

THE VOTE.
May 9 1913.
ONE PENNY.

THE LATEST INSULT TO SCOTSWOMEN.

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.

THE NEW MUZZLING ORDER.

THE RESULT.



OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"Colossal Conceit."

The House of Commons, which in no sense represents "the people," has again proved that it is quite contented with being a sham. On May 6 it rejected Mr. Dickinson's Bill for Woman Suffrage by 47. We recognise and honour the long and devoted service to our Cause of Mr. Dickinson and many of those who supported, but we note that Mr. John Redmond and fifty-four satellites, in their desire to secure freedom for Irish men, voted solidly against even a measure of freedom for Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and English women. Mr. Philip Snowden's deadly thrust at that professed Liberal, Sir Compton Rickett, supplies all that is needed in comment on the debate: "The argument about the mental inferiority of women is nothing but an example of the colossal conceit of men. We cannot argue with conceit; we can only pity it." We ask, When will the growing rebellion of Liberal women declare that hostilities have broken out against betrayal of principle?

McKenna Must Go.

The futility of Mr. McKenna's efforts as Home Secretary to stop the advance of Woman Suffrage, to attack free speech, free press, and individual liberties, even to regulating contributions, is patent to the whole world. If Britain is not to become a laughing stock of nations, McKenna must go!

Bravo Scotland!

Scottish women are determined not to take the latest insult lying down; they have been deliberately excluded from the Home Rule Bill by a majority of the Members who presented it to Parliament; yet the Bill proposes to give the Scottish Parliament the power to impose fresh taxation and legislate on all matters, except the Post Office, Customs, and Excise. This will put power into the hands of an entirely new set of male law makers, while it leaves women entirely out of count. The new Bill is hailed as a further instalment of the policy of devolution initiated in the Irish Home Rule Bill, and is another instance of the tender care of our male rulers for their own concerns, while they remain persistently blind to the existence of women as citizens. What evidence is there of demand for such legislation? What men have striven, sacrificed, and agonised for it? None. No wonder we have received the following indignant outburst from Scottish Freedom Leaguers:—

Are the women of Scotland going to submit to be taxed without their consent? Never! And we point out to the Scottish male representatives that their first duty is not to draft Home Rule Bills, but to pass Woman Suffrage, which will enable women to make their "homes" what they should be. When women as well as men have the vote, it will be time enough to consider whether the people of Scotland desire Home Rule or not.

More power to your elbow, ye Scottish women, in resisting this latest injustice!

Rowdyism a Manufactured Article.

We have had a further and very notable proof of the truth of that which we have continually asserted—namely, that there is no public feeling against the movement for Women's Suffrage; that, in fact, the rowdyism out of which so much capital has been made by our opponents is a manufactured article. Twice in Trafalgar-square recently, and at Hyde-park on May 5, the Women's Freedom League have held meetings of protest unauthorised by the police, and on all these occasions their audiences have been kindly and sympathetic. Hooliganism has only broken out on the occasions when its organisers had time to prepare for it. We maintain we are right in claiming that, at this critical moment, the real manhood of the country is with us.

To declare, as was done with regard to the Men's League meeting in Hyde-park, that the police were unable to protect an orderly meeting of 6,000 people from the attentions of one hundred rowdies is to malign the force and show that the blame must lie elsewhere.

We are amused to note that *The Daily News*—provoked to comment on the imminent danger to free speech—measures the House of Commons' sense of humour by describing Mr. McKenna's pawky jest, in answering Mr. Chancellor about being unable to provide a sympathetic audience, as one "passable" to its comprehension.

When to Abuse.

A Daniel come to judgment! On the authority of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, "When you have no case you must try what you can do with abuse." Suffragists, whose experience of abuse is long and varied, hail this confession of "no case" on the part of opponents and acclaim its wisdom. Of course, the much vaunted "cleverest journalist of the day," who thought it no shame to oppose the Dickinson Bill on May 6, was not writing of Woman Suffrage when he gave forth the dictum in *Reynolds's* this week; his great concern was for his friends of the Liberal Party, and the "campaign of slander" from which they are suffering at the hands of irate yet impotent Tories. But we remember the abuse and indignation which the brilliant journalist-politician poured forth when the question of votes for women hindered a million or two more men receiving the vote—quite unasked—and thank him for this key to its meaning.

Welcome Support.

We are compelled so frequently to protest against the prejudiced, unjust, and misleading attitude of the majority of daily and weekly newspapers with regard to Woman Suffrage, that it gives us special gratification to recognise the increasing numbers of stalwarts which deal with our question from the point of view of principle, not party. Our readers will have already noted the fearlessness of *The Nottingham Guardian* in its comments, and the extract published this week is a striking instance. *The London Budget*, a new comer among the journals of the Metropolis, has not only published important articles showing how prominent business men support woman Suffrage, but has taken a very strong stand against the hooliganism that has disgraced Suffrage meetings in the parks. Its "Open Letter to Men Only" about the abominable woman-baiting is one of the strongest and most unanswerable indictments that has ever been made. *The Daily Sketch* is also coming into line in a way that is as welcome as it is gratifying in contrast to the abuse of so many of its contemporaries, and the latest comer, *The New Statesman*, is proving both an outspoken supporter of Woman Suffrage and an incisive critic of a reactionary Government which seeks to crush by force women who are demanding justice. We do not forget such old friends as *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Christian Commonwealth*, whose recent protests against the Government's flinging of liberties while doing nothing to remove the cause of the disorder are most welcome. *The Daily News* is strong in support of free speech, and does not welcome suppressed newspapers, but we note it omitted altogether any reference to the great protest of the Men's Political Union against forcible feeding, and we can only characterise it as a lamentable lack of courage when it was urgently needed.

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OUR NEW COMPETITION.

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OUR FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH.

The fight for Free Speech has fairly begun, and the first arrests have been made. Following on Sunday evening's proceedings, members of the Women's Freedom League, justly incensed at the curt refusal of the First Commissioner of His Majesty's Office of Works to issue a permit for a platform in Hyde Park, wended their way to the Park after the reception of Mrs. Chapman Catt at Caxton Hall, and held a meeting within the railings to assert the right to freedom of expression for their views. Flung out of the Park with the greatest roughness and discourtesy, they continued the meeting outside, with the result that Miss Anna Munro and the writer were arrested and charged at Crawford-place police-station with the usual offence of "obstruction"—a vague and convenient term which covers a multitude of sins both on the part of the public and the police! The real offence was on the part of the authorities. By no conceivable right, moral or expedient, can they give the order to close Hyde Park and Trafalgar-square. By no conceivable right can they excuse themselves from responsibility with regard to the gross attacks on women by the lowest mobs that have lately disgraced the parks, and then punish the innocent instead of the real offenders. By no conceivable right can they sanction the disgraceful appeals contained in the Press to the worst elements of the "public" (which they defame), and at the same time arraign others for provocations which they themselves are making. In the early years of the twentieth century, might—the might of office—has once more overriden public right; and the result is the old one, an uprising to defend the right.

The Government has had an unexpected answer to its challenge. It threw down the gauntlet to "the public"; "the public" took it up unhesitatingly. The thronged thousands of decent men and women packed into Trafalgar-square last Sunday, in earnest defence of ancient and hard-won rights and in contemptuous denial of the accusation that it is the honest public that responds to incitements to turn out for woman-baiting in the parks, was a very different thing from what the authorities had anticipated. In vain does the reptile Press magnify—most untruthfully—the two slight incidents that led to temporary disturbance at the close of the meeting. In vain do they shriek in their distressing journalese of "wild scenes" and "police charges," and other ludicrously exaggerated nonsense. Had it not been for Inspector Wells' most ill-advised and unnecessary incursion of mounted men into the dense and slowly dispersing crowd, to the extreme danger of all concerned, there would have been no "incident" of any kind, save such as were orderly and harmonious. But this would not have served the purpose of those who represent the disgraceful hooligan element as the real public. So a row was manufactured; and we do not know how to express our feelings in regard to those perverted gifts which have managed to make so much out of so little, and who have so deliberately failed to interpret the meaning of Sunday's demonstration.

It is the intention of the Women's Freedom League to continue this fight without cessation. Each protest of our League has ended in arrests; each has given opportunity for vigorous protest in the police-courts. The elaborate apology of Mr. Paul Taylor, for his work, his sentences, his attitude generally, must be regarded

as "a hit, a palpable hit"; and we may take to ourselves the gratifying impression that we succeeded in "pricking" his complacency. It was evident, in the finding of the magistrate, that "free speech" is a serious offence, whether it be indulged in in the parks or in the dock!

C. NINA BOYLE.

BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

On Tuesday morning, Miss Boyle and Miss Munro appeared before Mr. Paul Taylor at Marylebone Police-court, where some amusing and edifying passages of arms took place. Police-constable 443D declared the roadway was not completely blocked, but was sufficiently so to cause a very serious obstruction.

After some argument, the magistrate gave in to protests by both Miss Boyle and Miss Munro against being addressed without the prefix "Miss," and carefully spoke to each as "Miss Boyle" or "Miss Munro." Miss Boyle said to the policeman: "Kindly describe the nature of the obstruction in the Park."

P.C. 630: "Obstruction of the traffic."

Miss Boyle: "What traffic?"

P.C. 630: "Motors."

Miss Munro: "No vehicles came near where we were on account of the very wide swerve of the road. Is it not a fact that no vehicles came even near the crowd, either outside or inside Hyde Park? Did you see any vehicle even slow down on account of the crowd assembled?"

P.C. 630: "I did."

Miss Munro: "That is an absolute lie."

Miss Boyle asked P.C. 454A: "Why were we interfered with when we were inside the park, since the charge against us is one of obstructing the highway outside the park?" The answer was that they were in the wrong part of the park for holding meetings. Miss Boyle then pointed out that on Sunday morning a lady was not allowed to use a platform in the usual place for meetings.

P.C. 454A: "I was not on duty on Sunday morning."

Miss Boyle: "Who receives these instructions concerning meetings in the park? Why does one person receive one kind of treatment and another person receive another kind of treatment, and thus cause needless confusion and difficulty?"

P.C. 454A: "That depends upon the crowd."

Miss Boyle: "Why did you not tell us that we could hold a meeting on the gravel?"

P.C. 454A: "I did."

Miss Boyle: "It is no good asking questions of a witness like that."

Miss Boyle thanked the sergeant 37D for the civility shown at Crawford-place Police-station, and then said: "We have a perfect right to hold meetings in Hyde Park, and no attempt to interfere with that right ought ever to have been made. Therefore we are the offended persons and the police the offending persons. The only right of the police was to tell us we could not hold meetings in that particular spot, and then to point out where we could hold them. We held our meeting there because we had been interfered with when holding them in the ordinary place."

Dealing with the police-court officials and the administration of the law as carried out by them, she continued: "You gentlemen are totally incapable of administering justice with decency and fairness without the help of women. I saw six, was it five or six—I want to be strictly accurate—women brought here this morning, before a court of men, before all this array of brute force—"

The magistrate here intervened with some remarks about his great experience of the lives of these poor men and women, and Miss Boyle went on: "It is the fault of the social conditions, and you gentlemen are content to take salaries to keep this state of things going, and you think that because you are paid by the Government, that makes it respectable, but in our eyes that makes it totally impossible." Defending the right of free speech, Miss Boyle said: "The moment we come out again we shall do it again."

Magistrate: "You could not make it more plain, Miss Boyle."

Miss Boyle: "I always endeavour to make myself perfectly plain. Everyone who has been in this court this morning has said they are sorry. I am not. I am glad and proud that I have

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the opportunity to defy the law, the administration and the administrators of the law in this court."

Miss Munro: "We wanted to hold an ordinary meeting in Hyde Park on Monday evening, but permission had been refused; had we been allowed to hold our meeting, with the van which affords a certain amount of protection from the youthful hooligans who show their attentions to the women, neither of us would be here. We are here because free speech has been forbidden in Hyde Park."

Miss Sidley was called to witness that there was no real obstruction outside Hyde Park when Miss Boyle and Miss Munro were arrested.

The magistrate then explained again that he had intended no discourtesy to either defendant in omitting the prefix to their names.

Miss Boyle: "We accept your apology."

Magistrate: "Not an apology, merely an explanation to show that no apology was called for. . . . It is perfectly true that this is not a serious case, but whether it ought to be treated as a trivial case is quite another matter." He described Miss Boyle and Miss Munro as "Very enthusiastic advocates of Women's Suffrage."

Miss Boyle: "Hear, hear."

Magistrate: "That may be a very good thing or it may be a very bad thing. It is a matter I have nothing whatever to do with."

Miss Boyle: "Oh!"

Magistrate: "Miss Boyle suggested that the unfortunate women who have been here this morning have been severely treated by me—"

Miss Boyle: "No, no, sir."

Magistrate: "Well, that I am representing a system that ought to be reformed or abolished."

Miss Boyle: "Hear, hear."

Here the magistrate went over the list of the women who had been before him, reading out the sentences passed, showing that he entirely failed to grasp the meaning of Miss Boyle's protest.

Miss Boyle: "It's the utter futility of these courts."

The magistrate proceeded to encourage the police in their belief that they were all-powerful, saying, "The police are the proper persons to say whether there is obstruction or not. . . . Free speech is one of our most precious rights."

Miss Boyle: "Hear, hear."

Magistrate: "But it must be exercised with due regard to the rights of other persons."

Miss Boyle: "Hear, hear."

The Magistrate then proceeded to point out that these defendants were not as other defendants; they were in an altogether different station of life. Therefore their offence was more serious than it would be if it had been committed by an ordinary person, and he sentenced them each to pay a fine of 20s., or undergo fourteen days' imprisonment in the second division.

Dr. Knight, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pierotti, and Miss Underwood, who had taken luggage to Holloway for Miss Boyle and Miss Munro, waited for the arrival of Black Maria, and cheered loudly as it passed beyond the gates.

Official Prohibition of all Suffrage Meetings in Hyde Park.

The following letter was received by the Freedom League from Mr. H. G. Hoppood of the Office of Works, on May 3:—

"In reply to your letter of the 29th ult., I am directed by the First Commissioner of his Majesty's Works, &c., to inform you that, in view of the representation that has been made to the Board by the Commissioner of Police, they are unable to issue, for the present, any permits to organisers of meetings in favour of Woman Suffrage to use vans or platforms in Hyde Park."

Press Comments.

"Our own view is that the meetings in Hyde Park, so long as the speakers refrained from urging their hearers to commit crime, were not unlawful assemblies. The dictum of the Home Secretary cannot make them so; nor can the apathy of the police. But even if they were, and the women who took part in them were the worst of criminals, they had still a right to personal protection. Similarly, at Nottingham, the police cannot, by simply announcing that they will not do their duty of protecting life and property from violence, contract out of their responsibility for the consequences that ensue. The whole

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business exhibits, on the best construction, a sorry confusion of ideas. If the women concerned in these cases are doing wrong, then they should be placed under arrest. If they are only exercising a legal right, then it is the duty of the police to protect them in its exercise. In either case they have a right to protection against personal violence. The police neither arrest them nor protect them in the exercise of their rights, and they refuse the personal protection which is the right of the worst criminal. For Suffragists substitute the adherents of any cause which at any time or place is or ever will be unpopular, and we begin to form a true conception of the danger to constitutional liberty which threatens, not this or that section, but all of us alike. For there is no Englishman worthy of the name who does not at some time or other in his life hold opinions which are thoroughly unpopular."—*The Manchester Guardian*.

If the figures are even approximately correct, it is clear that such "protection" is derisory, and that the failure of the police cannot be exonerated by a jest. Because certain aspects of the Suffrage movement have been made unpopular, or have even been put outside the law, that does not in the least impair the absolute rights of its supporters to advocate their cause in the manner the law permits, and they are entitled to call on the executive for real, and not illusory, protection in so doing. In its absence there are very few causes advocacy of which could not at one time or another be made impossible by a hundred vocalists, and very few Liberal causes in regard to which the hundred would not be forthcoming.—*The Daily News*.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE, LIMITED. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOT TRUSTED.

The Actresses' Franchise League held a splendid meeting in Drury-lane Theatre, lent for the occasion by kind permission of Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Mr. Arthur Collins, on May 2. Lady Willoughby de Broke presided, and moved the following resolution: "That this meeting, believing that the removal of the political disabilities of the women of the country is the most urgently needed of all reforms, strongly condemns the manner in which the Government has dealt with this great question. It calls upon the Prime Minister to remove his personal veto, and to fulfil his pledge (made to the Actresses' Franchise and other Suffrage Leagues on November 17, 1911, and subsequently confirmed by him in writing) in the only possible way, by bringing in a Government Measure, by which alone the present deplorable state of disorder can be prevented, and the women of the country enfranchised."

She said that it is the right of English women to choose their rulers. If politics is merely a game between the ins and the outs, then the sooner women break up the game the better.

Miss Gertrude Elliott, in seconding the resolution, said it was often remarked that women were not wanted in the political world because they are dabblers; then neither do they want dabbling lawyers or doctors! Why should actresses want the vote, when their pay and position is as good to-day as that of actors? Because, so long as other women suffered from sex disabilities actresses suffered too.

Mrs. Chapman Catt congratulated the women suffragists on their inevitable victory. In the long run, the world is just. The more Governments wriggle the more ridiculous they become. She had been in London three days, and attended various women's meetings, and found that the constitutional party seemed very militant, and the militants very constitutional. There is no safety valve to unrest like a vote. In America two and a-half million women have the vote, and a woman is eligible as President of the United States.

Miss Compton made an amusing speech. When asked why she wanted the vote, she said because she had a share in the British Empire, Limited. Whether it was a gamble or an investment she did not know, but she was not satisfied with the Board of Directors, and her hands were tied.

She imagined how Shakespeare's heroines would have smiled in disdain if their equality with men had been questioned. Orlando wrestled physically with Charles and overthrew him—then he wrestled verbally with Rosalind and got the worst of it. Beatrice took Benedicet in hand and the result was equally satisfactory to the distaff division. Portia not only proved that she could take up the law, but she also showed that she knew how to lay it down. Volumnia taught her son the true meaning of patriotism and saved Rome, and if anybody had hinted to Lady Macbeth that she was not the equal of her husband in courage, purpose, and brain power, there would have been trouble in Dunsinane long before the fifth act.

Other speakers were Mme. Lydia Yavorska, Mrs. Arnelife Sennett, Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, who had a great reception.

Special interest was aroused in the idea of "The Women's Theatre," which, it is hoped, may grow out of the week's experiment in October, when the Actresses' Franchise League has leased the Court Theatre, Sloane-square, and will give *La Femme Seule*, by Brieux, and *A Gaminlet*, by Björnsen.

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.—convinces me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

POLITICAL NEWS.

"Not Ten Shillings, but Sixpence."

Mr. Philip Snowden's article, pointing out the clear duty of the Labour Party in Parliament to vote against the Plural Voting Bill, occupies the first place in the *Englishwoman* for May. He states that had the defunct Franchise Bill, which included a better proposal to abolish plural voting than that now before the House, gone to a third reading, "a considerable majority of the party would have voted against the Bill at that stage. . . . Let it be quite clear that by the resolution of the Labour Conference, if the Franchise Bill of last Session had been introduced again this year, including plural voting, the Labour Party would have been under instructions to oppose it unless Woman Suffrage had been added to it." Mr. Snowden puts the present situation in the following graphic way: "Three months ago the Labour Party were prepared to oppose plural voting, manhood suffrage and registration reform in the interests of Woman Suffrage. Now the Government say, 'We will not give you manhood suffrage nor registration reform, but we will give you a modified Plural Voting Bill, and this will enable us to avoid our pledge to deal with Woman Suffrage.' Surely there can be only one answer to that appeal. Last Session the Labour Party, in effect, were going to say to the Government, 'You offer us ten shillings; we will not have the ten shillings unless you pay the full pound you owe us.' Now the Government offer, not ten shillings, but sixpence; and for the Labour Party to support the Plural Voting Bill is to say, in effect, 'We wouldn't have the ten shillings you offered us before, but we are willing now to take this sixpence as the discharge of the debt of one pound you owe us.' . . . Woman Suffrage members can consistently and logically take up the attitude that they will oppose any interference with the franchise and registration laws unless the Woman Suffrage question is dealt with at the same time. Such an attitude in this case is strongly fortified by the discreditable circumstances connected with the substitution of this Plural Voting Bill for party advantage in place of a wide measure of electoral reform which gave the House of Commons the opportunity to impose upon the Government the duty of seeing that the enfranchisement of women was carried into law within the lifetime of the present Parliament."

Mean and Paltry Human Beings.

The Nottingham Guardian, which fearlessly champions the Woman Suffrage Cause, wrote on May 1, with regard to the "Dickinson" debate, thus:—

On Monday the House of Commons will once more consider the question of women's suffrage, but we suppose it is useless to make any appeal to the reason and common sense of that assembly. There is not a single member of it who does not know that the franchise will have to be extended to women. There may be delay. There may be serious trouble for years. But the end is certain. The conscience of the people is realising more and more that, now that women have to earn their own living and bear all the responsibilities of the State in common with men, they will have to be given an influence in making the laws under which they have to work and live. There is not an intelligent person in the whole country, also, who does not know that women are placed under considerable disabilities by the lack of political influence, and that they are, therefore, subjected to great injustice. These things do not admit of argument. They are known to everyone, and this being the case, the folly of refusing a vote to women simply because there is a fear that the balance of parties may be a little upset, must be clear. It is a real scandal that the matter has remained where it is so long, and that the sole reason is the mean and ignoble one of party interest. There is no more mean and paltry human being in the whole world than the unscrupulous partisan, and it is the unscrupulous partisan that has caused all the difficulty over woman suffrage.

The Party System a Veritable Curse.

The Christian Commonwealth is no less outspoken. It says:— Viewed from another planet, or by the eye of the future historian, the spectacle now presented must seem at once ludicrous and tragic. The amazing thing is that no attempt is being made by those whose business it is to conduct the affairs of the country to deal in a statesmanlike way with a movement that has been growing in volume for half a century, or to meet an insistent demand that a fundamental wrong shall be righted. A majority of our legislators and two-thirds of the Cabinet have declared that women ought to be enfranchised, yet they make no attempt to give votes to women. The Government are doing absolutely nothing to redeem their broken pledges. Mr. Dickinson's Bill for enfranchising women householders and the wives of householders cannot become law, because it is not a Government measure. Apparently the 670 members of the House of Commons are content to stand idly by and let things drift. Parliament can be very prompt and active in passing laws which would be unnecessary if a crying grievance were removed, but seem to be quite impotent to initiate and carry through legislation that would go to the root of the matter. The party system may have its advantages, but in this matter it has proved to be not only a broken reed, but a veritable curse. With a few exceptions, Liberals and Labour men alike appear to be content to register the decisions of the party managers. Meantime, the sorry tale of outrages, arrests, imprisonments, forcible feeding, release, espionage, and rearrest

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lengthens, and the precious right of free speech is denied. . . . Something must be done. Oh, for a man of the stature of Bright or Gladstone, Parnell or Bradlaugh, who would make this great cause his own, stake his career upon it, and carry it to victory!

THE STORY.

British Infant: Tell me a story, Uncle McKenna.
U. Mc. (sleepily): Well, sit down and keep quiet. There was once a cat—
British Infant: How nice! Do go on, uncle!
U. Mc.: And she caught a mouse—
British Infant: Oh!
U. Mc.: She mauled it awhile, then let it go—
British Infant: But why?
U. Mc.: Oh—er—just to gain time, you know So she caught it again—
British Infant: And mauled it again?
U. Mc.: Yes. Then she let it go. So she caught it again and mauled it again. And then—
British Infant: Let it go?
U. Mc.: Exactly. And after a while she caught it again—
British Infant: But didn't it die?
U. Mc.: Not yet. Well, she mauled it again.
British Infant: Again? Well, I don't see much fun in that.
U. Mc.: Oh—well—it wasn't exactly fun, you see.
British Infant (hotly): Then, what was it?
U. Mc.: Don't interrupt. So, she let it go. Then

British Infant: Then what, uncle?
U. Mc.: Well, then she mauled it again, you know. And after, she let it go. Then she mauled—
British Infant (outraged): But that's not a story. It's stupid!
U. Mc. (slowly): That's what everyone said.
A. L. LITTLE.

WELCOME TO MRS. CHAPMAN CATT. "I RECOMMEND 'THE RECALL' FOR PRIME MINISTERS."

The opportunities we have to welcome Mrs. Chapman Catt are all too few, so it is not surprising that the Caxton Hall was crowded to its utmost limits and was fringed



MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

by friends compelled to stand, when the President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance accepted the invitation of the Women's Freedom League to an "At Home" on May 5. A social half hour gave many friends the opportunity of a brief talk with Mrs. Catt, and when, after welcoming words from Mrs. Despard, our American guest rose to address all who had assembled to do her honour, she was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. Her speech was keenly enjoyed both for its humour and its earnestness, and although she professed to be unable to understand the unwritten British constitution, she had certainly grasped its important features clearly enough to be able to contrast it with the written constitution of the United States, which school children have to learn, and which is found in every library for reference.

Mrs. Catt referred to "the little incident" in the history of the two peoples when a British Government could not see that taxation without representation was tyranny, and recalling her surprise to hear Englishwomen protesting to-day that taxation without representation was tyranny, said she wondered whether old-time George III. and George Washington, looking down from somewhere, were not discussing the situation. She imagined George III. saying: "What, are all those lunatics and fanatics still talking about the same old question?" And George Washington replying, "Yes, and they are going to win as we did." She went on to observe that the lesson of history is still lost on men, for the British Government goes on taxing without giving representation, and so do those who made the revolution on the other side of the Atlantic more than a century ago. Mrs. Catt said that Great Britain was a military nation, and thought in terms of army and navy; United States citizens had no fear of invasion, being protected by two oceans. Both nations were supposed to believe in the science of self-government, but in neither was the machinery of government very democratic. An American could not understand how the whole question of Woman Suffrage in Great Britain automatically devolves upon the attitude of one man; a Briton could not understand how a democracy in the United States could tolerate the continuance of a Vice Trust. She explained that the vast vote in the States, given to men of all nations who entered the open door, did not always work honestly or progressively, but in spite of defects, American citizens believed in the educative power of the vote. It had, however, worked against Woman Suffrage; the more ignorant a man was, the more he was convinced that women had not knowledge enough to vote; the more criminal he was, the more he was convinced that women were not good enough to vote. "We are fighting out this battle," said Mrs. Catt, and she went on to show how the alliance of the liquor traffic, saloons, white slavery, and the social evil had resulted in a gigantic Vice Trust, which has power in every State and Legislature; buying votes at elections or in legislative assemblies. It has thrown down the gauntlet now, and taken credit for defeating Woman Suffrage in Ohio and Michigan. With this great Vice Trust in the person of the brewers, Anti-Suffrage women had established a partnership by their appeal for protection against "the calamity of voting."



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We have recovered or saved Large Sums for
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A bye-product of the Woman Suffrage movement on both sides of the Atlantic, she added, was the revealing of the weak spots in the democratic system and the determination to secure a better machine of government.

Describing the legislative machinery in the United States, she said that it required thirty-four States to petition Congress in order to get a Constitutional Convention which could change that sacred thing, the Constitution. She spoke of the Initiative and Referendum as worked in certain States, but particularly recommended the Recall. She showed how by a certain percentage of votes, citizens could demand the recall of city members, of judges, or of other officials who were thus judged to have failed in their duty, and in this system women's votes carry great influence. (A case in point is given in our International Column.—Ed.) "I recommend the Recall for Prime Ministers!" said Mrs. Catt, amid loud applause. Although American men legislated women's grievances out of existence as soon as they understood them, the fight for the vote as the badge of citizenship was by no means easy. "We have to get rid of the oldest and hardest prejudice in all history; your fight is against one man, ours against a majority of men; yours is a battle; ours an evolution, but we aim at the enfranchisement of the women of the whole world. When that great reform is won, posterity will wonder at our history as we wonder at the history of the Dark Ages.

Miss Boyle, in a brief speech, thanked Mrs. Chapman Catt for her inspiring address, and congratulated the International Alliance that she was likely to remain its President. She referred, as Mrs. Despard had done, to the orderliness of the great Free Speech demonstration in Trafalgar-square last Sunday, and protested against the contemptible, unworthy, and ridiculous accounts given in the Press.

THE LATEST INSULT TO SCOTSWOMEN.

Indignant Resolution.

Last week we reported in our Political News that Scottish women, who were included as electors (on "Dickinson" lines) in the draft of the Scottish Home Rule Bill were excluded in the Bill as finally presented. At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League at Dundee on May 3, great indignation was expressed by the delegates at the omission of women as part of the electorate in the proposed Scottish Home Rule Bill and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That this meeting of women Suffragists, delegates from all parts of Scotland, vehemently protests against the Scottish Home Rule Bill being introduced into Parliament without the inclusion of women as part of the electorate, seeing that this Bill grants to the Scots Parliament supreme power over Scottish affairs and power to levy taxes, and thus intensifies the bitterness of the feeling of injustice under which taxpaying women at the present moment suffer.

And further, that since the Liberal party, in proposing to set up this new Parliament, continues to repudiate the basis of the Constitution and its own watchword of taxation with representation, this meeting of delegates resolves to do all in its power to prevent the passing of such a Bill which perpetuates to the taxpaying women of Scotland the gross injustice of taxation without representation.

The resolution has been sent to all the important Scottish papers, to Mr. McKinnon Wood, Secretary for Scotland; to the Chief Liberal Whip, and to the Prime Minister.

The Bill proposes to establish a Scots Parliament which "shall have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of Scotland" within certain limitations, such as the Crown, Army, Navy, treaties, postal service, customs, excise, coinage, religion. It is to consist of 140 members, returned by the existing Parliamentary constituencies, except the Universities, each to have two members, except Dundee, which is to have four. (Is it a compliment to the intelligence of Dundee, which has chosen the First Lord of the Admiralty as its representative?)

Plural voting is to be preserved, for each elector is to have two votes, except in Dundee, where the plurality of votes is to be four!

There is to be one session every year and a life of five years. The Parliament is to have exclusive powers with respect to taxation within certain limitations as to customs, death duties, income tax, &c.

The executive power will continue vested in his Majesty the King, who will be represented in Scotland by a Lord High Commissioner. The administration will be carried on by the Lord High Commissioner, advised by an Executive Committee of a Scottish Privy Council. Provision is made for the payment by the Imperial Exchequer to the Scottish Exchequer, out of the proceeds of Scottish taxes, of an annual sum towards defraying the cost of Scottish services. A joint Exchequer Board is established to determine all questions arising under the financial provisions.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is substituted for the House of Lords as the final court of appeal, and all constitutional questions will be determined by that tribunal.

WHAT THE LION SAID.

Mrs. Despard: "Was there any real obstruction?"

Witness: "Only that you refused to leave the plinth when I asked you. You took hold of the lion."

We wonder if the illustrious lady took hold of the lion's head, or of his tail, or, maybe, did she tweak his ears?

And, wakened from his slumbers 'mid the coming and the going of London's millions, did she hear him protest?

"Honoured lady! I who guard the Agora of this great city, where its citizens have been wont to assemble and to voice their denunciations of tyranny and their condemnation of the futilities of elected persons, not as a stranger do I greet you here. Many has been the occasion on which I have listened to your silvery eloquence, as you have pleaded the cause of the poor and oppressed, of the unemployed and down-trodden, of the alien and the stranger, of the victims of tyranny in lands beyond the sea.

"Born of the sympathy engendered by our frequent propinquity, does not there exist between us a secret understanding, acknowledged by you when you so unceremoniously seized upon my unresponsive form, from which you were still more unceremoniously dislodged by the manly representative of law and order?"

"Far be it from me to presume upon that secret sympathy. Crouching at the base of the monument to Britain's national hero, do I not guard the very citadel of her freedom? But while I crouch, you stand erect, facing not only Thersites, with his blustering stupidity, but facing often the brutality of a crowd which had no parallel in the days of ancient Greece.

"If, gracious lady, I know you well, do I not also know Thersites and his followers? Do I not know the hooligan, the London *apache*, the medical student, the Covent-garden porter, the paid gangs, to whom society having denied a clean job, are ever ready for a dirty one? Were they not here in 1886, when the President of the Local Government Board and his friends (he has another set of friends now) thought that the battle for free speech had been fought and won for all time? Were they not here when you fought against the crushing of the gallant little nation who were struggling for their freedom in South Africa? Against stupidity the very gods fight unvictorious, and, like the poor, the stupid are ever with us. Nature is all too careful of a type which does not need preserving, and the efforts of Nature are seconded by the unselective processes of the present disorganisation of society.

"Lady, I know that I am not as you, erect and vital and alert, not only *standing* for your principles, but *moving* for them. Yet, crouching and passive as is my attitude, do I not represent that British lion, lethargic, it may be, but watchful? The fervour of your elation tones appeals to the courage of your followers. 'Be up and doing! Quit you like women!' is your summons. If my response is less clamant, it is equally insistent. Though to you, and to such as you, the reminder is not needed, surely my sphinx-like form recalls the watchword ever to be remembered by the rank and file, as well as by the leaders of all armies:—

"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.

"This is my message.

"And I watch. A woman's form passes me on her way to the Temple of National Art. She bears a bulky bag apparently containing a football. By Nelson! it is a bomb! The electrons of my being are in a condition of vibration, not to say effervescence. She drops the bag. Its contents are hurled upon the pavement. Saved this time! It is a cauliflower.

"Virginia passes with her school-satchel. She is carrying two horrid-looking implements with hard heads, and stops to drop a missive into the post-box. Is it vitriol? I ask myself. My stony throat emits a sound of mingled alarm and execration. I think, after all, it was only a letter to her school chum, but she really gave me a fright. The spirit of Nelson reminds me that the women of his time did not walk about London carrying Indian clubs. I shall advise my prototype to close all the girls' schools

and women's colleges. They do not develop the kind of women he admires.

"I listen to snatches of the conversations of your friends as well as of your enemies. A woman looks scornfully at me—at *me*, the representative of the British lion. She notices that there are four of us and she says that one would be enough. She would like to change the other three respectively into a bull(y), a donkey and an elephant. Women need chastening. They lack that humility which has always been their crowning attribute.

"They are taking you and your comrades to the Temple of Honour. You go with the exultation of happy warriors. You have broken John Bull's laws, but was it of you that it was said:

One decree
Spake laws to *them*, and said that by the soul
Only the nations shall be great and free.

"The crowds have gone and I am alone. The organ which, in my sanguine moments, I call my brain does not function very efficiently, and I feel confused. Sometimes I wonder . . . I scarcely like to entertain the thought . . . but is it the women who are the real John Bulls of to-day—with the courage, defiance, and dogged determination of the British lion? Is it not the women who are the true patriots, who are willing to sacrifice liberty, health, and even life itself to bring justice and freedom to the disinherited?

"Perish the thought! The entrance of such women into our national life would be a mistake of a most disastrous character. The nation has no use for them. Send them to Holloway.

"I look up to my tutelary hero. 'England expects every woman to do her duty.' There is a kindly twinkle in his eye. Perhaps he is thinking of the day when he turned its blind fellow to the orders of those who considered themselves his superiors. 'Imitation,' he says, 'is the sincerest form of flattery.' Methinks he understands you better than they understand you down there under the gilded clock by the river. There were things in life about which he also could feel intensely.

"I cannot bring myself to say farewell. With or without the vote you will return. Again and again I shall hear the voices of you and of your friends, denouncing injustice and claiming that right shall be done though the heavens fall.

"Au revoir! Au revoir! Madam, had I a hat, I would raise it to our next merry meeting."

E. M. N. C.

RELEASES FROM HOLLOWAY.

The following letter to the Press disposes of the report that on April 25 Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle and Mrs. Wood "refused to leave" Holloway Prison:—

1, Robert-street, Adelphi, April 28.

SIR,—May I ask you to correct a statement published in your issue of the 26th to the effect that when Mrs. Despard and her two comrades were released from Holloway they "refused to leave, and had an argument with the prison doctor and the Governor before being obliged to take their departure." It is difficult to understand how such absurd stories get into circulation.

The ladies—of whom I was one—never dreamt of "refusing to leave." If other people choose to pay up £10 on our behalf to the Government, or if the Government chooses to pretend it has been paid and lets us off without any punishment at all, that is no affair of ours. Neither our money nor that of our League has gone to the Government; and we would be as silly as some people think us if we were not ready to take advantage of other people's interfering—impertinent though it is—to get back to our work!

The "argument" with the Governor was on account of his refusing to exercise his power under "Rule 243a," and throwing Mrs. Despard back on a "petition to the Home Secretary" for permission to see her secretary and arrange for the regulation of her multifarious public and philanthropic duties. It is "only the public" which will suffer by the neglect of these, not Mrs. Despard herself! She had resolved to hunger-strike on hearing his decision; and we should, as in honour bound, have done the same, but were set free some two hours later.—

Faithfully yours,
C. NINA BOYLE,
Head of Political and Militant Department,
Women's Freedom League.

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Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, May 9, 1913.

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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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INFERNO—UP-TO-DATE.

A story was told once by a great soldier of some of his experiences in the Egyptian war when our troops were crossing the desert. The Arabs, he said, never seemed to sleep, and they had a nasty trick of getting as near the British camp as possible and potting at it in the dark. That the soldiers didn't like, and he described, with a humorous smile, how the cavalry men would hide their heads in their saddles as if no other parts of their bodies were vulnerable. Outside the next morning, mounted, in the open air, with the knowledge that enemies were on every side of them and that they had to do or die, perhaps to combine the two, there was no timorousness.

That is a fairly apt illustration of certain moments in great social and political campaigns: such a moment as that with which the women of the country are faced to-day is one of them. The enemy, taking advantage of the darkness, has been potting at us. We have not liked his tactics, though possibly some of us have not fully understood them. Suddenly breaks in the light of day and we not only understand, we see. Not a sign of hesitancy now. Deep consciousness of a common danger fills us with courage and resource.

This is how the case stands.

The Government have denied to women, whom they dare to call free, the right of free speech; but this latest edict does not stand alone. For some time past most of our legislation has been tending the same way. Restriction and again restriction until the ruling powers can have peace!

Concerning women, it is due to the aliveness of our movement that worse has not happened. We have been legislated for in our homes; efforts have been made to pass a Bill for the feeble-minded which will make possible the detention of women and girls whom the men may like to class as undesirables. Over and over again during the past few years we have heard of attempts to regulate women in their industry. They say the object is to protect us; we know it is because we are becoming dangerous rivals to men in their trades. But men workers are also threatened. Presently, if they do not wake up, they will find that any sort of control over the labour of their hands has passed away from them. They will be drilled like convicts to their daily task.

There rises before us a picture of this up-to-date Inferno. Ruskin painted it in one of his masterpieces in satire—the low valley, with its many chimneys; hordes of men and women, all good and obedient, respectful and industrious, neither drinking nor smoking nor indulging in free speech, coming and going between the workshops and their little ugly villages, hope within them dead and only fear alive. Up above them the great House with its lawns and terraces, and benign,

if despotic, inhabitants keeping them in their proper places.

By the by, Ruskin was not quite up to date, for now the big House no longer overlooks the valley. Its inhabitants have drifted to London for the season, some of them being Members of Parliament; out of the season to Monte Carlo and Paris and Vienna, to the Scotch Highlands, and the English lakes, where in peace they may spend the money which these grimy, obedient persons are making for them.

Naturally, the governing classes do not like all this to be known. Truth in the hands of common folk is a dangerous sort of explosive. Dressed in white and given mock wings, it should be shut up in a cage, for the common herd to look at and admire. That is how the words of One who *did* speak the truth were treated. Himself, for His audacity, they set on high as a malefactor to be scorned by the people. His words, seeing that it was impossible to stifle them, were shut up in creeds and hardened into dogmas, and given over to the subtle and learned for such interpretation as the lower orders, who, in the days of His flesh, had heard Him gladly, might be able to receive with safety to society. And so to-day we have aristocratic bishops preaching a gospel of submission to unholy and inhuman life-conditions. We have other of our teachers exalting property and crying down agitation, and praising war and trying to shut the mouths of the people; and, alas! too many are still contented that it shall be so.

As we look on and listen there are times when a dull despair seizes us. They have the cleverness, they have the power, and they have engineered well. "It is useless to struggle," said an Anti-Suffragist woman the other day, in the course of a debate; "men have the two things necessary to government—power and wealth. Women must submit."

Women and men also—men the workers: for of the great mass of them the same may be said. They have no money. Physical power they may possess; but that, in our day, is useless without organisation.

Inferno, then, for the many: Paradise for the few; is that to be the eternal order of things? A thousand times no! While the thoughts of the seers, the sages, and the world-saviours are alive, to despair of the future would be impious and criminal.

Thought in its very nature is subversive. The despotic rulers of Italy knew that when they imprisoned a young man called Joseph Mazzini, telling his father that though he didn't speak much, he thought.

Thought, like fire-lit gunpowder, when the heaven-sent impetus comes, must break out. Conceived in the darkness and silence, passed on from one to another with—aye, our masters!—or without the agency of publicly-spoken words, it travels on its irresistible way, "flake after flake in heaven-defying minds," until, by its potency, the old landmarks are swept away, and the new world, so long a dream, becomes a Reality.

If we look back upon the history of nations we shall find that where speech is repressed the leaping out of indignation becomes dangerous. Had the French nation in 1789 possessed a free Press and a free platform, while there must have been a Revolution it would have taken a different course. The Indian Mutiny might never have come to pass if Hindus and Mohammedans had been allowed freely to state their grievances. In Russia, by hideous cruelty, the revolutionary movement has been driven underground; but the Czar and his advisers know perfectly well that they are living on a powder mine which may explode at any moment.

Something of the same kind will take place in Great Britain, if our rulers go on with their present policy. Flesh and blood can endure up to a certain point, but no further; and now the cry of misery is going forth. From the terrible underworld where women, forced to deny their womanhood, sell their honour for bread; from factories, dockyards and workshops; from underground offices where young women and men, shu-

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

How Woman Suffrage Stands in the U.S.A.

In view of the splendid progress made in the United States, and the hope that the Congress will adopt an equal suffrage amendment to the Constitution which can then in due course, and by appropriate machinery, be enforced on the various non-suffrage States in the Union, it is important that the present position should be understood. It is clearly set out by *The Woman's Journal* just to hand as follows:—

FREE STATES.			
Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Alaska.			
STATES WHERE AMENDMENT IS NOW BEFORE VOTERS.			
	House.	Senate.	Goes to Voters.
Montana	75-2	15-2	1914
Nevada	49-3	19-3	1914
North Dakota .. .	—	—	1914
South Dakota .. .	70-30	41-2	1914
STATES WHERE AMENDMENT HAS PASSED ONE LEGISLATURE AND MUST PASS ANOTHER.			
Iowa	81-26	31-15	1916
New Jersey .. .	46-5	14-5	1914
New York .. .	125-5	40-2	1915
Pennsylvania .. .	131-70	26-22	1915

FAVOURABLE BUT NOT FINAL ACTION.

Wisconsin, passed in Senate, 17-15

Women's Power in "The Recall": A Judge Removed from Office.

The women of San Francisco pitted their strength against the corrupt interests of the city on April 22 and won. Judge Weller has been recalled. It has been clearly shown that flagrant cases affecting women will no longer be considered less important than those affecting property. Judge Charles L. Weller is the man who lowered the bail of a prisoner charged with criminal assault upon a girl. He thus made it possible for the man to escape. The campaign has been a warm one. By a margin of 815 votes Judge Weller has been removed from office.

Victory in Pennsylvania Senate.

Equal suffrage in Pennsylvania won a victory on April 22, when the State Senate passed the Suffrage amendment by a vote of 26 to 22. The lower House had already favoured it overwhelmingly, 131 to 70. The amendment will come again before the Legislature in 1915, and will then go to the voters. Pennsylvania thus enters the group of campaign States for 1915.

The debate preceding the vote was long and exciting, the Senate chamber being crowded by interested men and women from all parts of the State.

The opponents of Suffrage, when they found the House hopeless, made a bitter fight in the Senate, and twice tried to force a vote with several Suffrage Senators absent. Each time the day was saved by Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds.

Great Suffrage Pictession in New York.

Women Suffragists took virtual possession of New York by drawing most of the residents to witness a monster parade through the main streets on May 3. It was similar to the Washington pageant, but on a more extended scale. Thirty thousand women, all clad in white, took part in the procession, thirty-five bands, squadrons of horsewomen with countless flags and banners and transparencies marched in black phalanxes. Three thousand men who had the courage of their convictions joined in the parade. The rendezvous was Washington-square. In a temperature of over 80, they marched up Fifth-avenue to the plaza, where four mass meetings were held. Orders were given to the paraders to show that they were participating in a grim demonstration, so that no man could avoid remarking the earnestness with which women claimed the vote. Miss Inez Milholland, the grand marshal of the parade, gave the order, "If your friends won't march, cut them dead. Eyes to the front. No talking or laughing. Keep step. Head erect and shoulders back! Remember you are marching for principle."

Theodore Roosevelt: Suffragist.

Mr. Roosevelt was present at a great Suffragist demonstration at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on May 2, and delivered his maiden speech for the women's cause. The ex-President, in a rousing speech, said because a few women had done foolish and wicked things there was no reason why women's votes should be condemned. Female franchise, in fact, would mean less power for the forces of the under-world which preyed upon society. He strongly supported the resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass the joint motion now before it, giving the franchise to women.

Equal Suffrage Proposed in Norway.

The Constitution Committee of the Storting has unanimously agreed to propose a new Electoral Law giving the Suffrage to women on the same conditions as men. This measure will augment the number of voters by 225,000. The measure will certainly meet with the approval of the Radical majority in the Storting. Norwegian women have since 1907 possessed a general Municipal and a limited political Suffrage. A Socialist member of the Committee proposes that the age at which the Suffrage may be obtained shall be reduced from twenty-five to twenty-one.

out from sunlight, work daily at uncongenial tasks; from sweaters' dens, from workhouses and prisons that cry is ringing out. Even the politician cannot escape from its urgency.

What is his answer? Denial of the ancient liberty of free speech to women. Other despotic acts will follow; but they will be futile. We have signs already of a vigorous uprising. In spite of the prohibition of the police, excellent meetings in favour of Women's Suffrage have been held in Hyde Park; while the demonstration in Trafalgar Square in defence of free speech on Sunday last was felt by many who were present to exceed in numbers and enthusiasm any that have ever been held there before.

The police had difficulties with the crowd, and, on the old charge of obstructing the police, some men appeared at Bow-street on Monday, and were punished by fines or imprisonment. Inspector Wells called up his mounted men and charged the crowds; but so great were the multitudes that it took him a full hour to clear the Square.

"The episode," says *The Daily Citizen*, "left behind an ugly taste." We might put it even more strongly. When men and women, angrily conscious of rights denied and ancient liberties threatened, meet together in their multitudes to protest against authority, disorder is in the air.

But, we earnestly hope and believe, it is a disorder that will have in it the element of hope. No ignoble peace, no heaven-protected Inferno for the many and Paradise for the few will the men and women workers of this great nation accept. Trafalgar Square on Sunday gives notable evidence of the fact that their eyes are open.

C. DESPARD.

FREEDOM THE IRREPRESSIBLE.

A Poem in Sonnet-Stanza.

[Scotland Yard has taken the first step towards the complete suppression of the militant Suffragette movement.—*Daily News and Leader*.]

I.
Bind them and bend and break; be multiplied
The burdens of their bondage; bring them low
With manifold oppressions! Even so
Nero in Rome, Pharaoh in Egypt cried.
So everywhere the seed fell, far and wide,
Sown by the martyrs' blood; and that great blow
Dealt with God's thundered "LET MY PEOPLE GO"
So wrought that none at last the word denied.
Enrich the stores, enlarge the boundaries
Of Freedom's empire, ye who would destroy!
Such life invincible is Liberty's,
That whoso would annul it or annoy
Is but as he who bars with sand the seas:
Ever her pain is mother of her joy.

II.
Lies the Red Sea before us, and behind
Chariots of Egypt, danger either way
And threatening doom? Fear we, as well we may
If fighting but with arms of humankind?
Invulnerable the armour of the mind
And of the soul! no lightest shaft can stray
When Truth has fledged and flown it; ever and aye
Truth fights for those free hearts which none can bind.
For Freedom's cause is Heaven's; allied is she
With powers unconquerable, and conquering still
Whate'er would war with them: behold and see
How all things work her good that meant her ill!
Even now our faith foretells the Sundered sea,
And the plain path, that leads us to our will!

III.
Be ours a bloodless battle; or still pure
Of blood, of anguish other than our own.
Let it be said that we, if we alone,
Fighting the fight that freedom shall secure,
Paid our own selves its price, obtained the cure
At our own cost for ills wherewith they groan.
Who ever, in dark underworlds unknown
To happier hearts, a nameless Woe endure,
Surely an end so high asks means to match!
Be Right our care; only the right stands fast,
Stands at the goal, in the end, too proud to snatch
Or soil the prize she fought for: won at last
With never, on Honour's front, a stain or scratch,
And nought to shame her Future in her Past.

S. GERTRUDE FORD.

**OUR NEW COMPETITION.
ANSWERS TO ANTIS.**

We offer each week a PRIZE FOR THE BEST ANSWER to Anti-Suffrage objections. The winning answer will be published in THE VOTE.

This week's objection is: **Women Cannot Fight.**

The answer is limited to sixty words; it may be grave or gay.

RULES.

1. The competition is open to all our readers.
 2. Each answer must be accompanied by the coupon below, and give the name and address of the sender.
 3. Answers, written on one side only of the paper, must be addressed to the Editor, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., the envelope marked *Prize Competition*, and must reach the VOTE Office on Monday, May 26, 1913. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient if the flap of the envelope is tucked inside.
 4. Competitors may send as many answers as they like, provided each is accompanied by a coupon.
- The prize this week is a 2s. box of chocolate.

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Near MAPLE'S.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

The interest of our Caxton Hall "Wednesday" on April 30 lay in the industrial conditions under which women work and the value of the vote in their improvement. Dr. Clark said that the rise in prices of recent years had not been accompanied by a rise in wages. There were five millions of women workers who were not only paid less than men, but were terribly sweated. He gave figures showing the increase of woman's labour in textile and non-textile trades; in 1907 there were employed in the textile trade 272,503 more women than men. In the last triennial return of non-textile workers it was shown that women had increased by 13,243. According to the Board of Trade returns on earnings, 67 per cent. earned less than 15s. a week; 20 per cent. less than 10s., and all were over 18 years of age. He maintained that the industrial aspect of the woman's movement was vitally important, and that she must be in a position to protect her economic interests. Wages, he insisted, would be more and more determined by political action; hence the necessity of the woman's vote.

Miss Munro, speaking on "The Woman of To-day," said that people considered it was perfectly natural for men to struggle for better conditions and to bring about change, yet they thought women should submit themselves to circumstance. The women who were striving to-day were voicing the needs of thousands who had neither the means nor the education to speak for themselves.

Miss Boyle said the Freedom League were meant to try whether the cat and not the mouse could not be caught by Mr. McKenna's trap.

**OUR TREASURY.
NATIONAL FUND.**

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)
Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously acknowledged	473 17 9½	Miss G. Ballam (Lenten self-denial)	0 5 0
Mrs. K. Thomson	50 0 0	Mrs. C. Bryant	0 5 0
Miss Constance E. Maud	15 0 0	Miss A. M. Clark (Lenten self-denial)	0 5 0
"To Help the Women"	10 0 0	Miss Beatrice Gilbert	0 5 0
"A Man Sympathiser"	5 0 0	Miss Gill	0 5 0
Mrs. H. F. Brown	5 0 0	Mrs. E. Langridge	0 5 0
Captain Carey, R.N.	5 0 0	Miss Read	0 5 0
Mrs. Walter Carey	5 0 0	Mrs. M. Salmon	0 5 0
Mrs. Despard	5 0 0	The Misses G. and M. Sprentall	0 5 0
"Freedom Leaguer"	5 0 0	Mrs. Wood	0 5 0
Dr. Knight	5 0 0	Mrs. Dalrymple	0 3 6
Mrs. Napier	5 0 0	"A Friend"	0 2 6
Miss Eunice Murray	3 0 0	Miss Bisset Smith	0 2 6
Lady Blomfield	2 2 0	Mrs. Antonia Moser	0 2 6
Mrs. Schofield Coates	2 0 0	Miss Anna Munro	0 2 6
Mrs. Fisher	1 11 3	Mrs. Pasoli	0 2 6
Miss Husband	1 3 0	Miss E. G. Wood	0 2 6
Mrs. Baillie Weaver	1 1 0	Miss Jervis-Waldy	0 2 0
Mrs. R. A. Brown	1 1 0	Mrs. Felix Jones (Lenten self-denial)	0 1 0
"P."	1 1 0	The Honble. Mrs. Forbes	0 1 0
H. F. L. Fry, Esq.	1 1 0	Mrs. F. Gumble	0 1 0
Miss F. A. Howard	1 1 0	Miss B. Hooke	0 1 0
Miss Symons	1 1 0	Miss L. Matun	0 1 0
Miss S.G. Barnett	1 0 0	Miss Poole (Lenten self-denial)	0 1 0
Mrs. Cobden-Sander-son	1 0 0	Mrs. Sewell	0 1 0
Miss F. Corbett	1 0 0	Mrs. Violet Tempest	0 1 0
Mrs. Duncan	1 0 0	Tickets	6 4 6
Mrs. Fulton	1 0 0	Collections	11 3 5½
Mrs. Jacob-Larkeon	1 0 0	Office Sales	0 0 3
Miss B. Kent	1 0 0	Branches—	
Miss Louie Linck	1 0 0	Letchworth	0 10 0
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	1 0 0	Capitation Fees—	
Mrs. Thomas	1 0 0	Bournemouth	0 1 6
Mrs. Tippett	0 14 0	Stamford Hill	0 15 0
Miss M. I. Saunders	0 12 6	"Anon."	0 10 0
"Anon."	0 10 0	Miss M. Campbell	0 10 0
Miss M. Campbell	0 10 0	Mrs. S. Bancroft Clark	0 10 0
Mrs. S. Bancroft Clark	0 10 0	Mrs. Sutcliffe	0 10 0
Mrs. Sutcliffe	0 10 0	Mrs. Turner	0 10 0
Mrs. Turner	0 10 0	Mrs. E. Zangwill	0 10 0
Mrs. E. Zangwill	0 10 0	Mrs. Huntsman	0 7 6
Mrs. Huntsman	0 7 6		
			£642 7 3

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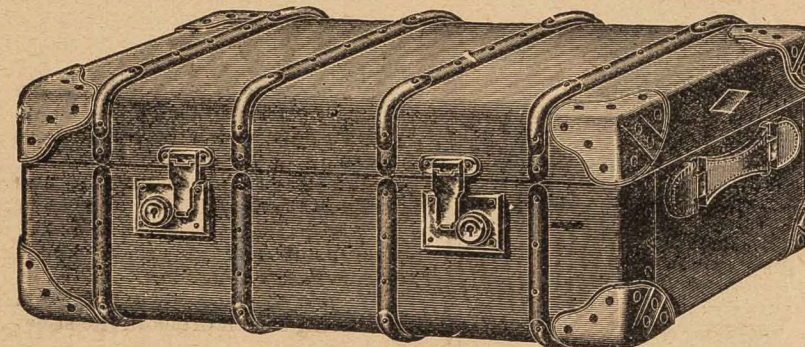
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81, 82, 83, 84, LEADENHALL ST., LONDON, E.C.

A GLIMPSE.

All day she had lived in the whirl of the Fair, had swung with the highest on the boat swings, had climbed the lighthouse with her mat and shot down the slippery track with the rest, had tried her hand successfully at the hoop-la tables and the coconut shies, had been thrown about on the heaving cake-walk. Now it was growing late; the flaring lights glared through the darkness and the dust-choked air.

Through the gaps between the hoardings of the shows she caught glimpses of the quiet heath. A sudden desire seized her to get away from the confusion of the noisy crowd and be alone. She slipped through to the back of the shows; it was much quieter there. The old moon looked down on the multitude, and on the girl alone, with a patient, serious expression on her face.

The backs of the shows wore a very different aspect from their other side. Some caravans with one or two sleepy children lounging on the steps were drawn up there, and a little dog chained up was yelping piteously. She went to him and patted his head, feeling a strange sympathy for the lonely animal. He licked her hand gratefully.

She wandered on away over the grass, and climbing a little hillock sat there looking down on the scene below. There was a strange noise coming up—the noise of a crowd; it mingled with the strains of music from the roundabout in the Vale, and seemed to become one with the glaring lamps and the dust-filled air.

She sat there, not because of any realised need for the quiet touch of Nature, but because the sensation was a new one and she enjoyed it. In all her nineteen years she had not wanted to be alone; she had been to the Fair on the Heath every Bank Holiday since she could remember anything at all. Her parents and their parents before them had been satisfied with the vulgar delights of the shows. They had lived their sordid lives more or less content with their surroundings, and no one had ever heard, or hearing, had never thought to answer, the quiet call of the grass and the trees. She

did not know that she was answering that call now. She only felt there was a peace there that she had never known in the noise of the Fair, and a dawning desire fell upon her to be good and pure.

"Ullo! me Donah!" said a coarse voice in her ear; "thought yer was gwine to give me the slip, did yer? But I wasn't havin' any! Wat yer sittin' there for lookin' so bloomin' pious?"

In an instant the spell was broken and the vision blotted out. She got up, and the man put his arm round her and ran her down the hill to the noisy, tired crowd.

The chains of the prison-house bind her fast. Will she ever go free?
ELLEN BURR.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL'S APPEAL.

Much work is waiting to be done in Scotland. We want without delay two organisers for the W.F.L. Who will help? We ask for financial assistance from all who are interested in the political emancipation of women. Scottish people have always loved freedom; in the past they have suffered and fought for it. Once more we hear the cry of liberty; once again we are given the opportunity to fight another battle in the name of liberty. Do your share! Send a contribution to our Glasgow or Edinburgh Suffrage Shops, and you will feel you have had some share in winning freedom for the women of to-day and the women of future ages. We wish every Scottish town and village this year to echo and re-echo with cries of "Votes for Women." We propose to hold East and West Coast Summer Campaigns, and, in addition, to have the Suffrage caravan touring in Scotland in June and July. All this requires money. Please help. A considerable sum has already been promised for this object, and we hope to insert in next week's VOTE the first list of contributors. Contributions may be sent to the W.F.L. Suffrage Shops, 33, Forrest-road, Edinburgh, and 70, St. George's-road, Glasgow.

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MS 16.

Fine Black Pedal Straw, trimmed with pastel blue ostrich feather, and small posy of mixed flowers.

2 1/2 gns.

May we send you our new Catalogue of "Spring and Summer Fashions"? It is full of interesting suggestions for the coming season.



WILLIAM OWEN, LD.

MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

PROTEST AGAINST FORCIBLE FEEDING.

We of the Women's Suffrage movement must, all of us, heartily congratulate the Men's Political Union on the pluck and spirit of adventure which prompted them to take the large Kingsway Hall for a meeting of protest against the barbarous treatment meted out to Mr. Hugh Franklin. Early on April 28, the day before the meeting, he was released on licence, having been forcibly fed on 114 occasions.

Mr. Nevinson, the chairman, after a characteristically strong and straightforward speech, read a letter from Mr. Franklin, which was received with tremendous applause.

Mr. Zangwill moved the resolution. We know what to expect from this noble and clever champion of the Woman's Cause, but he even excelled himself on this occasion. There was—as has ever been the case—a note of deep seriousness, relieved at intervals by flashes of wit and humour that made the audience rock with laughter. One of his illustrations I must give, because of its curious aptness to the present extraordinary situation.

He told the story of a Dutchman visiting England and seeing a man drunk in the streets. One might say that this was no uncommon sight. That, however, which struck the Dutchman was that the man should be alone. "What extraordinary people these English are," he said; "they can get drunk by themselves."

Mr. Zangwill asserts that this spirit of independence is passing away. The men of our country, or a large number of them, are collectively drunk. He asks, in the name of male independence, for a sober man.

He was followed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The chairman, in his wisdom, asked her to plead for funds, and the result was a pouring in of promises, which, when totalled up, came to no less than £80.

One speech—and, to my mind, the most noteworthy of the evening—followed. It was by Mr. John Scurr, of the Dockers' Union. In its quietness, its power, and its practical good sense it held the audience spell-bound. Over and over again they burst out into applause; and when he threw out his challenge, offered on behalf of himself and his mates, to act as special constables on Sunday afternoons in Hyde Park, and called upon the men in the audience not to allow the dockers to act alone, but to throw themselves into this practical piece of service, the effect was electric.

I do not in the least doubt that the result of this fine and successful protest will be a severe check, if not a total defeat to organised hooliganism. Paid bullies are always cowards.

C. DESPARD.

The *Christian Commonwealth*, in a comment on the passage of the "Cat and Mouse" Bill, adopts the description of it as "diabolical torture," and says:—"It is almost incredible that in the twentieth century Parliament should give powers to a Home Secretary to enable him to arrest, release, and rearrest political prisoners, and at the same time to subject them to the indignity and cruelty of forcible feeding until their spirit is broken or their cause is won at the cost of their long martyrdom."

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on May 5, when plans for future work were discussed and Branch representatives gave reports of the last month's work. Among various activities of the London Branches, Harrow's latest enterprise deserves special mention. A shop has been taken for one year, and is open every day from 11 till 6—in spite of the Shops Act. The first two weeks have proved it a great success in every way—even financially.

As it was found impossible to get a hall for date previously decided, it has been arranged that the Jumble Sale shall be held on the first Saturday in June. Contributions may be sent to Mrs. Huntsman, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, or to Miss Mitchell, "Merok," Great North-road, Highgate, N.

TOWER HAMLETS BY-ELECTION: RESULT.

Sir S. M. Samuel (L.)	..	..	..	1,722
Captain Monteagle Brown (C.)	..	..	..	1,556
Liberal majority	..	..	..	166

THE MIDDLESBROUGH CAMPAIGN.

The incitement of the Press to hooliganism is having its desired effect. Middlesbrough, which for years has listened to Suffrage speeches with a sweet reasonableness, has broken its fair record.

On Friday last, at an open-air meeting, presided over by Mr. Meredith Atkinson, B.A., Mrs. Tanner gave a splendid address and received a good hearing. It was only at the close of the meeting that the hooligan force, which had been gathering in strength, gave evidence of its presence and its high standard of intelligence, by entertaining us with music-hall choruses.

When she descended from the lorry, Mrs. Tanner was escorted by a huge crowd, but, with the assistance of some of the police and our male supporters, she and the local members boarded a car in safety amid loud, though to some extent hostile, cheering. It was with great surprise that we read the sensational headlines of the local papers the next day, which announced "Ragging and Rag-Time—Women's Suffrage Meeting broken up at Middlesbrough," and said that the *moment* Mrs. Tanner commenced to speak the crowd began to sing the latest rag-time melodies. This is only one more instance of the gross exaggeration of the Press in their search for the sensational.

On Saturday afternoon another meeting was held. Miss L. Mahony chaired, and though about half-a-dozen inconsequent youths made a deal good of noise, Mrs. Tanner succeeded in holding the interest of a large crowd.

A most satisfactory meeting was held on Saturday evening at which Mr. Charles Coates presided. There was a huge crowd, and they gave Mrs. Tanner a very attentive hearing. Many who had come in a spirit of hostility were won over to our side by her eloquent address. THE VOTE sellers had a busy time on the outskirts of the crowd.

The most enjoyable meeting, however, was the one held in Stockton market-place on Sunday afternoon. The Branch members met at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough, at 2.30 and went on the car to Stockton. There we were met by members of the I.L.P., and one of them, Mr. Vipond, introduced Mrs. Tanner and proved himself a very able chairman. At this meeting we were received in a most friendly spirit, and Mrs. Tanner held the close attention of a large crowd during a splendid speech of nearly an hour's duration. Questions were asked and a good collection was taken. There was a big demand for VOTES, and even after we had taken our places on top of the car, where we displayed our VOTES over the side, there were several demands for copies, and those which we threw over-board amongst the crowd were very eagerly claimed.

More VOTES were sold to people on the car, and we all came away from Stockton in the very highest spirits at the splendid reception that had been given us.

Our best thanks are due to all the members who have turned out to the meetings, and who, by helping to sell VOTES, &c., have contributed very largely to the success of these meetings.

We are looking forward to the "At Home" on Monday night, and the Debate on Tuesday as a pleasing relaxation after the more strenuous out-of-door work.

IPSWICH INTERESTED.

Ipswich was thoroughly interested on Thursday, May 1, when Miss Andrews and Miss Boyle addressed a meeting in the Co-operative Hall. Mrs. Tippett, who presided, explained the constitution and policy of the Women's Freedom League and made an earnest appeal for support. Miss Andrews showed that the working men of Great Britain are fast coming to realise that Votes for Women will be beneficial to themselves, since women are forced to become blacklegs in the industrial world. The worst enemies to the cause are politicians, whose method of repression is utterly opposed to their professed Liberal principles. Miss Boyle's speech was inspiring. Her acceptance and extension of the time-worn "Woman's place is the home" gave it a new lease of life, evoking great applause, and making a deep impression on a number of "antis" present. "Those who came to scoff remained to pray." Question-time was distinctly amusing, and the laugh was turned against the opposers of Woman Suffrage. Mrs. Hossack proposed, and Mr. Hutley (W.F.L. Associate) seconded, the vote of thanks to Mrs. Tippett and the speakers; it was carried with enthusiasm. New members are joining the League; all sympathisers are urged to show their sympathy in the most practical manner, i.e., membership and work.

A Shop Exhibition at 22, Queen-street, will be held during Whit-week, of specimens of the many and varied articles to be obtained from the Minerva Publishing Company. Members and friends will deem it a duty to visit the shop, bringing others with them, and make a point of buying nothing elsewhere that can be obtained at the Suffrage Shop. Gifts of any kind for sale will be most welcome, and volunteers are needed to devote a few hours during the week to the business of selling.

A HOLIDAY SUGGESTION.

Will all members and friends who intend spending a holiday in Kent please note that we hope to run a holiday campaign in the vicinity of Tankerton and Herne Bay during July and August, and that we shall be glad of all the help we can get? Names of those who will speak, take the chair, sell literature, or help in any way will be gladly welcomed by Miss Gibson, at 1, Robert-street. Besides being good propaganda, a campaign such as this is a very satisfying way of spending a holiday.

THE INDIGNATION MEETING.

The announcement of the indignation meeting brought a large audience to the Caxton Hall on Friday evening, May 2, to hear "What we think of the Government and the administration of the Law." Mrs. Huntsman took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Wood and Miss Munro. Miss Boyle, referring to the Government's latest move against the W.S.P.U., said that it was acting on Russian methods in a way which was a disgrace to the name of Britain. In a defiant speech she denounced the Liberal Government as a Government of curs, cads and cowards, who broke their pledges to women, identified themselves with repression, tortured women demanding justice, supported hooliganism, and feared to put their principles into practice to give justice to women. She was ready, she declared, to repeat these statements in the Law Courts and in Holloway. Mrs. Despard gave a moving account of the experiences in Trafalgar-square, at Bow-street and in Holloway, and said that there had been a Church Triumphant there was a Church Militant. She called for new members of the Women's Freedom League, which was militant, not simply because it loved militancy, but because it was determined to secure better conditions. The militancy of the League had always a logical motive of protest against some definite wrong; it did not sanction damage to persons or to property. The easy path, she said, always leads downwards; but there was joy in sacrifice in the struggle upwards. Mrs. Wood, in a telling speech, which was heard with deepest interest, said that generations to come would look back on the twentieth century as a barbarous period which gave no thought to the care of the future generation and tortured women demanding the badge of citizenship. Without that badge there was a stigma upon women; sex should be no barrier to any work or responsibility; when all chances and channels were open men and women would fall into their proper places as human beings according to their ability. She considered that the appalling number of child abductions and the terrible conditions in industry called desperately for the help of women in social and political life. Mrs. Wood made a strong appeal for financial help, and was rewarded by a good response.

The meeting gave hearty support to Mr. J. Y. Kennedy and Mr. Laurence Housman when they said that, resenting the words of Mr. Bodkin at Bow-street curtailing individual liberty by dictating as to where contributions might not be sent, they had immediately forwarded contributions to the W.S.P.U., and informed Mr. Bodkin of the fact.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Subject: "Education and Citizenship." Highbury Corner. Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.

Fri., May 16.—"At Home," at 9, Titchfield-terrace, Northgate, Regent's Park, N.W., by kind invitation of Mrs. Carey. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Afternoon.

Sun., May 18.—KINGSTON'S PARK, Open-air Meeting, noon. Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Mustard. BROCKWELL PARK, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. H. J. Bostock and Miss Underwood.

Tues., May 20.—CORNER ST. LUKE'S-ROAD, High-street, Clapham, 8 p.m. CORNER BLACKBURN-ROAD, West-End-lane, Hampstead. Open-air Meeting, evening.

Wed., May 21.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mr. G. E. O'Dell on "The Character of Ann Whitefield in 'Man and Superman.'" "

Thurs., May 22.—CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," 3.15 p.m. Sat., May 24.—"At Home," 140, Highbury-hill. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Sun., May 25.—BROCKWELL PARK, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Andrews. Wed., May 28.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m.

Fri., May 30.—Meeting at WALLINGTON, afternoon. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. P. M. Webber.

PROVINCES.

Fri., May 9.—Hanley. Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m. Tues., May 13 to Sat., May 17.—Ipswich. Shop Exhibition at 22, Queen-street.

Thurs., May 15.—Ipswich. BRANCH Meeting, 22, Queen-street, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 28.—Helsby. "At Home," 3 p.m. Hostesses: Mrs. Grosland Taylor and Mrs. R. Howroyd. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, Rev. C. Hinscliff, and Miss Anna Munro.

SCOTLAND.

Wed., May 14.—Edinburgh. Open-air, Kings' Stables-road, 8 p.m.

Sat., May 17.—Edinburgh. Jumble Sale, Arthur-street Hall, Pleasance, 3 p.m.

Fri., May 23.—Edinburgh. "Hard-Up" Social, Cathedral Hall, Albany-street. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Dramatic sketches, dancing. Tickets, 1s.

Sat., May 24.—Paisley. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Mon., May 26.—Dundee. West Forester's Hall. "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Women Teachers' Franchise Union.

The Union held a large meeting at the Essex Hall on April 28. The President, Miss Agnes Dawson, took the chair and gave a report of the Union's activities at Weston-super-Mare during the N.U.T. Conference at Easter. Miss Margaret McMillan, in a stirring speech, said she dare not condemn militancy; a few women were in the front of the battle, fighting for all and counting life no longer precious. They were being tortured by forcible feeding in a way which was even more dangerous to reason than to life. What could we do to stop this? It was useless to apply to the Cabinet or the Church. She appealed to her audience on behalf of spiritual militancy, reminding them that thoughts are as powerful as words and deeds—not that spiritual militancy implies a condemnation of physical militancy; further asking that women teachers should use all their influence for the down-trodden women and children of England, and urged them to strenuous work for Women's Suffrage.

National Federation of Women Teachers.

At a meeting of the Reading Branch on May 2 an inspiring address was given by Miss Agnes Dawson, President of the Women Teachers' Franchise Union. She urged the importance of women combining to press their points of view on educational questions in the various teachers' associations. The great defects in our educational system, such as huge classes, the half-timer who slept in afternoon school after his morning's toil in the factory, and the uneducable mental defective at large in our streets, would not exist, she said, if women had taken a responsible part in the framing of past Bills. She further pointed out the necessity of the vote for people whose lives were controlled, as women teachers are, by a House of Commons responsible to men voters only.—IRENE D. POULTER, B.Sc.

IMPORTANT.—The Women's Freedom League Office will be closed on Whit Monday, May 12.

All readers are reminded of the next Caxton Hall "Wednesday" on May 21, at which we shall have the pleasure of hearing Mr. G. E. O'Dell on "The Character of Ann Whitefield in 'Man and Superman.'" Miss Boyle will also speak. These attractions will ensure a good attendance.

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.O.1 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.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade.

During May, June and July the "At Homes" will be held fortnightly instead of weekly. On May 8 the first Cake and Candy Sale will be held. Mrs. Abbott has kindly undertaken to manage this, and the proceeds are to be given to a "Protest Fund," which the Branch has started. Mrs. Morrison arranged a drawing-room meeting at her house on May 6, at which Dr. Weston kindly spoke. Several drawing-room meetings are being arranged. We thank Mrs. Sanders and Miss R. Sanders for promising to sell THE VOTE at a pitch in the town at least once a week. More VOTE sellers are needed. Will every member please contribute to a Summer Sale of blouses, pinafores, under-garments, &c.? Needleworkers should begin at once.

Kensington.

Members are asked to remember the meeting on Tuesday, May 13, at 8.30 p.m., at the Suffrage Club, when our President will speak on the connection between sweated labour and immorality; the chair will be taken by Miss Nina Boyle. Every member of the Branch will, of course, make a point of attending, and a hearty welcome is extended to all Freedom Leaguers on that evening.

West Hampstead.

The Branch has held a series of "Suffrage Talks" to working women on every Wednesday evening in April, which has resulted in an increase in membership. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Watson and Miss B. Smith, who kindly spoke at the meetings. At the meetings, where no other speaker could be obtained, Mme. van Raalte filled the gap. Miss L. Kelly, a new member of the Branch, will hold a meeting at her house, 12, Holtham-road, Abbey-road, on Wednesday, May 7, at 8.15 p.m., at which Mme. van Raalte will speak. We have arranged open-air meetings for Tuesday evenings in May at 8.15 p.m., at the corner of Blackburn-road, West-End-lane (close by West Hampstead Station, Met. Ry.). Mrs. Watson will be the speaker on May 6, and Miss Read on May 13.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

The meeting held at Aintree Institute, on Thursday, April 29, was very well attended. The chairman, Miss Appleton (secretary of the Bootle Branch of the C.L.W.S.), dealt with the spiritual aspect of the movement, and maintained that its spirit was identical with that of religion, which meant a seeking after the best. Miss Guinan, in a very witty speech, drew some amusing sketches of the various types of Antis, and opened a discussion upon the best answers to their various objections. A resolution expressing gratitude to and admiration for Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Mrs. Wood was unanimously adopted.

Brighton and Hove.

A very successful meeting was held at the Hove Town Hall, when Mrs. Despard delivered her lecture on "Prometheus Unbound." The room was crowded, and all were grateful to the lecturer for her

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Best Household...	25/6	Large Kitchen	22/6
Special House	25/-	Stove Coal	21/6
Best Nuts	24/6	Anthracite Nuts... 40/-	

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inspiring thoughts and eloquent exposition. Will some member with leisure offer to call and collect various subscriptions which are due? Manchester.—Office, 46A, Market-street.

Our good friend and member, Mrs. Baxter, was the first to arrange a "house-meeting" in response to Miss Neal's offer, and new ground was broken at Blackley on April 29. Miss Neal met a number of ladies, and gave an address on "Why We Want the Vote." Much interest was shown, many questions asked, and a most interesting discussion followed. The influence of our "Anti" friends—who recently held a public meeting in the district—was shown clearly by the trend of the questions some of which proved the deep indignation felt by women at the aspersions cast upon their intelligence and morals. Mrs. Baxter has promised to arrange another meeting soon after the Whit-tide holiday, and we hope to follow this with a public meeting to refute statements by the Antis. At Wednesday's Branch meeting the sewing for the sale was continued. The effort will be completed by the time these notes are in print, and we can only hope it will be as successful as the energy shown by the workers merits.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

The annual Business Meeting of the Branch was held on May 1, Miss Husband presiding. The account from Headquarters of the arrest of Mrs. Despard, Miss C. Nina Boyle, and Mrs. Julia Wood, with their subsequent release and mysterious payment of fines, was much enjoyed by the members. The various officials gave their reports for the year, and were heartily thanked for their loyal services. It was decided to send 25 to the London Head Office for militant work. Mrs. Despard's meeting is to take the form of an "At Home," to be held in the West Forester's Hall on Monday, May 26, and it is hoped there will be a big muster of members and friends to welcome our beloved leader.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road.

The Jumble Sale has been postponed to May 17, and will be held in Arthur-street Hall, Pleasance, at 3 p.m. Helpers are wanted there on Friday evening, May 16, and on Saturday afternoon. Goods of all kinds will be collected on receipt of a postcard, and many more parcels are needed to make the Sale a success. The "Hard-Up" Social is to take place in the Cathedral Hall, Albany-street, on the evening of Friday, May 23. As Mrs. Despard is to speak, and the dramatic entertainment is in the hands of Mrs. Bankhead, the Misses Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, an interesting evening is assured. Tickets, 1s. each, are now ready. We hope to open our new premises at 90, Lothian-road with a Cake and Apron Sale early in June.

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

THE WOMEN'S POLITICAL DEBATING SOCIETY.

The next meeting will be at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Thursday, May 15, at 7.45 p.m., when Miss Julia Madams will speak on "Education and Citizenship." We hope to see members and friends present in good numbers. Admission free.

THE W.S.P.U. OFFICES RAIDED.

The head office of the Women's Social and Political Union, Lincoln's Inn House, Kingsway, was raided by the police on May 1. Headed by Superintendent Quinn, who held a search warrant and warrants for the arrest of the leaders of the Union not in custody, sixty plain-clothes and uniformed officers marched from Scotland Yard, took possession of the offices and their contents, carried out six arrests, turned out the staff after taking their names and addresses, seized the proof-sheets and type of the forthcoming number of *The Suffragette*, hauled down the Union's ensign from the flagstaff on the top of the building, and closed the offices, which were left in charge of a constable.

The leaders arrested were Mrs. Drummond (organiser), Mrs. Sanders (treasurer), Miss Kerr (acting secretary), Miss Barrett (assistant-editor of *The Suffragette*), Miss Lennox (sub-editor of *The Suffragette*), and Miss Lake (business manager of the Woman's Press). After the arrests a minute search was carried out, and a large quantity of written and printed matter impounded.

Later the accused women were brought up at Bow-street on a charge of conspiracy to contravene the Malicious Damage Act of 1861. Mr. Bodkin, for the prosecution, announced the determination of the Government to prosecute any person making a speech inciting to criminal acts, any person printing or publishing W.S.P.U. literature, any person subscribing to the Union funds. Only formal evidence was given. On the application of the prosecution the six defendants were remanded, without bail, in order to allow of preparation of the case against them by examination of the documents and papers.

On May 2 three additional prisoners, who had been arrested after the raiding of the offices, were brought with the others before the magistrate at Bow-street; they were: Miss Annie Kenney, an organiser; Mr. Edwy Godwin Clayton, a scientific chemist and author, of Kew-road, Richmond; and Mr. Sydney Granville Drew, of Victoria House, Tudor-street, E.C., manager and secretary of the company which printed the last issue of *The Suffragette*. After the hearing on May 5 bail was granted to Miss Barrett, Miss Lake, and Miss Lennox, but refused to the other W.S.P.U. members, who threatened to hunger-strike. Mr. Drew was bound over on recognisances and sureties on undertaking to take no part in further printing or publishing "inciting" matter for the Union.

THINGS WE SHOULD LIKE TO SEE ILLUSTRATED: Mr. Asquith being forcibly fed with his own words—*Globe*.

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