razor. Serious injuries to throat. Man then gashed open his own throat, and died in Poplar Hospital from his wounds.

Jane Hodder, West Ham, lying in dangerous condition in West Ham Hospital with throat cut. Man named Samue Perfect, lodger, seen following her with razor as she ran screaming and covered with blood. Charged at West Ham Police-court.

Mrs. Wright, Lichfield, attacked by husband with table-knife, and wounded on hands and face. Then attempted suicide after desperate struggle with his family, and lies in precarious condition in the workhouse infirmary.

Criminal Assault.

William Martin, Rutherglen, before Lord Cullen, South Court, Glasgow, convicted of serious offences on various occasions since last November against his step-daughter, a girl of 15. **Nine months.**

Robert Aird, Glasgow, admitted same offence against his step-daughter, aged 15, on July 10. **Nine months.**—*Glasgow Herald*, Aug. 20.

Susannah Symonds, Colchester, factory girl of 20, made dying allegations that she had been victim of gross assault by two men. Her death was from tetanus (lockjaw) and an epileptic attack. Medical evidence to the effect that the assault was not the cause of death.

It was stated in a case at Tiverton (Devon) in which Ernest John Douglas, a native of Birmingham, was sentenced to **two months' imprisonment** for failing to pay towards the support of the twin children of a girl he had deceived, that on June 26, 1911, he disappeared while the guests were assembling for his wedding at Tiverton. The following year, it was alleged, he practised a similar deception on a young woman at Clewer, near Windsor.

Assault.

At the Edinburgh City Police-court, James Cordiner, aged twenty-two, a news-vendor, pleaded guilty to an unprovoked assault on a scavenger who was out walking with his wife and child, striking him heavily on the face. **Fined £1 or ten days' imprisonment.**

At the same court a labourer, brought up for the first time, was charged with wife assault. **Fined 5s. or three days' imprisonment**, with caution of £1 for good behaviour for six months.

Mrs. Moyes, Aberdeen, married one month to John Moyes, art master at Aberdeen Grammar School. Had been beaten and her life threatened. When man was arrested a revolver went off in his pocket. **One month.**

Chapter 5

Steam is Necessary for Engines.

—there is no need for it in the wash-house.

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ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Diwan of Zeb-un-Nissa. Rendered from the Persian by Magan Lal and Jessie Duncan Westbrook. "Wisdom of the East" Series. (John Murray. 2s.)

This interesting little book forms one of the "Wisdom of the East" series. The object of the editors, as given in an editorial note, is that "these books shall be the ambassadors of goodwill and understanding between East and West—the old world of thought and the new of action." They hope that the result may be "a revival of that true spirit of charity, which neither despises nor fears the nations of another creed and colour."

Its full title is "Diwan-i-Makhi"—the book of the Hidden One. It contained 421 ghazals or songs, fifty of which have been rendered into English in this charming little volume. The songs were written by a Mogul princess, Zeb-un-Nissa, eldest daughter of Aurungzebe, Emperor of India in the sixteenth century. Her story, given in the introduction to the poems, affords some interesting glimpses of the strange society of an Eastern Court in those days.

The princess, who was allowed unusual freedom for a woman of her rank, seems to have inherited from the breadth, humanity and wisdom of her great ancestor, Akbar, whose dream—of the same nature as that which is moving in many minds to-day—was the unification of all religions. For instance, she speaks of the mosque and the temple together, saying that God is equally in both. Sometimes she combines the Hindu and Muslim idea.

In the mosque I seek my idol shrine
Where I make my prayer, in that place is Kiblah.

No one can read these beautiful little poems in their English dress without recognising their mysticism, without feeling their special Indian flavour. God is the "Beautiful Beloved"—at once the Desire and the Hunter of the soul which he "chases through the jungle of the world."

I have no peace, a quarry I, a Hunter chases me;
It is thy memory.

We are reminded here and there in these lovers' songs of a Kempis, St. John of the Cross, and other mystics of the West, while in some we catch the note of the modern Pantheist.

Athirst
For thy love are my body and soul;
Like Mansur, the grains of this clod,
My body, cry out: They are parts, Thou the whole,
Themselves they are God.

Again we have the lover's cry:—

I wait in this my sorrow's night,
Until thou givest to my weary sight
Thy beauty for my longing eyes' delight.

And in another song full of a divine longing:—

Sadly we wait and tire,
And sight of the Beloved Face desire
In vain, till in our hearts the hope is born
Of resurrection morn.

There are passages that reveal a deep joy in natural beauty, such as Song X.—

The rapturous nightingale sings,
 wooing the rose
In the midst of the garden new-born;
But only the gardener knows
Of the labour that brings
To the garden its beauty; he toiled in the heat,
And his feet
Have been wounded by many a thorn.

We could easily go on quoting from these graceful little poems, but space fails. We recommend them to our readers expressing, meanwhile our gratitude to the translators for having brought the soul-romance of this Eastern princess, who passed away from our earth more than two hundred years ago, to her sisters of the West.

C. DESPARD.

There is not any virtue, the exercise of which, even momentarily, will not impress a new fineness upon the features.—*Ruskin.*

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TAX RESISTANCE.

Miss Cummin, of Troufield, Petersfield, is resisting the payment of Income-tax and Inhabited House-duty, and is organising her resistance so as to have all the benefits of publicity. We congratulate our good comrade on her determination, and shall rally to the protest when the Government finally takes action.

The Insurance Commissioners have at last begun to wake up to the fact that the Women's Freedom League is not doing its stamp-licking; and an official was despatched to Headquarters' Office to make further inquiries. Full details of the facts were supplied to her; but when she approached the subject of who was to be prosecuted the trouble began.

"I am afraid you must find that out for yourself," I remarked—I trust politely. "We can't do your work for you."

"Were we an Incorporated Society? No, certainly not; not so foolish as that!" I had not until that moment realised the true strength of the position.

"Then our secretary is not responsible? No, I don't think she can be. You see, the position is greatly beautified by the fact that several of the officials who should insure the employees are themselves insurable and don't insure. How will you deal with that?" This seemed a real poser.

"Won't I give you any information? Well, as a suggestion, how about the Annual Conference! The Conference lays down the policy and appoints people to carry it out. I should suggest that you try proceedings against the Conference—" But at this stage the interview ended, the very pleasant lady who represented Law and Order feeling that my suggestions were not exactly helpful. All the same, I should love to see the Government try to prosecute a Conference. It has never been done yet, and might create precedents of a magnitude undreamed of.

The following case, quoted in last week's Sunday Press, appears to be one in which a very serious point arises. There is no question of principle or conscience involved; and the fact that the Insurance money was deducted, yet the stamps were not put on, gives it an ugly appearance:—

A summons was heard in the Doncaster Borough Court against Joseph Lister, contractor, Town Moor-avenue, for failing to stamp a National Insurance contribution card of a workman for thirty-one weeks. Defendant had been doing contract work for houses at the Rossington Colliery Village and employed John William Carr as a joiner. Carr entered his service in August last year, and when he left his former employment he left his employment book with the local office at South Elmsall and obtained from them a card to give to his future employer to enable him to get his book from the local office.

He remained with Lister for several months, and was under the impression that defendant had obtained the book as he had deducted from his wages the amount due for insurance purposes. On leaving defendant's employ he asked for his book and was told it was stamped up, but was at defendant's home. However, the book was not forthcoming, and it transpired that it was not stamped until proceedings were commenced.

Mr. Andrews stated that defendant was liable to a penalty of £10 for each week and three times the value of the stamps. After hearing evidence the Bench imposed a fine of 50s. in one case, and ordered defendant to pay the costs in the other cases.

Contrast the sentence with that on Mrs. Harvey:—

On July 21 Mrs. Kate Harvey, of Brackenhill, Bromley, was summoned on ten counts in respect of her gardener, William David Asquith. She was fined £1 on each count, costs £4 10s., "special costs" asked for by the Insurance Commissioners £2 2s., and ordered to pay the arrears, 5s. 10d.; total, £16 17s. 10d.

Mrs. Harvey's fate is still in the balance, but there is a threat of immediate proceedings.

Mrs. Mary Ann Eaton, London's only mousetrap maker of Homerton, has just died at the age of eighty-two. The old lady had recently declared that her business, which had been carried on for half a century, was too exciting for her, and she was afraid she would have to give it up.

UPCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Sun., Aug. 31.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. *Speaker:* Miss Boyle. *Chair:* Miss K. Holmes. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.

Mon., Sept. 1.—London Branches Council Meeting, 1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi, 6.30 p.m. Tues., Sept. 2.—Mid-London Branch Members Meeting, 1, ROBERT-STREET, 8 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 6.—Stamford Hill and Tottenham Garden Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Harbord, 91, MOUNT PLEASANT-ROAD, Tottenham. *Speaker:* Mrs. Despard.

Sun., Sept. 7.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Normanton. Sun., Sept. 14.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Despard and Miss Husband.

Mon., Sept. 15.—W.F.L. Reunion, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. Short Speeches, Refreshments. Admission Free.

Sun., Sept. 21.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Boyle. Wed., September 24.—Caxton Hall Public Meeting, 8.30 p.m. Laurence Housman, Esq., on "The Rights of Majorities."

Sun., Sept. 28.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard. Tues., Nov. 4.—Dramatic Version of "Hiawatha" (by K. Harvey) in aid of "The Vote," Cripplegate Institute, two minutes' walk from Aldersgate-street Station (Metropolitan Railway), 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Mon., Sept. 8.—SOUTHAMPTON, Morris Hall, Commercial-road. Branch Meeting. Thurs., Sept. 11.—GRAYS, Victoria Café, Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m. **W.F.L. HOLIDAY CAMPAIGNS.**

Devonshire.—Meetings daily in TORQUAY, BABBACOMBE, PAIGNTON and DISTRICT. *Speaker:* Miss Andrews. Headquarters: 5, Wellswood-park, Torquay. North Wales Campaign, August.—Meetings daily at ABERYSTWYTH and DISTRICT. Later in Montgomery Beroughs. *Speaker:* Miss Anna Munro. *Organiser:* Miss Alix M. Clark.

Clyde Coast Campaign, August.—ROTHESAY, LARGS, DUNOON. Meetings daily. *Speaker:* Miss Alison Neilans. Headquarters, 11, Mount Pleasant-road, Rothsay. Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, and Saltcoats. Miss A. Broughton.

W.F.L. HOLIDAY CAMPAIGNS.

Devonshire. In charge: MISS CONSTANCE ANDREWS, 5, Wellswood-park, Torquay.

Devonshire is a delightful place for a campaign, because when you can snatch a little time from the incessant meetings you can get away to the moors which are enchanting just now. The gorse is in its full glory, and added to the purple of the heather makes a scene of beauty not easily to be described. We go on with our work, too, on our way, and soon our coach becomes known as the Suffragette Coach. Two gentlemen, who at first appeared to be opponents, asked us if they might have the honour of taking a photograph of our party, and one joined us holding a copy of THE VOTE, so that we felt our arguments must have been somewhat convincing.

Our meetings in Torquay, Paignton and Babbacombe have been very orderly, and our policy is now clearly understood. It takes a long time to educate people to know that the Suffrage societies have different ways of working, and that though we have a common object we use different means to attain it. On Wednesday, August 20, we held a meeting at Penlee, near Dartmouth. Mrs. Barnett kindly lent us a large room for the occasion, and we are grateful to her for the hearty welcome we received. The meeting was a joint one of the W.F.L. and the W.S.P.U., Miss Andrews speaking for the former and Miss Allen for the latter. Mrs. Clarendon Hyde presided, and commented on the fact of the unity of our movement. Miss Andrews dealt chiefly with the economic side of the question, and Miss Allen with the legal. Afterwards tea was served in the delightful garden of Penlee, and we added three new members to our League. We have one more week in which we hope to put a seal upon the work already accomplished.

Scotland: On the Clyde Coast. Headquarters: 11, Mount Pleasant-road, Rothsay. *Speaker:* Miss ALISON NEILANS.

This week ends the summer campaign of the Women's Freedom League on the Clyde, and on Saturday night, August 30, we shall make our final appeal to the Rothsay holiday-makers. Looking back over the two months just passed, we are glad to realise that the high standard of success of previous Clyde campaigns has been fully maintained. Miss Neilans' forceful and logical speeches, and her admirable handling of hecklers, have been the main factors in this success. The meetings have been an education, not only in politics, but in feminism that is bound to have far-reaching results, for the audiences are for the most part of a type which makes it possible to go into the deeper aspects of the movement in a way very unusual at open-air meetings—a task for which Miss Neilans is specially well qualified. Over and over again we have been told by women that they "wore a day for the meetin'." One night in answer to the assertion that very few women really want the vote, a show of hands was asked for from the women.

One hand was raised against, but the owner thereof had "gotten to be born a woman," as one of the fishermen put it! At Largs a similar show of hands was asked for during the collection, and one man was heard to ejaculate, "C'awa wumman, c'awa! D'y'e no want yer vote?" To which his wife, busy fumbling for her penny, replied, "Ugh, it's a richt! She kens fine A' want it!" A splendid text has been supplied by one of the local cinema shows, which has among the explanatory sentences on one of its films, "Nero sends Petronius to make liberal promises; (1) To the people," followed by "The people are not pacified by the liberal promises"—they demanded something more substantial.

The Campaign this year has had the advantage of a large number of volunteer helpers who have very literally borne the heat and burden of the day in the cheerful spirit of good comrades. In addition to all those mentioned last week, Miss Bunten and Miss Davey have also helped since the last report was written, and special thanks are due to Miss McLachlan, Miss Turner, Miss Jacob, and Miss Elliott for their continuous help with the speaking. To Miss Blaney the efficient volunteer housekeeper of the campaign, all the workers have had much reason to be grateful. Her unremitting work and methodical arrangements for the comfort of the campaigners have largely contributed to their ability to do good work.

Unfortunately the weather has now broken, and at the time of writing we have been compelled to miss six meetings on account of the rain, with a consequent loss to collections of at least £3. Any contributions towards making up the deficit thus caused will be very gratefully received. We are hoping to be able to report nearly a hundred meetings held, without any cost to the League, but when bad weather intervenes, as it has done the last few days, and meetings have to be abandoned, we feel justified in appealing to friends for help to make good the deficit. We want £3 to make up for the six meetings, which ought to average in collections at least 10s. a meeting.

H. McL.

At Glencaig and Lochgelly

An excellent meeting was held on Monday afternoon, August 18, at Glencaig, a small mining village. Mrs. Watt, of Dunfermline, kindly presided for the speaker, Miss Broughton, who in her address showed how the vote would benefit the working women. Both the women and miners present paid the greatest attention to the speakers, and asked interesting questions which were answered to the satisfaction of the questioners.

The evening meeting was held in Lochgelly, another mining district. Here the women were most enthusiastic, and several joined the League at the close of the meeting. Mrs. Watts again presided, and Miss Broughton based her address upon certain objections raised against Woman Suffrage. THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature sold well at both meetings.

A Strike of Electors.

Writing *The Christian Commonwealth* of August 13, Mr. O. W. Griffiths, Cricklewood, London, N.W., observes:—"We men voters have the means of demonstrating our disapproval of the way the question of Women's Suffrage has been treated both by the Government and the House of Commons, and those of us who are in sympathy with the enfranchisement of women should organise ourselves to give effective expression to our protest. We should not wait for the women to come out and persuade us to do it. We ought (1) to refuse to vote at any by-election from this date to the next General Election; (2) to refuse to vote at the General Election unless pledges are given solemnly and honestly by the leaders of all parties that, if returned to power, they will introduce and pass a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women in the first Session of the new Parliament. The strike might be organised by, say, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, who could begin at once to register names of electors ready to pledge themselves to the suggested course of action."

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BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Stamford-hill and Tottenham.

Will all members and their friends please remember that we have a garden meeting on Saturday, September 6, Mrs. Harbord, 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, having kindly arranged to receive us? Mrs. Despard has promised to be present and speak, so we are most anxious to make the meeting well known and secure a good attendance. There will be an attractive programme altogether for the evening. A committee meeting will be called very soon to discuss our autumnal work, and members are requested to be present without fail. Thornton Heath.

The usual weekly open-air meeting was held at the Clock Tower on Friday last. Mrs. Morrison took the chair and Mrs. Merivale Mayer spoke. The crowd listened attentively for some time to a splendid speech, in which Mrs. Merivale Mayer explained militancy, and showed the need for the vote to raise the position of women in the labour market. There was some disturbance at the end of the meeting from a man who informed us that we were "a lot of Liberals," which was quite a new name for us. Our meetings throughout this month have been most successful, and we have been able to prove that people were mistaken who declared that they "would never have Suffragettes at Thornton Heath."

NOTE.—For addresses of Branch Secretaries apply to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

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