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"In the dim and speculative future"

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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

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THIS YEAR—

NEXT YEAR—

SOMETIME—

! ! !

Notes.

THE signs of the times are full of encouragement. The battle rages now not so much round the question *whether* duly qualified women shall be enfranchised as to *when* they shall be so set free. In the long-drawn-out fight against the illiberalism of a Liberal Government, the position of the political prisoner is now to the fore. Twelve ladies of the Women's Social and Political Union, proving that the spirit of women is stronger than Mr. Gladstone and all the forces at his command, have successfully carried out a hunger-strike, varying from 91 to 151 hours—as a protest against their treatment as second-class misdemeanants. Among those who deprecate in no uncertain terms the action of the Home Secretary in the matter is *The Nation*, and the National Administrative Council of the Independent Labour Party have adopted the following resolution: "That this meeting of the National Administrative Council hereby expresses its strong condemnation of the action of the Government in allowing the women Suffragist prisoners to be placed in the second and third divisions, and demands that they should be accorded all the privileges ordinarily accorded to political prisoners."

THE Wesleyan Conference at Lincoln has adopted by 224 to 136, a resolution, affirming that the time has come when duly qualified and elected women shall be welcomed as lay representatives. Some said that the adoption of the resolution would be associated with the recent activities of the Suffragettes, but Dr. Scott Lidgett, the ex-president, repudiated the argument as casting an undeserved stigma on Wesleyan women. We cannot quite follow this latter statement, but we do know that some of the finest workers for this reform in church organization are also staunch supporters of Suffrage movement.

MISS CHRISTABEL PANKHURST has sent a letter to the Press respecting the allegations of kicking made against the "hunger-strikers," and asserting that the charge of biting is indignantly repudiated by every one of the prisoners.

CABINET Ministers have not been allowed to forget their responsibilities to women; both men and women joining in the heckling campaign in various parts of the country. The Women's Freedom League have been doing extraordinarily good work, full accounts of which may be seen in their pages of this issue.

WITH regard to Cabinet Ministers, it is reported that Mr. Haldane, at the International Nurses' Congress, where "nearly a score of women (!) were removed by lady (!) stewards," commented that he had never before seen such matters more neatly dealt with, which bears out our belief that the fracas on these occasions must be attributed to the Liberal stewards, not the Suffragettes.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

THE membership of the Kensington Committee has increased so largely that, in order to facilitate the work, the following ladies have arranged to distribute notices, &c., to members in their respective districts. Mrs. Schofield has the neighbourhood round Phillimore Garden; Miss Marian Martin, West Kensington; Miss Dimock, Emperor's Gate; Miss C. Keeling, Notting Hill; Miss Mitford, from Iverna Gardens to Cromwell Road; and Miss Luxmore, Campden Hill. If any member living in the neighbourhood of Earl's Court would undertake to deliver notices, &c., in that district, would she kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss Myra Luxmore, 57, Bedford Gardens, W.

This arrangement has so far worked admirably, and has considerably reduced postage, and lessened the heavy work of the Hon. Secretaries.

The South African Constitution.

A QUESTION of burning interest at the present moment is the exclusion of women from the South African Constitution. It has been framed in such a manner as to base its representation on the number of adult males in each colony, and women are entirely ignored. The rights of the black man are to be partially safeguarded, but the needs of the white woman excite little sympathy from the framers of the new constitution. Surely the patriotism and good feeling of the women of South Africa are no less needed than those of the men, if this difficult experiment of unification is to work smoothly, and South Africa to be united in something more than name.

The Suffrage movement in South Africa, though not very old, is a vigorous one. The question has been twice discussed in the Cape Parliament, though no vote was taken, because it was felt that no change in the franchise could be considered on the eve of the National Convention, which was to unite the four self-governing colonies into one nation. A petition was prepared and signed by women from all four colonies, and presented to the Convention with a memorandum, which set forth, by reference to election and census statistics, the actual results in numbers that would ensue from the enfranchisement of women. It proved conclusively that in Cape Colony under existing qualifications it would greatly strengthen the intelligent white vote, and masculine supremacy would be in no way endangered, since the women's vote would be well under 50 per cent of the men's or 65 per cent, should adult suffrage be adopted. Though this memorandum was sent up with a largely signed petition, yet the fact that it was drawn up by women was a sufficient reason for disregarding it, and it was never officially presented.

The result was what may always be expected under such circumstances. Not only was the plea of the unenfranchised disregarded, but they were deprived of what few rights they already possessed. At present women taxpayers and landowners have some voice in local affairs—at least in several municipalities, divisional councils, and school boards in Cape Colony—but they are now to be disfranchised, since the Provincial Councils, which have the control of all these matters, are to be elected by the Parliamentary voters.

In South Africa the Enfranchisement League in Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal are making joint protest against the exclusion of women from the Draft Constitution, and now at the eleventh hour, when the Premiers of the four colonies are in London to secure the ratification of the Constitution, all our Suffrage Societies ought to join in protesting against this cruel injustice to their sisters in South Africa. The matter is so immediate, the passing of this Act would be so serious a set-back for our cause throughout the world, if, after all these years of work, it still proves possible to draw up a new Constitution from which women are directly excluded, that it almost seems as though for a while everything else ought to be put aside. It is, of course, a case for the International Suffrage Alliance; but if it is impossible for this to act owing to the wide distribution of its officers, then surely our English societies should take the duty on themselves.

Mrs. Saul Solomon, whose late husband was a notable statesman of Cape Colony, and an ardent advocate of our cause, calls upon English Suffragists to send deputations to the South African delegates, and also to make a written appeal to the South African Convention and the British Government on the subject of including Women's Suffrage in the new Constitution. In such a case surely *bis agit qui cito agit* may be said, and our English Suffragists should show that they, too, are prepared to "think imperially," and join in the protest against this crying injustice.

ALICE ZIMMERN.

[We refer our readers to an important letter from Mrs. Solomon commencing on the next page.]

To the Members of the Women's Freedom League on duty at the House of Commons.

I.
YOU wait and watch; yea, hour by hour
And day by day, you watch and wait;
The powerless pleading unto Power,
You stand unanswered at the gate.

II.
The nights and days may wax and wane;
Still, scorched beneath the burning sun,
Or shivering in the chilly rain,
You stand—that justice may be done.

III.
Those stately halls you may not tread!
You turn amazed and ask us why;
Our answer is: "The great are dead,
The springs of Chivalry are dry."

HERBERT JACOBS.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

Holloway Hunger Strikers.

THE following correspondence has passed between the Home Secretary and the New Union for Men and Women:—

35, Hart Street, W.C., July 21st, 1909.

To the Right Hon. Herbert Gladstone, M.P.,
Home Office, Whitehall.

Sir,—We the undersigned, a sub-committee duly elected by the members of the New Union for Men and Women—a body which includes among its members a large number of Parliamentary electors—were deputed at a meeting held at our offices, 35, Hart Street, W.C., last evening (the 20th inst.), to call your immediate attention to the following facts:—

1. That a political prisoner (Miss Wallace Dunlop) has been allowed to remain fasting for ninety-one hours in Holloway Gaol before her release was ordered.

2. That two other ladies (Miss Gladys Roberts and Miss Florence Cook), also political prisoners, have been allowed to remain fasting for the unprecedented period of *five days and six hours* in Holloway Gaol before their release was ordered.

3. That at the moment of writing other women political prisoners—many of them delicately nurtured—are fasting in Holloway Gaol, to the grave danger of their health, and to the infinite distress of all humane-minded persons.

4. That these gentlewomen have been committed to prison for no other reason than their heroic and unselfish devotion to a cause which to them is sacred, a cause which has already received the support of a majority of 179 in the House of Commons,

Therefore we the undersigned on behalf of the members of this Union desire to express an earnest hope that you will take immediate steps to prevent the prolongation and repetition of political persecutions degrading to any civilized country. Two courses only are open to an honourable and humane man who bears your revered name and occupies your high office at this critical time (1) To order the release forthwith on medical grounds of those political prisoners who have been fasting for 24 hours or longer. (2) To order the removal to the first division of all women political offenders.

We desire to point out that far graver offenders than these gentlewomen—for example the cattle-maimers in Ireland, and the Jamieson raiders in South Africa—have been placed in the first division, and consequently the continued imprisonment

in the second division is contrary to all precedent and repugnant to our common sense of justice.

We have the honour to be Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) FRANK RUTTER, Chairman.

(Signed) VICTORIA MATTLAND, Acting Secretary.

(Signed) W. WILSON HORN, A Member of the Committee.

Home Office, 21st July, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Frank Rutter, Esq.

C. E. TROUP.

35, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 23rd July, 1909.

To the Rt. Hon. Herbert Gladstone, M.P.

SIR,—On behalf of the members of the "New Union for Men and Women," we desire to express our satisfaction at your release of six of the ladies referred to in our letter of the 21st inst.

We understand that two other political prisoners are still fasting in Holloway Gaol, of whom one is Miss Mabel Kirby, and we desire to call your very earnest attention to her case. Alone of all the ladies convicted of stone-throwing, Miss Kirby denied having thrown any stones. No suffragette has ever yet sought to shield herself by falsehood from the consequences of any act of hers. On the contrary, they glory in their acts, which they deem justified as political protests.

We submit, therefore, that Miss Kirby's denial should carry weight in your consideration of the case, and we the undersigned can give you our assurance that she was not a member of any deputation on the 29th ult., and that friends that were with her up to the time of her arrest corroborate her denial. You will understand that as these ladies are willing martyrs, it is not their object to defend themselves, even against wrongful accusations; but we are persuaded that in the case of Mabel Kirby there has been a miscarriage of justice, which we trust to your sense of fair play to rectify speedily.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK RUTTER, Chairman.

W. WILSON HORN, Member of Committee.

VICTORIA MATTLAND, Acting Secretary.

Second Division Prisoners.

DEAR SIR,—A clearer understanding of the position of Suffragettes with regard to their refusal to give their promises not to seek an interview with the Prime Minister until the point of law is decided may be attained if we reverse the position of the parties seeking judgment. For our purpose let us put the representative of the Government, Inspector X, in the dock. Let him be accused of obstructing the subject in the exercise of a constitutional right in demanding an interview with a member of Parliament.

The case against Inspector X would be overwhelming. Inspector X would, of course, plead, in the words of the song, "I only did as I thought right." "Then don't do it any more"—or at any rate promise me not to until the point of law has been decided by a higher court," would be the answer of the magistrate.

Would Inspector X give an undertaking that until the point of law was decided he would not obstruct any one in carrying out what they believed their duty; and if he would not give such a promise, or pay a fine for doing what is not at present adjudged contrary to law, would he be sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment in the second division?—I emphasize especially the last four words.—Yours truly,

J. EDWARD FRANCIS.

South African Constitution.

6, Belsize Avenue, Hampstead, N.W., 26th July, 1909.

SIR.—Will you permit me, as a South African Colonist since the early seventies, to address a few words through your columns to the many women suffragists whose aim it is to promote the cause of righteousness in all parts of the world?

At this moment, a number of distinguished South Africans, including four Prime Ministers, are engaged in discussing the

provisions of the Draft Constitution for United South Africa, along with members of the British Cabinet at Westminster. Thousands of intelligent citizens on both sides of the ocean are watching with breathless interest for the results of these important deliberations. We naturally anticipate an advance in the legislation which has to meet the requirements of the twentieth century in a vast half continent.

But what are the facts? Alas! here are clauses which tend to jeopardize the liberties already enjoyed by numerous tribes of British subjects in our "native territories," [and provisions for depriving 23,000 respectable and satisfactory native and coloured voters of the franchise granted to them when responsible government was bestowed on Cape Colony. But this draft Constitution for a newly evolved nation, "the heir of all the ages, in the foremost ranks of time," excels itself in its retrograde dealing with fundamental human rights by its treatment of the womanhood of South Africa, who are wholly eliminated from calculation, even as inhabitants!

This, we must remember, is a land containing a large proportion of irresponsible white male voters, in its mining centres in particular, who value women, and especially native and coloured women, as mere chattels and nothing more! It is perhaps impossible for happy Englishwomen to apprehend in all its impressive fulness the imperative necessity for putting the elevating lever of the vote into the judicious hands of duly qualified South African women. Already some of us can trace the presence of the old scourge of South Africa, the rank materialist, the scheming financier, the exploiter of too trusting and too noble a people. We see him stalking the women—his Anti-Suffrage petition skilfully thrust into the hands of unconscious tools! That petition which gained so many signatures after a manner scorned by the brave, true band of Woman Suffragists—with that patriotic South African—Olive Schreiner at their head.

British Woman Suffragists! Arise *en masse*, and claim for such as these, and for the heroic women of the Dutch-speaking race in the countries comprising the Union, that justice and franchise which we are in the very act of reaching forth our eager hands to receive from the tardy Government of this Country.

Yours to serve the Cause,
GEORGIANA M. SOLOMON,
Widow of the late Saul Solomon, M.L.A., Cape Town.

Church Army and Women.

SIR,—I recently attended a Church Army meeting, and was much struck by the following statistics:—

Items of one year's Church Army figures:		July 22nd, 1909.
Meals supplied to men .. .. .	.. .. .	2,074,653
" " " women and girls .. .. .	.. .. .	432,447
Beds " " men .. .. .	.. .. .	660,000
" " " women and girls .. .. .	.. .. .	92,109
Men and youths received in labour homes and farms .. .. .	.. .. .	6,854
Women and girls received in homes .. .. .	.. .. .	2,361
Wages paid in men's homes .. .. .	.. .. .	£50,000
" " " to women and girls in homes .. .. .	.. .. .	4,287

The speakers, when questioned about these statistics, were not ready with an explanation. One said that men were more helpless than women. I should like to ask your readers, who may know more about charity organizations than I do, whether this disparity between charity towards men and women is common, and, if so, how it may be accounted for.—Yours,
S. F. WARING.

Holiday Donations.

DEAR SIR,—In the last two issues of *Women's Franchise* I have read of the holiday sacrifices made, and I feel that I too must make mine. I am going to stay with an aunt at Oban, and instead of going the trips that I usually do, I shall send by to-day's post the *W.* thus saved to Mrs. Wood, our treasurer of the Scottish W.F.L.

I am yours faithfully,
MARY MCINTYRE.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

CUMBERLAND (N.U.W.S.S.).—The Keswick Women's Suffrage Association organized an open-air campaign last week in the Whitehaven and Cockermouth Divisions. The speakers were Miss I. O. Ford, Miss R. Costelloe, and Miss C. E. Marshall. Four meetings were held in Whitehaven, two in Maryport, and five in Wokington. Great interest was shown in the meetings in all three towns; large crowds collected to hear the speakers, and were always sympathetic and orderly. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was passed in every case with hardly any dissentients. Several new workers volunteered to help the cause in that part of Cumberland, and it is hoped that Whitehaven, Maryport, and Wokington will all have Women Suffrage Societies of their own before long.

HUDDERSFIELD (N.U.W.S.S.).—The annual meeting was held last Saturday, through the kindness of Mrs. Josiah Lockwood, at Black Rock, Linthwaite, who had issued invitations to the members, with liberty to bring their friends, to meet Miss Rathbone, of Liverpool. Despite the torments of rain, some 200 ladies and gentlemen attended, and, judging from the enthusiasm throughout, it might have been the most sunny day. Miss Siddon presided as president, and with Mrs. Lockwood, gave a hearty welcome to the visitors.

Mrs. Studdart, the hon. secretary, read apologies for absence from Mrs. T. K. Clarke, Mrs. and Miss Robson, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss A. H. Brook, Alderman A. Gee, J.P., Councillor Geo. Thomson, J.P., and Mr. Thomas Mallinson, J.P.

Miss Siddon in a brief review moved, and Mrs. Josiah Lockwood seconded, the adoption of the report and accounts.

The report shows that the Huddersfield Branch has been successful, and is supported by representatives of all political parties and creeds, and they have unitedly worked for one common object, viz.: the granting of the vote to women on the same conditions as men, and the general amelioration of the working women's conditions.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Miss Kate Kilburn in eulogistic terms proposed the election of Miss Siddon as president for the ensuing year, seconded by Miss Lowenthal, and carried with acclamation, to which Miss Siddon felicitously replied.

Miss Kilburn moved, and Miss Laycock seconded, that the vice-presidents be: The Lady Dorothy Howard, Mrs. Benj. Broadbent (Mayoress, 1905-6), Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. (President of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), Miss B. Mason (Treasurer of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), Mrs. C. J. Brook, Mrs. W. P. Raynor, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. T. Kilner-Clarke, Mrs. A. D. Parr, Mrs. T. P. Crosland, Mrs. F. W. Robinson, Mrs. C. F. Sykes, Mrs. Emily Dixon Moody, Mrs. M. A. Jagger, Mrs. M. Elder, Mrs. F. W. Cockroft, Miss Lowenthal, Mrs. E. A. Beaumont, Miss A. H. Brook, Mrs. Josiah Lockwood, Miss Kate Kilburn, Messrs. Owen Balmforth, J.P., B. Broadbent, M.A., J.P., Arthur J. Sherwell, M.P., W. P. Raynor, J.P., John Sugden, J.P., Allen Gee, J.P., Thomas Mallinson, J.P., C. Ingram Armitage, J.P., E. A. Beaumont, B. Riley, John Latimer Farke, M.D., and H. M. Phipson.

The following officers and members of the Council were elected:—Mrs. Josiah Lockwood, chairwoman of the Council; Mrs. H. Studdart, hon. secretary; Mrs. E. A. Beaumont, hon. treasurer; Mrs. L. A. Haigh, hon. auditor; Councillor E. A. Beaumont, Parliamentary and Municipal agent. The above, with the following, will form the Council, which has power to add to its number:—Mesdames C. F. Sykes, M. A. Jagger, F. W. Cockroft, Donkersley, Shires, Sanderson, Montgomery, and Rennard, Misses Lowenthal and Kate Kilburn, Alderman A. Gee, J.P.

Miss Rathbone, who was most cordially received, moved, "That this meeting regrets the attitude of the Government in delaying the granting of the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men, and calls upon all its members to use their earnest endeavours to bring pressure to bear upon the Prime Minister in any way possible and constitutional to obtain this long delayed and much needed reform."

LEAMINGTON AND WARWICK (N.U.W.S.S.).—On July 20th this Society held a garden meeting at Warwick. The Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. Alan Williams, took the chair and gave a very sympathetic address, and Miss Gardner, B.A., of Birmingham, spoke of the reasons why women are asking for the vote. A very satisfactory collection was taken for the funds of the Society, and it is hoped that a separate local committee (with its own local secretary) will speedily be formed, as it is felt that the growing work in these two important boroughs is more than one Committee can cope with.

EDITH K. CATLIN.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTIN, B.S.C. A.R.C.S.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNETT

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Mr. Gladstone and his Statements.

On Thursday last Mr. Gladstone was asked by Mr. Philip Snowden if he had received a memorial from the Men's League for Women's Suffrage and other organizations praying that Miss Hicks, M.A., Miss Cummin, Miss Clunas, and Miss Law, now undergoing imprisonment in Holloway, should be transferred to the first division, as is usual in the case of political offenders, and whether he had taken any action thereon.

Mr. Gladstone answered that he had received the memorial, and that he had not taken any action. "I may add, however," he went on to say, "that a question of wider scope dealing with the second point stands on the paper for Tuesday next, to which I propose to give a full answer."

Then up rose Mr. Rees, gentle and valiant knight, and thundered:—

"May I ask, sir, whether the law of England recognizes any such creature as a political offender?"

Mr. Gladstone: "No, Sir, there is not a general recognition."

So now we begin to see gleams of light and to know where we are. There is no general recognition, but you may publish a paper containing a "general criminal incitement to political assassination," and rank as a political offender, and get four months in the first division. You may commit high treason and lead an armed body of raiders against a people with whom your country is technically at peace, and be sentenced to six weeks in the first division. You may go cattle-driving, and get six months in the first division, but in all these instances the law recognizes that it is dealing with a male offender, not with "any such creature" as a woman. A point that makes all the difference, for it is recognised that male offenders may act with a motive which may be a political one, but a woman acts, as every one knows, from the very fact of her sex, irresponsibly and without motive, and cannot therefore be capable, under any circumstances, of committing a political offence. It is quite plain and easy to understand if one considers it a moment from Mr. Rees's point of view.

However, we have been promised a full statement from Mr. Gladstone. That should make our hearts rejoice even if it makes our heads ache trying to reconcile it with something that he has said before.

Mr. Gladstone has placed on record time and again his sorrowful regret that he has no power to interfere with the decision of the magistrates. By some process of reasoning peculiar to himself he is able to reconcile this with the fact that he has interfered over and over again, and magistrates' decisions have been swept aside as at the bidding of a royal command.

"They ought to be sentenced to hard labour." "How is it all these women have not been arrested yet?" are some of the pleasant things we hear as we stand at the gates of Westminster, seeing our legislators go in and out; and these are not all "after-dinner" remarks either.

It is to men who can express such sentiments that the supreme power of the State is entrusted, while wisdom stands without; to the women in their academic robes, quiet, dignified, with a humble petition in their hands praying for their right, for that which has been granted to the most ignorant bucolic clod and is yet denied to them.

What a picture for history!

The siege of Westminster—too quiet, too lacking in sensationalism for the vulgar press of to-day, which finds much spicier

"copy" in the highly edifying scenes that occur inside the House, when noble lords and honourable members indulge in pot-house repartee—will take its rightful place as a striking instance of the wonderful endurance and patience that was shown by the women of Britain in their fight for right and justice. And the present Parliament? That will take its place in history, too, with its Grand Inquisitor, its Great Mogul, its shameful record of betrayal and injustice, and its reversion to barbarous methods in dealing with women offenders—a place which will mark it out for the scorn and contumely of all future generations.

THE EDITOR.

The Siege.

ANOTHER two and fifty hours of weary and tedious waiting, making in all a total of 151, have drawn to a close the third week of the siege of Westminster. Its progress has been marked for Mr. Asquith by daily letters stating the number of hours that we have stood, and several devoted members have lightened the strain for us by their ready sympathy. Two more all night sittings have laid their heavy tax on the devotion and endurance of our members, and it is with a sigh of heartfelt relief that we welcome the temporary shelving of the Budget. This week has seen the introduction of picturesque variations into the routine of watching. Labour and Brains have each made their silent appeal at the gates of the House, but even this alliance of the great gods who fight for democracy has left unmoved the "democratic" leader of the Commons.

On Wednesday night from 6 to 8 p.m. representatives of the working women of Britain stood at St. Stephen's entrance. Widows with little children dependent on their earnings, bread-winners and rent payers, each would have been entitled to the protection of the vote were only the iniquitous sex bar once removed. Dishevelled and weary-eyed they stood, a pathetic illustration of the unequal warfare which women are waging against the pestilential monster of our present industrial conditions. A few unimportant members smiled at Suffragist folly. But the folly of the wise is stronger than the wisdom of fools. With these delegates stood Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, and Mrs. Margaret Moore, stalwart champions of women's labour, symbolising those powers of organization and co-operation which make weakness itself formidable.

The following night a band of disembodied spirits clad in academic robes hovered round the sacred precincts of Westminster. What were they? Persons they were not, for did not Lord Salvesen with the voice of authority, barely one year ago, pronounce that women graduates were not persons? But angels, demons, or whatever the law's majesty might choose to call them, there they were to the number of five and thirty, from almost every University in the kingdom. London, Brussels, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Liverpool, St. Andrews—each sent its representatives; Science, Medicine, Law, and Letters had each its feminine exponent. Gay scarlet gowns of the Doctors of Medicine flaunted against the grey old stones of St. Stephen's; the sombre togas of the Arts and Sciences, brightened with the vivid purple, white and gold of silken hoods, circled the Mother of Parliaments with a garle of wisdom. The scene might have been transferred bodily from 'The Princess.' For the second time in history Pallas brought the olive, the symbol of peace, and, less wise than the Athenians of old, the Government tossed it back in scorn. Who shall wonder, then, if the goddess of peace and wisdom, of courage and womanly arts, thus flouted, shall throw down the gage of battle?

Thousands of people gathered in Parliament Square to wonder at the new feminism; and yet, strange to say, there was no obstruction! Whether the police were suddenly endowed with miraculous powers or merely with orders from headquarters no one could tell, but the constantly reiterated request to "Keep moving there, please," kept the unwieldy crowd in motion and the Square open for traffic.

"THE LAW IS A HASS."—SAM WELLER.

DOWNING STREET and Holloway have claimed their usual weekly sacrifice. Once again the constitutional rights of the people have been flouted; once again has the hollow farce of a trial been gone through; once again have political offenders been sentenced to three weeks in the second division.

Miss Muriel Scott, M.A., and Miss Arabella Scott, M.A., sisters, and graduates of Edinburgh University, appear walking in Downing Street wearing the sashes of the League, holding petitions in their hands. Consternation of the policeman on duty! Reinforcements sent for, Downing Street cleared, and about a hundred and fifty people assemble in Whitehall. The two slight young girls attempt to pass the cordon of police without success. For half an hour the Law maintains an attitude of unruffled contempt, but as the time draws near when the Premier must leave his residence, the girls are marched away to Cannon Row charged with obstruction.

At Bow Street, Inspector Jarvis gives evidence as to the obstructive nature of the hundred and fifty persons gathered in Whitehall. What paralyzing spell had been thrown over the police? The night before, says Miss Muriel Scott, she and thirty other women stood at the gates of Westminster wearing not only these dreadful ribbons but also academic dress. Hundreds of people had assembled, but the police had managed to move them on. Witnesses are called who admit that they saw no obstruction, and that the crowd remained after the removal of the prisoners.

Then it turns out that it was for obstruction of the police, and not for causing an obstruction, that the defendants were arrested, and we are left wondering why the question of the crowd has been dragged in at all. Oh blessed words of double meaning! what would the law and the magistrates do without you?

In addressing the Court both the defendants emphasized their constitutional right to petition Mr. Asquith, and their intention to continue agitating. "Silly young women," Mr. Jarvis had called them; "scapegoats," said Mr. Marsham.

In spite of Mr. Muskett's pathetic appeals for a holiday, in spite of the magistrate's agonized entreaties, Miss Muriel and Miss Arabella Scott refused to give any promises of future good behaviour, contending that they had been guilty of no breach of law, and were sentenced to three weeks. After all the wisdom of Weller has stood the test of time; The law is a hass.

M. NELSON.

In the Air.

WHILE Mr. Asquith was unveiling the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Embankment Gardens last Wednesday, a large balloon, variously described by the Press as a "monster captive balloon," a "fire balloon," a "toy balloon," floated over from the direction of Adelphi Terrace. Was it Latham or Blériot? the crowd were asking. But as it drew nearer the familiar green, white and gold was recognized, and directly over Mr. Asquith's head the wind obligingly tilted the strange monster, thus making known to the people below that the "Women's Freedom League demand Votes for Women." Highly symbolic, for Votes for Women is indeed in the air at the present time!

M. N.

As we go to press a letter is being sent to Mr. Asquith in answer to his statement in the House last night (Monday), that "if the W.F.L. can indicate any new facts I will consider whether they can be elucidated in a personal interview." The right hon. gentleman's answer to the new facts we bring forward will be published next week.

The End of a Momentous Month.

ON July 31st Miss Hicks, M.A., Miss Elsie Cummin, Miss Clunas, and Miss Law, will be released from Holloway Prison. It seems almost worth while sometimes to endure the hardships incident to "doing time" just to have the exquisite satisfaction of leaving them behind, of greeting once more the fresh air and sunshine, and of receiving the enthusiastic welcome of one's friends.

Holloway clangs its iron doors behind our four devoted members at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning. Will all who can possibly do so brave the early hour and turn up at the prison gates to meet them? We shall go straight from thence to the Eustace Miles Restaurant, Chandos Street, where a breakfast will be held to celebrate their return to the world of life and action. All our members should recollect that it is the friendly faces that make memorable the first meal of civilization, and we hope as many of these will come as can manage to do so. Tickets for the breakfast, 1s. each, may be obtained at the office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

On Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the lions of Trafalgar Square will stand guard once more over the liberty of woman. The released prisoners will be present, and will relate their experiences in Holloway, and the other speakers will be Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Borrmann Wells, Miss Isabel Logan, Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Beith, and Mrs. Manson. Several of the actresses have promised their help.

A reception will be given at Caxton Hall on Thursday, August 5th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett will be the speaker, and Mrs. Despard, as hostess, will present each prisoner with the prison banner and the Holloway badge. This is the women's Victoria Cross, not easily won—given only "For Valour," to those who have loved liberty well enough to consent to be deprived of it for a time in order that all women may enjoy it in perpetuity.

"Our Work—Past, Present, and Future."

Dumfries By-Election.

ONCE more in a Liberal stronghold a very considerable reduction has been made in the Government majority. There are less than 4,000 voters in this division, and to bring down a majority from 633 to 292 means a great deal.

Very little excitement preceded or followed the election, and there was practically no display of party colour. The Suffragette tri-colours were, however, very much in evidence. Owing to Mrs. Despard's presence in Dumfries we had a meeting for women on the polling day. It was very successful and brought us new members.

We have gained many friends here and shortly a branch will be formed in the burgh. At Burns' house, the other day, it was good to hear the woman custodian upholding the Suffragettes. My Holloway badge is an object of great value in her eyes, and it was with great reverence she showed it to her children. Perhaps she will volunteer for D.D. soon.

ALICE SCHOFFIELD (Organizer).

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES—ENTHUSIASTIC MEETINGS.

THIS week inaugurates the extension of our Liverpool activity into North Wales. After strenuous political work at the beginning of the week it was found possible to leave for North Wales on Thursday. All the week the Liverpool streets have been alive with Freedom League workers, busy distributing our political handbills relating to the recent statutory developments of Woman's Suffrage. The interest roused marks the importance of the issue. It is encouraging to report that the League has grown big enough in Liverpool to allow of an absence of its leaders, without any discontinuance of its work.

In North Wales, Anglesey and Carnarvon lead the way. At Mesborough an enthusiastic first meeting put courage in our hearts. Miss B. Jones, of Bod-Iorwerth, had laid the foundations well, and to her is due the immediate and marked success that attended this first gathering of English Suffragettes in Anglesea. She had obtained as chairman Mr. R. P. Jones, of Bron-Menai, a man of far-reaching influence in the county, who is in perfect sympathy with us.

Miss Jones herself supported us on the platform, and the secretaries of the Liberal and Conservative Associations were there to move and second the vote of thanks. As a result of the meeting, "You have taken us all by storm and converted every one" was the universal verdict. This, our first meeting, shows that Wales, with its keen emotional insight, will take the lead in this political movement, as it has done in others.

But Carnarvon was still to follow: for a meeting next day on the Market Place had been arranged. We crossed the Ferry full of gloomy forebodings, for were we not venturing, as Liverpool politicians ominously predicted, right into the heart of Lloyd George's constituency, where only hostile feeling could prevail. So we visited the police station on the way, and found there the first hint of the delightful surprise that awaited us. The police were in sympathy, and so was the huge crowd of some 500 people that assembled to hear us on the Castle Square. There, under the shadow of the ancient ruins, we aroused the crowd to a pitch of enthusiasm that completely overwhelmed a somewhat feeble attempt to avenge the Eisteddfod and make a stand for Mr. Lloyd George. A bell-man had been sent round to announce our coming—Welsh and English, and a thoroughly representative gathering was the result. Bright sunshine, cheers, and good wishes are our last memory of a meeting that will prove historic in North Wales.

M. A. BROADHURST,
MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON,
Organizers.

CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

WORK this week has been carried on under considerable disadvantages. Rain has either prevented altogether, or stopped in the middle, no fewer than eight meetings. Five only have been carried to a successful issue. At Gourock we obtained permission from the manager of a concert party to use his stage between his performances.

We went to Largs on Wednesday to hold a meeting, and in less than five minutes 500 people were listening eagerly. This was really the most successful meeting we have had so far on the Clyde. We sold 10s. 5d. worth of literature, and took a collection of 19s. 5½d. When we went away on the motor-bus, the women were all waving their handkerchiefs and the men their hats. We take this as a sign that our month in Largs will be a very successful one.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

CARAVAN CAMPAIGN.

A preliminary visit to chalk the streets had announced to the people of Trowbridge that we were coming. Consequently on Monday evening when we opened our Campaign, an enormous crowd awaited us. The majority had determined not to give us a hearing. Occasionally, by dint of perseverance, tact and strategy, Miss Thompson or I succeeded in giving part of our message. A determined attempt was made to overturn the lorry without avail. Great was the astonishment of our tormentors when we announced that we would again take up our stand on the following evening. The week's work in the town has been uphill and arduous, but each meeting witnessed the gradual subduing of our opponents, until on Friday evening we were able to carry the resolution to the Government unanimously.

Our next town is Mercksham, where our pitch will be in the Market Square.

ANNA MUNRO.

NORTH WALES COAST CAMPAIGN.

"OUR doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." We have to thank a sister society for selecting so stimulating a motto, in their 'Suffrage Quotation Book,' for July 22nd, the opening day of the North Wales Coast Campaign. Many terrible rumours did indeed circulate round the little village of Llanfairfechan, when it was announced in a local paper that the Suffragettes had at last arrived.

The only opposition, however, came from the weather, which had obstinately determined that no meeting should be held. An April-minded day favoured us towards evening with weather which a Scotchman would describe as "showery with rain between," and having braved two of the "showers" Miss John and I dismissed a highly interested audience with a promise to return on Monday.

On Saturday afternoon we visited Carnarvon, where the same two speakers held a large crowd in the Market Square engrossed for over an hour.

Here, too, we felt amply repaid by the interest evinced by the majority of the audience for the slight inconvenience caused by a few young patriots (?), whose admiration for Lloyd George took a musical turn.

Even these gentlemen, however, were not behindhand when the collection was announced, and the whole audience conducted us to the Anglesea Ferry, where we left them with promises to return at an early date.

In Bangor we have discovered sympathizers, and hope to hold a meeting there next week.

The work is opening out wonderfully. What we want now is more helpers, particularly for the first fortnight in August. Please send your names to me, care of Mrs. Jonson, Toy Bank, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan.

M. E. MANNING.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

THE chief feature of this week's work has been the initiation of the "Billington-Greig Special Effort" by the Central Branch. We feel that from Manchester especially, where her influence was first felt, should come an earnest tribute of loyalty and gratitude to our Hon. Organizing Secretary, of whose help we are now deprived.

We hope to show our sympathy for her during her illness in the most practical way.

The exact form of our special effort has not yet been determined; but as a preliminary move several members have taken collecting boxes, and have undertaken the sale of literature in the streets.

Will Manchester members send in suggestions and offers of help so that a scheme of work may be drawn up and carried out effectively during the period that Mrs. Billington-Greig is "off duty"?

M. E. MANNING, Organizer.

London Council.

OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN.

RAVENS COURT PARK.—Nothing daunted by the unsympathetic behaviour of the crowd on the previous Sunday, when the Suffragists, the wind and the rain, and the "rowdies" had the Park to themselves, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett aided by Mrs. Toyne renewed the attack on Sunday 18th inst.

The more intellectual section of the audience soon made it clear to the hooligan element that their absence would be decidedly appreciated, and the disturbing portion accordingly drifted away, leaving a large crowd to listen to the interesting and illuminating addresses delivered by the above-mentioned speakers.

A good collection was taken and a number of thoughtful questions asked and replied to, a chorus of requests to come again next Sunday furnishes yet another proof that an increased knowledge of this movement brings sympathy in its train.

VICTORIA PARK.—A large crowd gathered in this Park on Sunday, July 18, to listen to an interesting address by Miss Irene Miller on "Objects and Tactics," Dr. Thornett who followed spoke at considerable length on many aspects of the question not usually touched upon, and her refreshing speech was listened to with close attention and great appreciation.

Mrs. Despard has kindly promised to speak at a meeting to be held in this park on Sunday, August 29th, at 3.30 p.m. It is hoped that members and friends residing in the locality will make this fact as widely known as possible.

Protest Outside Holloway.

ON Friday afternoon Mrs. Holmes and I closely followed in a taxi the Black Maria, containing our prisoners the Misses Scott, who were allowed by the sympathetic policeman in charge of them all the liberty possible to peep at us through the bars and wave their handkerchiefs. When the big gates of the prison had swallowed them, we obtained a chair to stand on, and I started a protest meeting, which was addressed by Mrs. Holmes, who thoroughly interested the large audience. Many were visibly affected by the tragic stories she told them of those who had been her fellow prisoners. The Resolution which I proposed, "That this meeting expresses indignation at the illegal arrest of the Misses Scott and demands their speedy removal to the first division," was seconded by four people in the crowd and carried by a large majority. There were a few cavillers—the inevitable man, who "wanted women to go home," was asked by Mrs. Hyde if he had heard of Peterloo, and replied "No, and if he was as big a fool as the woman on the chair, he didn't want to." Then she asked, "Did he know what the men did when they wanted a Reform Bill, and had he studied history?" And he again answered "No, and he didn't want to." We felt that the opposition of such people was a distinctly encouraging feature. Later, at the special request of the crowd, a second meeting was held by Miss Bremner.

Special Notices.—The W.F.L. Paper.

WE have pleasure in announcing that arrangements are now being concluded for the registration of the new company, promoted by members of the Women's Freedom League for the purpose of publishing a penny weekly paper which will serve as the official organ of the W.F.L., and which in addition to suffrage news, will contain authoritative and instructive articles concerning woman in her relation to questions of the day, interesting interviews, humorous contributions and information and advice on matters pertaining to the interests of womanhood in general. The paper will be entirely free from all party ties, its sole aim and object being to further the political, social, and industrial enfranchisement of women in accordance with the policy of the Women's Freedom League. The paper will be under the joint editorship of Cicely Hamilton and Marion Holmes.

The company will be incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act of 1908, and as soon as the documents have been filed with the Registrar a prospectus will be issued to the public. In the meantime will those members and friends who have already applied for shares please note that the company will proceed to allotment about the middle of August, at which time subscribers will receive direct communications from the office. The first directors will be: (Mrs.) C. Despard, President of the Women's Freedom League (Miss) Marie Lawson, Managing Director (Mrs.) Edith How Martyn, Bachelor of Science, The Countess Russell, and (Mrs.) Jessie Ellen Snow.

It has been decided that all the shares shall be of a nominal value of 5s. each, so that 4 shares will be allotted (on the terms stated) for each £1 applied for.

Branch Notes.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.—Outdoor meetings are held fortnightly and have been very successful so far. The one on July 19th at Walkley Car Terminus was large and enthusiastic. The speakers were Mrs. Wallis and Mrs. Whetton. The audience appeared much interested in hearing about petitioning the King. The following resolution was put and carried, with only three dissentients in the large crowd: "That this meeting expresses appreciation of the efforts made by the Women's Freedom League to secure liberty for women."

WILLESDEN AND MAIDA VALE.—The Secretary is glad to report that seven of our members are on duty at Westminster, also that we have enrolled three new members, two of whom are included in the above-mentioned seven. An open-air meeting has been held in Westbourne Grove, and is to be repeated (by request) as soon as possible. The speaker was Mrs. Nevinson who made a great impression on the audience of workroom girls from the great shops. An invitation was accepted from the local branch of the Women's Co-operative Society, and it is highly probable that a number of the members will join our forces before very long. Don't forget our Jumble Sweets Sale on September 25th.

SOUTH MANCHESTER BRANCH.—A very enjoyable and instructive meeting was held on Thursday, July 22nd, at 7, Mayfield Road, through the kind hospitality of Mrs. Thompson. Mrs. Jack Nidd gave a very eloquent Anti-Suffrage address, but though her arguments sounded plausible, our members very quickly pointed out the contradictions and inconsistencies which are characteristic of all Anti-Suffrage arguments. Mrs. Nidd ended the afternoon by exposing with great zest the fallacies and false ideals which she had previously placed before us so eloquently.

CROYDON BRANCH.—Our silver lining was very evident last Wednesday. Our black cloud was only the sixth refusal of a mere man to oppose us. But our "silver lining" was gorgeous. Mrs. Holmes drove all the clouds away with her powerful, convincing and fighting speech, in which she explained the present policy of the League at Westminster, and made the Prime Minister appear more ludicrous than was usual. John Bull of Thornton Heath was so roused that one open fight occurred, and a drunkard who made insulting remarks to our "Silver Lining" was given into custody, and passed the night in Holloway—I mean the police station at Thornton Heath.

IPSWICH BRANCH.—To gain funds and to advertise our League we held a "Green, White, and Gold Fair" at Gainsborough Hall on July 21st. We had previously advertised the Fair as much as possible, following the example of the Manchester Branch in sending a decorated lorry round the town on which were placed nine little girls representing countries where women are enfranchised, and Britannia seated forlornly behind, labelled "No vote for Britannia." We heard many inquiries as to the meaning of this, and received a good reception all along the route. Miss Matters came down to open the Fair for us, and did so in well-chosen words, which prepared people for the treat they received when listening to a speech from her in the evening. Special mention must be made of the Holloway Cell, which was loaned to us; Dr. Elizabeth Knight was the prisoner, and Miss Roe the wardress.

The Fair has done much to awaken interest in the women's movement in Ipswich. The following day Miss Matters addressed a meeting of the League women, and in the evening attracted a large audience at an out-of-door meeting. Her speech in the evening was listened to with great attention by a number of men, who seemed to be convinced by her logic and eloquence.

CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

[Owing to lack of space we are compelled to hold over the report of the Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.]

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

JULY	July 29th to August 29th.	P.M.
Thur. 29.	South Manchester Branch, "Oakholme," Wilbraham Road	3
	Highbury Corner	7.30
	Swansea	
Fri. 30.	Woodbridge, Market Square	7
Sat. 31.	Holloway Prison Camden Road, N.	8 A.M.
	Eustace Miles' Restaurant, Charing Cross	9 A.M.
	Trafalgar Square	3 P.M.
	Miss Isabel Logan	
	Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Beith	
	Mrs. Manson	
	Mrs. Borrmann Wells	
	Mrs. Marion Holmes	
	Released prisoners	
AUG.	Finchley, near Tallyho Corner	7
Sun. 1.	Hyde Park	NOON
	Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	
	Mrs. Borrmann Wells	
	Miss I. Logan	
Wed. 4.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	7.30-9
Thur. 5.	Holloway Prison, Camden Road	8 A.M.
	Eustace Miles Restaurant, Charing Cross	9 A.M.
	Caxton Hall, Reception to Released Prisoners	7 P.M.
Wed. 11.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	7.30-9
	Mrs. Nevinson	
Thurs. 12.	Caxton Hall, Scottish Reception	7
Wed. 13.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	7.30-9
	Mrs. Francis and a Member of the Men's League	
Sun. 29	Victoria Park	3.30
	Mrs. Despard	

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

SOME of our members will certainly be spending an August holiday in Wales, and they, as well as the members of our Welsh branches, may be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity for work afforded by the presence of the N.U.W.S.S. caravan. The caravan will leave Chester on the 3rd or 4th of August, and will proceed via Wrexham to Llangollen, Dolgelly, and Barmouth; thence south to Aberystwith and back through Swansea and possibly Cardiff. Offers of help and hospitality will be gladly accepted. Those sympathizers who are able to promise their assistance in advance should communicate at once with Miss M. J. Corbett, 25, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Two members of the League, Mr. E. N. Bennett, M.P. for the Mid-Oxfordshire division, and Mr. J. M. Mitchell, addressed a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association for Mid-Oxon at Witney last Friday, July 23rd. The meeting was held in the Witney cricket field, and there was a large attendance both of men and of women. The chair was taken by Mrs. Councillor Hughes, of Oxford, who in the course of her opening speech made it very clear to the audience that if women are to have any real practical influence on legislation they must have a definite political status.

The work in the Oxfordshire district is being vigorously pursued by Miss Lewis and her colleagues, but progress in a country constituency is necessarily slow, inasmuch as the women are not faced by the problems which confront their sisters in the big towns. It is all the more important that those of our speakers who are taking their holiday in such districts should do their utmost to rouse men and women to a sense of their duty towards their fellows in less fortunate surroundings.

It is practically impossible to show to a prosperous farmer and his wife any pressing reason why she, or even he, should set great store by the vote. But it is not nearly so difficult to rouse their sympathies for workers in towns, provided the facts can be brought home to them. On the whole, parliamentary representatives in rural divisions have done little for the cause. It is well that suffragists should provide a stimulus.

We are, perhaps, prone to forget that there are still large numbers of persons who literally do not know, or at least realize, that there are many Suffrage societies with different policies, and one common aim. We spend so much time among ourselves that we are astounded at the ignorance which still exists. The holiday is a great time for disseminating knowledge. The difficulty is to find an opening. May we urge members to wear their badges continuously, in order that curiosity as to its meaning may create opportunities?

Whoever has had occasion to intrude within the sacred precincts of the House of Commons during the past few weeks cannot fail to have been impressed by the remarkable series of tableaux there to be witnessed. Outside the Strangers' entrance—a line of patient women, waiting hour after hour in the rain, ready night and day to answer the summons which never comes. On the Terrace—the usual crowd of well-dressed idlers of both sexes, eating ices under their umbrellas, flirting, or exchanging sage comments on the points of Submarine No. 46. In the Smoke-Room—more well-dressed idlers, reposing in august

apathy until the division bell calls them to register their conclusions upon a debate to which they have not listened.

The cynic who declared that he was a Suffragist because women legislators would enhance the gaiety of nations, should visit St. Stephen's as it is now—though the quality of the humour to be found there is ironic rather than gay.

Bristol Branch.

ON the 19th inst. the Bristol Branch held a very successful outdoor meeting, which attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd. Mr. F. W. Rogers, who presided, explained the objects and methods of the Men's League, dealt with the question of second-class imprisonment, and urged his audience to study the question for themselves. In the absence of Col. Haigh, through indisposition, Canon Talbot then addressed the meeting. He pointed out that the leaders of the women's movement were not merely endeavouring to secure a right unjustly denied, but were working for the amelioration of society and the race as a whole. After stigmatizing as cant and hypocrisy the statement that women's true sphere was at home—a statement belied by almost every industry in which women's labour was employed—he pointed out that the final step towards enfranchisement must be taken by men. Only those who were already voters could give the vote.

At the conclusion of Canon Talbot's speech a number of questions were asked and answered, and the meeting closed with a spirited discussion.

Doctor Massie, Junior.

"WOMEN are made to stay peaceably at home, and to look after their husband's affairs, and be able to greet them on their return home. He evidently has high ideals of women...but does not consider them fit for very much."

(From a current examination paper.)

It is characteristic to set down women as not "fit for very much," to call this a "high ideal," and to give them important "affairs" to look after!

Open-Air Meetings.

HYDE PARK.

IN spite of the rain last Sunday, we had a large gathering in Hyde Park, and held a meeting that lasted over two hours. Mr. Laurence Housman was in the chair, and was followed by Mr. Whybrew, Mrs. Sproson, of the Women's Freedom League, and Dr. Macpherson. Mrs. Sproson won laughter and applause by her clever answers to the hecklers, and had an audience which at one time must have numbered well over five hundred, and was sympathetic and attentive throughout.

The organizers of open-air meetings are particularly requested to send in their reports as soon as possible. Space for this purpose is specially reserved in the Men's League pages, and a good deal of inconvenience is caused if, at the last moment, no reports are found to be forthcoming.

Chivalry: Facts and Fiction.

(Continued.)

"Respect," says Charles Lamb, "must be paid to woman as she is a woman, not as she is a beauty, a fortune or a title. I shall believe it to be something more than a name when a well-dressed gentleman in a well-dressed company, can advert to the topic of female old age without exciting or intending to excite, a sneer; when the phrases 'antiquated virginity,' and such a one has 'overstood the market,' pronounced in good company, shall raise immediate offence in man, or woman, that shall hear them spoken."

We note with pleasure that in the last hundred years these relics of barbarism have almost entirely disappeared, and their disappearance has coincided with the progress of the women's rights movement. So far is it from being true that the women's rights have killed chivalry, that it would be almost nearer the mark to say that they have, in its truest sense, produced it.

Charles Lamb goes on to tell us of a friend of his, a merchant called Joseph Plaice, who was the only pattern of "consistent gallantry" that he had ever met. This man had in his youth loved a girl, Suzan Winstanley by name, who had died "in the early days of their courtship." She had once been angry with him because he spoke harshly to a laundress, and she rebuked him in a way that he never forgot. Joseph Plaice never married, but in all the acts of his life did honour to her memory by practising consistently the chivalry which she had asked him to show to women in general.

Lamb is emphatic about the necessity of woman's pride in her own sex. "Just so much respect as a woman derogates from her own sex, she deserves to have diminished from herself on that score." This is an important point. It is the demand of chivalry from women happily placed for women in less fortunate circumstances. "Let woman's, first lesson be," says Lamb, "with sweet Suzan Winstanley—to reverence her sex."

In the meantime Scott treated the world to pictures of mediæval chivalry with armoured knights, feudal castles, magicians and fair ladies. So beautiful was the halo that his imagination cast over them that people who read his books were inclined to think regretfully of the good old times. His novels probably gave rise to the prevalent, but erroneous, idea, that the past was a golden age and chivalry one of its dead glories.

If one studies carefully the development of literature, especially of the novel, in the nineteenth century, one notices that woman comes to be regarded more and more as an enigma, a sealed book worthy to be opened and studied, and in proportion as she has come to be recognized as complex she has come to be treated with reverence and honour. In this respect Thackeray, of our great novelists, shows himself most behind the times. His stupid women alone are angels, his clever ones subtle monstrosities. Yet, to be a subtle monstrosity, one feels, is an advance on a nonentity, and there are some of us who almost prefer the green-eyed, wicked Becky to the tearful eyed Amelia.

On the whole, there is no theme so insistently brought forward in the past century as the chivalry that ought to be, and is not, shown to womanhood. Herbert Spencer remarked that the saddest part of history would never be written—the history of women. No writers in any age have shown such

passionate resentment for the injustice done to women as John Stuart Mill, George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, and Stephen Phillips. Mill's eloquence has brought about some drastic judicial changes in favour of women, George Meredith has educated public opinion to a more sympathetic regard for her claims to individuality. In 'Diana of the Crossways' he represented a heroine with the most piercing of intellects and the most passionate of hearts—a somewhat daring innovation. In 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' Hardy gives a heartrending picture of what a woman has to suffer for that which is equally a man's sin, while that most cowardly of all human beings, the man who sins in a way for which woman alone has to pay the penalty, passes through life unpunished by society.

Stephen Phillips, in 'The Woman with a Dead Soul,' describes the effect of the shunting of a woman's existence, in 'The Wife' he gives us a true story of a woman who sold herself to a cruel lover to buy bread for her dying husband, and in 'The Question' he pictures the tragedy of the lives of those who belong to a man who has "sown his wild oats" and "settled down" to matrimony, performances which to the shame of a Christian country be it said, are often considered equally estimable! The result is a mother who "sobs alone," and a diseased and fated child.

The resentment of good men against the tyranny of social injustice, which permeates so much of our best literature, is noticeable in the writers of other European countries and of America. In this respect England has been largely influenced by Tolstoi, Ibsen, Pierre Loti, and Walt Whitman. The names of those writers who in our own country have tended to improve the condition of women by insistently dwelling on her titles to respect, count among their members most of the famous names of the Victorian era.

One great name is missing—that of Rudyard Kipling, and the lack of refinement in his treatment of women is probably due to contact with the low ideals of Indian life. To him "a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke," and if he had to choose he would choose the smoke. Is it by the irony of fate that the Anti-Suffragists, the professed upholders of chivalry, have gained for their cause the support of that one of all our best writers whose references to women are constantly coarse and insulting? We think there is something in this more than the mere irony of circumstance.

As we look back over the centuries there are several things that become clear to us. Firstly, there never was so much true chivalry in any age as in the last hundred years or so, never such a wave of altruism and spirituality, and those who tell us that chivalry is dead either know nothing of the past or absolutely fail to gauge the true spirit of the present. The fundamental difference between the chivalry of the past and that of the present day is that the past demanded honour for women of noble birth, and the present demands it for all.

Secondly, we remark that whereas it is asserted that if women have political power men would no longer honour them, the converse is actually the case. Never have Englishmen shown such reverence for women as during the periods when political power has been vested in their hands. We are told that men will not fight at the bidding of women, therefore women must not have the vote. Yet history shows us that men have seldom fought with such alacrity and courage as when they fought for a queen, and so those times that have seen a woman on the throne have been not only the greatest ages of chivalry, but ages of almost unparalleled national honour.

L. F. WARING.

* * All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 40, Museum Street, W.C.

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