

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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*"The time of life is short:
To spend that shortness basely were too long."*

**ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES
(NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 483).**

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organized into 483 Societies, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN? (Membership form on p. 155.)

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HOUSE FURNISHERS.WILLIAM OWEN, Ltd., Westbourne Grove, London.
e.c.**Notes and Comments.****A Womanly Woman.**

The Central News Agency reports, in connection with the murder of the French railway signalman Poullain, at his box near San Denys on May 14th, that his wife took his place within a few minutes of his being shot. "Stricken with grief, and only half clothed, her one thought was of the possible danger on the line, and from a quarter past three until six o'clock she manipulated the levers, enabling traffic to proceed as usual, and entering the details up in the train book with precise care."

"We do not require public virtue in our women," wrote Mr. Harold Owen, in that standard Anti-suffrage text-book, "Woman Adrift." The French think differently, for it is hoped to confer upon Madame Poullain the Railway Servants' Medal of Honour. We also offer our respectful homage to Madame Poullain. It is, perhaps, more than a mere coincidence that she belongs to a nation where half a million women have just declared for the enfranchisement of their sex.

The N.U.W.S.S. and Subordinate Parliaments.

We print in full a statement recently sent to the Press, and members of both Front Benches, and to the most prominent people in the Federal Movement inside and outside Parliament by the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., on the subject of Federalism, as the statement has been much garbled and truncated by certain of the papers which have published it. It should not be necessary to make clear that the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. has in no way committed itself to any opinion on the subject of Federalism as such, but has merely endeavoured to point out the nature of the opportunity that any such scheme, if adopted, would afford to Suffragists. Neither does the Union propose to abate for one instant its insistent demand for a Government measure to grant without delay votes for women for the Imperial Parliament. The alleged difficulties of politicians who profess to believe that the Women's Suffrage question has reached an impasse, are not the concern of the Union, which is well aware that such differences as divide the party now in power on the subject can be composed as soon as the will to compose them is present.

Mrs. Fawcett Declines to Strike the Flag.We are glad to see from Mrs. Humphry Ward's letter to *The Times* of May 15th, that she supports the granting of the vote to women for subordinate parliaments, such as would be created were such Bills as the Scottish or Welsh "Home Rule" Bills to pass into law, and not the less though legislative power would be in their hands. Her conception of a "settlement by consent," which would involve "an assurance from the Suffragist party that the line of demarcation between such local assemblies as might arise under Federalism and the Central Imperial Parliament would be loyally accepted and observed," does not, however commend itself to Suffragists. We print elsewhere Mrs. Fawcett's spirited reply to Mrs. Ward, declining thus to "strike our flag."**Ipswich Must Not Have Masterman.**

The N.U.W.S.S. is opposing the return of Mr. Masterman for Ipswich, because Mr. Masterman's vote has only been given for Woman's Suffrage when such support was not likely to lead to any practical result. For the rest, the Union leaves the matter open, neither of the other candidates is an Anti-suffragist. The time and the manner of Mr. Ganzoni's support has yet to appear. Mr. Scurr is a sincere Suffragist, but the Union does not accord to him its official recognition because he permits upon his platform the advocacy of methods which the Union condemns. The return of Mr. Masterman can only cause grief to Liberals who desire to see their party true to its principles.

Leaders Who Do Not Lead.

Speaking at the London Society's reception last week, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Joint Hon. Secretary of the Men's Liberal Suffrage Society gave facts of promise regarding the younger school of thought in the Liberal Party on the subject of Woman's Suffrage. He estimated that, of the younger Ministers, some seventeen favour that cause, as compared with three or four opposed, while the percentage within the League of Young Liberals he gives as high as 80 per cent. Though Mr. Mitchell only vouches for these figures as approximately correct, they are sufficient to demonstrate the amazing folly of those so-called Liberal Leaders who peer ever into the future, crying "the time is not yet." May we commend to them a story, "The

Madonna of the Future," which tells of an artist who collected materials and selected models, and prepared to paint a wonderful picture, and the years wore on, and always his preparations became more elaborate; but with the declining vigour of old age, the power to paint departed for ever.

What is Woman's Place in the Home?In the *London County Council Gazette*, we read:—

"Section 122 of the Children Act, 1908, provides that before a child is bathed compulsorily a notice must be issued calling the attention of the parents to the child's unsatisfactory state, and allowing them twenty-four hours in which to remedy this condition. It is necessary that this statutory notice be served personally on the responsible parent, and considerable difficulty is frequently experienced by the attendance officers before the father is found at home. The result is that the progress of the scheme is delayed to some extent, but it would seem that the difficulty is quite unavoidable."

It has been said that every woman is a queen in her own home. Who performs the royal duty of bathing the child, the queen or her consort, "the responsible parent"? Well, well—if the difficulty is quite unavoidable, it cannot be avoided.

People's Station in Life.

The bad pay and poor prospects of professional women are largely the result of their exclusion from the ordinary political rights and enjoyments of citizenship. There has recently been some discussion in regard to the ample pensions drawn by two public men, one lately deceased. A factor in this case was, what is "suitable to a person's station in life"? This is a factor in the woman's case also. Men are her judges, without appeal, and they have too often judged that, unless she will consent to be the possession of some man, she shall be the world's scavenger and drudge. Nurses for Fever Isolation Hospitals have run short, and, groping half blindly for the cause, it has been borne in on those responsible for these institutions that the offer of a decent wage and decent conditions may avert a deadlock. In the meanwhile, as is pointed out in a volume issued by the Women's Fabian Group, women's professional work, "responsible, highly-skilled, exhausting," is being paid at a rate per hour measurable only in pence, and her own domestic life is not her own, for if she marries, the public bodies of this free country demand in nearly every case her retirement.

The W.S.P.U. Deputation to the King.Mr. Laurence Housman writes to *The Manchester Guardian* of May 19th stating that in his opinion the W.S.P.U. Deputation is a just assertion of the right of personal petition to the King possessed by women, and the Executive Committee of the Men's League for Woman's Suffrage have passed a resolution in the same sense. We reserve our judgment in regard to the circumstances of the W.S.P.U. Deputation which is impending as we go to press, as we have not all the facts in connection with it before us, but we desire to place on record once again our profound regret that militant Suffragists by resorting to arson and kindred acts of violence alienate many lovers of liberty and of constitutional right. We endorse the wish expressed by the Men's League that the authorities may be found to have refrained themselves from acts of violence, and we earnestly hope that any constitutional rights which are possessed by women may not have been imperilled by prejudice or passion on either side.**How Mr. Wason is to be Won.**

We women are most unfortunate. There used to be a topical song with the refrain, "He did, and he didn't know why!" But our sad case is worse. "We do, and we don't know what!" Mr. Wason told the House of Commons in the debate on the Scotch Bill that he "cannot support women so long as they pursue their present course." Naturally, therefore, women would desire at once to abandon their present course, but here the difficulty comes in. Between one and two hundred thousand women support the Liberal Party by means of the Women's Liberal Federation. Now, is it these women who annoy Mr. Wason, or is it not? Then a large number have signed the British Covenant, we suspect, but we cannot be certain, that this kind of thing upsets the Hon. member for Clackmannan and Kinross. Some thousands are greatly influenced by Mrs. Pankhurst; others, again, think highly of Mrs. Humphry Ward, or even of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. Millions do not stay in the home, but go out to work for wages; other millions bide at home, and nurse the baby. But, enough!—Light dawns! Let all women stop doing anything till the vote is won, and then we may be quite sure of having Mr. Wason with us.

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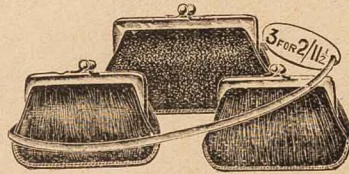
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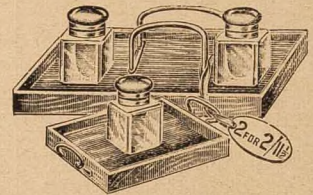
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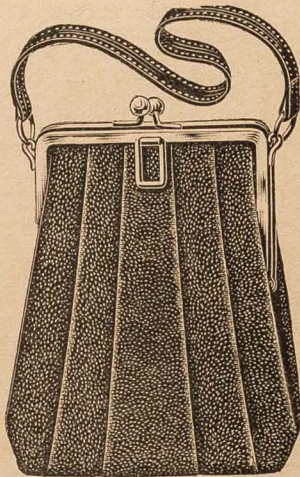
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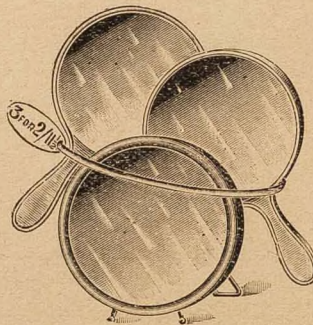
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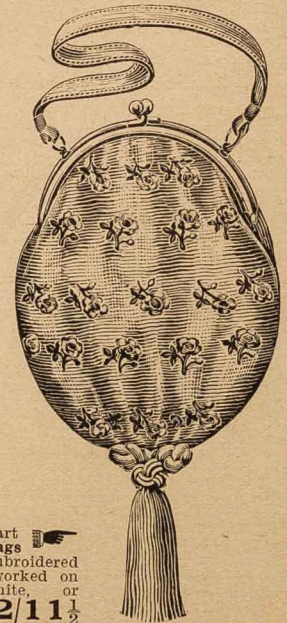
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