

# The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.

## The News of the Week.

### The Campaign in Support of the Bill.

To us at present there is one piece of work of overwhelming importance. It is to show, in conjunction with all the other Women's Suffrage Societies, that we welcome the effort made by the Conciliation Committee towards compromise, and that we heartily desire the safe passage of the Representation of the People Bill. In our other columns will be found details of the various ways in which the National Union is pressing for facilities. It is a matter of common knowledge that the only real obstacle is the existence of a very small number of enemies to our cause within the Government; we except Mr Asquith, because he has already, by his pronouncement to the Liberal Members two years ago, given evidence of his willingness to leave this question to the free vote of the House; with this exception our enemies are not men of serious national importance, and it is unthinkable that a Liberal Cabinet should allow them to stand in the way of the settlement of a question which has become a menace to public order and public business. To allow this would be to admit that as long as certain reactionary individuals live, justice to women must be delayed. This is, we say, unthinkable, and the course for us to press upon the Government is that they should agree to give a fair field and no favour to women, and let the reactionaries "get on or get out."

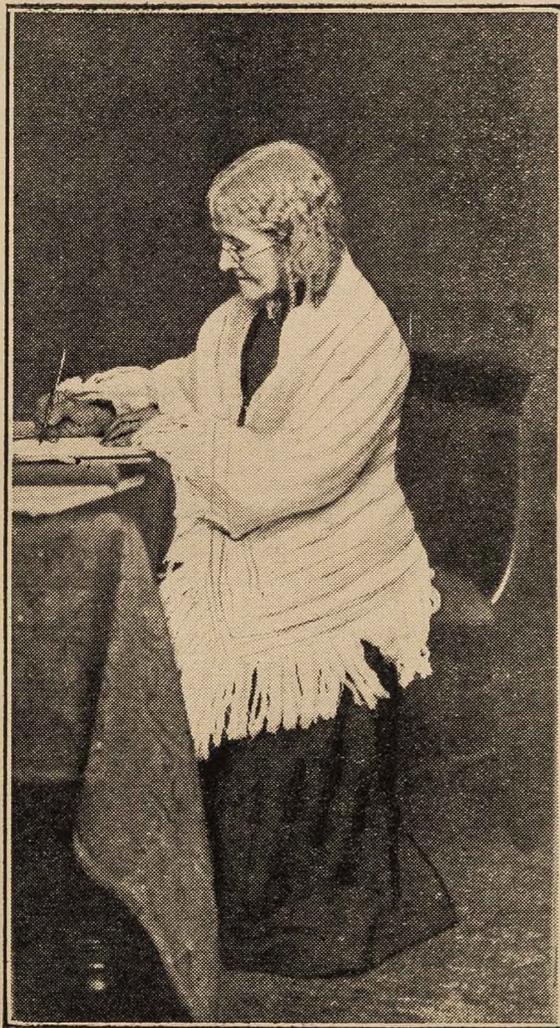


Photo., Schmidt, Manchester.  
MRS. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY.

### Oxford Delegacy for Women Students.

We are glad to note the defeat of the preposterous amendment made by the Rector of Exeter and the Warden of Keble, that women should only be represented on an "Advisory Committee" instead of directly on the Delegacy which is to have control of women students at Oxford. Professor Geldart, in opposing the

amendment, said that the proposal of the statute that women should be actual members of the Delegacy seemed to him one that was of enormous importance to the successful and fair working of the statute, which had been accepted by Congregation by a very large majority. Under the statute one of the functions of the Delegacy was that all new societies for the teaching of

women were only to be recognised on the recommendation of the Delegacy by vote of Convocation. It was only reasonable that women, themselves engaged in education, should have some direct voice in a question of that sort. Again, the Delegacy had to confirm the regulations, subject to Convocation, as to the examination which should admit women to University examinations. That was a question which went vitally into the whole matter as to what was the proper curriculum for women's education. Then the Delegacy was not only going to keep a register, but was going to have the power to remove names from that register, and that surely was a function which could hardly be entrusted to be exercised by a body consisting of men alone. This Delegacy differed from all, certainly from the great majority of other delegacies in the University, in that not a penny that was going to be spent by the Delegacy would come out of the Common Fund of the University. The whole of the funds to be provided by the Delegacy would be provided by women and women's organisations. The Principal of Brasenose said it seemed to be almost assumed that the statute was brought forward at the instance of the women,

but the truth was that it was brought forward by the Hebdomadal Council on its own account.

### Women Voters in Norway.

On the 14th of May the Norwegian Storting granted the municipal suffrage to all adult women by seventy votes to ten, despite the opposition of the Conservative Government. The new Act adds 250,000 women voters

to the 400,000 who previously had the municipal franchise, and the excess of female over male electors will be 14,000. This change gives the working-classes decisive power in municipal elections. The new electors will vote for the first time this autumn.

#### Men's Helmets and Women's Hats.

Mary Wollstonecroft has a witty passage in which she compares the lot and the character of women to those of soldiers, and the analogy occurred to us when witnessing the discomforts and absurdities caused to our Life Guards on a hot day last week. A body of these handsome men trotting down Whitehall in the full blaze of the London sun did not look very happy. Scarcely one of them was really at ease. The sun beat cruelly on the shining metal, the wind caught the horse-hair plumes, and quite half of the helmets came down so far over the eyes as very seriously to impede the view of the unhappy trooper. Red-faced and embarrassed, suffering acutely from the misfit, cursing audibly, these gallant horsemen rode by. We had seen many ridiculous, extravagant, and unpractical hats on women that day, but we reflected that at least they were individual and variable pieces of folly. But here are hundreds of harmless men compelled to wear a ridiculous, extravagant, and unpractical head-gear, and for what? To strike terror into the enemy? There is no enemy in London, and they don't wear these brass kettles while on service. To strike admiration into the heart of the servant girl—that must be the real reason for which these brave men will endure so much.

#### Two Public-Spirited Women.

Manchester University has decided to give honorary degrees this year to two women. They are not the first women to receive this honour. Miss Horniman has for some time now been one of the most fruitful influences in dramatic art. The Abbey Theatre owes its being to her, and at the Gaiety in Manchester she has carried on (under great and exceptional financial difficulties) the same vivifying work. Referring to her, the "Manchester Guardian" commented: "If the decentralisation of the English theatre becomes complete, and we achieve something like the rich and stimulating diversity of local rivalry which made the history of German acting in the eighteenth century so splendid, the credit will be Miss Horniman's more than that of any one other person."

The other woman is Miss Mary Dendy, who has for many years done the real hard work of making provision for feeble-minded children. Miss Dendy sees education as a preparation for the whole of life, and she has realised the responsibility which the State must take as life-guardian of those who by their mental weakness will always be a danger to themselves and to the State. No work could be more necessary and beneficent; to most people it is irksome and distasteful. Miss Dendy has risen above all personal pettinesses of that sort, and has devoted the best years of her life to pioneer work of a kind whose value will be more and more felt as knowledge increases and people give to patience and individual effort its great and just reward of appreciation. The University honours itself in honouring Miss Dendy.

#### Miss Martineau's Girlhood.

In a recent article reference was made to Miss Harriet Martineau's upbringing and to the hardships and hindrances she had to endure. We hear from members of the Martineau family that her sense of these was somewhat exaggerated, and that Mrs. Thomas Martineau, of Norwich, was a wise and enlightened guide according to the lights of her day. It is, of course, the fact that exceptional people are ahead of their day, and therefore suffer in proportion to the degree of their advancement.

#### The Late Mr. S. A. Steintal.

The Committee of the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society (of which Miss Roper is secretary) recently passed a resolution stating that they desired to place on record their deep sorrow at the

death of their treasurer, the Rev. S. A. Steintal, and their profound sense of the debt which women owe to him, especially those working for their political enfranchisement, a cause which few men have had so deeply at heart and done so much to promote. "Since the beginning of the Women's Suffrage movement, when Mr. Steintal was the treasurer of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, January, 1867, he has worked unceasingly for the freedom of women, not only in the political sphere, but in every department of life. In the educational word he did most valuable service to women, and was one of those who secured to them the benefits of the course of study in the Manchester College, Oxford, and their entrance into the Unitarian Ministry in this country. Every effort to gain for women legal and moral emancipation and equality also found in him a friend. The members of this Committee have had the benefit of his constant and generous help, of his long experience of affairs, and the pleasure of his friendship in their work. They feel sadly that no one can replace him in this, and as a committee, and individually, they mourn his loss. They desire also to express their sincere sympathy with Mr. Steintal's family in their sorrow, and to assure them that his memory will always be held in honour by those to whom he has rendered devoted and life-long service."

#### Boy Scouts or Police.

The papers have reported the gallantry of a body of boy scouts who, going abroad "redressing human wrong," banded themselves together to protect a body of suffragists from assault by the crowd. This was very nice and plucky of the boy scouts, but we would like to ask the authorities whether really, as regards women, the notion that "chivalry" is to be substituted for justice is to be carried so far that women are no longer to have the protection of the police (for which they pay), but are to depend on the chance presence of lads playing a game.

#### Juvenile Labour.

At the annual Conference of the Association of Education Committees, at the Holborn Restaurant, Sir George White said that the employment which the Labour Exchanges were finding for juveniles was in 75 per cent. of cases such as afforded a boy no training, and he desired the Board of Trade to recognise the Education Authorities as supreme on this question and that there should be co-operation between the two bodies. The following resolution was passed nem. con.:—As it is most desirable that the local education authorities should maintain the paramount influence in the guidance and direction of children leaving school for the labour market, the Executive Committee is hereby instructed to urge upon the authorities (where they have not already done so) to establish advisory or after-care committees; also to formulate schemes as suggested by the Board of Education, and then to act in hearty co-operation with the Labour Exchanges, and so prevent overlapping and blind-alley employment. And the Executive Committee is further requested to make representations to the Board of Trade asking that the various Labour Exchanges may co-operate with the local education authority on the lines of the foregoing resolution, especially by placing at the service of the local education authority or the advisory committee such information in regard to employment and employers as they may in their discretion think expedient."

#### Our Portrait.

This week we are proud to publish a portrait of Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, who has for the whole of her long life worked for women's betterment, and has been a keen suffragist since 1866, when the agitation took shape. Surely it is time that the cry of "Vive! Vive!" were raised by the whole nation, and that the Government no longer stood in the way of passing this much-debated measure.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally, they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

### Contents.

	Page.
The News of the Week	129
God Save the People!	131
The Apostle of Freedom	132
Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell	133
Why Women Need the Vote, by Mrs. Osler	134
The Occupiers' Bill	134
National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies:—	
Executive	135
Mrs. Snowden's Resignation	135
Treasurer's Notes	136
Federation Notes	137
Work in South Salford	137
Foreign News	138
Opening of Women's Congress	138
Reviews	139
Correspondence	140
Reports of Societies	140
Forthcoming Meetings	143

### God Save the People.

When wilt Thou save the people?  
O God of mercy, when?  
The people, Lord, the people,  
Not thrones and crowns, but men!  
God save the people! Thine they are,  
Thy children, as Thine angels fair;  
From vice, oppression and despair,  
God save the people!

Ebenezer Elliott.

The National Union has resolved heartily to support the Occupiers' Bill, as a sincere endeavour to give to women an instalment of justice; in this policy the National Union, which is the oldest and largest of all the associations for the enfranchisement of women, is in agreement with the others. Besides the non-party associations, we understand that the Women's Liberal Federation and the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association will press for facilities, and even the People's Suffrage Federation (which is not a Women's Suffrage society) is said to be friendly. It seems clear that every association of any influence and standing, having for its object (or one of its objects) the enfranchisement of women, will welcome the Bill drawn up by the Conciliation Committee, which is to be presented to the House by Mr. Shackleton on June 14th, and of which we again publish the text, given in our issue of May 26th.

Mr. Shackleton will bring in the Bill under the "ten minutes rule." As a private Members' Bill it has no chance whatever of passing, unless the Government will give facilities for its passing; the Government would not be justified in giving facilities unless the measure had been fairly before the country and fully discussed in the House. We maintain that this measure may be regarded as non-contentious, for the following reasons:—

1. The principle has been debated for over forty years, and accepted by a majority in the House ever since 1884, and this particular Bill is the narrowest application of the principle: it would be impossible to find any category of women to whom more obviously should be given the right to protect themselves

than those women with no male relation whose duty it is supposed to be to protect them.

2. During the past four years, thousands of perfectly open and public meetings have been held all over the country by Suffragists, and innumerable resolutions have been passed in favour of the enfranchisement of women: these meetings have been mainly organized and carried through by women and almost entirely by persons who are not professional politicians, and the great Voters' Petition, carried out by the National Union under very great hardships and difficulties, revealed clearly that the mass of electors were ready and willing to enfranchise women occupiers and householders, although there was still considerable timidity about other categories.

3. Lastly, the opposition of the Anti-Suffragists, of which Mrs. Humphry Ward makes so much in "The Times" of Saturday, 4th June, is most patently of two sorts: it is either inertia, the dislike of change, the fear of the unknown, the satisfaction of the prosperous and the abject submission of the wretched; or it is, more or less disguised, arrogantly anti-democratic and anti-representative. The fact that the Anti-Suffragists dare not hold really open meetings and constantly refuse to put a resolution or to answer questions, shows how conscious they are that their opposition is based either on unreason or on reasons which the conscience of the people would indignantly repudiate. For the general mass of the people do believe in self-government and in representative institutions, and the Anti-Suffrage position will not stand the test of principles like these.

This Bill, then, is non-contentious, because it is the narrowest application possible of a principle accepted by a large majority of the electors of the country and of the Members of the House of Commons, by politicians of all parties and by women in all sections of Suffragists, and because the Anti-Suffragists, by failing to give any good grounds for their opposition, have let the case go by default.

Being non-contentious, having been debated *ad nauseam*, there is absolutely no necessity for further debate, and there is no objection on this score to passing the measure with the minimum of talk; one imagines that even Members of Parliament may be conscious of the ridiculous figure they have frequently cut in the past when discussing measures relating to women.

In consequence of the postponement of the constitutional crisis, the time is peculiarly apt. Men's minds run on peace and conciliation and compromise. The militant societies have for several months past abandoned all disorder and devoted the whole of their great abilities and energies to peaceful education. No one can say that there is any other great question for which this must necessarily be postponed. The most ardent party Liberal cannot suggest that the women, in pressing for their reform, are asking Liberals to pocket or even to postpone any of their measures. Even the contention that a General Election must follow a Reform Bill of any sort (though we do not admit its necessity) is met by the fact that the newly enfranchised women could not qualify till the New Year, and everyone anticipates a General Election then. To us, of course, the enfranchisement of women seems so great and salutary and just a measure that no other reform can compare with it in magnitude and moral beauty. But politicians are essentially little men and, if they like to think a great thing little, it will not harm the great thing, and it will not be the first time that the world will be saved by the poor and the despised. Very few men, no politicians will put women first, no—not for once! We recognize this, and it is for this reason that we press forward the passing of this measure now, when no war, no quarrel of the men can claim precedence, in the lull caused by Death, in the calm and exhaustion that have followed the bitter strife of parties.

This is no party measure. What can hinder it? One cause and one alone: that the Government should be so unprincipled as to allow the opposition of a few reactionary individuals to wreck a great opportunity for the peaceful settlement of a great question. We are told "the Cabinet is not united." To give the facilities demanded would cause one member of the Cabinet to

resign." When was a Cabinet absolutely united? Are there not other questions upon which there has had to be give and take? Why on this question alone is there to be a sheepish unanimity? When Mr. Asquith promised not to oppose a Women's Suffrage amendment to a Reform Bill, he admitted the right that the House of Commons had to be left free to vote according to its conscience in this matter; we only ask that he should give the same right now, for this smaller measure, which has the support of all true democrats. We cannot believe that the opposition can come from him, although doubtless he will—and quite rightly—hold himself free to vote personally according to his convictions.

Mr. Asquith must see that at this juncture it is the part of a Prime Minister to take the sense of the House of Commons. The large majority which is favourable to our cause in the Cabinet will surely see that it is their part to stand by the cause of the people as against a few reactionaries. Man for man, we are certain that, if it came to resigning, the Government could get on very well without its Anti-Suffragist members, and they should be made to know it. Surely they cannot be so unimaginative as not to see how hollow will ring the cry of "The People," should they persist in governing women without their consent. Surely they will want to disarm this large body of selfless and determined reformers by removing this grievance, this weapon which will, if it be allowed to remain, be used against them with such deadly effect. We would slightly alter the rhymers' verse:—

"When wilt Thou save the People?  
O God of mercy, when?  
The People, Lord, the People,  
Women as well as men!"

### The Apostle of Freedom.

Letters of John Stuart Mill.

Of all the men who during the past century have fought for the women's cause, John Stuart Mill stands pre-eminent; hence the publication of these letters at a time when the woman's movement seems nearing its crisis is of special interest.

These letters, which are edited with a suggestive preface by Mr. Hugh Elliot, and a note by Miss Mary Taylor, show some of the grounds on which Mill became a champion of the woman's cause. They present, perhaps, a more vivid picture of the writer's development than does even the autobiography.

In particular, they show a notable change in Mill's relations to his fellows, of which he himself was probably unconscious. In the earlier letters there is often a mixture of dogmatism and contempt: but as time goes on this decreases, especially after his wife's death, and is replaced by a deeper sympathy and a wider tolerance than he showed in youth. It is as if his overwhelming sorrow had dispelled all superficial characteristics, leaving only the essential man.

The changes in opinion are as noteworthy as the changes in character, especially in relation to the great question of liberty. The earliest letters (about 1830) appear to have been written when Mill was still under the influence of his strong reaction against the narrower side of those utilitarian principles in which he had been bred. He was under the sway of Wordsworth, and for the moment tending towards Conservatism, as represented by the Lake poets. Their Conservatism he defines as "a reverence for government in the abstract; it means that they are duly sensible that it is good for man to be ruled; to submit both his body and mind to the guidance of a higher intelligence and virtue. It is, therefore, the direct antithesis of Liberalism, which is for making every man his own guide and sovereign master, and letting him think for himself, and do exactly as he judges best for himself, giving other men leave to persuade him if they can by evidence, but forbidding him to give way to authority, and still less allowing them to constrain him more than the existence and tolerable necessity of every man's person and property renders

indispensably necessary. It is difficult to conceive a more thorough ignorance of man's nature, and of what is necessary for his happiness . . . than this system implies." It is interesting to contrast this curious statement made in 1831 with the declaration in "Liberty" twenty-five years later that "the individual is not accountable to society for his actions as far as they concern no person but himself," or the view expressed in a letter in 1852: "It appears to me that the great end of social improvement should be to fit them (*i.e.*, men) by cultivation for a state of society combining the greatest personal freedom with the just distribution of the fruits of labour."

Concerning Socialism, Mill's opinion also altered. In 1850 he anticipated that at some future day society might make "the production and distribution of wealth a public concern," though the world would not come to this without great changes. But as time went on his belief and hope seemed to rest more on voluntary co-operation. No one thoroughly desirous of the State control of industry would have written thus (1865):—"Nothing that I can imagine, except co-operation, would entirely take away the antagonism (*i.e.*, between employer and employed). But in order to do so, it is not necessary that co-operation should be universal. If it was only very frequent, a labourer who remained in the employment of an individual, and who received from him as much . . . as he would earn under co-operation, would see that he had no reason to complain. . . . Not to mention that co-operation in the form of participation of the labourers in the profits would be perfectly compatible with individual ownership. . . ."

Despite these and other variations in opinion, however, Mill's views may be traced to two main sources—his passion for truth and his belief that the things which were of supreme importance in life are those which are spiritual, not those which are material.

It is unnecessary to insist on the first point. The declaration in these letters, "If there is one thing to which we all ought to give our allegiance, irrespective of consequences, it is truth," is of the very essence of Mill's teaching.

The second article of his faith appears no less constantly. In 1868 he wrote that "what we now want is a union among all those men and women who are deeply impressed with the essence of religion, so far as religion affects this world." That human beings should grow better he considers to be a necessary condition of all reforms. "If the experience of co-operation," he wrote, "teaches the working-classes the value of honesty and intelligence to themselves, it will work as great a moral revolution in society as it will in that case a physical; but it will never do the last without the first."

"What the poor, as well as the rich, require," he once wrote, "is not to be indoctrinated, is not to be taught other people's opinions, but to be induced and enabled to think for themselves." No one ever believed more fervently than this agnostic utilitarian economist that

"It takes a soul  
To move a body."

Hence, of course, sprang his zeal for education. He advocated a national system of education in the thirties, and lived to see it established. At the same time he was conscious of the difficulty of making such a system satisfactory. "It is much easier to improve education in quantity than in quality," he wrote in 1869; a dictum confirmed by forty years' experience.

But though love of truth and belief in the "things of the spirit" account for most of Mill's opinions, yet they leave unexplained his attitude towards women. Other men have shared these attributes and yet boggled at women's claims. Gladstone is a notable instance. But Mill had, as regards women, a special power of insight. He realised—what no power on earth can drive home to many men—that women are fundamentally human. As early as 1833 he wrote to Carlyle: "Is there really any distinction between the highest masculine and the highest feminine character? . . . The women of all I have known, who possessed the highest measure of what are considered feminine qualities, have combined with them more of the highest masculine qualities than I

have ever seen in any but one or two men, and those one or two men were also in many respects almost women. I suspect it is the second-rate people of the two sexes who are unlike."

Such an assertion in 1831 required a greater degree of insight and freedom from prejudice than can easily be realised now. At that date the "double standard" was applied not merely to legal enactments and to sexual morality, but to every department of life. "Delicacy" was peculiarly feminine, but sincerity was a virtue hardly to be expected in a woman. "Severe studies," classics or mathematics, were essentially "manly." In brief, it was considered that women were not exactly human, but constituted what Charles Reade was pleased to call "the sex." The habit lasted long. In 1869 Mill notes that woman suffrage was opposed on the ground that "women are not fit for this, that, or the other mental achievement." This habit of generalising about women as a class apart is still the chief obstacle to their progress, as the debates on Woman Suffrage prove.

This perception, then, of the common humanity of the sexes is the key to Mill's attitude towards women. His wife's influence no doubt deepened his enthusiasm for their cause, and decidedly his greatest activity on this point occurs during the last thirty years of his life.

One of the earliest allusions to Woman Suffrage in these two volumes occurs in 1853, when he declares for granting the franchise to women who fulfil the same conditions as men. "They have as much interest in good laws as men have, and would vote at least as well." When the Reform Bill for 1867 was in agitation he thus expresses his ideal of Parliamentary Reform: "When any portion . . . of the working classes chooses a reading and writing (or rather, writing and ciphering) qualification, *adult*, instead of manhood, suffrage and Hare's system—*i.e.*, proportional representation, I will gladly give to such a noble scheme all the help I possibly can. On *adult* suffrage I can make no compromise." *Adult* suffrage alone, however, he did not support. "Women's Suffrage," he wrote to Sir Charles Dilke in 1870, "has enemies enough without adding to their number all the enemies of universal suffrage."

During his brief sojourn in Parliament he did his best for the cause. In 1868, after his defeat at Westminster, he wrote to the Edinburgh Woman Suffrage Society: "Of all my recollections connected with the House of Commons, that of my having had the honour of being the first to make the claim of women to the Parliamentary Franchise is the most gratifying, as I am inclined to believe it . . . the most important public service which circumstances have put it in my power to render."

The following year Mill published "The Subjection of Women," which was for long the text-book of the women's movement. His letters show the interest it created, and show, too, how he connected the subject with every matter of public interest. The conditions of divorce, for instance, could not be properly decided "till women have an equal voice in determining them, nor until there has been an experience of the marriage relation as it would exist among equals." To this equality of marriage Mill looked for the suppression of vice. "It has yet to be seen what marriage will do with equality of rights on both sides."

Scattered through the book are many sayings of value to women and to reformers generally. "We owe it to our fellow-creatures and to posterity to struggle for every opinion of which we are fully persuaded," is one of his exhortations to Suffragists. He utters a sound warning against the dangers attending a new movement in the statement that "the desire to produce éclat . . . and effects that should tell at once rather than to prepare silently for the future is what we have to fear from inexperienced politicians." On compromise he is emphatic, though without special reference to women. "Compromise, though inevitable in practice, should be left to the enemy to propose. Reformers should assert principles and only accept compromises."

As for his hopes for the results of women's enfranchisement, they were tinged with all his usual idealism—a greater care for peace, a greater regard for beauty, the elevation of the character of women themselves, the crea-

tion in them of a concern for an interest common to all. Such were the results he looked for; and if his hopes were high, that should surely encourage women to fulfil them.

But it is noteworthy that what he hoped for was increased development—not particular reforms, spiritual rather than material gain; and this is true of all his aims. True, he did sometimes desire material good, such as "the greater diffusion of property"; but neither special reforms nor industrial advantage were his main objects. No laws, he believed, could ensure justice. "If men were to abolish every unjust law to-day," he wrote, "there is nothing to prevent their making new ones to-morrow." Therefore, he measured all things by their effect on the growth of human beings; and it was this principle, coupled with his recognition of the humanity of women, which made him the apostle of their freedom.

A. B. WALLIS-CHAPMAN.

### Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell.

The death took place at Hastings on Wednesday, June 1st, of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the pioneer of the medical movement among women and the first woman to have her name placed on the medical register. Elizabeth Blackwell was born at Bristol in 1821. When she was eleven her parents emigrated to the United States. The father died when Elizabeth (the third child) was seventeen, leaving a widow and a large family of children quite unprovided for. Elizabeth and her two elder sisters opened a school as a means of supporting their mother and ensuring an education for the younger children. When some of the brothers were old enough for business the sisters gave up the school. Elizabeth wanted to find an occupation which should be an absorbing interest in life to her, and one in which she felt she could do valuable work. She was deeply interested in moral and social questions, but such subjects as medicine and physiology, at first, rather repelled than attracted her. It was almost by accident that she followed a medical career. A friend who was suffering from a very painful illness said to her: "You have health and leisure; why not study medicine? If I could have been treated by a lady my worst sufferings would have been spared me." She could not forget the words, and soon began to regard it as a duty to take up the study of medicine. All the doctors she consulted tried to dissuade her, telling her what immense difficulties she would have to overcome. But, once having made up her mind that it was the right course, Miss Blackwell determined that no difficulty should prove too great for her to overcome, and she never once wavered in her purpose.

After being refused entrance to numerous medical schools, in 1847 she was admitted to the medical school of the Geneva University, New York. Even then the professors refused to take the responsibility until the students had been consulted. The students passed a resolution which did them great credit, and one which might be a lesson to many even at this day. The resolution was as follows: "That one of the radical principles of a Republican Government is the universal education of both sexes; that to every branch of scientific education the door should be open equally to all; that the application of Elizabeth Blackwell to become a member of our class meets our entire approbation; and in extending our unanimous invitation we pledge ourselves that no conduct of ours shall cause her to regret her attendance at this institution." The students never had cause to regret their decision, and Elizabeth Blackwell soon gained the respect of students and professors alike. After two years she gained her diploma and received her degree before a large crowd. "Punch" honoured her by some congratulatory verses.

She found it very difficult to obtain hospital practice. After overcoming more difficulties she entered the College of Midwives in Paris. While in Paris she, unfortunately, lost the sight of one eye, and so was obliged to give up surgery as her special study. From Paris she went to London and, by the help of Mr. (afterwards Sir James) Paget, she gained some experience at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In London Miss Blackwell met Barbara Leigh

Smith, whose name is connected with the founding of Girton College, and also Florence Nightingale. She joined them in the movement which resulted in the development of woman's education.

In 1851 she returned to America and practised in New York. There she founded a dispensary for women, officered entirely by women.

In 1858 she returned to England and got her name placed on the newly constituted medical register. She then set to work to try to help other women medicals, and was enabled to give some assistance to Miss Elizabeth Garrett (Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D.), who afterwards became the first woman doctor with a purely British qualification.

She returned to America during the time of the Civil War and organized a plan for the supply of trained nurses for the wounded soldiers. From this movement grew the Ladies' Sanitary Aid Association and also the National Sanitary Aid Association. At this time a separate medical school for women was established in New York, and Dr. Blackwell held the Chair of Hygiene. Later, when the London School of Medicine for Women was founded, Dr. Blackwell held for a time the Chair of Gynecology.

Dr. Blackwell was interested in all movements of reform and progress. She was associated with Josephine Butler in her great work. She published a book upon the moral training of the young, and an autobiography under the title of "Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women." She realized the relation there was between immorality and disease, and was determined to face it boldly and to bring into the light the subject of sex degradation. To quote her own words: "I will not be blind, indifferent, or stupid in relation to this matter, are as most women . . . the world can never be redeemed until this central relation of life is placed on a truer footing."

Like all pioneers among women Dr. Blackwell was an ardent Suffragist, and up to the day of her death she never lost interest in any phase of women's work.

The funeral service was held last Friday at St. Clement's, Hastings, and the interment took place at Kilmun, Argyllshire, next day.

### Why Women Need the Vote.

#### XI.—Patriotism.

Few words are oftener on our lips, and few, perhaps, less accurately used, than the word patriotism. Without challenging its relationship to the ideas commonly associated with it—"the Services," "the Flag," "Rule Britannia," Empire Day, Boy Scouts, etc.—it is permissible to plead for the inclusion under the name of patriotism of other kinds of national service than defence and offence and popular demonstrations. To begin with, before you can defend a country you must have a country to defend; it must also be worth defending. A consciousness of this necessity has been recently causing searchings of heart among scientists and thoughtful people, who observe an increasing tendency in our nation to multiply from its least rather than its most desirable classes. Pace Mr. Roosevelt, the motives which have led to the restriction of families in the more prosperous and prudent classes are not all blameworthy. A quickened sense of responsibility for the health both of mothers and children, and the conviction that it is better to produce and wisely rear three children than to produce ten and bury half of them, are not to be deprecated and railed at; but it must be also admitted that such motives as luxury, love of pleasure, and fear of pain are potent in deterring many from contributing their due proportion to the population; whilst the thriftless, irresponsible, and often physically undesirable sections of the nation chiefly provide the coming generations. Lecturing and scolding at large will not avail to avert a national danger such as this. What is needed is to arouse in our citizens a sense of national responsibility strong enough to inspire the private sacrifices demanded of them. It is obviously to the women of the country that we must look for salvation in this direction, on

whose willing devotion and self-sacrifice we must depend. But it is wholly inconsistent and unreasonable to appeal to them in the name of patriotism and public spirit, and at the same time to deny them the incentives to those virtues which are powerful in the case of men.

We look to women not only to provide the manhood for the country's defence and maintenance, but to train and inspire that manhood from infancy to the high duties expected of it; we look to them to be willing to yield up to the risk of wounds and death the lives for which they have agonised and which are dearer to them than their own; we demand alike of the single and the widowed their full share with men of the cost of defence and upkeep of the nation, and even of aggressive military enterprises for which they may conceivably entertain the strongest disapproval. In time of war we look to women to perform (at personal sacrifice and peril) that succour and tendance of the sick and wounded which is as essential a part of military service as turning the handle of a Maxim gun or purchasing stores for the Commissariat. All this share of national service is well and cheerfully performed by women; and yet they are denied the rights of citizenship on the ground (among others) that they cannot fight for their country. Division of labour is the sign of civilization and the absurdity of setting a student of science to do the work of a navy, or a policeman to act as Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be readily acknowledged by those who employ the irrelevant physical force argument against Women's Suffrage.

It is beside the mark to argue that under a restricted franchise the married women of the country would not generally be qualified to vote. The question concerns the education and status of womanhood as a whole, and the way women are taught to regard their patriotic responsibilities. Hitherto they have been trained to consider motherhood as a private and personal duty only, and from such a standpoint it is unreasonable to question their right to restrict their families, provided they and their husbands prefer so to do. Modern science is setting before us a wholly different aspect of parenthood as a national duty. To the men of the country it can base its appeal on their responsibility as citizens; but to the women this appeal is weakened, if not nullified, by the fact that no such direct responsibilities are in their case acknowledged or conferred.

The whole problem is a new one for the European nations; and surely there is significance in the fact that, coincidently with its recognition, has arisen the International demand for the admission of women to the full status of citizenship!

C. C. OSLER.

### The Occupiers' Bill.

#### Provisional Text of a Bill.

To Extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Occupiers.

Be it enacted, etc. :—

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification, or of a ten pound occupation qualification, within the meaning of The Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.

2. For the purposes of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be qualified in respect of the same property.

3. This Act may be cited as "The Representation of the People Act, 1910."

### Miss Miranda Hill.

A sister of the better-known Miss Octavia Hill has just passed away. Miss Miranda Hill shared in the social work of her sister, and was also much interested in the Kyrle Society and in the Marylebone pauper schools, for which she did such excellent work that, on her retirement for reasons of health, her fellow-Guardians co-opted her for special service on the Schools Committee.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in the country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS EDITH DIMOCK. MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).  
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
Hon. Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.)  
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Secretary: MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.  
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone: 1980 Victoria.

### The Executive Committee.

#### THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

At the meeting held on Thursday, June 2, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this committee cordially welcomes the Women's Suffrage Bill about to be introduced by the Conciliation Committee of Members of Parliament, and regards the Bill as a fair effort to effect a compromise by which the disability of sex may be removed. It requests the Prime Minister to receive a deputation in support of the Bill, and resolves to take steps to organize a plan of campaign in support of it throughout the country."

The committee has also sent out an urgent whip to the societies, pressing them to take speedy action in support of the Bill. The whip runs as follows:—

The Executive Committee desire to call the special attention of your committee to the accompanying memorandum and resolution *re* the Women's Suffrage Bill (described as "The Representation of the People Act, 1910"), promoted by the Conciliation Committee, which will be introduced by Mr. David Shackleton in the House of Commons on June 14.

As the time is very short we urge you at once to call a special meeting of your committee, to arrange for:—

- Indoor and outdoor meetings, especially during the week beginning June 13, to pass a resolution in support of the Bill. Copy of this resolution to be forwarded at once to the Prime Minister, 10, Downing Street, London, and to your own Member or Members of Parliament at the House of Commons.
- Deputation of electors and others to your local member or members urging them to give their active support to the Bill.
- Urging all political and other associations to support the Bill by resolution, by meetings, or by individual action. Personal letters from electors to Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister would be specially valuable.

The Bill will only be read a first time on June 14, and the efforts of the societies must therefore be directed towards bringing pressure to bear on the Government to grant a day when the Bill can be debated and voted upon.

The Executive Committee beg that you will let our secretary, Miss Whitehead, know what action your committee decide to take and the number of meetings held and resolutions forwarded to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament.

The opportunity now offered for securing Women's Suffrage is the best since 1884, and the committee entreat all their societies to use every effort to secure the passing of this Bill.

Copies of this letter for your individual members should be supplied on application to the secretary.

The following resolution is suggested as suitable to be put at such meetings:—

"That this meeting urgently begs the Government to give facilities for the passing into law of 'The Representation of the People Bill, 1910,' to be introduced by Mr. Shackleton on the 14th inst., believing it to be, as a non-party compromise for the enfranchisement of women, the best solution of this difficult question."

### LADY MCLAREN'S CHARTER.

In view of certain misunderstandings which have arisen, the following resolution was passed by the Executive:—

"That as the 'Women's Charter' has never been before this committee and, except as regard Women's Suffrage, goes beyond the scope and objects of the Union, the committee puts on record that it is not responsible for the discussion of the Charter on June 7 at the Congress at the Japanese Exhibition on the day devoted to Women's Suffrage."

### NEW SOCIETIES.

Three new societies had affiliated to the Union since the last meeting—Dingwall, Port Glasgow, and Crewe.

### FIRST PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

The committee cordially accepted the invitation of the Keswick Society to go there for the first Provincial Council meeting in October, and congratulated them and the Sussex, Surrey and Hants. Societies on being the first to complete their arrangements for federation.

MRS. SNOWDEN'S RESIGNATION from the committee on account of her inability to attend the meetings was received with the very greatest regret. Her colleagues have the highest opinion of her value as a member of the committee, and feel that her absence will be a real loss.

EDITH DIMOCK.

### Mrs. Snowden's Resignation.

The following is Mrs. Snowden's letter resigning from the committee:—

Elberton, Woodstock Road,  
Golders Green, N.W.

May 20, 1910.

My dear Mrs. Reid,—I am writing to ask you and the Executive Committee to accept my resignation from the committee of the N.U.W.S.S.

It was wrong of me to yield to the kindly pressure of branches and allow myself to be nominated after declining to stand for re-election.

My one and sufficient reason for this step is that I cannot attend regularly.

I shall be out of the country from July 12 to January, 1911. It is not fair to the committee, or the societies, or myself.

I have had no happier association in my life than this with my colleagues on the N.U. Executive. I am grieved to have to go. But it is right I should.—With kindest regards,

ETHEL SNOWDEN.

### The National Union and the Representation of the People Bill.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—On behalf of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, comprising 195 organizations of men and women in every part of Great Britain, we write to give our earnest support to "The Representation of the People Bill, 1910," which is to be introduced in the House of Commons on June 14 by Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P.

This Bill is the result of the labours of a committee known as the Conciliation Committee, of which the Earl of Lytton is the chairman, and Mr. H. N. Brailsford the hon. secretary. The committee otherwise consists en-

tirely of members of the House of Commons, representative of every political party. The Bill proposes to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women on lines similar to those under which they now exercise the various local franchises; that is to say, it would enfranchise the householder, and occupier, but not as such the lodger, the freeholder, or the University graduate.

The present electorate consists of 7,705,717 men. This Bill would add to the register approximately one million of women.

It is true that the Bill falls short of the demand made by the Suffrage Societies—that the franchise should be given to women on the same terms as men; but, on the other hand, it admits the great principle for which we stand—viz., that sex should not, like crime or lunacy, form a disqualification for the most elementary of the rights of citizenship.

We therefore have no hesitation in extending to it our most cordial support. Thousands of men and women all over the country will be bitterly disappointed if the political leaders of the House of Commons will do nothing to realise the hopes of a practical settlement raised by this Bill.

The solution of the Women's Suffrage problem on non-party lines is particularly welcome to us as a non-party society, and we cannot but feel it is a good augury for the future that a question concerning women should approach settlement through conciliation, rather than through the usual channels of embittered party controversy.—We have the honour to be, your obedient servants,

MILICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President.  
BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.  
EDITH DIMOCK, Hon. Secretary.

Parliament Chambers, S.W., June 4, 1910.

#### Treasurer's Notes.

We acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of another subscription to my list of 100 required by June 30th, Miss Mabel Holland having sent £25 during the week. Miss Ford, Miss A. Bateson, and Miss Bryan have sent in sums amounting to another £25, while £35 in donations have been received from Mrs. George Thompson and Miss E. L. Lister.

Promises towards the amount required for the services of an organiser for Devon and Cornwall are coming in, and a donation of £5 has been received from Miss Bryan. The prospect is most encouraging, and we believe that it will not be long before we shall be able to claim Miss Rathbone's gift of £25 for this particular bit of organisation.

The Million Shillings Fund has reached its first milestone, a thousand shillings having now been received. I hope that the second thousand will be made up more quickly.

Work for the new Women's Suffrage Bill has put an additional strain on our war chest, and I know that our members will spare no effort—will leave no stone unturned—to provide the funds needed at this crisis in the history of our movement.

#### A Generous Offer.

Miss Rose Lightman, who has started a lavender farm at The Chalet, Speldhurst, has offered to give the National Union 10 per cent. on all orders which she receives as a result of her advertisements in "The Common Cause." Suffragists who send for her fragrant preparations will have the additional pleasure, therefore, of helping the funds of the Union.

#### Correction.

The donation of £3 3s. acknowledged in "The Common Cause" of May 26th as from the Ambleside W.S.S. was a personal donation from Miss A. Sharp. We apologise for this mistake.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,313	1	1
Subscriptions:—			
Miss A. Bateson	10	0	0
Miss M. Holland	25	0	0
Miss I. O. Ford (additional)	10	0	0
Miss M. Morgan	0	2	6
Mrs. Conybeare	0	5	0
Miss Bryan	5	0	0
Donations:—			
Mrs. George Carslake Thompson	25	0	0
Miss E. L. Lister	10	10	0
Miss Bryan (for work in Devon and Cornwall)	5	0	0
Affiliation Fees:—			
Lenzie W.S.S.	0	5	0
Crewe W.S.S.	0	7	6
Port Glasgow W.S.S.	0	12	6
Tain W.S.S.	0	6	9
Election Fund:—			
Reigate and Redhill, per Mrs. Auerbach	2	2	0
	£1,407	12	4

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	£
Already acknowledged	848
Mr. R. H. Pott	21
Mrs. W. S. Rendel	4
Miss H. F. Higginbotham	3
Miss Annie Sadler, per Mrs. Harrington	3
Esher and East Molesey Branch (collection), per Mrs. Whitwell	20
Nairn W.S.S., per Miss E. S. Cook	50
Anti-Suffragist, per Mrs. Auerbach	1
Miss Alice Crompton	5
Miss Fidler	5
Keswick W.S.S. (collection), per Miss R. C. Highton	38
Anonymous	2
	1,000

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

#### Actresses' Franchise League Matinee.

A matinee is being organized by the Actresses' Franchise League in aid of our special election fund, to take place on Tuesday, June 21, at the Kingsway Theatre, at 2-30 p.m. After the programme, which will consist of "How the Vote was Won," by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John, and of Mr. Bernard Shaw's "Press Cuttings," tea will be served in the foyer of the theatre, and Miss Gertrude Elliott (Mrs. Forbes Robertson, president of the A.F.L.) will receive. Tickets, for the matinee at ordinary theatre prices, and for the reception at 2s. each, may be obtained from the offices of the Actresses' Franchise League, Adelphi Terrace House, W.C., or at our own offices, Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street. Several prominent actresses are giving their services, among those who have promised to help being Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Maxine Elliott, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Edyth Olive, Miss Auriol Lee, and Miss Agnes Thomas.

#### Selling "The Common Cause" on June 18th.

We understand that the procession on June 18th will be generally regarded as a demonstration in support of the Bill. The National Union is not officially joining in the procession, but we should much like it to be understood as widely as possible that it supports the Bill, and our issue of next week will contain notices of all that is being done by the Union in this way, and of the great demonstration to take place in the Queen's Hall on June 28th. A special corps of sellers is being organized to sell "The Common Cause" on the route of the procession, and those who would like to demonstrate in this way are urged to send in their names to Miss Mildred Ransom, 195, Edgware Road, W.

We hope the sellers will number several hundreds, and that they will send in their names as soon as possible, in order that the arrangements may be very complete. Friends with motor cars are invited to help in distributing the papers, and all those who can are urged to provide themselves with satchels to hold the papers.

A sufficiently large number of sellers, wearing the red, white, and green, should prove an effective demonstration of our agreement on this measure.

## Federation Notes.

### Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation.

The Executive Committee has given its approval to the federation of societies in Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire which desired to associate themselves together. This Federation covers a similar area to that of the late Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Organisation, and will include all other societies in those three counties which now wish to federate, or may wish to in the future. The societies are:—*In Surrey:* Croydon, Camberley, Farnham, Godalming, Guildford, Haslemere, Leith Hill and District, Oxted, Reigate, Woking, and Weybridge. *In Sussex:* Brighton, Cuckfield, and Worthing. *In Hampshire:* Basingstoke, Fleet, New Forest, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Winchester. The constitution of the Federation has been drawn up, and when its officers are chosen the Federation will be in complete working order. In the meantime the business is being carried on by the organiser and committee of the old Sussex, Surrey, and Hants. Organisation, so that no lapse in Suffrage work has taken place through the change in the constitution. Naturally, the King's death caused a cessation in public propaganda; but that does not mean that quiet gatherings and canvassing were not being carried on in our educational work, and as soon as the nation returned again to its normal state both Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Abadam were back on the platform to present our cause to interested and sympathetic audiences at meetings at Sheere, Newdigate, Dorking, and Peaslake, and gaining new supporters. All this was arranged by the Leith Hill and District Society. After that Miss Abadam spoke for the Haslemere Society at Cranleigh, where a Suffrage meeting had never been held before. People were keenly interested, and Cranleigh should soon have a society of its own. There are workers and keen Suffragists already there. Miss Gordon, the National Union organiser; Mrs. Marshall, hon. secretary of the Haslemere Society, and members of that Society did splendid spade work at Cranleigh. Our organiser, Miss Barbara Duncan, has been working in Oxted. It was quiet work there on account of the nation's great loss; but talks with our working sisters, addresses at workers' gatherings, in drawing rooms, and visits to explain and expound, have paved the way for successful work. On June 2 Miss Duncan moved on to Fleet, where a campaign is now being carried on.

### North-Western Federation.

The Cumberland and Westmoreland Societies formed themselves into a Federation last autumn, for purposes of co-operation and economy in organization. A Conference was held at Penrith on Saturday, May 28th, to reorganize the Federation in accordance with the new constitution of the National Union. Delegates attended from the Carlisle, Keswick, Penrith, Ambleside, and Westmoreland Societies, and Miss Lawrence, of Arleodon, represented the Egremont Division of Cumberland, where there is no local Society yet. The chair was taken in the morning by Miss Hart, of Penrith, and in the afternoon by Mrs. Cunliffe, of Ambleside. A reorganization scheme was considered, and plans for future work were discussed. It was decided to retain the title of "North-Western Federation," and to include in the Federation area the six constituencies of Cumberland, the two constituencies of Westmoreland, and the Barrow, North Lonsdale, and Lancaster divisions of Lancashire. Each Society will undertake a definite zone of responsibility. The work done during the General Election prepared the way for the formation of a number of new Societies; there is good hope that the Federation will double its membership in the course of the year.

A very long agenda was worked through in two and three-quarter hours in a most businesslike and efficient manner, which bodes well for the success of the Federation. There were twenty minutes to spare when business was done before the Keswick contingent had to catch their train, and the delegates had the pleasure of listening to a delightful little speech on the Women's Vote in Norway, by Miss Helga Gill, who was present by special invitation as one of the Westmoreland Society's representatives. An interval of half an hour was allowed for luncheon between the morning and afternoon sessions. The delegates all brought sandwiches with them, and tea and coffee were provided by Miss Nancy Hart, of Penrith, assisted by Miss Wainwright, at a charge of 4d. a head. The proceeds, which amounted to 10s., were sent to the Million Shilling Fund.

The officers elected for the coming year were:—  
Chairman: Miss C. E. Marshall, Hawse End, Keswick.  
Hon. Secretary: Miss L. Walker, Brettargh Holt, Kendal.  
Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. Brown, East View, Northumberland Road, Carlisle.

The chairman and hon. secretary were elected as the representatives of the Federation on the Provincial Council of the National Union, and Miss Maude Royden was elected as representative of the National Union Executive on the Committee of the Federation.

### Scottish Federation Work.

Whatever the initial difficulties in forming them, it is already obvious that the new Federations will be of great value in the extension and perfecting of organization. Perhaps this is more noticeable in Scotland, which is far less organized, and presents greater difficulties in organization, than England. Already societies which before felt themselves hopelessly far from the centre of things are sending requests for organizers and speakers to the Scottish Central Office, and small societies which were dangerously near being moribund, are waking up to a sense of responsibility both as regards themselves and the Scottish Federation.

Lack of money is, of course, the biggest obstacle we have to contend with. I saw in a Federation report in a recent number of "The Common Cause" that two capitation fees—i.e., one to the National Union and one to their particular Federation—was proving a strain to the smaller societies. In Scotland we have decided to charge no affiliation fees for the time being. To begin with, these fees do not bring the Central Office a very substantial revenue; and in the second place—and this is more important,—it is merely depressing for a small society to be compelled to pay a double affiliation fee; and Federations are being formed, I take it, with the express purpose of encouraging these small societies, and of stimulating work.

We have instead, therefore, issued a special appeal to all societies in our Federation asking them to give us just as much monetary support as they reasonably can. Not one, I think, has refused to do so—many are organizing small sales, garden parties, etc.—and some, notably Kilmacolm and Dundee, have already sent us quite large sums. The result is that as well as raising funds for the Federation, each of these societies is doing excellent Suffrage propaganda, and increasing its own membership. Whereas a demand for a second affiliation fee would probably have ended in severe local depression.

Dr. Inglis has also issued a special appeal to all who are known to be interested in Suffrage—and several generous donations have been the result. All this, however, does not mean that our exchequer is filled to overflowing; on the contrary. It must be remembered that we are setting out to convert not a county, but a country, and that our expenses are proportionately heavy. Donations or subscriptions will be very gratefully received by Mrs. Kirkland, Fordel, Glenfarg, who, we are glad to announce, has consented to be our treasurer.

For the moment I am working in Newburgh (Fife), where Miss Chrystal Macmillan made a good many converts during the general election; and next week I hope to be able to report the formation of a Newburgh Society.

Abernethy, a few miles away, is making vigorous efforts to raise its membership and join the N.U. and the Scottish Federation. Bridge of Earn and Auchtermuchty, in the same district, are simply waiting to be worked. Will someone send us £25 so that an organizer may be sent there at once?

Next week I am due in Orkney and Shetland. My only regret is that there is no election going on, and I shall not have the chance of tackling Mr. Cathcart Wason. The compensation is the possibility of holding meetings on some of the farthest islands which Miss Macmillan was unable to touch during her tour last summer. I wonder if when men have wanted one reform or another, they have gone not only into the highways and hedges, or into those hamlets which the then Mr. Gladstone told us, so complacently, we must convert, but into the very Highlands and Islands? The best of it is that the Highlands and Islands have asked us to go to them. I hope they won't regret their bargain when I get there, and send me to a watery grave in Baltasound or Scapa Flow!

W. H. LAMOND.

### Work in South Salford.

The North of England Society decided some time ago to devote its energies to forming a strong local Women's Suffrage Association in South Salford. The amount of response met with on all hands is most encouraging, and it is the object of the Society to organise and educate this support so as to have a really effective piece of machinery should the need arise for such machinery. Naturally the prospect of the early passage of a Bill for the enfranchisement of women is causing workers to concentrate on informing the people of South Salford exactly concerning the Bill, its prospects and the dangers it may encounter, and on whom should be placed the responsibility of failure, if failure there should be. They are not slow to understand, and will not be slow to resent.

H. M. SWANWICK.

A "Women Only" meeting on Wednesday last, and a public meeting (as well as another women's meeting on Wednesday next) have given a focus to our canvassing, and we have tramped up and down Salford's cheerless little streets night after night with our bills, inviting all and sundry to our meetings. The response is splendid—a rebuff is almost unknown, and a surprising number of women seem keenly interested and "up" in the subject. Miss Darlington relates an amusing experience. One woman at whose door she had knocked proved very suspicious, only opening the door a few inches and speaking through the crack. The conversation had been thus pursued for a few minutes when the door was

flung wide open and the lady, her face wreathed in smiles, beckoned Miss Darlington in, saying, in tones of intense relief: "You're a Suffragette, are you? I thought you were the district visitor!"

The commonest reply to the question, "Will you come to this meeting?" is, "A might do!" But some are more enthusiastic, one man saying at once, "That I will. I'm with you."

On Tuesday night Miss Darlington and Miss Robertson addressed an open-air meeting in a little back-alley where such a thing had never been heard of before. The audience consisted largely of small children, but there were a few very intelligent women who were keenly interested, designating the speeches "proper sense." The same women formed the backbone of the Wednesday afternoon "Women Only," for they came and brought their friends. This meeting was small, but very successful. It has encouraged us to try for weekly meetings in the same little hall. The women were all deeply sympathetic, and were quite sure that they could "get round the men." Women's influence! Anti-suffragists attend!

On Friday the weekly open-air meeting was held, again outside the Grapes Hotel, by kind permission of the proprietress. Many particularly intelligent questions were asked, and the greatest interest evinced. South Salford will soon be a "Suffrage constituency." M. ROBERTSON.

### The Voters' Petition.

We are asked to make the following additions and correction to the list published on June 2nd:—  
Hants.—Basingstoke (3 booths manned), 467 signatures.  
Bradford—1,327 signatures (not 250).

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

This Association is holding its annual reception at the Wharfedale Rooms on Friday afternoon, July 1st. Lady Willoughby de Eresby will be the hostess on this occasion, and Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., and others will address the guests.

### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

At a Council meeting held on May 9th the League decided to take part in the Women's Suffrage demonstration on June 18th.

The League will march under its own banners, and will separate from the procession near the end of the route in order to hold a religious service.

The fact that a Women's Suffrage Bill is about to be introduced into Parliament by the Conciliation Committee in the House of Commons will give a special importance to the demonstration, and in view of this fact it is felt that many members of the Church League who have not yet promised to attend will wish to make a special effort. They are invited to send their names as soon as possible to the hon. organizer, Mrs. Hinscliff, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

Sympathisers who do not belong to the Church League, but approve of its principles, are also invited to join its ranks in the procession, and thus to strengthen this constitutional demonstration in favour of justice to women at a time of great importance in the progress of the cause.

Enquirers who wish to know to what they would be committing themselves by marching under the banners of the Church League can have copies of its constitution sent to them on application to the hon. organizer.

### Foreign News.

#### FRANCE.

The meeting of the "Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International" took place on May 25, under the presidency of Mme. Maria Cheliga. During the meeting Mme. Oddo Defou spoke of the women's elections. Mme. Winter-Trappier, the president of the "créole" section, gave a very interesting description of customs in the colonies where the white and black races are in contact. Mme. Margoules spoke of the Russian women. The general secretary, Mme. Orka, presented to the Congress several communications and portraits, which have been sent for the archives of the Congress. The president announced that at the next meeting Prince Trouze, the cousin of the Shah, will give a lecture on "Persian Women."

La Ligne du Droit des Femmes organized a reunion, which took place on April 27. Mme. Orka read a paper on "La Femme en Finlande."

#### DENMARK.

The recent elections in Denmark have gone in favour of the Conservative, Reform, and Liberal parties united, who have defeated the combined Radical and Socialist party. This victory of the Reform party is very satisfactory to Suffragists, as it was this party which fought for the Municipal Suffrage Bill, which was carried in 1908. This Bill included Women's Suffrage, and gave women equal rights with men in municipal affairs. Until now it is the only party which has won anything essential for women. A new Cabinet is about to be formed.

We should like to mention that Fru Charlotte Norrie is president of the biggest association Denmark has ever had. It is called the "Defence Association," and is doing active work. JOHANNA MUNTER.

#### ITALY.

The Chamber of Commerce has passed a law admitting women to the right of vote and eligibility for the Council.

#### FINLAND.

Finnish women are indignant at the action of the Senate in forming a committee composed exclusively of men for the amelioration of the conditions of those employed in business. As these are almost all women, it would seem natural that at least some members of the committee should have been women. Women have protested privately and publicly, but in vain. Finnish men have evidently still something to learn, in spite of their women M.P.'s. Perhaps there are not enough of them, or, more probably, time is required to make their influence generally felt.

### The Opening of the Women's Congress at the Japan-British Exhibition.

The Right Honourable Sir George Reid, High Commissioner for Australia, opened the Congress on Monday, June 6th, with an inaugural address, in which he dwelt on the importance of women's work in all departments of civilisation.

He began by saying that his speech, unlike some recent utterances, would be characterised by its extreme discretion. This discretion prevented him from saying anything more definite about Women's Suffrage than that even in the wilds of Australia the news had reached him that there were women in England intensely in earnest about the question. If any



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(as sketch), trimmed with silk embroidered net insertion and fringe.

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doubt was left in the listeners' minds as to Sir George's own opinion it was quickly dispelled by his subsequent remarks.

He stated and emphasised the fact that in his opinion the future of the race and the whole of human progress would depend on the increasing share taken by women in all the important affairs of life. The State, he said, could only be at its best when the highest aims of the highest individuals were enforced by the collective strength of the whole; it mattered not whether those individuals were women or men. The Congress would show what women had already accomplished in the spheres in which they were allowed to work; the more unrestricted they were in their future labours the better it would be for mankind.

The subject of the day was the co-operation of women in local government as administrators, and after a short introductory speech by Lady Strachey, it was illustrated by a series of addresses from women who had actually taken part in local administration.

A particularly interesting speech was made by Miss Susan Lawrence, of the London County Council, who described the immense variety of matters with which the Council has to deal, and on which it spends its £14,000,000 of annual income. Quite half this money, she said, is spent on things about which women have a special claim to be heard. Among the examples she gave of this was the fact that the L.C.C. has control over 11,000 women lunatics. It would have been interesting if she could also have told the Congress how much of the £14,000,000 is directly or indirectly contributed by women.

The succeeding speeches showed how the special need of women's services has been felt on Town, Metropolitan Borough, Urban, Rural District, and Parish Councils. If any doubt could have been felt as to this, it must have been dispelled by the portentous lists of sub-committees on which the various women councillors had been asked to serve. But the pith of the matter was touched by Mrs. Rackham in speaking for the Poor Law Guardians, when she said that if women, as women, were specially interested in some departments of the work, as citizens and human beings they were interested in all. She also warned the Congress that if a reform of the Poor Law sweeps away Guardians, there is some danger that the 1,200 women who now serve the State in that capacity may not find any place on the bodies which take the Place of Guardians.

Her hearers were thus reminded that though local government is as vitally the concern of women as it is of men, their power of taking part in it is at the mercy of a chance vote of a legislature in which women are not represented, and which has shown itself singularly indifferent to their claims as citizens and as human beings.

### Miss Flora Campbell-Patterson's Concert.

Miss Campbell-Patterson, a well-known Suffragist, will give a concert on Friday, June 10, at 8 p.m., in Queen's Gate Hall, close to South Kensington Station. Amongst those who will assist her are many members of the Actresses' Franchise League. In addition to the concert, two little sketches, entitled "The Apple" and "The Fly In The Honey," will be given.

### Miss Horniman's Theatre.

This is the last week of the season, and in addition to Mr. Tarpey's gay and entirely successful comedy, "The Amateur Socialist," acted with the greatest spirit, Miss Horniman has given us another short play by Mr. Allan Monkhouse, entitled "Choice." The choice that the girl has to make in the piece is whether she will marry the man who has killed her lover or not; the fact is that she does not make the choice, and—reeling under the flash of sudden enlightenment concerning the youth's death—she could not make it. We are sent away wondering how her relation to the Major will look to her when her eyes are no longer dazed. So much depends on what the dead youth really was like, and on the nature of their relations, and nothing is more skillfully indicated than the suggestions we have on these points.

We found the Major a somewhat puzzling character, and Mr. Ian Maclaren's curiously individual nervous irritability of manner made more possible the theorizing about marriage by capture, the quotation from Hamlet, the impulsive confession that it did the action for which he makes excuses, the shooting down of a youth whose only fault is a momentary cowardice in face of the enemy. The Major Greig who could have done this would, it seems to us, have done it either in a panic or in a placid certainty of right which would have left no need for confession. But this is perhaps foolish theorizing; nothing is so unaccountable as human feeling, and the plot gives us some fine dramatic moments which Miss King and Miss Darragh seized admirably. Miss Darragh's shriek, "He killed Walter! He killed Walter!" to fortify herself in resistance to Walter's murderer by sharing the prohibitive knowledge with Walter's mother, gave her hearers a moment of real agony. What if the mother had heard?

### Reviews.

THE WHITE SLAVES OF ENGLAND, by G. Kerschner Knight. (Redhill, Denham, Bucks, pp. 23, 1s.). THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ("M.A.P.," pp. 115, 6d. net).

Periodically individuals of more than usual courage, or societies founded for the purpose, make hideous revelations concerning the trade in womanhood, telling how it is conducted and what it costs the nation. Periodically good and well-intentioned people tell us that these things should not be published widely, and especially that we must carefully guard the young from such knowledge. But we hold that till girls are warned and instructed, till boys are made to see the horrible results of vice, it is no use telling them of dire temptation and of the need to resist and beware. Till the squalor and cruelty and nameless wretchedness and injustices of vice are understood the young will still think there is romance and adventure in it.

The articles which appeared recently in "M.A.P." attracted a good deal of attention, and are now reprinted in book form at the very low price of 6d. In them we may read details of how the trade is carried on and of the efforts that are being made to stop it.

Mr. Knight's book deals more particularly with the economic causes of prostitution and with the changes which are required before the law can be made really operative in checking the sale of women in England and all over Europe.

TWO PAMPHLETS (price 2d. each) are issued by the People's Suffrage Federation. One, called ANTI-SUFFRAGIST ANXIETIES, by Mr. Bertrand Russell, deals wittily and trenchantly with Prof. Dicey's "Letters to a Friend." Mr. Russell points out the true bearing of history on the question, and shows how civil rights (which Prof. Dicey would grant women) depend on political rights (which he would deny them). The bearing of the vote on economic conditions and the nightmare of a solid majority of women massed against a minority of men are effectively dealt with, and Mr. Russell concludes with the undeniable statement that "the objections which are explicitly urged against women's suffrage are, of course, not those which weigh most with most men."

Sir Charles Dilke writes on WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORM, and criticises a leaflet by Mrs. Heron Maxwell suggesting registration reform as a means to Women's Suffrage. Sir Charles Dilke exhibits some of the complexities of our present system of registration, and concludes: "It is impossible to touch registration without touching franchise. The moment you have a Franchise Bill you get into a Parliamentary maze, from which adult suffrage is as certain to be the only issue as was household suffrage from that of 1866 and 1867." We do not agree, in so far as a simple occupiers' Bill may quite well be passed without affecting other franchises; but Sir Charles Dilke has certainly made out a good case for reform, in the direction of unifying and simplifying the present franchise.

A PAGEANT OF GREAT WOMEN, by Cicely Hamilton. (The Suffrage Shop, 31, Bedford Street, Strand.)

This, which was first performed at the Scala Theatre in November, 1909, is now published in book form, with excellent portraits of the author and of the various actors. The theme is simple: Woman pleads to Justice for freedom which Prejudice denies her, and calls up a pageant of women to be her witnesses that she deserves judgment given her, which Justice in the end gives her, with the reminder to use her freedom well, for

"That soul alone is free  
Who sees around it never a soul enslaved."

### The Magazines.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN for June has the second instalment of an article by Lady Stout on "What the Franchise has done for Women and Children in New Zealand." A short but interesting article deals with the somewhat timid experiments that are being made in the application of the Borstal system to girls. There is a most entertaining description, by Miss Palliser, of "The Ladies' Monthly Museum, a Polite Depository of Amusement and Instruction, being an assemblage of whatever can tend to please the Fancy, interest the Mind, and exalt the Character of the British Fair." This eighteenth century magazine for women contains much advice to women concerning their "sphere," and certain passages read almost exactly like passages of Mrs. Somerville's speeches. A suggestive article on the natural way of teaching children to murder and a short description of certain private Members' Bills affecting women are among the many excellent numbers this month.

## Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

## MAKING WOMEN PAUPERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I have read the letter signed "M. D." in your current issue, and I will wager every ha'penny I have that he or she or it have never seen a poor man in his or her or its life! What in heaven's name is the sense of writing of restraint and responsibility, when the people about whom the words are used have never been taught the meaning of the words? Moreover, the question is not one of restraint—in these matters the poor are no more unrestrained than the oligarchy or the deplorable gang which calls itself the middle class—but of knowledge!

Until then, we get an understanding poor class, filled with reverence for life, we must do the best we can to see that these signs of improvidence that are born into the world, shall at least be decently treated whilst here. It's a fool's game to visit the sins of the father upon the children; particularly as the entirely sinless ratepayer has to pay for the visitations and its results.

ST. JOHN, G. IRVINE.

The New Reform Club.

## WOMEN PIONEERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—On reading the article entitled "Why Women Want the Vote.—XI: Public Spirit in Women" in your splendid paper of June 2, I was surprised and disappointed to find Mrs. Haslam's name omitted from the list of pioneers of reform. Surely it is well known that Mrs. Haslam, the oldest Irish Suffragist, has worked with the women mentioned in nearly all the different reforms enumerated—higher education for women, medical degrees, protection of married women, abolition of State regulation of vice, women graduates, local government, temperance, and nursing. We in Ireland are justly proud of Mrs. Haslam and of the wonderful work she has done and, despite her great age, is still doing, and would hardly like to have it more widely known and appreciated. Yours,

EDITH SANDERSON.

7, Mount Temple Terrace, Dublin, June 3, 1910.

[We are glad to publish this tribute to Mrs. Haslam's long and devoted work. Mrs. Osler's article could not, of course, do more than mention one or two names of pioneers. Every one must have recognized that, and known that the list could have been extended to fill several columns.—Ed. "C.C."]

## THE CHURCH LEAGUE AND THE PROCESSION.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I understand that the National Union, while deciding not to take part, as a society, in the Women's Suffrage procession on June 18th, has left its individual members free to use their own judgment in the matter.

Many members of the National Union who are also members of other Suffrage Societies, such as the Church League, the Men's League, the Women Writers' League, the Actresses' League, etc., etc., will of course march in the sections organised by these societies.

Other members of the National Union, however, who do not belong to any other society, and yet wish to walk in the procession, may have some difficulty as to where to place themselves. While regarding the procession as a constitutional demonstration particularly opportune at the present moment, and therefore wishing to take part in it, they may not wish to identify themselves with the militant sections, with whose tactics they disagree.

May I point out that if they approve of the principles of the Church League they will be welcome under its banners?

The Church League is entirely non-party, and its methods are constitutional.—Yours,

I. B. O'MALLEY.

## Reports of Societies within the 'National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter.

## BATH.

We are glad to report the formation of a small Society in Frome, as a result of Miss Norma Smith's energetic work. A drawing-room meeting was held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Graham, at Ebbley Court, Stroud, on June 4th, addressed by the Hon. Secretary of the Bath Women's Suffrage Society. In this neighbourhood, apparently, no Suffrage work has ever been done. On June 2nd, the Bath Society gave its first performance of "How the Vote was Won," in the Town Hall at Melksham. The room was full and the audience seemed very

pleased with the entertainment, which was lengthened by a short address and a charming selection of part songs and solos, ending with Lady Strachey's "Auld Lang Syne." A meeting is now being arranged for the passing of a resolution in favour of the new Bill. We are looking forward to an address from Mrs. Fawcett, on July 2nd.

## BOURNEMOUTH.

On the afternoon of May 31st a very pleasant time was spent by members and friends of the Bournemouth Branch, who braved the weather in their zeal for the cause. After the usual tea and chat, Miss Kemp Furmer took the chair and Mrs. Hume gave one of her earnest addresses. This was followed by several five minutes speeches. The tone throughout was very hopeful of a speedy settlement of the women's question by the Conciliation Committee. In spite of there not being as many present as usual, the collection well covered the expenses.

On June 24th, Mrs. Stanbury, of London, who started the Bournemouth Branch, will speak at Princes Hall, Grand Hotel, at four o'clock.

## CAMBERLEY AND DISTRICT.

We had long wished to hold a debate on Women's Suffrage, as we have found that there were many people who would not attend either Suffrage or Anti-Suffrage meetings who were yet quite inclined to hear both sides of the question treated together, and the large attendance on Wednesday afternoon, June 1st, at the Drill Hall, Camberley, certainly proved this. We are proud to feel that our Anti-Suffrage friends in this neighbourhood are more enterprising than in some parts of the country, even though we do not agree with them on the question of the Suffrage itself. As we were the challengers, the resolution was moved by Mr. Maconachie, on behalf of the Anti-Suffrage League, "That it is not desirable in the interests of the country or of women that the Parliamentary franchise should be granted to women." Twenty minutes were allotted to each speaker, exclusive of summing up, and Mr. Maconachie occupied his in demonstrating the inevitability of Adult Suffrage if women got the vote, and in predicting the disasters to the Empire which must then ensue. The Rev. A. E. N. Simms, who opposed for the National Union, deprecated the question being treated from what was really a party point of view, and urged his hearers, in a speech of much sincerity and eloquence, not to be led away by jeers from doing what was essentially just and reasonable. Miss Fothergill supported the motion. She said that emigration would be the main solution for the excess of women, but she seemed to be unaware that this movement is one which many well-known Suffragists are also engaged in promoting, and that they feel that they would have a direct voice in determining the conditions under which women emigrate, as they would also have their share in determining the even more difficult questions connected with alien immigration, if they had the vote. Miss E. M. Gardner, B.A., was the last speaker to be heard on our side, and the sense of security which this gave us was fully borne out by the impression she made on the audience. Her speech was at once charming, logical, and convincing, and we feel that it must have done much to remove many of the common misunderstandings as to our aims. "There is too much talk about ruling in this country; we want to serve. Why should we waste the time we would like to give to the service of our country in tinkering at reforms which only legislation can effect," were thoughts which must have been echoed by every Suffragist present. After such a speech as Miss Gardner's, Mr. Maconachie's summing up sounded somewhat ineffective; but the division, as had been expected, was close enough to require a count: 69 voted for the resolution and 73 against. The Suffrage Society has every reason to be satisfied with the result, for although it had been agreed that the meeting should be open to all-comers and neighbouring societies on both sides, our visitors from a distance did not nearly make up in numbers for those of our own members who were obliged to be away. The reserved seats were well patronized, and we hope to hand over a useful donation to the Cottage Hospital.

On the same evening an open-air meeting was held, at which Mrs. Margoliouth, of Oxford, kindly spoke for us, in addition to Miss Gardner. We had not thought it advisable to advertise this meeting until the debate was over, as we feared to lessen the afternoon audience if we gave an alternative. Although earlier advertising would no doubt have secured a larger attendance at the evening meeting, about forty people assembled and listened with close attention to the speeches. Several intelligent questions were asked, and we are very grateful to Mrs. Margoliouth and to Miss Gardner for giving some of those who had not been able to attend the debate an opportunity of hearing something of the subject.

## COLWYN BAY.

On Friday afternoon, May 27, a most successful drawing-room meeting was held at Netherhurst, by kind invitation of Dr. Lillian Blake. We were fortunate in having two excellent speakers—the Hon. Lady Barlow (in the chair), and Dr. Gordon Clark, of London. Lady Barlow spoke particularly on the duty of parents to set before their boys the same high standard of morality as they set before their girls. Dr. Gordon Clark, in an interesting and able address, explained how the franchise would benefit women in many ways, especially women belonging to the wage-earning class.

Several new members have joined the Society as a result of the meeting.

## EDINBURGH.

"The men have all the money; we can't give any more." That is the reply which we often receive from the wives of quite rich men, and we know that they would help us if they could. This week even those with very little to spare had shown themselves willing and efficient needlewomen, and we found that we had a number of useful and pretty articles to furnish forth the stalls for our little sale. At eleven o'clock on Thursday it was formally opened by Lady Frances Balfour, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for all she has done to help us. Lady Frances, in declaring the sale open, said she was glad to say that nothing was being done by this Society that the most sensitive or weak-minded man could object to. She thought that a sale was a most enjoyable method of raising money for the cause; but she was looking forward to the day when neither sales nor speeches would be necessary. She had great pleasure in declaring the sale open. Lady Frances spoke hopefully of the chance of a

Suffrage Bill passing in the near future, and we hopefully echo her sentiments.

Our office is small, to be used for a sale of no mean dimensions, but the Sale Committee had managed splendidly. In the large room there were four stalls, the flower stall being particularly well set out. There was a shooting competition, a butterfly competition, and Madame Orient, as palmist, drove a thriving trade. The office was arranged as a restaurant, and a most excellent lunch was spread there, "as much as you like to eat for sixpence." Soup, coffee, hot milk, sandwiches of different kinds, and excellent scones, were all to be had. The sweets, cakes, flowers, and dairy produce sold exceedingly well, and when the day was finished those stalls were practically clear. We opened on Friday for a few hours, and on both days we had a large crowd for tea. On counting our gains we found to our delight and surprise that they amounted to close on fifty pounds. We have enough work left to furnish forth another sale, and we only wait for the offer of a garden to set some such scheme on foot as an American tea. It is impossible to thank by name all those who assisted us, but we take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude we feel for the untiring work of all those who so ably assisted Miss Raeburn and the other ladies of the Sale Committee.

## FARNHAM AND DISTRICT.

A meeting was held at Tilford on May 31st, and one at the Farnham Institute on June 1st. Mr. C. Weatherby, of the Men's League, presided at Tilford, and, after a vote of condolence with the Royal Family had been carried in silence, he made an interesting speech asking that the peace our late King had worked so hard for might be given to women by the grant of the Suffrage. Miss Abadam then gave one of her thoughtful and stirring speeches, showing how beneficial it would be to the nation—of which, indeed, women form the larger part—if they had the responsibility and power of the vote, which is the modern weapon for justice, just as formerly a sword was the weapon with which a more primitive people enforced its demands.

At Farnham, on June 1st, Mr. Courtenay Welch took the chair, and told us in his address that for twenty-five years he had been in favour of giving women a share in the interest and responsibility of the government of the country, and felt sure that if the non-party Committee now promoting a Bill should be successful, none would have welcomed it more than our lamented "Edward the Peacemaker." Miss Abadam then addressed the meeting. She spoke of the right of those who pay taxes to have a voice in their expenditure, of the need for the protection of women workers, of the bad effect on women of acquiescing in a position of inferiority, and on men of their being brought up to believe that they were inherently superior to women. She pointed out that women such as Miss Nightingale, who had ever taken any steps to reform matters, had always been described as unwomanly, etc., saying doubtless the Mrs. Grundys of her time also spoke so of Joan of Arc. She exhorted those present to get new members.

We are hoping to hold some open-air meetings in the Farnham district next week. Members are requested to look out for notice of them and to attend them if possible, as a number of supporters round the speaker goes a long way to making these informal meetings successful. Offers of help should be sent to the Secretary.

## FOLKESTONE.

Our Folkestone Society has just held its first large public meeting. Three months ago this Society had not even been thought of, and now we are a flourishing branch with eighty members, and we have already held three meetings. The first was on March 31st, at which the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell spoke, and the second a fortnight later, when Miss Abadam came down and made a splendid speech. These smaller meetings created a large amount of interest in the subject and led up to our Town Hall meeting on May 30th, at which over 500 people were present. We were very lucky in having two such excellent speakers as Lady Isabel Margesson and Mr. Laurence Housman, and we feel most grateful to them for the help they will have given to the cause. Mr. Councillor Bishop took the chair, and was very ably supported by Mr. Garnett Man, Mr. Condy, and others.

## GLOUCESTER.

The Gloucester Women's Suffrage Society is grateful to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for the services of their organizer, Miss Norma Smith, from May 21st to June 1st. Owing to the Whitsunlike holidays and to the national mourning, nothing could be arranged previous to her visit, but three garden meetings, two open-air meetings, one drawing-room meeting, and a hall meeting, together with a great many calls on people not only in Gloucester but also in the neighbourhood, represent what Miss Norma Smith was able to accomplish during her short stay. Her quiet manner and well-reasoned arguments, very clearly expressed, greatly impressed those who had the privilege of hearing her; and it is to be hoped that the Gloucester Women's Suffrage Society may before long have the pleasure of welcoming her again to help in its rather uphill work for Women's Suffrage.

## HASLEMERE AND HINDHEAD.

Of the little series of meetings in the neighbouring villages that we had planned during May, only one has taken place, the rest having all been given up on account of the King's death. The meeting at Cranleigh took place on Thursday, June 2nd, and was a great success. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies kindly allowed Miss C. M. Gordon, late organizer to the Sussex, Surrey and Hants Organization, to come down and help, and all the labour of working up the meeting fell upon her, as Mrs. Marshall was prevented at the last moment by ill-health from going to Cranleigh. Mrs. Leeds and Mrs. Clem. Browne (members of the Haslemere Committee) spent some hours of Tuesday and Wednesday in helping, and the work was well done, for there was quite a good little meeting in the Village Hall to hear Miss Abadam speak. No Suffragists have ever visited Cranleigh before, and no meeting has ever been held there, and as the population numbers 3,000, it seemed high time that they should be roused out of their indifference. No one could have done this better than Miss Abadam, whose stirring speech of nearly an hour's length was listened to with keen interest and attention. Miss Gordon followed with some very telling facts, and a few questions were asked and answered. Sympathizers were asked to come forward and write their names in a book for future use, and

twenty-four signed at once. At the head of the list stood the name of Mrs. Pennington, one of the pioneers of the Women's Suffrage movement, who had helped us greatly in making the meeting known. There seems every promise of success in forming a branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Cranleigh, and it is hoped that this preliminary meeting will be followed up, and steps taken as soon as possible to form a committee of some of those whose names were given in after the meeting. No doubt the Guildford Society may be able to give some help, as Cranleigh is only half an hour by rail from Guildford.

We are now very busy organizing our Suffrage garden party for July 2nd. Mr. Forbes-Robertson has promised to speak, old English dances are being arranged, recitations and plays prepared, and many promises of articles for sale on the stalls have been received.

## HUDDERSFIELD.

A council meeting was held on May 31st to hear the annual report of this Society. Mrs. Shuis, in the absence of the President, took the chair. The report showed that much work had been done: six public meetings had been held, a lantern lecture had been given by Miss Bertha Mason, and there had been a highly successful performance of "How the Vote was Won." Twelve ladies have been returned as members of the Board of Guardians, seven of them members of the National Union, Miss Siddon, our President, being again elected vice-chairman of the Board, having several times refused the chairmanship. Two ladies are on the Education Committee, three on the Old Age Pension Committee, three on the Distress Committee, and two lady doctors on the Health Union; so that in this district the public has shown clearly and emphatically its appreciation of women's work.

## KESWICK.

The Keswick Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies held its second annual meeting in the Old Court Buildings on Tuesday evening, May 31st. In the absence of Mrs. Slack, who was unable to be present, Mr. Frank Marshall presided over a good attendance of members. The Hon. Organizing Secretary, Miss C. E. Marshall, read her report and scheme of work for the coming year, and Miss Broatch, the Hon. Secretary, gave an account of the year's work in Keswick. The election of officers and general committee then took place. It was unanimously decided to elect Mrs. Frank Marshall as President; and Mrs. Slack, Miss Browne, and Miss Swinburn as Vice-Presidents. Miss C. E. Marshall was re-elected Hon. Organizing Secretary, and Miss Highton, Hon. Treasurer. Miss Knight was elected Hon. Secretary.

Mrs. Swanwick (member of the Executive Committee of the National Union, and editor of "The Common Cause") gave an excellent address on "Election Policy," and the Bill to be introduced by Mr. Shackleton. Her speech was listened to with great interest by all in the room.

## LEITH HILL.

The Leith Hill Society has held six meetings—five public and one private.—Mrs. Fawcett speaking at them all with the exception of a small village gathering at Peaslake, which was addressed by Miss Abadam. Both ladies spoke at Dorking and Shere, at the latter place to a large and enthusiastic audience, although only a year ago we were badly treated in this very same village, and our speakers could hardly be heard even in the front rows for the hoolligan noise at the back of the hall. I believe that this increased respect, for our cause is by no means peculiar to Shere and is very encouraging to all of us, though we were disappointed by the smallness of the Dorking audience. The attitude of the local Press is delightful; in fact, could not be much better.

At Leatherhead, Colonel Pennycook, R.E., was in the chair, and at Dorking Mr. Touche, who will again contest the North Islington constituency in the Conservative interest, and who is a staunch upholder of our cause. Mr. Gregory, also a strong supporter, took the chair at Shere, and Mrs. Hecht, chairman of the Leith Hill Society, presided at Newdigate, upon Mrs. Fawcett's last appearance in her strenuous week. Mrs. Hecht expressed the gratitude of the Society to our honoured President, who, at an age when most people feel that they may begin to rest on their oars, is still working and fighting as hard as ever for the sake of an idea—a cause. This cause is, as Mrs. Fawcett herself said at Dorking, the greatest the world has known since the birth of Christianity.

The thanks of the Leith Hill Society are indeed due, and are freely given, to Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Abadam for their eloquent championship of the cause.

## LONDON—BLACKHEATH.

By kind permission of Miss Gadesden a very successful cake and candy sale was held at 3, Orchard Road, Blackheath, on May 27th. A number of members and friends were there, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent in the beautiful garden. Afternoon tea was served on the lawn, any other form of entertainment having been abandoned owing to the national mourning. Home-made cakes, sweets, jams, and marmalade were on sale, and a good sum of money was realized. Gifts, other than cakes, sweets, etc., which can be sold and the profits devoted to the cause of Women's Suffrage, can be sent to the Society's shop, opposite Blackheath Railway Station.

## LONDON—CLAPHAM.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Clapham on Thursday, June 2nd, by kind permission of Mrs. Strachan. There were forty ladies present, and Miss Janet Thomson and Miss Ingle appealed on behalf of the London Society. As a result of the meeting five new members joined the Clapham Branch. It is hoped to hold a large and more imposing meeting very shortly.

## LONDON—EALING AND ACTON.

A new and charming Suffrage play called "Martinmas; or, Woman for Woman," was performed at St. Martin's Hall, Acton, on Thursday evening, May 26. The cast consisted of the following local Suffragists: Mrs. Comins, Mrs. Edgar Morris, Miss Hilda Bennett, Miss Comins, Miss De Bac, Miss Hare, Miss Eilian Hughes, and Miss Murrell. The play was produced under the able direction of Miss Hughes, and the thanks of the branch are especially due to Miss De Bac, who so generously lent her drawing-room, time after time, for the rehearsals. The talented authoress of the play is Miss Catherine Comins, who shows undoubted literary power. She treats a pathetic subject in a realistic manner. The play is one which will, we hope,

be asked for by other branches, as the actors are prepared to give their services. The second part of the evening was devoted to music and dancing. Miss Maud Hardy charmed everyone by her rendering of Liza Lehmann's "Pearl" and "Everybody's Secret"; Miss Olive Watt, L.R.A.M., gave some brilliant selections on the violin; Mr. Hutson's humorous songs were much appreciated, and Miss Nellie Hopkins' classical dances formed a pleasant variation in the programme.

#### LONDON—WINDSOR AND ETON.

On Monday, May 30th, the first of a series of monthly At Homes was held in the Tower Guildhall, Windsor. Mrs. Stanbury gave a most interesting address on the general aspect of Women's Suffrage, as there were many present who had never attended a Suffrage meeting before. At question time a gentleman in the audience made a short speech and declared that Mrs. Stanbury had shown much bias against men in her speech, in spite of the fact that she had been at the greatest pains to express the gratitude of Suffragists towards those fine men who are helping to obtain justice for them. Mrs. Stanbury replied, the gentleman jumping up and shouting in the middle of her speech. He was called to order twice by the chair. The audience was much interested and amused at the discussion. Miss Street proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker, which was seconded by Mrs. Everett, who made some very practical suggestions as to the work of the Society. Tea, coffee, cakes, and sandwiches were then landed round. These were provided by Mrs. Buckley, Miss Thomas, and Miss Frame. The tables were decorated with beautiful flowers in the Society's colours. There were about seventy present. Five new members joined, and others, it is said, are considering the matter. There was no collection, but several donations were given towards the expenses of the meeting.

#### NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Miss Margaret Mein addressed a small meeting of the British Women's Temperance Association at Gateshead on Monday, May 30th, when six members joined the Society. Miss Weddell has very kindly promised to hold the "bazaar workers' party" at her house, 11, Devonshire Place, on Friday, June 10th, at 7.30. She hopes to see a large number of members who may either take their own work or embroider some which has been kindly given by friends. Will anyone who is willing to give drawing-room or garden meetings during the summer months please communicate with the Hon. Secretary?

#### NORTH OF ENGLAND.

A very successful meeting was held on the same site on which the previous rally had taken place. The people were very attentive and interested, listening quietly while Mrs. Young spoke of the need for the vote for women in industrial life. Mrs. Miter Wilson explained the terms of the Conciliation Bill, and Miss Emily Cox gave an excellent speech, notwithstanding many interruptions from a man who had evidently found drink better for his soul than meat. It was encouraging to see the crowd was so far interested in the speech that they grew annoyed with him, and did not, as is so frequently the case, show amusement. At the close of the meeting questions were asked and most ably answered by Miss Cox. They were, of course, of the usual kind, as to whether all women would vote Conservative, Liberal, or Labour, etc.

A rally for next Friday was announced to take place at the Docks. Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson.

#### OXFORD.

On Tuesday evening, May 31st, a debate was held by the Oxford Students' Debating Society on the motion, "That this House deprecates the extension of the Franchise to Women." Mover, Miss Dismorr; Somerville College, opposer, Miss Bramman, St. Hilda's Hall; third speaker, Mrs. Somerville, of the Anti-Suffrage League; fourth speaker, Miss Hadow, Lady Margaret Hall. Mrs. Somerville said that women did excellent work in local government, but that it was not for them to deal with Imperial politics. She emphasized the danger of increasing the ignorant vote, and said that the chief power of women lay in indirect influence. Miss Hadow replied that the vote would educate women, and that the good work which they had done in local government showed their fitness for extended power. She showed that the change in the position of women had already come about, and that they had at present power in politics without responsibility. A keen discussion followed, the arguments being almost entirely against the motion. Twenty-nine voted for the motion and ninety against.

#### REIGATE AND REDHILL.

A well-attended meeting was held on Saturday evening last, in the King's Hall, Colman Institute. Mr. H. W. Goldberg presided. Mrs. Fawcett moved a resolution to the effect that that meeting welcomed with enthusiasm the proposed introduction of a Women's Suffrage Bill on non-party lines, and requested the sitting Member to support it by every means in his power. The Chairman and Mrs. Fawcett both alluded to the great loss the nation had suffered. Mrs. Fawcett said there were many matters in which the laws of England were unfair to women, and she pointed out how much more quickly women could get their grievances mended if they had the power of the vote behind them. She said since women had been given a share in the administration of local government that form of government had improved. In conclusion, Mrs. Fawcett appealed to women to help the cause by their services and their money.

#### STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

During the past week Mrs. Mayer, Midlands organizer, has been holding a campaign in Stratford-on-Avon and district. Open-air meetings were held in Smithfield, Ettington, and Rother Street. A garden meeting was held at Avon View, by kind permission of Mrs. Whiteman. A public meeting, at which the chair was taken by Mr. George Boyden, the editor of the "Stratford-on-Avon Herald," was held on Monday in the Corn Exchange. A very interested audience listened to an eloquent address by Mrs. Mayer. Those who have been present at all the meetings are deeply impressed by the extent and variety of this lady's information regarding the enfranchisement of women and its results in Australia and New Zealand. The interest shown by the men has also been most encouraging and has put to shame the very lukewarm attitude shown by the ladies towards this vital question. The local Committee seems to have sunk into a state of lethargy which is very much to be deplored.

Special mention should be made of Mrs. Whiteman and Mrs. Lowe, who have given hospitality to Mrs. Mayer and done all in their power to help on the work, and of Miss Rita Hawkes, who has given much valuable assistance.

#### UXBRIDGE.

During Whit-week members of the Uxbridge Society did good work in some of the small villages in Buckinghamshire. Four valiant campaigners on bicycles represented no fewer than seven Suffrage Societies. The sunny weather tempted many to stand and listen to speeches which were simple statements of fact. The first meeting was held in a cricket field in Eylesborough, near Wendover. Many of the players and visitors gave an attentive hearing to the speakers, and many questions were asked. Meetings were held at Lee (Great Missenden) and Holmer Green (Amersham). There were good audiences at both meetings. The last meeting was held at Aylesbury, where about two hundred people listened attentively for more than an hour to Mrs. Bonwick, who had journeyed from London on purpose. The campaign was pronounced a great success.

#### WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

The second open-air meeting of the summer campaign was held at Port Sunlight during the dinner hour, outside the men's dining hall, on June 2nd. Miss Eskrigge and Miss Eleanor Rathbone spoke, and were attentively listened to by a large crowd of workmen. Unfortunately, thunder interrupted the meeting, causing confusion among the audience. Much support was received from the men, and the hope was expressed that an indoor evening meeting would be arranged.

#### WOKING.

We had a very good meeting at the Monument Hill Schools on June 2nd. Mrs. Basset came from Frimley to speak for us, and Mr. G. J. Urwick—a member of our committee—took the chair. It is the best school meeting we have had, for, though the room was empty at eight o'clock when the meeting was supposed to begin, there were about fifty people by ten minutes past. Mrs. Basset explained so clearly that the people, many of whom knew nothing of the subject, followed her, and her speech was very much appreciated. We were fortunate in having the very influential support of Mr. Gower—the master of the Monument Hill School—who spoke for us and also proposed the vote of thanks. As we had the meeting in one of the class-rooms, and the desks were decidedly small, it speaks well for the meeting that everyone stayed till the end.

#### Other Societies.

##### IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

A special committee meeting of the above Society was held at the Committee Rooms on May 31st to discuss the proposed Women's Suffrage Bill. It was announced that all the Irish Members of Parliament had been asked by the Society to support the Bill, and that many of them had promised to do so. There was a large attendance at the meeting and an interesting discussion.



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### Forthcoming Meetings.

#### JUNE 9.

London—Japan-British Exhibition—Women's Congress—Lady McLaren on The Women's Charter—Woman and the Franchise—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett. 3.0  
Church Crookham—Schools—Miss Duncan. 5.30  
London (Camberwell)—Grove Lane—Miss Dawson. 7.30  
Birmingham (Harborne)—27, Lordswood Road. 8.0  
Wallasey and Wirral—Open-air Meeting, Conway Street—Miss Eskrigge. 8.0  
Plymouth—Mrs. Williams' Garden Party. 8.30  
Wolverhampton—Tettenhall Wood—Mrs. Mayer. 2.30 and 8.0

#### JUNE 10.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Miss Ellen Walshe. 4.0  
Shrewsbury—General Meeting at Old Porch House. 6.0  
London (Chiswick and Bedford Park)—Open-air Meeting—Miss H. D. Cockle. 3.30  
London (Enfield)—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss H. D. Cockle. 3.30  
London (Enfield)—Open-air Meeting—Chase Green—Miss H. D. Cockle. 8.0  
Wolverhampton—Willenhall Council Chamber—Mrs. Mayer. 8.0

#### JUNE 11.

London (Highgate and N. St. Pancras)—Near Archway—Miss Janet Thomson. 8.0  
Edinburgh—Aln Lodge—Speakers for and against. 4.30  
Wolverhampton—Market Patch—Mrs. Mayer. 8.0

#### JUNE 13.

London (Highgate)—Miss Sharpe's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Cullis, D.Sc. 8.0  
London (Epsom)—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0  
London (Sutton)—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Homman. 8.0  
London (Bermondsey)—Open-air Meeting—Miss Rüder. 8.0  
Wolverhampton—Blackenhall—Mrs. Mayer. 3.30  
Bilston—Mrs. Mayer. 8.0

#### JUNE 14.

London (Sydenham)—I.L.P. Women's Suffrage Meeting—Miss M. Corbett. 8.0  
Wolverhampton—St. Peter's Institute—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Mayer. 8.0  
Glasgow—58, Renfield Street—Committee Meeting. 8.0  
Shropshire (Oswestry)—Drawing-room and Open-air Meetings—Miss Margaret Ashton. 8.0

#### JUNE 15.

Nottingham—36, Bridlesmith Gate—At Home—Tea and Cocoa. 7-9  
London (Clapham)—Meeting—Miss Palliser, Mrs. Rackham. 8.30

#### JUNE 16.

London—New Reform Club—Debate—Mrs. Swanwick v. Miss Frances Low. 8.30  
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Midland Federation. 3.30  
London—12, Eaton Place—Women in Local Government. 3.30  
Salford—St. Philip's Mission Hall—Women only—Miss M. Robertson. 3.30

Weston-super-Mare—Public Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour. 3.30  
Wallasey and Wirral—Moreton Camp—Miss Chubb. 7.30

#### JUNE 17.

London (Westminster)—Mrs. Jackson's Drawing-room Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour. 4.0  
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place. 4.30  
London (S. Hackney)—Mrs. Martin's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss C. Dykes Spicer. 7.30

#### JUNE 18.

Huddersfield—Parochial Hall, Honley—Annual Meeting. 3.30  
Tunbridge Wells—Great Hall—Miss Mason's Lantern Lecture. 8.0  
London (Highgate and N. St. Pancras)—Corner Brunswick Street and Highgate Hill—Miss H. D. Cockle. 8.0

#### JUNE 20.

Woking—Miss Adams' Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Robie Unkake. 4.30

#### JUNE 21.

London (Epsom)—Open-air Meeting—Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. 8.0

#### JUNE 21.

Rye—Miss Abadam—Mrs. Grundy as an Anti. 3.0  
Winchelsea—Miss Abadam—"Votes in Other Lands." 8.30

#### JUNE 22.

Nottingham—36, Bridlesmith Gate—At Home—Tea and Cocoa. 7-9  
London (Wimbledon, N.)—Mrs. Holland's Garden Meeting—Mr. Laurence Housman. 8.10

Salford—Town Hall—Mr. Lyon Blease. 7.30  
Reigate—Hothersett—Mrs. Auerbach's Garden Fête. 3.30-10.0

#### JUNE 23.

Nottingham—Felixstowe, The Park—Garden Fête and Sale. 3.30-10.0  
London (Bermondsey)—Settlement Lecture Hall—Rev. J. Scott Lidgett. 8.30

Derby—The Friary—Mrs. Boden's Garden Meeting—Mrs. Swanwick.

#### JUNE 24.

Bournemouth—Princes' Hall, Grand Hotel—Mrs. Stanbury—Tea. 4.0  
London (Willesden)—Garden Party Meeting—Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B. 7.0

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