# OTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1913.

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### THE GENERAL ELECTION RUMOUR



("It is generally known that the Government is unpopular in the country, and that a General Election could not in practice be commed to the question of Home Rule."—Evening paper.)

CHORUS OF SUFFERING CABINET MINISTERS: "Why didn't you take us into port last week, when you BO'SUN ASQUITH (faintly): "I have nothing to add"—groans—"to my previous public declarations"—groans—
"on the subject."

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# DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

# THE OUTLOOK

It is now definitely stated that the Committee stage of the Franchise Bill will commence one day during the week beginning January 20, probably Thursday the 23rd. As the first Woman Suffrage amendment—the omission of the word "male"—proposed by Sir Edward Grey, Lord Robert Cecil, and others, is one of the very first amendments on the paper, it will almost certainly be discussed on the cpening day.

The General Electron aumour
Each week brings its fresh crop of rumours as to
the possible intentions of the Government. First
we had the threatened resignation of Mr. Asquith,
then the resuscitated proposal of a Referendum on
Woman Suffrage, next the suggestion that the whole

Franchise Bill would be delayed so as to be excluded from the benefit of the Parliament Act; and to no one of these rumours has Mr. Asquith consented to give an explicit denial. Finally, this week we have had the rumour that the Government were contemplating an early appeal to the country in the shape of another general election.

contemplating an early appeal to the country in the shape of another general election.

Party Opinion

It is too early yet to form any idea whether this rumour is more than an unjustifiable inference from a passage of arms between Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bonar Law which occurred during the discussion of the Home Rule Bill. But while both the Daily Chronicle and the Daily News deny the rumour, calling it "unwarrantable" and "unthinkable," it is significant that other Liberal daily papers preserve a strict silence on the matter, and the Nation declares that "the Government are just now under a singularly strong temptation" to challenge the electorate. On the Unionist side, the Spectator shares this view, on the ground that an election would provide the Cabinet with a solution of the Ulster difficulty, while the Observer, without giving credence to the rumour, warmly welcomes the idea. The Pall Mall Gazette and the Evening News go so far as to prophesy a general election in February or March of this year; and the London correspondent of the Birmingham Post states that the Liberal central organisation has given orders for the extensive printing of election placards.

Suffragists Ready

Suffragists Ready
Whether there is fire or not behind all this smoke, the fact stands out plainly that a general election

would also, as the Globe suggests, offer Mr. Asquith a way out of the Woman Suffrage difficulty; and Woman Suffragists will be found ready and eager to take their part in it when it comes. It is clear, however, that were it to take place before the Franchise Bill had been settled, Mr. Asquith's pledge that this Parliament should have the opportunity of effectively dealing with the Woman Suffrage question would have been broken in the letter as well as in the spirit. In this connection it is interesting to notice that a member of the Government, in denying the rumour of an early general election, said to a Daily Telegraph reporter, "You may take it from me that the next general election will be based on Franchise and Radistribution, and not on Home Rule," indicating very clearly that in his opinion the Franchise question would not be settled in the present Parliament.

"The Free Vote of the House of Commons"

# "The Free Vote of the House of Commons"

"The Free Vote of the House of Commons"

Other signs are not wanting as to the truth of this assumption. The Daily Herald has appointed a Special Commissioner to watch the Bill in the interests of the women, and he has made it his business to disclose in that paper the various plots within the House of Commons to defeat the Woman Suffrage amendment—disclosures which were anticipated by us in this paper months ago. The Morning Post affirms that, whatever becomes of Sir Edward Grey's amendment, the Government will, immediately after the voting thereupon, drop the Bill and adopt the Plural Voting Bill instead. In Wednesday's papers appeared a statement

to the effect that the attempts made by Suffragists

great danger of being lost—as we also foretol our issue of December 13. To Suffragists th

The Franchise Bill and the Municipal Vote

Mr. Bonar Law as Law-Breaker

# JIMMY'S AFTERNOON

By Mary Samuel Daniel.

to the effect that the attempts made by Sunragists in the House to secure a majority for any one of the proposed amendments "have not proved altogether successful." This also we predicted more than a year ago. The Unionist Anti-Suffragist members have announced their intention of opposing all the amendments, including the one to delete the word "male." This amendment, it is now feared in quarters hitherto confident of success, stands in great danger of being lost—as we also foretold most encouraging sign of the times is the fact that while the Franchise Bill forms the chief political topic of the moment, the only part of the Bill that is ever discussed is the clause that is not in it!

The westering April sun caught the flower-seller's basket in a golden glory, and fell with mellowing touches on the dull walls of the houses in the long,

The Franchise Bill and the Municipal Vote

The second clause, however, dealing with the Municipal Franchise, including the first schedule relating to it, ought not to pass unnoticed, both for its own sake and for the indication it gives of the anti-woman tendencies of the present Government. The Bill definitely decides in favour of the least liberal interpretation that has been placed on the Local Government Acts by Revising Barristers, and excludes married women from the franchise solely on the ground of their marriage. In this it is more hostile to women than are the avowed anti-Suffragists, who have expressed their wish to have the law reformed in this respect. And if an anti-Suffrage correspondent in the Standard of Friday last can be relied upon, there is a prospect that the 'Anti-Suffrage Society will join hands with the Suffragists in securing the removal of this additional blot on the Bill.

Mr. Bonar Law as Law-Breaker "That's it!" said Dr. Graham to himself. "A cup of tea with Aunt Leebie. I can do with a little optimism this afternoon."

Yet optimism was not a quality in which by his co-workers Dr. Graham was considered lacking. Jimmy, the small patient who had been operated on that day, though he would not have expressed it in those words, thought him extremely optimistic, basing his opinion on a flow of unfailingly cheerful conversation combined with air-ships that flow over basing his opinion on a now of unfailingly conversation combined with air-ships that flew over your bed. The little ward-maid, who proudly boasted as her special perquisite the doctor's white operating coats, which he gave her to cut up ind aprons "long afore they was wore out," agreed with Jimmy, infusing into the agreement a demonstrative when Aunt Leebie had bustled from the research form which Limmy early like skylained.

Adjacting society will, on hole with the side convertation combined with a stellage that for the particular proposal to the action of the additional blot on the stellar proposal to the adjact of the stellar proposal to the

At five o'clock the operating surgeon passed through the entrance-door, and, with a friendly, if rather pre-occupied, nod to the porter who opened it, stood for a contemplative moment at the top of the stone steps leading up to the hospital, glancing at, without seeing, the pair of gloves held in one hand, and aware somewhere near the bottom step of a gleam of yellow daffodils.

The westering April sun caught the flower-seller's backet in a golden glovy, and fell with mellowing thanksgiving.

in thanksgiving.

"Eh, Joan, and you'll maybe find a mat," remarked Aunt Leebie, affecting, with only partial success, an unawareness of the dramatic moment;

"I'm not for water-droppings all over my polished mahogany. And, for any sake, child, come and sit you down in comfort to your tea."

For answer a pair of arms came round the little

white hair like yours, Leebie dear."

"And what'll be the matter with your own, I'm wondering? Alec, you'll find the scones perhaps. And what thirsty work will you have been doing this afternoon?" added Miss Elizabeth, manipulating with a nicety and justness the cream.

"Interfering with Nature's merciful destructiveness," answered Alec grimly, and Joan's curving eyelashes went up, and a question filled the wideopen, steady grey eyes.

# PROSPECTS OF THE FRANCHISE BILL

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

# Government Plots Exposed in the Press-Probable Date of Committee Stage-The Word "Male"

The Committee stage of the Franchise Bill, it now appears certain, will be entered upon towards the end of the week beginning January 20, the most likely date being Thursday, January 23. It is thought probable that the Grey amendment, to delete the word "male," will be taken at once, as upon that amendment will depend not only the fate of the other women's amendments, but also not improbably that of the Franchise Bill itself. We give below a most important communication which appeared in the Manchester Guardian last Wednesday, from its Political Correspondent, which bears out everything we have always said with regard to the almost insuperable difficulty of obtaining a majority for any one of the proposed Woman Suffrage amendments.

In spite of the counter attractions of the Unionist split and a general election removed.

SIR EDWARD GREY'S AMENDMENT

be in question being the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Harcourt.—all one can say its the members who are influenced by such a report cannot be aware for the resignation of these two members of the Cabinet if the women's amendments. It will be a danger the resignation of the cannot he aware adways the taken at once, as upon that amendment will depend not only the fate of the other women's amendments, but also not improbably that of the Franchise Bill as the threat of the resignation of the women's of the Cabinet if the women's amendments. It will appear to the Franchise Bill as the threat of the resignation of the submers of the Cabinet if the women's amendments. It will appear to the Franchise Bill itself. We give below a most important communication which appeared in the Manchester Guardian last Wednesday, from its Political Correspondent, which bears out everything we have always said with regard to the almost insurance and the suffrage amendments. It will go far to expect the heads of Liberals fragists, holding over the heads of Liberals fragists, holding over the heads of Liberals of the resignation of the women's under the resignation of the women's u

JANUARY 10, 1913.

the post interest takes in the Bill, but also the fact that this steered is contained from the proposal state of the proposal state

Should the amendment fail to pass, it is probable that no other proposal dealing with Women's Suffrage can be discussed.—Wallasey News, Jan. 4.

always said with regard to the almost insuperable difficulty of obtaining a majority for any one of the proposed Woman Suffrage amendments.

In spite of the counter attractions of the Unionist split and a general election rumour, the prospects of the Franchise Bill, or, rather, of the women's amendments to it, have formed a topic of increasing political interest in the Press of the week, A notable crucumstance is the appointment by the Daily Herald of a Special Commissioner, whose business it is to watch the progress of the Bill in the women's interesting, situation is developing over the women, for the latest move of the "antis" is that Sir Edward Grey's amendment to omit the wicked word "male" should be accepted without a division. The idea is that a perflictous policy is best defeated on the later and more specific proposals. I cannot help thinking article, calls upon the LL.P. to lobby Suffrage has been allowed, as it were, a second reading, and must be carried in some form or another—Truth, Jan. 1.

There is a strong opinion that this mamendment, and if this also fails full support will not be forthcoming from the Ministerial suffragists will repeat a first the full suffragist will be derived support will not be forthcoming from the Ministerial suffrages and the conciliation committee's time the bill of the Daily Citizen said on January 8 in that paper—"If the full suffragists strength among the native part of the Daily Citizen said on January 8 in that paper—"If the full suffragists will be destruction. The full suffragists will be destruction in the Minister is worded the Irish Members, and have don't make "is deleted the country will consider that women's suffragists will estimate the passing of suffrage shoul he accepted without a division. The latest move of the "mail" is deleted the country will consider that women's suffragists. The same paper, in a leading article, calls upon the LL.P. to lobby Suffrage as been allowed, as it were, a second reading, and must be carried allowed the passing of suffra

In the seven weeks which remain of the present amazing session the Government have announced their intention of passing their three Bills of first -class importance.

The worst case of all is the Franchise Bill, because an honest franchise could always be passed by consent.

As it is, the so-called Electoral Reform Bill is the last word in electoral partisanship.— Spectator, Jan. 4.

Recent events have tended to clarify the policy of the Government. With regard to the Franchise Bill, now before the House of Commons, there is a wide-spread belief that not one of the woman suffrage amendments will be accepted in the Committee stage, though the Dickinson proposal possibly stands the best chance of adoption. In the event of this belief being realised, it is highly probable that the Government will not proceed with the measure as a whole, but concentrate their efforts upon the abolition of plural voting.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 6.

Difficulties surround the Government at every point over the Bill. . . . It is quite likely that whatever becomes of the Grey amendment the Government will immediately after the vote thereupon withdraw the Bill and adopt that of Mr. Harold Baker, which he brought in and passed before he became a member of the Minister of the Ministe

The illustrator, by the way, did not read the story so carefully as we have done; Winsey would not go downstairs at midnight for his "Pontefract Dates" fully dressed, and Evelyn, having finished her time at a large and up-to-date school, would have "put her hair up"

Fairy Stories The Fairyland of these stories; is not the old one of folk-lore, fairy, or animal tales. They are pretty fancies woven about bird, insect, or plant life, most

of them based upon real happenings in the world of nature, their laudable aim being to interest the child-mind in these things and lead it to desire know-

ledge, not to instruct it in a dry routine. The growth of plant and seed, the mutual help of insects and plants are all very fascinating subjects for stories

plants are all very fascinating subjects for stories which are perhaps most successful when they keep most closely to reality. Originally these tales were told to a kindergarten claes, and we can quite believe that the children delighted in them. The ideal conditions of listening to them would be out in fields and woods, certainly with flowers and leaves to illustrate the points. (In the absence of these the book is illustrated in colour by Ruth Sypherd Clements.) The author has produced a quite desirable gift for a child, though it would be still better with a slightly stronger treatment.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Frances Willard. Her Life and Work." By Ray Strachey. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 5s. net.)

"The Tyranny of the Country Side." By F. E. Green. (London: Fisher Unwin. Price 5s. net.)

"Terry the Girl Guide." By Dorothea Moore. (London: James Nisbet. Price 3s. 6d.)

"Schoolgirl Honour." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: James Nisbet, Price 8s. 6d.)

"The Westminster Review." (London: Marlborough and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.)
"The Westminster Review." (London: Marlborough and Co. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Englishwoman." January. (London: Sidgwick and Jackson. Price Is, net.) "The Cruelty Man." Experiences of an Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. (Price Is.)

"Why We Demand Woman Suffrage." By A. De Morsier. (New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage. Price 2d.)

\* "From Pole to Pole." By Sven Hedin. Macmillan & Co, † "The Right Sort." By Leslie Havergal Bradshaw. Illus-ated by Tom Peddie. (London: A. and C. Black. Price 3s, 6d.)

They brought her forth at last when she was old;
The sunlight on her blanched hair was shed
Too late to turn its silver into gold,
"Ah, shield me from this brazen glare!" she said.

There, for a moment, the poet touches reality, and ith admirable effect. Lady Margaret Sackville with admirable effect. Lady Margaret Sackville hardly ever gets so near the actual life as that. She has the poet's sense and a true gift of beautiful verse; but she speaks of a different world from this—a world much spoken of some eighteen or twenty years ago, but now worn rather thin and ghostly. There are many of her lyrics we should like to quote for their real beauty, but the verse most suitable re is not a lyric but an epigram. It runs:

Eve, smiling, plucked the apple, then Laughed, sighed—and tasted it again; "Strange such a pleasant, juicy thing On a forbidden tree should spring!"

Nothing else in the book is quite so interesting to Suffragists; but they will find a good deal that is worth reading in the stories about the two Dumas, about Rachel and Théophile Gauter, and other formers of a record of the prophylicary. figures of a very dramatic period of French history.

# A PRISONER'S CORRESPONDENCE\*

There are doubtless many readers of this paper who feel themselves to be experts in the subject on which Mrs. Fred Reynolds has based her book, "Letters to a Prison." That is to say, every Suffra-gist, whose friend has broken the law in the name of the cause, has written letters to a prison. In very few cases have the letters reached the prisoner, and in still fewer cases have any answers to them come On a forbidden tree should spring!"

But had she seen with clearer eyes,
Or had the serpent been less wise,
She'd scarce have shown such little wit
As to let Adam taste of it!"

H. W. N.

MEMOIRS OF AN ACTRESS†

It does not appear to follow that because a life has been an interesting one, the written account of it will prove readable. This is doubly true in the case of an autobiography; for where a Boswell, of course, would make the dullest man a hero to his valet, a comedy actress, like Madame Judith, whose Autobiography has recently appeared in a charming English edition, is capable of boring her most admiring readers, simply because she is not enough of an egoist to write amusingly about herself. Not that this memoir of the famous star of the Comédie Française is dull; but, considering the interesting period of European history it covers, it does occasionally with the seed of the prisoner, and in still fewer cases have the letters reached the prisoner, and in still fewer cases have the letters reached the prisoner, and in still fewer cases have any answers to them come back to the writer; while those that did get through the prison gates were almost worthless, because the only interesting passages in them had been censored. Still, every Suffragist who has been to prison knows the kind of letter she would have liked to receive there, and we do not think it would resemble the letters written by the heroine of Mrs. Reynolds's book to her husband in prison. For these are literary discourses, one wants two things, (1) important news and (2) a definite assurance—it cannot be too definite—that the outside world has not for gotten one's existence. Naturally, we do not suppose that the ordinary prisoner wants to hear whether the Franchise Bill has been dropped by the Government; but we are sure he would not want pages and rabbits. It is true that the "Letters to a Prison" contain a certain amount of family or village news, but it is always of some disaster or tragedy; and the affectionate declarations are so caise is dull; but, considering the interesting period of European history it covers, it does occasionally strike us as slightly trivial. One would like to hear very much more, for instance, of the events of 1848, when modern French history was in the making. As it is, Madame Judith gives only one episode of the June insurrection, though it is a thrilling one. "As for me," she writes, in my rooms in the Rue de Richelieu, I was consumed with anxiety with regard to my old mother, who lived in the Faubourg du Temple. For two whole days I had been "(1) "The Agate Lamp." By Eva Gore-Booth. (Longmans. 2s. 6d.) [2] "Lyrict." By Lady Margaret Sackville. (Herbert and Daniel. 3s. 6d.) + "My Autobiography." By Madame Judith. (Eveleigh Nash.

+ "My Autobiography." By Madame Judith. (Eveleigh Nash. 10s. 6d.)

\* "Letters to a Prison." By Mrs. Fred Reynolds. (Chapman and Hall. 6a.)

# THE CHILD AT THE COURT THETREA

TWO POETS

They are different, for both are good, and no togood writerea ever alike. But attill they have very many to he of the arts and belief in them, an upbringing in the same general class of society, and the among general class of society, and the among general cuttook upon the world. Both have insided partnerses and centributed to making a law of the best artistic work in other kinds, though with the same limit. Both are much attracted by beauty of the best artistic work in other kinds, though with the same limit. Both are much attracted with the same limit and the same limit an



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# FOR GIRLS AND BOYS



Americanisms scattered throughout its pages. We question, moreover, whether a sixth form "man," punctilious on all points of personal honour as Templeton was, would deliberately disobey a cardinal rule of the school, known to carry with it the punishment of expulsion, without a qualm. It leads us to ask whether it is a fact that public school ethics relate only to standing well with one's fellows, and that deceit towards those in authority does not count? If so, a curious light is thrown on the moral equipment of some of our public men, for Acton School, situated half-way between London and Birmingham, is thirly disguised. It is a pity, too, that the author, who evidently means us to admire the rather slangy Evelyn Dale, should have allowed her to read a letter which was obviously not addressed to her; one does not "almost unconsciously" do such things, and it seems a pity to put her conduct on a level with that of the caddish Stafford. One more criticism: Why the following comparison?

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"The Dial." January. (London: Mowbray. Price 3d. Monthly.) EVERY THURSDAY.

WILLIAM OWEN

† "Overheard in Fairyland; or, the Peter Pan Tales." By Madge A. Bigham. (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

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FRIDAY JANUARY 10, 1913.

### WILL WOMEN UNITE?

into special prominence throughout the country, and twice bitten, be thrice shy. when clear thinking and right acting are more than If by some cunningly devised plot women do not ordinarily necessary for advocates of the cause.

are to-day by no means identical.

and those who are not prepared either themselves about the fall of the Government. issue may eventuate.

Prior to the day when the Conciliation Bill their policy. determined not to be "had" in the same way a the cause they all have at heart. second time. Once bitten they were twice shy. They But more important than this, the allied armies examined the "great opportunity" said to be pro- of the Suffrage societies, by declaring war upon the vided by the Franchise Bill, and found it lacking Government unless their straightforward demand is in the essentials of success; and accordingly in their conceded, will form a powerful incentive to polivarious ways they carried on campaigns against the | ticians to grant a measure of justice which they might

Suffragists took the view that the opportunity was a real one, and that the Franchise Bill, with its possibility of amendment so as to include women, was principal non-militant society and the Women's Freedom League, but also a man who had up to that time done veoman service for the cause, and a great Liberal newspaper, owned and edited by a man known to be high-principled and independent.

JANUARY 10, 1913.

For the past fourteen months the question has been argued from every possible standpoint; the time is very speedily coming when prophecies will be put to the test of fact. It will then be "up to" all those who have urged upon women patience and trust in the Liberal Government to prove that their confidence was well founded.

Suppose they fail. Suppose that one of the innumerable pitfalls which we have watched being dug for the Woman Suffrage amendment should in the event prove fatal to it—what are they going to do then? We have not the smallest wish to see In a short time the Franchise Bill will go inte them eating humble pie, expressing regret for the Committee in the House of Commons and the attitude which they have taken up in the past. They Woman Suffrage amendments will be under discus- will be quite entitled to argue that the experiment sion. Whatever may be thought of the prospects was worth trying even though it proved a failure. of success of any of these, it is clear that the occasion What we do want is that they should adopt a will be one when Woman Suffrage will be brought different attitude in the future. At least let them,

secure the franchise by means of the Government's Hitherto it has been customary to speak of a Electoral Reform Bill, we hope that Suffragists of single line of cleavage in the Suffrage ranks, and every persuasion will unite in demanding a Governto divide Suffragists throughout the country into ment measure for Woman Suffrage, and will refuse two main groups-militant and non-militant. It is to accept or even consider any suggestion falling now becoming increasingly evident that this division short of this. For it will surely then be clear to is inadequate, and that there is in reality a double, everyone that no pledge of impartiality, however and not merely a single, main line of cleavage; there apparently binding, is strong enough to prevent the is, in fact, a division as to policy quite as sharply Government from riding off on some subterfuge and defined as that as to method, and these two divisions continuing to block the enfranchisement of women. Failing a definite Government measure, we appeal The distinction as to method has long been recog- to all Suffragists to adopt a frankly anti-Government nised; it is the distinction between those who are policy and to use every possible means for bringing

THACKERAY HOTEL to act contrary to the law or to encourage and In making this appeal to Suffragists to adopt a support others who are doing so. The distinction common policy, it must be clearly understood that as to policy is between those who recognise that we are not appealing for organic unity, which we the fount of all legislation is the Government of fully recognise to be an impossible dream. Differences the day and who are prepared actively to oppose of constitution, differences of personality, and differthe Government until it is willing to see women ences of method inevitably and perhaps advanenfranchised, and those who are content to accept tageously keep Suffragists divided into many distinct the excuses for inaction put forward by the Govern- and even rival societies. But all these societies have ment and to work patiently along the line of an a common aim—the equalisation of the franchise offer made to them in the hope that a successful laws for men and women—and there is no reason why they should not adopt also a common basis for

was "torpedoed," Suffragists of all kinds were prepared to give the second method a trial, especially confronted, as we have often been in the past, with as a pledge which appeared absolutely water-tight | the lamentable spectacle of Suffrage societies working had been given by the Prime Minister himself; but | politically in direct opposition to one another, not when by a turn of the political machine that pledge | merely cancelling one another's work, but introducing was rendered practically valueless a large number | an element of weakness and uncertainty which has of Suffragists, including militants and non-militants, been damaging in every way to the furtherance of

Government. On the other hand, a large body of otherwise be tempted to withhold,

# MASCULINE GOOD SENSE

# By Joseph Clayton

on this field have always been opposed by forces was reached at midnight, and at daybreak Clare care. summoned to resist in the name of "masculine good | found shelter in a Benedictine convent at Bastia. To

JANUARY 10, 1913.

of freedom was mainly for education, for admission on the altar, proclaimed the choice she had made, and to the medical profession, and for release of prosti- her consecration to religion, and something in her tutes in our garrison towns from State recognition strength quieted their rage, for they went away and and regulation, it was in each and every case the left her to her calling. voice of "masculine good sense" that delayed the A fortnight later, and Agnes, the younger sister of

for political enfranchisement, over the last ditch of suit, for Agnes was but fifteen, and it was monstrous strange device—"masculine good sense"; and the order her own life in defiance of those who would pretentious insolence of the device is only matched by have her suitably married. he folly that cannot learn from experience how entirely misguiding and misguided is this notion of suasion, but when this failed they seized Agnes by

ome cases economic, liberty to women, so in earlier to be taken by storm.

Far back at the beginning of the thirteenth century, seven hundred years ago-Anno Domini 1212, be quite exact—the Lady Clare at Assisi had to fight and win her battle of liberty of conscience in the teeth of "masculine good sense." Clare was not et eighteen when the call came to her to leave home and riches and follow the gleam. She was of an age to marry; her father urged the claims of her family and the duty of strengthening the family's position by the right sort of marriage. Alas! for a father's opes, Clare had quite other plans for her life than arrying either for her own or for the family's sake, and when the Lady Clare made up her mind, her eart was with her mind; and her heart was strong.

We see her. Clare, at the age of eighteen, in the early spring of 1212-strong indeed of heart and nind. In the feudal household, where her girlhood passed, she had learnt of what was passing in the world of politics and religion from intercourse with many "keenly alive to the various topics of that stimulating age." Never could she be satisfied with weak compromises in a matter of duty, but neither

rank and family, to become a mendicant nun, this was more than her family would stand: Clare was Considerable criticism has been aroused by Mr.

In the nineteenth century, when the women's battle | clamouring and threatening. Clare, with her hands

Clare, also fled her father's house and came to Clare's To-day, when we are still in the thick of the fight | convent. And now twelve kinsmen came in hot pur-Anti-Suffragists waves the banner with the to masculine good sense that this young girl should

At first these twelve sensible kinsmen tried permasculine restriction on the liberty of women.

As even in the twentieth century certain types of masculine intelligence would deny political, and in come and save her. Clare, in the first moment of centuries liberty of conscience for women outraged their violence had cast herself prostrate before the the susceptibilities of the more ardent male, and had altar, praying God to give her sister courage and to save her. Then, with a renewed trust, she rose up and hurried to her sister's rescue.

"She overtook them a little way down the mountain side. Agnes lay helpless on the ground; for suddenly-whether it was that their fury had enfeebled them or whatever the cause—these stout men

"The battle of freedom is never done and the field | the posts, which all had to be cleared away by the | Clare appeared in their midst and demanded that never quiet." And through the centuries the women | hands of the fugitives. The house of the Franciscans | they cease their violence and leave her sister to her

"And once again that strange power which Clare this convent next day came some of Clare's kinsfolk, had to subdue people to her will, sent these men clamouring away

> Clare returned to the convent with Agnes, and until death, thirty-seven years later, these two laboured in the calling they had chosen, and built up many communities of Poor Ladies, and kept aflame the fire of Franciscan zeal for holy poverty in religion. Thus they—Clare and Agnes—fought and won the battle for liberty of conscience 700 years ago, heedless of the masculine claim to order a woman's life.

> It would seem that the passion for liberty is passion for liberty to serve. To St. Clare liberty of conscience is seen as the liberty to serve God in a life of poverty. The quest of political liberty is seen as the demand to serve the State, of economic liberty the demand to serve one's neighbours in return for

> And since seeking freedom women are seeking wider fields of service, this "masculine good sense" is the least trustworthy of obstructive counsellors. For over and over again this "sense" has hindered human development, and its utterances are now an impertinence. The male person—whether rowdy shop-boy or dull-sighted Cabinet Minister—who still talks definitively of the limits of women's liberty has got to understand that with this absurdly barbaric jargon he's just making a fool of himself.

The courage of St. Clare, and of all those women who through the ages have defied and beaten the found their burden too heavy for their strength, and with a curse had flung her to the ground. One of them would have struck her in his rage; but just then the would have struck her in his rage; but just then the world is not likely to have too much of or can esteem too highly.

# A HUMAN TRAGEDY

# "The Private Life of Henry Maitland" \* "George Gissing, a Critical Study"

These two books deal with the same man under different names. And, on the face of it, that which presents itself under the guise of fiction is the more makes us publicly hypocritical about human nature. presents itself under the guise of netion is the more truthful, at least, in the sense that it does not set out to conceal things. Here is a passage from the biographical section of the volume devoted ostensibly to truth: "The occasion of Gissing's withdrawal from Owen's [College], and the breaking of that succession of educational achievements was the earliest result of his incorriements, was the earliest result of his incorriwould she fuss over details of conduct which were not of the essence of some vital principle."\*

"Even the male folk of her family, hard-beaten soldiers bred of a line which had maintained itself and its possessions by the sword and brooked not readily any opposition to its claims—even these stood in some awe of this strong-willed daughter of their house."

But to break away from all the traditions of her rank and family, to become a mendicant nun, this

rank and family, to become a mendicant nun, this was more than her family would stand; Clare was quite aware of that. Possibly she might have been allowed to enter one of those established convents "which were, in some sort, appanages of noble families, and in a dignified fashion secured the patronage of heaven for the families whose daughters were consecrated within their walls." But then Clare had no calling for such convent life. For her, as for St. Francis, it must be all or nothing, and she, too, would embrace poverty, as utterly and completely as the Poor Man of Assisi, and leave to the world her Company of Poor Ladies.

Her early consultations with Francis had to take place unknown to her kinsfolk. "It was not the occapitation of the control of the contr

Merely from the sociological point of view, t fore, it is valuable to have the private life of "Henry Maitland" as here presented for our learning. Here was a man of fine brain and temperament one even in his early youth of high scholastic achieve-ment, suddenly cast adrift and subjected to a life-long depreciation of his true values owing to lack of balance in one particular relation. How pathetic, how fatuous is the story! Attracted by a woman of the streets, and wishing to reclaim her to more decent ways of life, he first presents her with a sewing-machine, and, when that solution of the social pro-blem fails, steals the overcoats and books of his fellow-students to provide her with maintenance! After paying the legal penalty thus incurred he marries her, and from the ghastly tragedy of that experiment passes to a second, which is even worse. And during the life thus marred and confounded by his own utter lack of "savoir faire"—to put it no

way. In this instance, where no personal sensibilities are involved, the objection arises entirely from a moral snobbery which is ever bent on setting up unreal distinctions in the psychological study of mankind. Society is still very reluctant to expound human nature truthfully, since one result of such a course is a condemnation of our existing system of their secular interest: it was the tradition of every feudal household. And Clare, in this supreme moment of her own fortune, acted as her father's daughter. She took her decision into her own hands" (Father Cuthbertson, O.S.F.C.).

On the night of Palm Sunday, Clare, with one companion, an aunt who stood by her through thick and thin, left her father's house for the life she had chosen. She went out by a disused postern gate, and the gateway was blocked by huge stones piled between the gateway was blocked by the gateway was blocked by the gateway was blocked by the g

# SUFFRAGISTS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Thursbay, January 2, was set aside by Saffragins as a day of prayer in weather Abbey, All day long, from nine o'clock until the close of evenong, militant and non-militant saffragists. wearing the limiting in and out of the Abbey, they included among them women officers of the Salvation Army. They congregated particularly in the little Chapel of St. Faith, "but no one farmy. They congregated particularly in the little Chapel of St. Faith," in the property of the consecond of the Salvation Army. They congregated particularly in the little Chapel of St. Faith, "but no one force soon, which she has written experiant of the salvation of the Abbey, they included among the movemen officers of the Salvation Army. They congregated particularly in the little Chapel of St. Faith." The salvation of the sa

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# THE AGITATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Miss May Billinghurst, Miss Grace Mitchell, and Miss Louisa Gay were before the Recorder at the Old Bailey on Wednesday last, on a charge of unlawfully placing in letter-boxes a certain deleterious fluid. All pleaded not guilty, and defended themselves. Miss Billinghurst, in the course of a statement, said that she acted as she did to fight for the liberation of women that they might take their part in the legislation of their country. Frightful instances of the White Slave Traffic were brought to her notice during visits to the slums, and these convinced her of the necessity which existed for women to have a voice in the government of the land. Although women had tried for many years to get the vote by peaceful means, it was not until "Christabel Pankhurst sounded the war-note of militancy and went to prison for her boldness that the public attention was arrested." So far as counsel for the prosecution was concerned, Miss Billinghurst added, he might take a message to the Postmaster-General to the effect that the only way to stop the attacks on the pillar-boxes would be to bring in a Government measure. Miss Mitchell identified herself with all Miss Billinghurst had said.

All three were found guilty, and a police

for the prosecution was concerned, Miss Billinghurst added, he might take a message to the Postmaster-General to the effect that the only way to stop the attacks on the pillar-boxes would be to bring in a Government measure. Miss Mitchell identified herself with all Miss Billinghurst had said.

All three were found guilty, and a police officer said Miss Billinghurst had been previously convicted for offences committed during the Suffragist agitation. It was true that she had been engaged in rescue work.

The Recorder postponed sentence until Thursday.

By special order of the Recorder, no women were admitted to the court, and our representative, with other women reporters, was excluded from the Press table. The Pall Mall Gazette drew special attention to this matter, and announced a late evening edition with a placard: "Women Excluded from the Court."

Mrs. Howey makes the following comment:

"Now, as everyone who has had friends or relations in prison knows quite well that the official formula 'Is in pool health,' covers almost every case of illness up to death or in-vitation to me to pay in order to receive truthful information; and I have been refused permission to send my daughter's an absolute impossibility that she should be 'in good health,' carept in the folicial formula 'Is in good health,' or 'Is in their usual health,' covers almost every case of illness up to pay in order to receive truthful information; and I have been refused permission to send my daughter's and absolute impossibility that she should be 'in good health' every in the official formula 'Is in pool health,' or 'Is in their usual health,' covers almost every case of illness up to pay in order to receive truthful information; and I have been refused permission to send my daughter's and been forcibly fed. it is an absolute impossibility that she should be 'in good health' except in the official formula 'Is in the truth or 'Is in their usual health,' covers almost every case of illness up to pay in order to receive tevet for a beat or in

# PREMIER'S WINDOW BROKEN

A man named Frank Brailsford, a commercial traveller, of Canterbury Road, Brixton, was fined 40s. and 2s. 6d. as damage, or one month's hard labour, at Bow Street, on Friday, January 3, for breaking a window at the Prime Minister's residence, 10. Downing Street.

SCOTTISH PRISON TREATMENT

A man raised Posit Trainford.

A man raised Posit Trainford.

Birston, was fined 40s. and 2s. 6f. addrage, or no mouth's hard labour, of the House of Commons or Tucelay, the healting a window at the Prime Minister's residence, 10, positions of the man control of the position of the man control of the position of the man control of the

No further news has been received of Miss Elsie Howey and Miss Kitty Marion, and the inference is that they are still being forcibly fed, as Miss Annie Kenney stated at the London Pavilion last Monday.

Mrs. Howey has sent to the Press the following letter, which she received on January 3 from Mr. Harris, of the Home Office.

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W., Ist January, 1913.

Madam,—I am desired by the Home Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday in regard to Miss Howey, and to say that he is informed that, your daughter is in good health. I am to point out that if you are not satisfant.

Prime Minister and the Speaker, of which the following is a copy:

Sir,—We have received an acknowledgment of, but no reply to our request of December 19, to be allowed to come before the Bar of the House of Commons. The situation is daily becoming more urgent and critical. We feel our great Cause is being trifled with, and the happenings in Parliament during the last five years on the subject have not inspired us with confidence.

Though a Constitutional body of women, who desire to remain so, we yet feel it to be a great wrong to women and prejudicial to the sex that they should be goaded into unconstitutional methods because the Government will not give effect to the considered judgments of the House of 1908, 1910, and 1911, when our Bills passed by large majorities.

Every man has his Party machinery, and every Party is reflected in its own Party press, thus, every man, through Party representation, possesses an outlet for his grievances, both inside and outside the House of the People, who have not even common rights, the Actresses claim and outside the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who was admitted to the Bar of the House on May 12, 1910, to lay the views of the Dublin Corporation on Woman's Suffrage before Parliament; and the Actresses claim an even greater right to do so, because every other channel has been closed to them, and because it is a woman's question which only women can adequately explain.

They feel quite sure that no democratic M.P.U. MEMBER RELEASED

Mr. Mulligan, the M.P.U. member who
told the Glasgow Sheriff's Court last week
that he preferred ten days' imprisonment
to paying a fine of £1 for plastering a
Great Western Road pillar-box with a demand for votes for women, was released
from Duke Street Prison the same evening, someone having paid the fine.

ADELINE BOURNE, Hon. Secretary

### TAX RESISTANCE

The Women's Tax Resistance League and the Women's Freedom League are resisting the Insurance Act on behalf of their respective office staffs.

### Faint, Yet Pursuing

Scotland Yard has been concerned to secure the protection of our visitors (the Peace Delegates) when moving about the streets of London, and with the demand that is made nowadays on account of the suffragists for the security of Ministers and the defence of buildings, rather a strain is put upon their resources.— Nottingham Charding.



# "A GIRDLE ROUND ABOUT THE EARTH"

In France

French feminists have for some time declared from the stand of the Presidency of the Republic; and now a candidate has come for which the points of the Presidency of the Republic; and now a candidate has come for the Chamber of Deputies, when also stood incent of Deputies, when also stood incent of the Demis of the Presidency of the Republic; and now a candidate at the last general election for the Chamber of Deputies, when also stood incent of the Somme; and, as the Paris correspondent of the Demis Verse say, "if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Chamber of the Demis Verse say," if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Chamber of the Demis Verse say, "if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Chamber of the Demis Verse say," if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse say, "if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse say," if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse say, "if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse say," if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse say, "if she polls but one vote at Versailes on the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Verse of the Colorado of the Verse of the Colorado of the Demis Verse of the Colorado of the Market Verse of the Colorado of the Verse of the Ver

attend, including Chinese members of Parliament.

The second Congress of the Men's International Alliance will be held in Budapest at the same time, presided over by Sir John Cockburn.

The second Congress of the Men's International Alliance will be held in Budapest at the same time, presided over by Sir John Cockburn.

Tween what in England would be called the municipal and the Parliamentary franchise. No further decision can be taken before 1914.

Against this temporary reverse in Michigan may be set the news that in Colorado, a Woman Suffrage State, the first woman

state. But if we pay the same rights."

In Italy

The fact that the Italian Chamber of Deputies threw out a measure to give voice to women last May has not by any means diminished the strength of the Italy. At present Italian women, enjoy neither the municipal nor the Parliamentary franchise, and two recent meetings were held in Milan teetfrings to the late of the Italy. At present Italian women, enjoy neither the municipal nor the Parliamentary franchise, and two recent meetings were held in Milan teetfor by an elequent of the property of the famous a great effect by an elequent of the property of the famous Amason corps of the revolutionary army burst into the Assembly, stormed at the member of the present and in Italy would oppose Votes for Women and the remixed flarly is not a matured nation. Gloitti the Prime Minister] at present represents the conscience of Italy. Its heart is not a matured nation. Gloitti the Prime Minister] at present represents the conscience of Italy. Its heart is not improbable that he may say "Votes for Women." It is the vice for month; with destroys respect for mother, with seven all the prime the proposed to t



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ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS AT DULWICH

JANUARY 10, 1913.

# Women Geographers

# "THE SPOILT DARLING OF THE LAW '

For precisely the same offence (using obscene language) at the same police court (Peterborough) and on the same day in last week, a woman was fined 15s, and a man only 2s, 6d.

At the Cheshire Quarter Sessions last month, in discussing a resolution from the Lindsey Quarter Sessions, calling for the strengthening of the law for the protection of children against criminal assault. Mr. Raffles Bulley said the law was unsatisfactory, but recommended that it should be steadily enforced. Sentence after sentence of three months' imprisonment was passed when the maximum allowed was two years' imprisonment with hard labour. The age of consent should be raised from sixteen to eighteen, and the onus of proving a girl was over sixteen thrown absolutely on the defendant. He moved amendments to this effect, but, as the chairman ruled that notice must be

# EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Speaking at the Educational Conference being held this week at the University of London, Professor Michael Sadler said that on the administrative side the advocates of Civil Service status for teachers would have to overcome in England practical difficulties of a very serious nature. For example, two-thirds of the teachers in English schools were women. If the State made all teachers Civil servants it would have to decide on the threshold the question of the scale of payment to be made to men and women teachers, often working together in the same schools. He himself believed that the sex line was not the true criterion of differentiation in salaries (loud applause), but if the State took over the whole teaching profession it would be driven to frame general scales of salary which would have to be enforced without much regard to individual merit, and in devising such a scale the State, under present conditions, would almost inevitably differentiate between men and women as such.

THE CASE OF MRS. NAPOLITANO

A correspondent writes that there was a good deal of interruption from Suffragusts during the meeting held by Anti-Suffragusts at Dulwich, on January 2; indeed, "at one point in Mr. Arnold Ward's speech there was frank uproar." Mrs. Norns's speech, continues our informant, "was speech, continues our informant, "was speech, and would have been excellent, had good, and would have been excellent, had she had a case; but one felt she was persistently arguing in a circle and refusing to take the plunge outside it that would have led her somewhere. She said that this movement was sweeping over Europe, but this was not a proof of its value; rather, it was a sign that England should stand firm against it. Nothing was said about Australia and New Zealand. She dwelt on the necessity for woman remaining in her proper sphere, but failed to consider the thousands of women who have no home, but such as they work for and make, ending by saying that it was a glorious thing for a woman to be economically dependent on a man.

Mr. Arnold Ward spoke of chivalry, and persisted in calling woman the economically dependent on a man.

Mr. Arnold Ward spoke of chivalry, and persisted in calling woman the soliling of the law," and said that greater leniency was always shown to women in law courts. He knew of no case (or, at least, very few!) in which a double standard of pay was maintained. When asked about the wages of teachers in elementary and secondary schools, he requested his questioners to communicate privately with him. He further advocated a Referendum on the question, without the inclusion of women, suggesting that there should be an unofficial advisory Referendum of women first.

THE LAST REFORM BUT ONE!

Wamen Geographers

THE LAST REFORM BUT ONE!

Wamen Geographers

Women Geographers

The Referendum to the general body of Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, on the motion "That the Society approves the election of women as Fellows," had resulted, down to December 20, as follows:

Yes, 1,796; No, 578; Unsigned, 43; Conditional, 33.

Lord Curzon, President of the Society, with whom the proposal originated, has circularized the members to express a hope that "the Special General Meeting of January 15, which has been called to decide the matter, will be largely and representatively attended, in order that the general sense of the Society may be reflected by the vote."

Truly, anti-Suffragists are past-masters in the art of accepting the last reform but one! In 1893 the Royal Geographical Society rescinded its own by-law to admit women as Fellows, under which several well-known women had already been elected, including Mrs. French Sheldon, Lady Fox Young, and others. Now we have a noted anti-Suffragist advocating their election once more, though why women like Miss M. E. Durham, Mrs. Mary Gaunt, and Mrs. Bullock Workman should be considered fit to put a fred within a month, and on May 9, 1911, she was sentenced to be hanged. The same day the same jury recomended to mercy an talian man who had murdered another, taking him by stealth at night, who said he had killed the wrong man by to be deferred till after the birth of her came from more humane countries. Angelina's baby was taken from lack of suitable food. Her four children were found neatly clothed, and are bright and doile, showing the care of a good mother.

'A deputation of ladies from Toronto waited on the Minister of Justice, the Hon.

Angelina's baby was taken from lack of suitable food. Her four children were found neatly clothed, and rebright and doile, showing the care of a good mother.

'A deputation of ladies from Toronto waited on the Minister of Justice, the Hon.

You humane consideration had within a month, had had whe to be eatled to mercy another that the statelly late to the protests which to ease from

To the Editor of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to point out that the statement in regard to the policy of the Women's Freedom League which you make in the current issue of VOTES FOR WOMEN is not quite accurate. We do not support the Labour Party at by-elections, but we do support a Labour candidate in a three-cornered contest with the object of splitting the vote of the Government candidate. Our policy is first and last an anti-Government policy, and we consider that definite support given to a Labour candidate in a three-cornered contest is an effective way of hitting the Government candidate—it certainly lessens the chance of the latter's return to Parliament. rnment candidate—it certainly lessens the hance of the latter's return to Parliament -Yours, &c.,

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

1, Robert Street, Adelphi, Strand, Lonon, W.C. don, W.C.

The statement referred to was in "The Story of 1912," and ran as follows:—
"About this time [June, 1912] the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Freedom League decided to adopt the policy of supporting the Labour Party at elections."

butions to enable us to buy books, as we are anxious to cover as wide a field as possible. The value for propaganda purposes of a good collection of books dealing with all aspects of the Woman's Movement can hardly be overrated, and we trust that all friends and sympathisers will do what they can to assist us.

All communications should be addressed to the Librarian, The International Suffrage Shop. 15, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.—Yours truly,

p.p. S. Seruya.

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# WOMAN SUFFRAGE MEETINGS

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