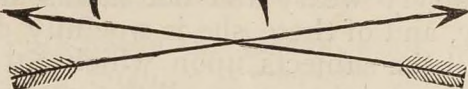


"SHAFTS"



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF PROGRESSIVE THOUGHT.

EDITED BY MARGARET SHURMER SIBTHORP.

"Shoot thine own arrow right through the earthly tissue
Bravely; and leave the Gods to find the issue."—GOETHE.

VOL. VI.

JANUARY, 1898.

No. I.

What the Editor Means.

I saw a woman sleeping. In her sleep she dreamt Life stood before her, and held in each hand a gift—in the one Love, in the other Freedom. And she said to the woman, "Choose!" And the woman waited long; and she said, "Freedom!"

And Life said, "Thou hast well chosen. If thou hadst said, 'Love,' I would have given thee that thou didst ask for; and I would have gone from thee, and returned to thee no more. Now, the day will come when I shall return. In that day I shall bear both gifts in one hand."

I heard the woman laugh in her sleep.—OLIVE SCHREINER.

"THE Editor's apology for her work" might well head the leader this month, apology also that the issue of *SHAFTS* this time must be small. The latter apology is called for, owing to the fact that *SHAFTS* has hard work to sustain itself in this time of great drought; of special hard and weary labour for some workers, namely for those who pull against the tide. I asked my readers for help. If each reader had sent the small sum they were so earnestly implored to send *SHAFTS'* debt would have been abundantly paid, besides supplying a little nest egg for the *SHAFTS'* bank, to meet some demands made by the Magazine in order to ensure its continuance. For *SHAFTS* has a very large circle of readers above and beyond its subscribers, and each of these could easily and without effort have sent the very small sum asked for. The sum obtained has been due principally to one or two kind friends who have helped *SHAFTS* in each time of its need. So I struggle on greatly burdened, instead of which *SHAFTS* might easily have been both glad and free.

It is not all play bringing out each month such a journal as this, indeed there is no play, and if it is to continue to do its earnest work I must ask my readers to stand by me, to help in every possible way, and to help with that strong, vigorous, intent purpose which by its power and determination cannot fail to ensure success. *SHAFTS* works under an open sky, no old walls of conventionality, or roofs of narrow creeds hide from it the light that throbs with new thought, with visions which, once received into the heart and brain in all their gladness and beauty, can never be again shut out.

All these visions SHAFTS has striven to fill up in a brimming cup to its readers ever since it began, and it is now in its sixth year. The heart of the Editor is very weary and her hands are tied. Silver and gold she needs sorely, and of these she is woefully deficient. I ask my readers to consider all the subjects upon which SHAFTS writes, all the evil currents it works so hard to stem, all the promise that lies within it of so much yet to be done. Considering this, with brave, true, kind, hearts, my readers will help me, I feel sure; they know so well how much SHAFTS is needed to awaken slumberers, to uphold the weak, to make still more brave the strong, to lift up still higher the noble. Not even I know better than they how much this needs all SHAFTS' bold strength to do; so I ask them to gather together in great force and help me to go on with a Magazine which has its own special work to do, which cannot make money, it is so sorely beset by the rushing of the downward current, but which can and does rouse, awaken, and gladden souls, and means no faltering in its work. I ask all those who owe their subscriptions, and have long owed them, to make a great, noble-hearted, grand effort to pay them in full, and to continue also to send around me their constantly helpful and hopeful thoughts in a great benediction which shall uplift my soul to bear all, to do all, and to win in due time.

The next issue of SHAFTS will appear about the end of February, after which, with the help of my readers, for which I earnestly, hopefully look, I shall gradually bring it round to be published on the first of each month, for, I hope, some years to come.

The Editor "At Home," for the year 1898, on second and fourth Mondays, at 3 to 5 p.m.

ROBERT BUCHANAN.

THERE is a writer whose name ought to be held in high reverence in the world of readers, and yet that name is seldom heard. I refer to Robert Buchanan, poet and novelist. Very few persons know much about this writer's works, whether of prose or fiction; many know nothing of them. Yet the works, the poems specially, contain some of the most noble thoughts, the highest aspirations, the clearest glimpses of the inner, higher, and future existence, that have ever been put into words. It would be well to awaken interest, a *widespread* interest, in these writings. No one can possibly read them without being ennobled, lifted towards the highest imaginings. Some of the poems are splendid, all are good. Surely when pens write so beautifully for us, we might in return send gladness back from our souls to theirs by our appreciation of what they send us with such lavishness of liberality.

A review of Robert Buchanan's poetical works will appear in SHAFTS, and if written words can express the heart's desire, it will rouse many to read what will well reward the effort.

To our Readers.—All desirous of helping SHAFTS forward, can do so by consulting our advertising pages. When in need of carpets, linoleum, rugs, mats or any other description of floor coverings, write to SHAFTS' Advertising Department. We shall be happy to furnish you with all particulars, and can guarantee you the best goods at low prices; also all descriptions of the best Sheffield table cutlery, silver and electro-plate ware, etc. See Advertisement pages.

Club Records.

WHEREVER two or three are gathered together, there souls and spirits are evolved.

Every woman's club needs the hearty whole-souled support of its members, and upon each member is specially laid the duty and honour of carrying with her wherever she may go, this devotion to her club, or clubs; this *esprit de corps* which shall make to each woman's soul the honour of her club as dear as her own. Were this felt and carried out there would be no misunderstanding and sneers from outsiders; no complainings and bickerings from those within. The club of women would become a power so great that it would have to be considered in the councils of the nation. It will become such a power. Before each club, that is truly a woman's club, this glory lies. Women's clubs must become a power, for great is the work before them. Established in strength and unity of purpose these clubs of women ought to be, must be, for before them lies the conquering of the whole world; the reorganising of the legislative power, the social power, the higher life of the nations. Before them, and what they shall become, a great future lies. It becomes all women therefore to aid and enhance that influence through every channel, and by every means they possess.

PIONEER CLUB.

5, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W.

THIS Club has now moved into its new quarters in Grafton Street, with hopes for its own future undimmed, yea, even strengthened by all the experiences through which it has passed. The new club house in Grafton Street is in reality an old house, and one that has seen "some strange mutations." Perhaps among its records for future generations to ponder over, none will be of greater interest, certainly none can be of greater import, than the fact that its doors have opened to be the meeting place of so many women of broad, and ever-widening thought. The work which the Club has been doing in the past will here be continued, besides new lines of endeavour which are contemplated at present by the members, and which will be reported upon from time to time as may be deemed suitable.

SPRING SESSION, 1898.

Thursday Evening Lectures, Debates, Discussions, etc., 8.15 p.m.

January 20th.—"Can the problem of ameliorating the conditions of rural life be solved by organised agricultural settlements for women? Debate opened by Miss EDITH BRADLEY. Opposer, Miss NORTHCROFT. Mrs. STANTON BLATCH in the chair.

January 27th.—"That women should cultivate the holiness of beauty as well as the beauty of holiness." Debate opened by Miss VIOLET BROOKE HUNT. Mrs. FRANKLIN in the chair.

February 3rd.—"A People's Theatre." Debate opened by CHARLES CHARRINGTON, Esq. Mrs. HOLROYD CHAPLIN in the chair.

February 10th.—"That it is for the public good that women sit on local councils." Debate opened by Mrs. STANBURY. Mrs. MONTEFIORE in the chair.

February 17th.—"The Decline of Ceremony." Debate opened by Miss MARGARET CROSS. Miss AGNES HARVEY in the chair.

February 24th.—"That the modern view of education requires the education of the parent." Debate opened by Mrs. ASHTON JONSON. Miss HENDERSON in the chair.

March 3rd.—"The Liberal Forwards, their Policy and Aim." Debate opened by P. W. CLAYDEN, Esq., HONNOR MORTEN M.L.S.B., in the chair.

March 10th.—"Compulsory Holidays." Debate opened by Miss CAROLINE CUST. Mrs. BROWNLOW in the chair.

March 17th.—“That the conditions of domestic service are less tolerable than those of the average working woman.” Debate opened by Miss ISABELLA FORD. Opposer, Miss WHITEHEAD. The Viscountess HARBERTON in the chair.

March 24th.—“That letter writing is not a dead Art.” Debate opened by Miss D'ESTERRE KEELING. The Lady ELIZABETH CUST in the chair.

March 31st.—“False Ideals.” Debate opened by Mrs. HAMILTON SYNGE. The Hon. Mrs. PELHAM in the chair.

LECTURES.

Friday, February 4th.—The Annual Meeting of the Club.

Wednesday, February 16th. 8.15 p.m.—Lecture by Dr. WASHINGTON SULLIVAN: “Woman.”

Friday, March 4th. 8.15 p.m.—Lecture by Mrs. BESANT: “Evolution of Body and Soul.”

Wednesday, March 30th. 8.15 p.m.—Lecture by Mrs. BROWNLOW: “5, Grafton Street, and some of its Famous Occupants.”

“At Homes,” every Tuesday, 4.30 p.m.

Musical “At Home,” the first Tuesday in every month.

Evening “At Home,” date to be announced later.

Practice Debate, alternate Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

Dramatic Society, alternate Fridays, 8 p.m.

THE GROSVENOR CRESCENT CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

ONE by one the promises of this Club in its founding are being fulfilled. Entering it one feels how desirable and good a thing it is that such an institution should be kept open for the use of women in so many ways, and advocating reforms so much needed. The beautiful rooms are a joy and gladness, they so well supply a very great need. Every member surely must feel that upon her single self lies a serious duty connected with the club, the duty of making sure—through her individual self—in all that she can do or think or say—that the club of which she is so happy and privileged as to be a member shall be known and held in respect everywhere and by all people.

A most interesting and highly appreciated lecture was given on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at 8.30 p.m. by Mrs. ROSS—so well known in connection with the subject of Emigration for Women—on “Do the Colonies afford a sufficient inducement to women to emigrate.”

The lecture was very lucid, and was very much enjoyed by all who heard it. The discussion following also opened out many lines of thought and held the interest of the audience with no sign of weakening. The problem of the servant supply is a very serious one.

The following is the arrangement for the Spring Session:—

PROGRAMME.—CHRISTMAS TO EASTER, 1898.

January 20th. **At Home.** 4—6 p.m. Music.

January 25th. **Lecture.** “Women in the Medical Profession,” by Mrs. SCHARLIEB, M.D., M.S. (Lond.). 8.15 p.m.

February 8th. **Debate.** “To discover and develop Individuality in her pupils is one of the chief functions of a Teacher,” moved by Miss E. P. HUGHES (Training College, Cambridge). 8.15 p.m.

February 17th. **At Home.** 4—6 p.m. Music.

February 22nd. **Lecture.** “The Language of Line,” by Mr. Walter Crane. Chairman—Mr. T. J. Cobden-Sanderson. 8.15 p.m.

March 8th. **Debate.** “Wanted: Actors!” moved by Mr. J. T. Grein (Consul of the Congo Free State). 8.15 p.m.

March 17th. **At Home.** 4—6 p.m. Music.

March 22nd. **Lecture.** “On a newly discovered MS. of the rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, and some side-lights upon Ed. Fitzgerald,” by Mr. Edward Heron-Allen. 8.15 p.m.

A **Debate** is held on the second Tuesday, and a **Lecture** is given on the fourth Tuesday in each month at 8.15 p.m. **Club dinner** at 7 punctually—places for members and guests to be ordered beforehand. Members are entitled to bring one guest to the Lectures (which are open also to members of the Women's Institute).

Tickets for Club Dinners and “At Homes” may be bought of the Hall Portress.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

March 1st. **Re-union.** Tuesday, 8.15 to 10.15 p.m.

The Shakespeare Reading Society will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays in the month, and the **Whist and Chess Club** on the first and third Saturdays.

The Amateur Debating Society will have occasional evenings.

LECTURE DEPARTMENT.

“The makings of the English Constitution.” A course of six lectures by Miss Elsbeth Phillipps (Som. Coll., Oxford), on Wednesdays, at 5 p.m., beginning Wednesday, January 19th. Tickets for the Course—Members 5s., Non-members 10s. Single Tickets—Members 1s., Non-members 2s. 6d.

“The Conduct of Public Business.” Two classes, by Mrs. Bamford Slack, will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd and 16th, at 5 p.m. Tickets—Single lecture, Members, 1s., Non-members, 2s. 6d.

For lectures or tutorial work, applications must be sent to the Chief Secretary of Lecture Department, Women's Institute, Hyde Park Corner. Further lectures on **Literary** subjects will be arranged later. Names must be sent in.

THE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

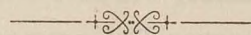
GROSVENOR CRESCENT CLUB.

AMATEUR means one who does anything in a superficial sort of way. That is the surface meaning, to which the word has been degraded, go into its depth and source and you find it means one who loves. So let it be taken by those who belong to this society, so let them study, read and practise as they who love, then will their labour be most effectual and their performances, when they are ready for them, will give pleasure to those who attend hoping to receive pleasure. This society has formed itself for study, reading and recitation, dramatic or otherwise. These are days of practice, but when practice has had some result it is proposed to make the afternoons or evenings on which the society meets, an afternoon of entertainment, and members are to be invited to attend. Whether this point be carried out or not, the society will continue to meet. It is very modest in its opinions of its powers, though there exists an intention on its part which does not savour of humility, namely that it shall follow no models, but create a sort of new school of its own, in so far as it intends to regulate its reading in its own way. Nevertheless it is, as before stated, very humble, and well it may be so, being no more than a Society of Amateurs, waiting for other amateurs to join them. At present it meets every second Saturday at 8 p.m. precisely. Saturday,

February 5th, will be the next day of practice for this Society of Amateurs, *only Amateurs*, only lovers of their work.

The DEBATE PRACTICE SOCIETY is also a Society of Amateurs, of those who really desire to learn to debate with judgment. This society meets upon every Friday evening at 8 p.m. for four Fridays consecutively, when the society is supposed to rest upon its oars for a week or so, members ruminating meanwhile over what has passed, and preparing the nuts to be cracked at their further gatherings.

On the evening of Friday the 14th inst., Miss Brooke, a novelist herself, gave an excellent address on "The Tendency of Modern Fiction." In discussion the opener was somewhat disagreed with, also in the summing up, but at the same time warmly applauded by those who did agree with what Miss Brooke had said and by those who agreed with some portions. Miss Brooke accepted both assent and dissent with the pleasant, quiet consideration which is her wont. The next debate practice will take place on the 28th inst., at 8 p.m. Members of the Club and Institute are invited to join, and are at liberty to bring each a guest (a lady).



The "New Woman" in Germany.

In an article with the above title, Margaret P. Boyle writes in the New York *Outlook* of the status and progress of women in the fatherland. The American girl with her ambition for university training has helped to blaze the way along educational lines, although masculine prejudice opposes every step. The writer goes on to say:

"But German women are slowly succeeding in their struggle for 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Now there are three groups of progressive women—the Conservative group, called 'The Patriotic Society of German Women,' and dating from the wars of Napoleon; the Liberal group, recruited from the middle or professional classes; and the Radical or Socialistic group, drawn from the ranks of labourers. The latter class demand equal pay with men for equal work; and as the men of their party agree with them, they have really some political influence.

"Helen Lange, the leader of the Liberal group, is a most important factor in the new movement. Dr. Bosse, Minister of Public Instruction in Prussia, has been so impressed by her writings that last year he was brave enough to overrule the orders of the Board and admit the daughter of a clergyman to the leaving examination in a preparatory college. This opens the way to woman's entrance to any university in the land. A few schools of this kind, expressly for women, have been established, one at Carlsruhe and another at Berlin, while funds are provided for similar schools at Leipzig and Munich.

"And, as a result of this opening wedge, in this year of our Lord 1897, the University of Vienna, for the first time in her history, has graduated a woman physician.

"Frau Graerck Kühne is stirring up the rich to help the poor, organising clubs, and doing all in her power to get those who have nothing to do to help those who have nothing to do with. In Berlin, broad-minded, large-hearted women are organising training schools; and there is a large organisation of shop girls which has a library, promotes bathing and bicycling, lectures, entertainments and theatricals, and withal is self-supporting.

"In the whole German Empire there is but one woman lawyer, and she is not allowed to plead, but her business is immense. And in Dresden there are 'law societies' formed by the women who study under a lawyer, and on certain days, at fixed places, help the poor in those little disputes which are always arising between master and servant, husband and wife, debtor and creditor.

"So you see the German woman is progressing. And probably many a *Hausmutter*, as she hears of their advancement, sadly says: 'Well, times have changed since I was a girl!'" (From "The Woman's Journal," Boston, U.S.A.).

To Lovers of and Workers for Justice.

DEAR FELLOW-WORKERS,—The year 1897, memorable for the celebration of the record reign of a woman Sovereign, has been, we cannot fail to know, more or less disastrous to the woman's cause in general. We have been indeed in the trough of a wave of reaction, indicated by many unmistakable signs.

To note only a few. We have all observed with indignation the refusal of the University of Cambridge, by an overwhelming majority of votes, to give to the women who are the compeers of the picked men of the University that recognition of their achievements which they give to the merest idle lad who can scrape through his examination; for be it remembered, every woman for whom the recognition of the degree was asked passed the *Honours* Examinations, which are only attempted by the *élite* of the men of the University, the vast majority of the male students contenting themselves with a mere "pass."

Then came the disgraceful proceedings of the House of Commons on July 7th, when time was wasted, and a pitiable exhibition of folly made in order to stave off the dreaded discussion on Women's Suffrage. We will, for decency's sake, draw a veil over those proceedings.

Then we have had the attempts of privileged male officialdom to restrict and harass women in various ways by limiting the field of their employment or their powers as acting officials. Here we may cite as illustrations the proceedings of the Local Government Board, taken in order to prevent the appointment of a woman Relieving Officer. These have happily proved futile. Then came the effort of the Home Office, first to delay or refuse the appointment of a lady superintending inspector of factories in the place of Mrs. Tennant, and ultimately, when public opinion compelled the appointment of a woman to that post, the determination to limit her power of initiating prosecutions, and thus to diminish or destroy the efficiency of her work.

We have at the present moment threats of an attempt to oust women from their membership of School Boards; just such an attempt as was unhappily successful in the case of the women members of the London County Council. These are but types of direct reactionary effort which could be multiplied almost *ad infinitum*.

The plain truth is, men have learned to understand what the emancipation of women ultimately means: the establishment of one equal and just moral law for both sexes. This bad men hate and timid men fear; whilst many good men who would, could they see it, be on the right side, are singularly slow and dull of perception. Nevertheless, all this reaction is a wave only, which will soon spend itself. The tide of progress is with us. Time fights for us, and the broadening thoughts of mankind must develop in our direction. The triumph of justice, truth and love as the basic principles of human society cannot be finally stayed. But these principles are diffused through human agencies and human effort, and it is to direct work towards their establishment that I to-day invite you, and suggest a few practical modes of action.

First of all, we must continue one and all to work for the Suffrage. The grand reason for demanding the Suffrage is the magnificent education in justice which the recognition of the equal humanity and equal citizenship of woman will afford to the male half of the race, and indeed to women also, for many women need as much as most men to be taught that they are *equal human beings with men, equally responsible and owing equal duty to each other and to the race.*

After the proceedings of last year it is absolutely essential that strenuous efforts be put forth to secure a good day, a good debate, and a triumphant division for our Bill. As a first step to this I would ask each one of you to write *at once*, either as a constituent or personal friend, to some member of Parliament, someone who has proved himself by speech or vote in the past faithful to our cause, asking him to *ballot as soon as Parliament* meets for the Women's Suffrage Bill. This is important, since it is impossible to trust to so remarkable a chance as favoured us last Session with a good day for the Second Reading. The larger the number of members who ballot, the greater the chance of a really good day. Let each woman also be present if possible at the House of Commons on the evening of Tuesday, February 8th, and the afternoon of Wednesday, February 9th, to interview the member to whom she has written and to ensure that he shall not forget to ballot. Meanwhile every effort must be continued for the education of the constituencies, and through them of all neutral members, whilst nothing should be omitted which can strengthen the hands of faithful friends. Meetings, petitions, distribution of literature, friendly conversation, propagandism of every kind, must go on with greater vigour than before.

At the present time it is most important that women who are seeking for their full enfranchisement should show themselves able and determined to use to the uttermost for the general good all the franchises which they already possess. In view of the possible attempt against women membership of School Boards women should be pressed into that service wherever *really suitable* women can be found; for the greater the number of women giving such service, the more flagrant will be the wrong should the Courts decide them to be ineligible, and the more certain a speedy legislative redress of so gross a wrong. Nor must we forget that women are eligible, not merely as Poor Law Guardians and Parish Councillors, in which capacities there is room for a very largely increased number of workers, but also as members of Urban District Councils and of London Vestries. A strange prejudice seems to exist against their activity in this direction; strange, because the work done by Urban District Councillors and members of London Vestries is *the same in kind* as the work done by women Parish Councillors and women Rural District Councillors. Here it ought to be remembered how large a proportion (two-thirds) of our population is centred in Urban Districts, including under this head our Municipal Boroughs. There is however, considerable difference between the two classes of Urban Districts and Municipalities as to the position of women. To a Municipal Council a woman is, at least according to the present suggestion of the Courts, ineligible, although she may be (as some women already are), a member of an Urban District Council. Furthermore, qualified married women are entitled to vote for Urban District Councils, but not, as at present determined by the Courts, for Municipal Councils, except in Scotland. A process detrimental to women is now going on throughout the country, the conversion, that is, of Urban Districts into Municipalities. It sounds, men think, somewhat more respectable to be a Town Councillor than to be an Urban District Councillor, and for this and various other reasons our Urban Districts, if they be at all important places, pretty certainly sooner or later seek to become municipalised. This of course means the loss of the married women's vote, and sets up an effective bar to the election of women as Councillors.

A similar injustice on a much larger scale would be worked by the

Municipalisation of the London Vestries, and I would urge upon women to use every effort in their power to secure suitable women for each of these posts now open, and to be diligent to safeguard their rights in any future legislation dealing with this question. Lord Salisbury's speech to the National Union of Conservative Associations must be in the memory of all, in which he suggested the impending Municipalisation of a very considerable part of London.

Above all, let us never lose faith in the final triumph of justice, and let us prove our faith by our works. There are days of gloom and sadness, times of partial defeat, hours of weary heartache for all true workers when one seems making a futile effort. Yet this is not so, if indeed it has ever been so.

I can well remember the time, not yet forty years ago, when it seemed as if the whole future of the woman cause was bound up with the lives of a few, a very few persons. But now "there is no speech or language where their voice is not heard, their sound hath gone out through all the world." Workers near and far, visible and invisible, are building up the glorious future that is to be. And the progress is real and sure, however slow. We who look back on what was, and mark what even already is, can never despair. We find in the progress already made the sure prophecy of the final triumph. The golden year draws on apace, some souls live already in its brightness, and to each is it eternally true, that

"Unto him that works and knows he works,
The golden year is ever at the door."

That this "golden year," the reign of justice, truth and love, gladdening all humanity with its bounty and delight, may speedily arrive to every loving, true-hearted worker, is the New Year's greeting of

Your friend and fellow-worker,
ELIZABETH C. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY.

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OFFICIAL NOTICES AND RULES.

The Editorial Offices of SHAFTS are at 11, Westbere Road, West Hampstead, London, N.W., to which all communications and subscriptions should be addressed. The nearest Railway Station is Brondesbury, on the Metropolitan Extension Line from Baker Street.

All articles, letters, etc., should be accompanied by the full name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication.

All contributions must be clearly and legibly written on one side of the paper only. Where payment may be desired the MSS. should be so marked. The Editor will in all cases endeavour to return rejected MSS. if accompanied by sufficiently stamped and addressed envelope, but cannot accept any responsibility for the loss or miscarriage of any unsolicited contributions.

The Annual Subscription for SHAFTS is 3s. 6d. for the United Kingdom or abroad. All remittances should be made payable to MARGARET SHURMER SIBTHORP.

Reviews.

The Beth Book gives a graphic description of a girl's life, only too often realised, and realised in the earthly lives of so many women. It is not by any means an exceptional case which is here depicted, but a condition of things of such frequent occurrence as to be the rule and not the exception. From the opening of Beth's life, to its close (so far as it is given to the reader) each incident of that life is brought before us with the pathos and force of a soul that *knows*. Madame Sara Grand must have experienced within her own consciousness, potentially, if not actually, the myriad hindrances and anxieties, the vexatious barriers too numerous to be mentioned in detail, the heart-breaking, brain-shattering struggles, created by sex despotism, and by *something else*, which make more or less to all women whose clearer seeing and deeper feeling is awake, the great tragedy of their lives. More intensely and especially, must this be experienced by those whose spirits, touched by the Divine fire of genius, are

"Quick to learn and wise to know."

More acute must be their despair and pain. Yet these enforced obstacles, created by sex despotism and by *something else* are there to be conquered, by the woman soul the work of overcoming them is undertaken, and when that soul knows fully the meaning of the tyrannies and the *something else* that soul will overcome.

What then is the *something else*? Surely such writers as Mrs. Mona Caird, Madame Sara Grand and others have done much to suggest, at least, a way of finding out what that something else is. Surely to the readers of SHAFTS it has suggested itself. These books written by those who feel, and have long felt, all they so nobly write amid personal weariness and the sounding of the imbecile priggishness of newspaper critics—disgusted because *they cannot understand*—are worth reading. It would pay well the time of many who sneer to take such books as *The Beth Book*, *The Daughters of Danaus*, *The Heavenly Twins*, *The Sorrows of Satan*, and reading carefully every sentence, studying carefully every picture, draw out to themselves the meaning, the teaching full of life which every page holds. Such books must be sought humbly, with an eager desire to learn, to reform the life of the reader's self, and later to carry such reform into the world around wherever individual influence can be brought to bear. It is almost useless to quote from such books, the only effectual and practical thing to be done is to possess the books, temporarily at least, permanently if possible, and to make them books of study and reference. In them many problems are solved, many brought close to their solving, and many more still opened up to the piercing anxious gaze of the honest earnest reader, which have not been seen even by the writers themselves. For there is this especial blessing about all true work nobly conceived and nobly executed, that its truths are life-givers and create constantly new truths as they are themselves more and more clearly understood.

The Physiology of Love. By Henry Seymour (L. N. Fowler & Co., 7, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus, London.)

This volume has been forwarded for review. I cannot say too much in condemnation of this work, and all books of a like nature. It is founded upon an altogether false idea of what sex is and will, if read and acted upon, do incalculable harm both to mind and body. Sex is not a state to be worshipped; it is not even a state to linger in, or to dwell upon with that delight of the flesh which is most deadly to spirit life. Sex is a condition which when dwelt upon and lingered over and searched into after this mode is liable to produce a derangement of the moral tone, and a MADNESS on the subject, most disastrous in its results. Sex is a *phase* through which the spirit passes in order to gain experience and discipline. It calls forth if lived through aright, the very highest purity; the noblest strength and impulses; tending ever to the higher and higher life. It is to be purely and nobly passed through and so to be done with, not to be held up as an object of ignoble adoration or even too curious research. The writer of this book looks to ever increased and increasing reproduction. Does he think the woman of to-day, or the still greater and purer woman of to-morrow, will consent to this. Most assuredly they will not. To woman the solving of this problem must be left. She will take it into higher realms of thought, where human beings are "as the angels of God," and sex has no place in the Highest. To this Highest let us ever direct our eyes, then we shall purely and nobly live through our time of trial.

The Voice of the Jackass.

THE Public (God bless it!) is led by the nose,
And it loveth to bellow wherever it goes;
'Twill roar itself hoarse for a pug or a peer,
For "Wiggles and Whisky," for "Boodle and Beer";
'Twill ring out a rousing, "Hip, hip, hip hurrah!"
For a prig or a prince—for a show or a Shah;
But *why* it should cheer very few understand—
Oh! the voice of the Jackass is loud in the land!

Our parsons are prosing of Peter and Paul,
Of man as he was at the Flood and the Fall,
Of the World of the Past with its "Light and its Way!"
(Forgetting what *we* want is light for to-day):
Our learned professors right deeply are read
In the fictions that live and the tongues that are dead,
And they prate and expound, and they puff and expand—
Oh! the voice of the Jackass is loud in the land!

'Tis the voice of the Loyalist—this is his wheeze—
"Up—up with the flag! Let it float on the breeze!
We love it because—(we've no reason to give)—
And the landlord we love—for he letteth us live;
We are ready with rifle and bay'net and brand
To shed the best blood in a stream on the strand,
And we'd shoot our own brothers at word of command"—
Oh! the voice of the Jackass is loud in the land!

So whenever the men who are mighty of jaw
Preach "Property—Property—Order and Law!"
And whenever the Press bids the poor and forlorn
"Rejoice—for a fresh royal pauper is born!"
And whenever they tell us—"Tis easy to see
That the land where you starve is the Land of the Free,"
Let us say as we list to the barren-pate band:
Oh! the voice of the Jackass is loud in the land!

P. LUFTIG, *Sydney Bulletin*

BIRD PRESERVATION.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be most glad to assist in any way in Bird preservation and the prevention of the muzzle. I am happy to put my name on any Society which is formed to further either of these ends. There is required much more vigorous action on both than has been at present taken. The most severe representations should be made to the Italian Minister of Agriculture on this subject; for here the capture of millions of birds by the nets and by bird-lime, goes on *practically* all the year round. In the province called the Lucchesia birds are, except in my own park, almost extinct. The person who has been appointed as representative of the bird societies of England, France, and Switzerland in Rome, is an entirely useless and inept agent of the Cause. He does more harm than good. If no pressure can be brought to bear on Italy, many classes of birds will shortly perish. Their loss is as you say, in your letter, beyond that which would be incurred by any destruction of works of art.

"OUIDA."

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Correspondence.

AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION AT DERBY.
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

THE following letter was penned by a faithful supporter of Women's Suffrage, immediately after the principle was adopted by a majority as part of the Liberal programme, and is well worthy of publication :

December 7th, 1897.

DEAR—,—You will be pleased to know that we have had a very successful and enthusiastic meeting to-day. There was a large attendance; many came to support the Women's Suffrage question, and many also came to oppose it. It was the crucial question of the meeting, and aroused more talk and discussion than anything else before the meeting. I think that there must have been from eight to ten delegates from the Devon Federation; nearly all, if not all, were opposed to Women's Suffrage. I believe Mr. — and myself were the only two from —. There were a number of ladies present—about forty, a lady told me—and nearly all, if not all, were delegates from various associations. I think that all the ladies who came to the Truro meeting were there, and Miss Garland, of Plymouth, was also there.

The discussion on Women's Suffrage must have lasted nearly an hour; several of the speakers against it tried to introduce side issues, or as we say, "draw a red herring across the trail," and wanted a minute definition of the ladies to be admitted to the franchise, instead of discussing the admission of the principle, and leaving details to the future. However, after the matter had been thoroughly debated, the chairman decided to close the discussion and take the vote. The vote was taken on an amendment to one of the proposals before the meeting, and was to the effect that the franchise should be extended to women; on the amendment being put, there was quite a forest of hands held up, and when the opposite was put, there were, I should think, quite 100 to 150 less. The chairman declared the amendment carried, and there was great cheering and clapping of hands. This statement was challenged, so he then asked those in support of the amendment to go on one side of the room, and those in opposition to go to the other, which produced great excitement. The side on which I stood was packed—standing on a chair and looking on both parties, there were, in my opinion, quite the number I have already given on our side in excess. This also caused great excitement. There was waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies, and hats by the men, but this did not satisfy our opponents, and the chairman's statement was again challenged, and in order that there should be no excuse whatever for doubt, he decided on counting the votes; all in favour of the amendment were to go out at one door, and all opposed to it at another door, two tellers at each being appointed. This many of the supporters of the amendment demurred to; it was stated that the chairman had ruled twice previously that the amendment was carried, and after that many of its supporters had left the room. However, to give the opponents no room for grumbling, it was decided it should be done. Those of us in favour of the amendment passed out at one end of the room, and the opponents at the other; anyone looking at the two streams could soon tell at which door was the greatest number. Our door was crowded, so that it was almost difficult to count, while at the other a distinct contrast presented itself.

At the afternoon meeting the chairman declared the figures to be 182 in favour of the amendment for extending the franchise to women, and 120 in opposition (I am not quite certain as to the exact number of our opponents, as the notes I made are not with me at the time of writing); however, we had a majority of over sixty in favour of Women's Suffrage, and my own opinion is, that had the numbers been taken at the first vote, the majority would have been nearer what I have previously stated.

There is one point that strikes me forcibly, *viz.*, that had there been no women present, the amendment would have been carried by men only. You will see that even on the counting of the votes as they left the room, that if the forty ladies present were deducted, there would still have been a majority of over twenty men in favour of it. This, as you will see, commits the National Liberal Federation to Women's Franchise, and having put its hand to the plough, there is no drawing back.

Those ladies who spoke at the meeting put the case exceedingly well. Lady Carlisle also spoke a few words—good, and to the point. Whether any of the men were converted by what the ladies said, I cannot say; possibly all had made up their minds previously, but what was said was well put and should have carried conviction with most.

At the morning meeting I found myself among a group of strong supporters, in

the afternoon I found myself by the side of an equally strong opponent, so that I have been amid both sides. I may say that the opponent opposed simply because he *would* oppose, and it seemed to me for no other reason.

The meetings throughout were very enthusiastic. I am very much pleased to have been able to attend the meetings, and to have helped with my vote towards the hastening on of Women's Franchise.

A LIBERAL MAN.

DOGS AND POLITICS.

(Delayed Letter.)

MADAM,—Mr. Walter Long, of the Board of Agriculture, seems to have poured oil upon the troubled flames by his recent defence of the dog muzzling order, for it has excited a great deal of interest throughout the country, and no end of opposition. Mr. Long's speech was in no sense a reply to the arguments of his opponents, but rather an attempt at an explanation, a very laboured and weak one too. Mr. Long holds that the opponents to the muzzle have no case; but the fact is that the grounds we go upon are of the strongest kind. Our main objections are four. They are, in my opinion, very reasonable ones; and with your permission, I will briefly state them.

- (1) That the muzzling order is a bit of "Class Legislation." Mr. Long has not explained why he exempted sporting dogs, which are a luxury, while he muzzled sheep dogs, which are a necessity. Fox-hounds are more subject to rabies than are any other dogs. Mr. Long is sportsman first, farmer afterwards; that is the explanation, and he ought never to have been placed at the head of the Agricultural Department.
- (2) That the muzzling order interferes with the liberty of dog owners, and puts them to much inconvenience of a purely vexatious nature; and as such an order is inefficacious for its purpose, it is therefore a gratuitous piece of cruelty and oppression.
- (3) That not only is such a scheme useless, but in some cases the muzzling of dogs has led to considerable harm. Many of the best authorities assert that the muzzle has been the cause of rabies, not infrequently; and some dog owners have done away with their animals rather than subject them to the irritating and torturing muzzle. If muzzling is to be of any good at all, it must be applied universally, a thing which Mr. Mark Thornhill, one of our best lay authorities, has shown to be impossible. But of course, Mr. Long never intended to muzzle all dogs from the first. His action in the case of the Duke of Rutland proves that clearly enough.
- (4) Last but not least, that muzzling orders are cruel in their operation, and for that reason alone have been denounced in the severest terms by numbers of veterinary surgeons and medical men. Mr. Victor Horsley, the physiologist, and his followers are ruling Mr. Long in this matter—at least this has been stated in the *Standard* and other London papers, without contradiction. Of course, animal suffering is nothing to them, and the sooner this fact is made widely known the better it will be for all.

I must not close this letter without a word as to Mr. Long's statistics. The most remarkable feature of his speech was the ignorance it displayed; and the statistics which he quoted shewed that either he was grievously ignorant or he purposely misrepresented the case, as nearly every set of figures was on the face contrary to fact. I have winnowed his statements most carefully, but there is no residue. "You can prove anything by statistics," said Lord Beaconsfield; meaning thereby that if you have no better argument, statistics, if properly manipulated, will prove your position, however bad. This is the case with Mr. Long; and I cannot refer my readers to a better illustration of it than that given in a letter to *The Times*, by Captain Pirkis, the well-known advocate of the Buisson treatment of hydrophobia.

I am, yours faithfully, JOSEPH COLLINSON.

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