

VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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H.M. QUEEN MARY.

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This Booklet (6d. net) contains ten Articles, several of which were specially contributed to VOTES FOR WOMEN by the Author.

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THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS

IF WOMAN is a human being, first, she has the right of a human being; next, she has the right of a woman being; third, she has the duty of a human being.

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The Women's Social and Political Union. 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

OFFICE: 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C. Telegrams: "WOSPOLU, LONDON."

VOTES FOR WOMEN 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND. FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1910.

THE SISTERHOOD OF WOMEN. With the laying to rest of King Edward, the stillness that has lain upon the nation will come to an end.

living; and every movement for social regeneration, above all, the movement for women's enfranchisement, claims the speedy return to its ranks of each and every soldier.

The general impression is that the General Election will not now take place in June, but will be deferred until the coming autumn, or even until the beginning of next year.

The immediate task of all suffragists is to work for the success of the forthcoming great Procession. This is now to be held on Saturday evening, June 18. Organised though it is by the Women's Social and Political Union, the ranks of this Procession are open to every woman who wants the vote.

It is surely their representative character which does most to make this and other women's processions remarkable. A procession of men for any political object consists of one class alone, for where men are concerned it has hitherto proved impossible to bring about any real fusion between the classes.

The Women's Social and Political Union has organised many peaceable demonstrations in the past, but none of these has aroused so ready a response amongst women as the one now in view.

June 18 will be something more than a political demonstration; it will be a festival at which we shall celebrate the sisterhood of women.

Four weeks remain before the completion of the work which will bring us success on the great day. We urge all women who understand the importance of the Procession to take an active and responsible part in the preparations for it.

Christabel Pankhurst.

BRITISH ROYAL WOMEN.

By F. E. M. Macaulay.

England was several times left in the care of Queen Matilda by her husband, William the Conqueror; and Queen Philippa, ruling for King Edward III. during his absence in France, defeated and took prisoner at Neville's Cross the invading Scottish King, Catherine Parr was made Governor of the kingdom by Henry VIII., while he was abroad on his last French war, and his trust in his wife's judgment seems to have been complete and well founded.

There is no more convincing proof of the part formerly played by British women in public affairs than the position occupied by Royal women in this country. It shows conclusively how entirely foreign to the spirit of the British Constitution is any kind of sex-disqualification, and how absurd is the contention that women are incapable of taking their share in political life.

Queens Regnant. That the mere fact of being born a woman did not prevent an individual otherwise qualified for that exalted station, from performing its highest functions, has always been maintained in the case of Queens Regnant.

The Saxons, too, had their Queens Regnant. Of one of these, Sexburga, Queen of the West Saxons (A.D. 672), William of Malmesbury observes admiringly that "there was not wanting to this woman a great spirit to discharge the duties of the kingdom.

Under the next Queen Regnant, Elizabeth, and thanks to her magnificent administrative ability and political insight, the country passed safely through great perils to one of the most splendid periods of our national history, while to-day we are enjoying the fruits of the reign of the last Queen Regnant, Victoria the Good.

From the earliest times a very important part has been played in the State by the Queens Consort. Together with Kings and Nobles they sat in the Great Councils and gave their consent to the various grants and measures given and enacted. Thus, according to Gurdon, at Wightred's Witenagemot at Berghamsted, his laws "were made with the advice and consent of his Witas, (and) signed by the King, Werburg his Queen, the Bishops, Abbots, Abbesses, and the rest of the Witas."

The signatures to the various charters of that time bear witness to the dignified activity of the Queens Consort. Edward the Confessor, the lover of Westminster, not only signs his charter to St. Peter's himself, but "Ego Editha Regina huic donationi Regie consentiens subscripsi"; and again, after the King's signature to another document, the same Royal Lady writes, "Ego Editha Regina omni alacritate mentis hoc corroboravi."

Often, too, in those troubled times when war necessitated the absence of the King, the heavy responsibility of the office of Queen Regent devolved on the Queen Consort.

The office of Queen Regent has also been worthily filled by a Queen Mother. Eleanor of Guienne was appointed by her son, Richard I., Regent of the kingdom during his absence. According to Mrs. Stopes, "to whose patient and invaluable research-work much of this article is indebted, "She sat as Judge in the Curia Regis, taking her seat on the King's Bench by right of her office."

Whether, then, as Queens Regnant, Queens Consort, or Queens Regent, our British Royal women have done splendid service for the country over which they reigned. May our present gracious Queen Mary have one additional honour—that of aiding and witnessing the emancipation of her fellow-countrywomen, the very dust of whom must hear the example, if not the voice, of their Queen calling to them, "Wake up, Englishwomen!"

W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Special Notice. As already announced in last week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, owing to the lamented death of the King, the Women's Social and Political Union have decided to postpone their great Franchise Procession and Demonstration from Saturday afternoon, May 28, to Saturday evening, June 18.

The Procession on June 18 will form up on the Embankment at 5.30 and start at 6.30. The meeting in the Albert Hall will be held at 8.30, doors open at 8. The present tickets for the meeting will hold good and need not be exchanged. Members having passed tickets on to friends are requested to inform them of the alteration in time and date.

London Meetings Resumed. After to-day (Friday), the day of the King's funeral, the regular meetings abandoned out of respect to the late King will be resumed, and others postponed for the same reason will be held. Next Sunday there will be meetings in the London parks, and on Monday (23rd), all who are interested in the movement are invited to attend a public meeting in the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, at 3 p.m.

Dates of Postponed Meetings. Among the postponed meetings is one at Cambridge (arranged by the Men's League for Women's Suffrage) to be addressed by Mrs. Pankhurst; this will take place on May 31. A meeting specially arranged to give stenographers and clerks an opportunity of hearing Mrs. Pankhurst which was to have taken place to-day will be held on June 10, at 7 p.m.

These offices are closed to-day (Friday) on account of the Royal funeral. Mr. Housman's New Book. Readers will be glad to know that Mr. Laurence Housman's book, "Articles of Faith," reviewed in this week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, is on sale at the Woman's Press, 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C., price 6d. net.

W.S.P.U. Offices, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. These offices are closed to-day (Friday) on account of the Royal funeral.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

In the absence of the Treasurer, who is spending a short holiday in Bavaria, it is exceedingly satisfactory to be able to report a considerable strengthening of the sinews of war during the past week. Self-Denial cards have rained in upon us with commendable punctuality, and in such numbers that we find it impossible to acknowledge in this column more than the result of the first three days "catch."

Often, too, in those troubled times when war necessitated the absence of the King, the heavy responsibility of the office of Queen Regent devolved on the Queen Consort.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Table listing contributions to the £100,000 fund, including names like Mrs. J. A. Aldis, Mrs. W. F. Buckley, Mrs. C. M. Dawson, etc., and amounts.

PREPARING FOR JUNE 18.

- Chief Marshal ... Miss Jessie Kenney. Chief Steward ... Miss Hambling. Procession Secretary ... Miss Olive Smith.

Irish Contingent.

Irish members in London have responded loyally to the appeal, and letters are arriving daily from women who wish to walk under the flag from Old Ireland.

Foreign Contingents.

Active work in connection with contingents from foreign countries continues, and any woman from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, Norway, France, or elsewhere, desiring to walk in the Procession, is asked to communicate with Miss Foxall.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISERS.

Civil Servants, Stenographers and Clerks. Organiser: Miss C. A. L. Marsh, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. BANNERS—Contributions to both the Civil Servants' banner and the Clerks' banner will be gladly received by the Organiser.

Civil Servants, Stenographers and Clerks. Organiser: Miss M. Cameron, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. THE DRAWING-Room Meeting arranged for to-day at 30, King's Avenue, Clapham, by kind permission of Mrs. Murrell, is postponed until June 9th at 7.30.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE COUNTRY.

Active propaganda work, suspended owing to the death of the King, will be resumed after to-day (Friday), the date of the King's funeral.

Home Counties.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT. Office—33, Paradise Street, Tel. 1413 Midland. Organiser—Miss Dorothy Evans. There will be a special Postcard Parade to-morrow (Sat.) to advertise the At Home, with all members who can take part at the office at 10.45 punctually?

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

tickets from her and are unable to use them on June 18th please communicate at once with her? Will members note that the meetings arranged for Mrs. Petibek Lawrence have been postponed. It is hoped that when the dates are fixed for these all will make a special effort to make them a success.

The Midlands.

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West of England.

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT. Office—37, Queen's Road, Clifton, Tel. 1345. Organiser—Miss Annie Kenney. Among other meetings abandoned owing to the death of the King was the open-air campaign arranged for Whitstable.

COVENTRY. Hon. Sec.—Miss Dawson, St. Peter's Vicarage. Thursday, May 26.—Polee Meadow, Miss Edith Dale, 7.30 p.m. DERBY. Organiser—Miss Brewer, 6, Lino Avenue.

LEAMINGTON. Organiser—Miss Evans, 33, Paradise Street, Birmingham. Hon. Sec.—Miss M. Bull, Ashton House.

LEICESTERSHIRE. Office—14, Bowling Green Street, Leicester. Tel. 1715 Leicester. Organiser—Miss D. Petibek, Miss D. A. Bowker. The shop will re-open and work will be restarted with double vigour next Monday, May 22nd.

Eastern Counties. IPSWICH AND DISTRICT. Organiser—Miss Grace Roe, Northgate House, All Saints' Road, Ipswich. The demand for VOTES FOR WOMEN since Miss Pankhurst's meeting is most encouraging, and although the sale in the Market Place is slow, every copy has been sold.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT. Office—28, Berry Street, Tel. 3761 Royal. Organiser—Miss R. E. Fitznam. It has been decided to postpone the business meeting until Monday, May 30, when all members are asked to meet at the office at 7 p.m.

BOLTON, BURY, AND DISTRICT. Organiser—Miss Laura Ainsworth, 1, Myrtle Street, Bolton. Work begins to-morrow (Saturday) once more in full vigour, and members are urgently needed to help in advertising Mrs. Pankhurst's meetings.

HARROGATE AND ILLKEY. Organiser—Miss Mary Phillips, 109, Valley Drive, Harrogate. Active work will begin next week, on the lines laid down in last week's "Votes for Women."

PRESTON, CHORLEY, ST. ANNE'S AND DISTRICT. Organiser—Miss Margaret Howitt, 41, Glover's Court, Preston; Ellesmere House, St. David's, Road, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea. Members and friends going to London for the Demonstration (June 18) are asked to look out for alterations of arrangements. The Junior Sale for the At Home is also being arranged.

SOUTHPORT. Office—33, Nevill Street. Organiser—Miss Dora Marsden. There will be no members' meeting to-day (Friday), but there will be an important meeting at 15, Nevill Street, on Saturday, May 28.

Scotland.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND. Shop and Office—32, Baughall Street, Tel. 615, Clarendon Cross. Organiser—Miss Barbara Wylie. Next Monday, May 23, Miss Hamann, 38, Millthorn Drive, has kindly offered a drawing-room meeting at 7.30 p.m., at which Miss Wylie will speak.

North-Western Counties. MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT. Central Office—164, Oxford Road, Manchester. Tel. 3821 Manchester City. Organisers—Miss Mary Gawthrop, Miss Rosa Robinson. The meetings to be addressed by Mrs. Pankhurst (postponed on account of the King's death) will take place on June 1 and 2.

General Offices: W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. Public meetings and general propaganda work, suspended on account of the death of the King, are being resumed after to-day (Friday), and readers are asked to refer to the Programme below for dates and other particulars.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE METROPOLIS.

By the time this issue is published the new VOTES FOR WOMEN clock will be up and visible from Oxford Street. Will volunteers send in their names or call and see Miss Ainsworth at the Shop, 156, Charing Cross Road?

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Table with 4 columns: Date (May 21-27), Meeting Name, Location, Time. Lists various London meetings including Dulwich Village, Harefield, Kew, etc.

During May the London meetings on Monday afternoons will be held in the Scala Theatre, Oxford Street, Fitzroy Square, W. Saturday, June 18th PROCESSION, Form up Westminster Embankment at 5.30 p.m., start 6.30 p.m. Demonstration, Albert Hall, 8.30 p.m.

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