

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 3.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITORS and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

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What We Think.

Up to the present no reply has been received from Mr. Asquith to the letter sent by the Women's Freedom League, a copy of which appeared in the last issue of THE VOTE. Even the bland acknowledgment that the Prime Minister has received our communication, coupled with the monotonous assurance that he has nothing further to add, has not been forthcoming. In the letter we intimated quite firmly that after fifteen weeks waiting our patience was at an end, and we renewed our request for an interview. Doubtless before long the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Daily News* will utter a solemn warning as to the growing habit of sending threatening letters, and point out this as an instance of a "dastardly outrage" against the dignity of his "beloved chief."

It is stated that Mr. Herbert Gladstone will probably be appointed Governor-General of South Africa. Our readers will remember that when the constitution of the South African Colonies was framed, though much discussion and indignation ranged around the question of the "colour bar," the "sex" bar was allowed to stand without protest. South Africa behaved badly, it is true, but all the same, the punishment seems rather severe.

A male magistrate, a court filled with male officials and stalwart policemen, made a vivid object lesson of the nature of the conditions against which women have to struggle, on Thursday last at the Tower Bridge Police Court. In the framing and the administration of the whole machinery of the law woman has no part. She is only graciously allowed to help to foot the bill, and to stand in the dock or the witness-box.

The *Common Cause* bewails the fact that the Women's Freedom League protest at Bermondsey spoilt the electors petition, which is the principal feature of the by-election policy of the N.U.W.S.S. We do not share their touching faith in the efficacy of petitions. The legislative machinery of our country is not of such light and airy structure as to be moved, particularly in the unwonted direction of Franchise reform, by the

gentle breath of petitions, or a supplicatory "Please, do!" It needs the fires of revolt and rebellion lit under and around it before it makes the faintest creaking movement towards action. That is a lesson that apparently all Suffragists have not learnt, even after fifty years' experience of the wily politician and his evasions. Once, inadvertently, Mr. Herbert Gladstone let out the truth. "After political argument," he said, "must come political dynamics." But people like Mr. Gladstone are never ready to admit that the time has come for political dynamics. It's so much safer and more comfortable—for them—if women stick to the educational part. The question for Suffragists to ask themselves is—Are politicians likely to give them the vote as a reward for good conduct?

The members of the Freedom League doubtless remember the delightful visit we received in the early part of this year from two Finnish women—one of whom, Dr. Thekla Hultin, was a woman M.P., that is an elected member of the Finnish Diet—the first to visit this country, by the way. She and Mme. Malmberg educated us to the point of expecting unstinted sympathy in our own struggles from the women who had won for themselves political equality with their men. Another woman member of the Diet has been giving her views on the Suffragette movement, and they show not only sympathy for our present severe struggle, but a complete understanding of the ignoble position that women must occupy in politics so long as they are denied the vote.

"Women always *have* taken part in politics," said Miss Jenny, M.P. of Forselles. "But how? By the only means open to them, and that is intrigue. The woman who has a political salon, or who uses her influence for political ends, goes in for politics, but does not bear the burden of responsibility. At first I could not understand the behaviour of your Suffragettes, but I think I understand it better now. It shows that they are indeed earnest. Once I was pained by what I read, but I must confess now I regard them as heroic."

The Lady Chapel of the new Liverpool Cathedral, is to be adorned by a magnificent scheme of stained glass windows in commemoration of the deeds of good women. Elizabeth Fry, Grace Darling, Mary Somerville, and Josephine Butler are all to be represented. Yet it is within the memory of very many that the last named at least was held in execration by the vast majority in this country for her determined fight against the State Regulation of Vice. Stones, abuse, calumny were her lot; her effigy was burnt in the public streets. She would be a Suffragette were she alive to-day, being forcibly fed in prison possibly, and held up as an example of a shrieking unsexed hooligan. In a very few years, we venture to say, public opinion will have veered round possibly to the point of being ready to canonise some of the despised and rejected of to-day.

M. H.

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AT THE TOWER BRIDGE POLICE COURT

When Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans surrendered to their bail on Thursday last to answer to the charge of unlawfully tampering with the ballot-boxes at the Bermondsey election, the court was crowded with well-known members of the Women's Freedom League and some male sympathisers. Among the former were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How-Martyn, B.Sc., and Miss Bennett. Mr. R. D. Muir appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P., for the defence. Mrs. Chapin's case was taken first, and when she appeared she was greeted with applause by some of the men who were present; they were promptly removed by order of Mr. Rose, the presiding magistrate.

Mr. Muir, in opening the case for the prosecution, said, "After you have heard the evidence, I propose to ask you to commit the defendant for trial for having without due authority interfered with the ballot box and for attempting to destroy a packet of ballot papers. In addition to these charges, the defendant, according to the evidence which I shall lay before you, assaulted the presiding officer, Mr. Thorley, and occasioned him grievous bodily harm within the meaning of section 47 of the Offences against the Persons Act, 1861."

Mr. Muir then described how Mrs. Chapin entered the Boutcher Street Polling Booth on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 28th, walked to the ballot box and broke over it a glass phial containing a liquid, how some of the liquid entered the eye of the presiding officer who was near the box at the time.

Mr. Thorley was then called and sworn. After describing his position in the polling booth, and Mrs. Chapin's action, he said, in answer to Mr. Muir, "I received some of the fluid on my face and in my right eye, and immediately felt a burning sensation. I shouted 'Oh, my eye!' and 'Constable, arrest this woman!' There was great confusion in the room."

"Never mind about the confusion; did you attend to your eye as quickly as you could?"

"I took some ammonia out of a cupboard and asked one of the poll clerks to dilute it for me; but I was unable to apply it, because he did not dilute it sufficiently."

Mr. Thorley then said he went to Guy's Hospital, where he was attended by Dr. Francis and Dr. Ormond.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P.: "I suppose you had no doubt from what you saw that the accident to yourself was purely accidental?"

"Purely accidental."

"That Mrs. Chapin had no idea at all of hurting you?"

"I do not think that, sir, for one minute."

Harold Walter Stevens, who acted as poll clerk, admitted that he had received some slight splashes of the liquid on his face and collar.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hemmerde: "You were not hurt?"

"No, sir."

"You did not have any attention or anything like that?"

"Oh, no, sir."

Dr. Marshall, after having technically described the injury to Mr. Thorley, said, in answer to cross-examination, that in his opinion the liquid might have acted as a caustic on the flesh to a certain extent.

"Very slight?"

"Possibly slight."

"I mean the liquid was one that would not have caused any injury unless it had come into contact with the eye?"

"No serious injury, I think."

Dr. Francis, House Surgeon at Guy's Hospital, was of the opinion that the fluid used was some strong irritant, which was alkaline in nature. Dr. Ormond spoke of the injury done to Mr. Thorley's coat, and expressed surprise that the eye was not more damaged when one saw the damage done to the coat.

Further evidence was given by the Returning Officer and others as to the number of votes in the ballot box, and the injury done by the liquid that entered the box. The voting papers were estimated to number about 100 at the time the protest was made.

Mrs. Chapin was then sworn, and, after stating that her intention had been to make a political protest against the exclusion of women from the franchise, the following questions were put by Mr. Hemmerde:—

"Now as regards that liquid, had you taken steps to ascertain of what it was composed?"

"I had been told that it was harmless."

"And in doing what you did, were you then under the honest belief that the liquid was harmless if it came into contact with any person?"

"Yes, I was."

"As a matter of fact, has it come into contact with the gloves that you have here to-day?"

"Oh, yes; I put my hand in it as I broke the bottle on the box."

"And did it have any effect on the glove?"

"None."

"Was any injury caused to your hand at all?"

"None."

"Did you continue wearing the glove all day?"

"I took it off in the station; my hand was wet with the fluid. I took it off then, but otherwise it stayed on all day."

"So, apart from what you have heard has happened to Mr. Thorley and heard to-day, do you believe this liquid to be harmless?"

"I believe it to be harmless."

In answer to the cross-examination of Mr. Muir, Mrs. Chapin said that she was informed by Mr. and Mrs. How-Martyn of the nature of the fluid.

"What knowledge have they got of chemicals?"

"I believe one is a Bachelor of Science and the other has a great knowledge of chemicals."

"Did you take any steps at all to find out what the nature of this fluid was for yourself?"

"No, but I may say I saw it on the hands of people at the office—on Mr. How Martyn's."

"How long did it remain on his hands?"

"A few moments."

"What was your object in putting that fluid into the voting box?"

"To make a protest against any election where women are not allowed to vote."

"Did you intend it to obliterate the votes?"

"If it obliterated the votes I did not care. I hoped it would make a stain upon the votes."

"Did you, yes or no, intend that fluid to obliterate the votes upon the polling papers in that box?"

"Yes."

Mr. Hemmerde submitted that he did not intend to contest the right of his friend to ask for a committal of his client under Section 3 (6) of the Ballot Act, of having without due authority interfered with a ballot box, and attempting to destroy a packet of ballot papers. His client admitted that offence, but she did it for a political purpose and with a political object. He did not either contest the point that harm was done to Mr. Thorley, because the medical evidence made that impossible, but having regard to the whole of the cir-

WOMEN VERSUS THE BUDGET.

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

The Budget has gone to the Lords, and we are told that it will go next to the country. If there is any ground for all that has been said about its epoch-making character, the Government, so far from being justified in postponing woman suffrage for its sake, stands condemned for having given women no voice in the ultimate verdict. The Lords have now to consider how a male electorate will receive their decision; they would by now have had the women also to take into account if justice had been done.

* * *

I wrote last week of the time-honoured procedure between Lords and Commons, with regard to Mr. John Burns's Housing Bill, as farcical. I was wrong; it is not farce, it is tragedy.

Clause 14, providing that in the case of the cheapest house-property the landlord has the responsibility for keeping the house in a decently habitable state, has been nullified by a condition that the tenant may be held responsible if the lease is for three years or more. This is plausible; we are told that the poorest people do not take houses on a lease, so that for them the protection will remain. But a landlord does not let slum property direct to the poorest people; he lets *via* a middleman, who is so far ground down by the landlord or his agents as to be quite unable to fulfil any responsibility for the decent upkeep of the property. So it is to him that the responsibility is shifted; and for the poorest people, the old indescribable state of things will go on.

* * *

Clause 17, for the compulsory closing of unfit houses which provided some definite regulations as to the smallest allowable dimensions for sleeping-room, freedom from dampness and bad sanitation, and such necessary details—has been cut out of the Bill, and a worthless provision put in its place, that houses must satisfy such regulations as the local authority may make. Everyone knows that the local authorities are under the thumb of the landlords, and, once again, the existing state of things will continue.

* * *

Clause 25, though, strengthened the hands of the local authority by giving it some real responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the Bill; but this clause also the House of Landlords has judiciously cut out.

To these alterations a powerful Government, pledged to improve the conditions of the poor, has deliberately consented, at the bidding (the irony of it!) of Mr. John Burns.

* * *

Put into simple language, this means that instead of saying to the rack-renter, "Our people shall have clean and decent housing; you must give them a reasonable minimum of space and light, and sleeping-places that are not dank and evil smelling; we have empowered some of your neighbours to see that you do this," the Government says, "Wouldn't it be nice if you gave your tenants rather better conditions? We don't want to trouble you with any definite regulations, and we won't make you really responsible for the state of your tenement property; but we have asked your grocer and two or three more of your economic dependents to draw up a few requirements (you can see that they don't make these too irksome to you, and, anyhow, we are not giving them any power to enforce what they say), and we hope that with the aid of these, your slum property will become a little heaven upon earth."

* * *

Now would the women of the country speak in these terms, when young mothers are pining for lack of light and air, and children dying by thousands in the disease-laden atmosphere, on these rich men's property? Would men speak like this if the social conscience of women, empowered by political responsibility, were free to help them face the realities of life? K. R.

circumstances of the case, that the lady made her protest without any idea of criminal action, that she had in every way safeguarded herself against accident by asking her friends if harm could come from the mixture, that she had tried it upon her hands, and her friends had tried it upon themselves, he asked the magistrate to say that the second charge was one which should go no further. He did not desire to go into the motives that actuated the lady, but they had the knowledge that she was taking part in a very serious political movement, influencing many people, not only in this country but in almost all others. Women found themselves in the position of having to draw attention to their cause by making dramatic protests. In this act it was obvious that a purely political motive underlay it, there was no suggestion of violence to any individual. There were cases where there had been some such suggestion; there was one case of an iron bar being thrown at a carriage window; but this lady had done all that she could to make certain that no damage could happen to anyone owing to her action. She had consulted her friend, a B.Sc., who was well known as a clever lady, taking a leading part in this movement, and ascertained by tests that the fluid could do no harm. The evidence showed the possibility of mistake. On the one hand there was the fact that her glove was saturated, yet it was none the worse for hours afterwards; but against that was the fact that the coat was burnt. One doctor said the stuff was a mild solution because the eye was little damaged, another said the coat was damaged because the solution was strong. What concerned them was what the lady believed, and undoubtedly she honestly thought in making her protest that it would be perfectly harmless from the point of view of hurting anyone. Mrs. Chapin begged him to express her deepest regret at the injury done to Mr. Thorley; she could not regret her political protest; she could not be in the movement if she did that. He asked, therefore, that she should be sent for trial only on the incidents connected with the ballot box, and committed only on the political charges.

The magistrate ruled that it was for a jury to say whether the probable likely consequence of the defendant's unlawful act was a part which should apply, and committed her for trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court. Bail was accepted in two sureties of £100 each.

* * *

Mr. R. D. Muir appeared for the prosecution in the case of Miss Neilans, and Mr. Baker for the defence.

Reuben John Walker gave evidence that at or about eleven o'clock on Oct. 28th Miss Neilans had entered the polling station held in the Laxton Street Schools, and broken a glass bottle containing a dark fluid over the ballot box. Eighty-one ballot papers were in the box at the time. The liquid spurted in all directions; a spot of it went on his lip and some on his hand.

Cross-examined by Mr. Baker:—"Did your hand hurt at all?"

"I wiped it off my hand; I noticed nothing; but on my lip there was a burning sensation, which developed into a slight blister."

"Nothing to bother about?"

"No, only a slight blister."

William Hayes gave evidence as to the condition of the papers in the ballot box. He said the greater part of them were stuck together, most of them bearing brown stain marks. Some were stuck to the sides and bottom of the box, and some were covered by the fluid that was in the box.

Miss Neilans reserved her defence, and the magistrate committed her for trial at the next sittings of the Central Criminal Court.

Mrs. Despard tendered bail for £100, which was accepted.

The proceedings then terminated.

Miss BEATRICE HARRADEN

Author of "Ships that Pass in the Night."

By ETHEL HILL

To know Miss Beatrice Harraden is to love her. That is the universal verdict of all who are privileged to number her amongst their friends. This little, slight woman, with the profound, brown eyes, the gentle, intellectual face, appeals to everyone—one is instinctively aware of the large heart, the generous aspirations, the noble individuality, and the sincere soul of the woman who gave to the world the simple, touching, and beautiful classic, "Ships that Pass in the Night."

Miss Beatrice Harraden was born in Hampstead in 1864, was educated at Cheltenham College, and afterwards gained her London degree at Bedford College. Her mother is still living, and also takes a great interest in the Women's Movement, and believes in militant methods. To her dead father Miss Harraden owes much. He was, to use her own quiet enthusiasm for a good man's memory, a most enlightened man. He saw the great benefit it would be to the community if women were granted freedom of action and expression in full measure. It is a great joy to Miss Harraden to know that all the best women in every class of life, all the flower of young modern womanhood, and all that is representative of modern life, look hopefully forward to the enfranchisement of their sex.

By nature and inclination Miss Harraden is not a political speaker. Her object in occasionally being on a militant platform is chiefly to accentuate the fact that scores of professional women of all classes of thought, and work, and culture, have finally thrown in their lot with the militant Suffragettes. She has always been interested in the militant Suffragists from the beginning. They appealed, in the first instance, to her imagination. They did not always appeal to her brain, but as time went on she noticed that that which she had judged to be a mistake on their part, an irretrievable mistake, invariably turned out to be a successful move, having quite an effectual and far-reaching consequence.

For instance, when she read the account in the morning's press of Miss Wallace Dunlop's action in stamping that clause from the Bill of Rights on the walls of the House of Commons—namely, the clause about the right of the subject to petition the King's Majesty, she owns frankly that she had not sense enough to realise the importance of Miss Dunlop's act until she began to see the consequences. Now, this is what she had done: She had given that buried clause containing a most vital constitutional principle, the publicity which the Press had been denying it for months. She herself had heard many of the leaders of the movement refer to the Bill of Rights, and that special clause, time after time at great overcrowded meetings, at small meetings, indoors, out of doors, everywhere. They had referred to it, explained it, commented on it, enlarged on it. It had always been ignored by the Press (that, as you know, has been, and is still, the definite policy of the Press as a whole, silence on any matter which is known would be likely to help on the movement).

The existence of this special clause never, therefore, reached the public ear, and, needless to say, the House of Commons was quite ignorant on the subject. Well, Miss Dunlop first of all presented the knowledge of it to the members of Parliament, and as she was arrested incidentally by the police, owing to the circumstance

with which she thus surrounded it, it had inevitably to reach the Press. It travelled to lawyers, and through the lawyers it penetrated to the magistrates; so that at Bow Street Police Court the case was stripped of its police court disguise, and found clothed in its true political garment. A grave constitutional issue was declared to be raised. Miss Dunlop's action was therefore, in reality, a splendid bit of astute diplomacy as well as a feat of daring and defiance. Miss Harraden cites this case as one of the many in which her brain has been forced to follow the instincts of her imagination.

The new comradeship amongst women, which is a very real thing, and one of the most delightful and stimulating results of this long struggle to obtain citizenship, Miss Harraden considers an exceedingly important feature of the Women's Movement. It is spreading in all the countries, and before long that old-fashioned type of woman—dearly-loved by the old-fashioned man—the woman who to please him belittled her own sex and the needs of her own sex, that type of woman will be as extinct as—well, the hansom cab!

In conclusion, Miss Harraden has a message for those who are not in sympathy with the movement in its militant methods. It is as follows:—

"You may not like this, you may not like that. This offends your taste, that hurts your prejudice, this appals your propriety. But I would remind you that in a big movement like this Women's Movement the details slip into insignificance as time goes on. In a few years' time history will only tell us, and those who come after us, that a body of brave and self-sacrificing women, bent on obtaining the political emancipation of their sex, shirked nothing, feared nothing, and fought on in face of every tradition, every hindrance, every scorn, every injustice, until they

gained their citizenship, and with their citizenship, the power of insisting on equal rights for men and women on the common battlefield of life. This, I feel sure, will be the verdict of history. I would urge you to put aside the smaller personal view and help to anticipate this verdict."



Miss BEATRICE HARRADEN.

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OTHER SUFFRAGETTE SOCIETIES.

THE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

A promising series of "At Homes" has been arranged on alternate Thursdays, by this League, at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. The first will be held on November 17th, at 8 p.m. Invitations can be obtained from the hon. Secretary, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly. On the same date a drawing-room meeting will be held at 4.30 p.m., at the Queen's Gate Gardens. The chair will be taken by Lady Jane Taylor. The speakers will be Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois, Mr. George Elliott, K.C., and Mr. G. A. Touche.

THE CHURCH MILITANT.

A Church League for Women's Suffrage has just been formed, the Hon. Organiser of which is the Rev. C. Hinscliff, 11, St. Mark's Terrace, Regents Park, N.W., from whom all information can be had. The object is to secure the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as men, to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote their social and industrial welfare. An inaugural meeting has been announced for December 2nd, in Essex Hall, when well-known speakers from most of the other societies will be present.

MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A special meeting will be held by the League on November 10th, at the Inns of Court Hotel, High Holborn, at 8 o'clock p.m. Members of the League will be admitted free by ticket, and are specially invited to bring male guests.

THE WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

This little, but important, League, which, through the efforts of its zealous leaders, Bessie Hatton and Cicely Hamilton, is growing daily, is very busy at present with their joint Access League Matinee, on the 12th of November. The tickets, we hear, are in great demand, all the best ones already sold. The authors of the little plays that are to be performed are as well known as the artists who are to act in them. It should be quite a brilliant and successful entertainment.

PROGRESS IN OTHER LANDS.

Norway.—The chief event of the last month is, of course, the election in Norway, when for the first time women recorded their vote. Here, as elsewhere, it proved that they were not all to be found in one party, and that all the other hackneyed prognostications of evil remained unfulfilled. By the new law, women may, of course, be elected as well as elect; and, in fact, six women have been nominated as deputies or "substitutes." At the time of writing the final results are not to hand, and it is therefore impossible to say whether the woman M.P. will make her debut at the next session of the Storting.

France.—Here the new Union of Suffrage Societies is settling down to steady work under the able presidency of Madame Jeanne Schmahl, so well known for her long and successful labours in promoting the law which gives married women the right to their own earnings. Among the active workers is Madame Mismes, editress of *La Française*, a paper which is doing much to introduce the Suffrage idea into fresh circles. At its rooms are the headquarters of the *Congrès Permanent du Suffrage Internationale*, where suffragists from other lands may reckon on a warm welcome. *La Française* has also arranged for a course of lectures on the History and Doctrines of Feminism. The first of these, entitled "Condorcet, créateur du Féminisme," was given on the 4th inst., by M. Leon Cahen, of the University of Paris.

Italy.—In Italy, too, interest in the question is spreading. The Lombardy Branch of the Suffrage Society reports considerable activity, and it is noteworthy that one of the Milanese professors chose Women's Suffrage as the subject of a lecture given at the Università Popolare, an institution which organises lectures at very low fees for the working classes, and is largely attended by enthusiastic audiences of poor men and women.

New Zealand.—One of the most remarkable declarations made at the International Congress in Toronto, was the announcement of the retirement of the Women's Union of New Zealand, which gave at the reason for this step, that they had achieved all women could achieve, viz., complete equality with the male sex, in all parts, and that now their work would be of more use for the general public in combined organisation with men, instead of forming a separate union.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1909.

THE ACCESSORIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government is responsible for the state of war that exists between it and the women of the country. Having the choice of peace or war in its hands, it has deliberately chosen war. It made its decision in the beginning. It counted the powers it held and the forces behind it, and decided to deny justice to women and to attempt to destroy and discredit those who demanded it. We have long seen the evidence of this decision. We have most of us suffered from it. We shall suffer from it again. In loss of freedom and peace and name, in health and in pocket, we shall pay the price. We are prepared to pay it.

The responsibility of the Government cannot be denied. No evasion can shift it. By the mouths of members of the Ministry, in the House, and in the country, by the printed admissions of those papers which are pledged to its support, whether it do right or wrong, by police, and other admissions in the Courts of law, full and final evidence has been accumulated. From the beginning the Government has known that a single act of justice on its part would put an end to the fight. From the beginning the Government has refused to do this act of justice.

Tyranny and oppression are always hateful, and this deliberate determination to tyrannise over women is as hateful as the rest. But if it had stopped at that, one could have said no more. But it did not stop there. Having decided to deny votes to women, the Government stooped to the prostitution of the machinery of the law, to the refusal of fair prison treatment, to slander and misrepresentation and corruption, and finally to brutality. The career of the Government has been a progress of shame. No Government of modern days can show its equal in infamy.

But the Government would have had to discontinue its course of evasion and brutality if it had not been supported. It has had—and has more than ever—accessories from whose public or private support it draws strength to continue its attack. Of these accessories it is time to say a word. They may escape punishment—the wicked commonly do, but they must not escape exposure. It is necessary that the public should see things as they are—for the truth's sake—and that the accessories—for their souls' sake—should have at least one chance of repentance.

The politicians, the police forces, and the Press are the accessories of the Government. They have aided it along its criminal course. They have shared in the Government's guilt.

The poltroon politicians at Westminster are the accessories of the Government. They have become so by condoning its cowardice and whitewashing its crimes. Had they been otherwise, before now they would have flung it down into its native mud. They are morally responsible for all the wrongs they have refused to condemn, for all the great opportunities they have refused to take they must bear the blame. The disgraced Liberal Government does not stand alone. It has dragged the House of Commons with it, to be made a by-word among the nations. The politicians who have accomplished this result by their cowardice and prejudice may be content to leave the game of politics dirtier and more corrupt than they found it. But the future will judge them, and the gravest point in their indictment will be that without their help the attempted suppression of the Suffragettes could not have gone on.

The protection of lies, shams, and subterfuges behind which the Government has hidden to conduct this campaign has depended upon the subservience of the police and the obedience of the Press. Without the active aid of both these forces it would have toppled to the ground, leaving the Ministry shamed by exposure. The corruption of modern public life can be measured by this fact—a fact that is brutally admitted or secretly chuckled over in certain governmental quarters. The police are at command, and the Press can be purchased by party, pecuniary, and personal considerations. Against these what can the rebel Suffragette do?

Throughout the long years of this agitation we have received but scant justice from the Press. From an old policy of boycott and indifference it progressed to a temporary policy of partial publication. For some time it was here and there found to be fair. The honest thought of those who knew the truth was allowed to dribble through to the public. But this did not last long. It passed so quickly that it proved that the consideration and attention we won had never been willingly granted. The Press gave as much as we made them give; no more. It published our doings because it could not afford to refuse to do so. One of its three masters—the public—demanded news, and news it had to give.

But the Press of to-day is not free. It is not even honest. It cannot be. It is bound hand and foot to great trusts, great political parties, great trading interests. It does the bidding of these. The editor, the reporter, the leader writer, must do the bidding of the directorate—or go. Misrepresentation and suppression, boom and sycophancy is the order of the day. Things on the "right side" are made much of; things on the "other side" are suppressed, twisted, and distorted. Boom and boycott mark the two policies by which they live.

The truth of these statements is known to all. A vivid example of rebellion against the conditions of the Press workers of to-day is supplied by the recent resignation of two prominent journalists from the "Daily News." These keen suffragists found that they could no longer obey the order of suppression which had been imposed upon them. In order to speak the truth about the Government attitude to the Suffragettes they were forced to resign. What Mr. Nevinson and Mr. Brailsford have done there are hundreds of journalists wishful, but not brave enough, to do. Their pens are controlled by the forces of masculine privilege—they are sold to the Government. Because money is not to be made out of it, because many men are still afraid of it, because there is an age-long habit formed in the race by which women are always expected to wait until men are fully satisfied, because there is greater strength than many women know in the spirit of sex-dominance, women's suffrage is to be sacrificed. The Press becomes an accessory of the criminal Government and throws in its lot with the poltroon, the politician, and the ignorant mob. It ceases to teach. It panders; it sells its right to free speech; it hides the truth; it distorts facts; it deliberately repeats lying statements—and refuses to correct them. Every paper in the country published the lie that Miss Neilans and Mrs. Chapin had used corrosive acid in the Ballot-box Protest. Not one paper in ten corrected it.

The administrators of the law are as bad. From the early days of the agitation it was evident that the Government and the police worked in concert. It was shown in the consultations that took place about the early cases, in the actions of the Home Secretary, in the attitude and delays of the magistrates, in the insolence of the police prosecutor. These men knew that they had the Government behind them—that the powers that be would be pleased with their work. Thus is the Government supported by the so-called forces of justice.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

THE HABIT OF THROWING THINGS.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM.—As an Englishwoman who has been driven by the shameful antics of the Suffragettes to spend her declining years on the Continent, I appeal to you to insert my protest against the latest outrage against the—*the trousers*, I suppose I must say, though in my young days we hesitated to name these garments sanctified by the use of the noble sex—I repeat, *outrage* against the *trousers* of an unfortunate gentleman in a polling booth on October 28th.

Mr. P. W. Wilson, the witty and benevolent Parliamentary correspondent of the *Daily News*, rightly warned us against the habit of "throwing things" at the time when the women threw the "grille" at the Speaker in the House of Commons. In the *Daily News* of Oct. 29, he reiterates his warning. "The organ of the Women's Freedom League poured ridicule on the caution," he writes, "*which time has only too tragically justified.*" Yes, give a caution time enough, and it will come home to roost! Cast your leaflet upon the head of Mr. Wilson, and it will return to you after many days in the shape of a stone hurled by a Liberal at Mrs. Despard's forehead.

Madam, after the experience of a long life, I can say with truth, I never threw a stone into the air that it did not fall to earth I knew not where—except in the cases where it hit my best friends.

Do not the late sad incidents prove that you cannot throw things at anything without hitting something else? Cast a stone at Mr. Runciman, it returns to you in the shape of a stomach pump—unless you are related to the peerage. Throw a leaflet on to the floor of the House, and long, long afterwards it will be found to have stabbed Mr. P. W. Wilson to the heart.

Oh, that I could persuade my sisters that women were put into the world to mend trousers not to mar them; to bind up the wounds that men inflict upon each other; to receive the stones, the brickbats, the bad eggs, the jagged pieces of iron, not to throw them! I shall be told that women have received all these, and more, in answer to their demand for political liberty, and that Mr. P. W. Wilson has never made it a subject for a homily in the *Daily News*. I admit it. Mr. Wilson knows that to suffer is woman's lot; to inflict suffering man's privilege. I trust, madam, that a national subscription will be at once started to defray the damage sustained by the victim of the late "dastardly outrage."

Yours, etc.,

VERITABLE POT-AU-FEU.

GOSSIP.

"And they made a noise like crickets,
A chattering wise and sweet."

W. B. YEATS.

Lieutenant Shackleton, to whom all honour for his sturdy services, has called one of the mountains he discovered towards the South Pole "Mount Asquith." The compliment may be termed a cold one, but if it suggests to the right honourable gentleman a possible refuge from certain ladies whom in these columns it would be invidious to mention, it will certainly have achieved a useful purpose.

* * *

Mr. W. L. Courtney has some weird passages in his volume of intellectual gossip, which he calls by the rather futile title of "Rosemary's Letterbook." The well-known critic utters himself thus: "I crave to be a great blonde conquering beast sometimes, just as some women I am told—I don't know them—would cheerfully give up their double-firsts to be held in a man's arms." Why Mr. Courtney should wish to be a blonde beast rather than a brunette beast it is hard to say, and is probably purely a matter of taste. We, like Mr. Courtney, do not know the "double-firsts" with yearnings to be "clasped," and we wonder does anybody know them. We also wonder at Mr. Courtney's not knowing them, for he is an Oxford man, and has had opportunities for investigation which have been denied to us. Perhaps the reason is that the double-firsts prefer the blonde beast, and someone has told the eminent critic of it. This would, of course, account for his craving for blondinity. To quote Mr. Courtney once more: "You know how I love the things of the intellect—but oh! the arid plains of theory and speculation!" Yea, verily hath the *Daily Telegraph* critic (could it have been Mr. Courtney himself?) said: "It would be a good thing if books of this class were commoner in this country than they are."

* * *

President Taft, in his much-quoted speech at Birmingham, Alabama, congratulated American girls on learning to earn their own living, so that they might not feel compelled to marry whether they loved or not. He further remarked that anything he had he was going to scrape together to give his daughter, plus a good education, so that she might only marry when she chose, while to his sons he was not going to leave any property save "good characters, pride in themselves and a good education." Now Ol' Man Taft, while giving his daughter an excellent advertisement, and one which the matchmaking Mommas of America with impecunious younger sons have probably taken to heart, seems to have a weak idea of the testamentary possibilities of the virtues, and the young male Tafts may not feel kindly towards "Poppa" for publicly proclaiming them as "good" young men. The modern blood is not peculiarly anxious in his early youth for the public advertisement of his sterling qualities. On this side of the Herring Pond at least, such open expression of paternal approbation would make the recipient envy the pleasant position of the orphan.

* * *

The Lord Advocate, in the trenchant peroration of his reply to Mr. Balfour's denunciation of his frigid terminological inexactitude, deplored the fact that nowadays a man could not defend his honour by his strong right arm. On the other side of the channel, where the duello still flourishes, M. Bernstein, when engaged defending his fame, became so wrapt in thought that he—to quote his own words, "forgot" to use the pistol that he clasped in his "strong right arm." The Gallic dramatist probably would prefer that the "et tu quoque" argument known to politicians as "Ure another" were the rule in his country. There's no satisfying some people.

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WAR.

"Women won't want war." I could see before me my youthful objector, tall and strong, fresh from his victory on the football field. I was rummaging out an old drawer thinking of his words, when my hand fell upon an old French newspaper containing the following pathetic and realistic dialogue between two Russian sentries during the late Russo-Japanese War:

Scene: On the banks of the Yalu. A serene, starlit night. Towards the east are massed the sombre ridges of the Korean mountains. At the bottom of the precipice the river roars among the rushes. Two Russian sentinels, their feet in the snow, their rime-sprinkled rifles clutched in their mittened hands, are on guard.

Micha: Not a sound to be heard.
Sacha: Nothing, except the water.
M.: What time is it?
S.: I don't know. Let us hope that we shall soon be relieved. We'll go back to the camp, drink tea, and sleep. I am very tired.
M. (after a pause): Do you come from far, brother?
S.: I don't know. I have travelled thirty-four days on a waggon. I am from the Petrovsky village in the Riasan Government.
M.: I am from Perm.
S.: In the Petrovsky village there is a girl called Natasha. I have just been married to her by the priest.
M.: Why are we here?
S.: I don't know. To make war, no doubt, brother. The officers have said so.
M.: They have, it is true. But against whom are we to fight?
S.: I don't know. Against foreigners.
M.: But for whom are we going to fight, brother?
S. (after reflecting): It must be for God—for the Orthodox Faith.

M.: How can it be for God? Being Almighty, God has no need of us to defend Him.
S.: Yes, you are right. It can't be for God.
M.: Then for whom can it be?
S.: It must be for Holy Russia.
M.: But if Russia is holy, God will defend her. Holy Russia has no need of us poor fisherfolk.
S. (after reflecting again): I know for whom, brother. It is for the Czar.
M.: For the Czar? But he is so mighty—
S.: Yes, no doubt the Czar is mighty, but he is mighty because of us. There are hundreds of thousands like us. . . . in uniforms and with guns. That's why the Czar is mighty.
M.: Ah, yes. . . . yes. . . . I understand. . . . It must be for the Czar. (A Japanese bullet whistles across from the other side of the river. Micha falls, with a hole in his chest.)
S.: Brother! . . . Little brother! . . .
M. (trying to rise): I am glad. . . . the Czar . . . is mighty. (Dies.)
S. (in tears): His old mother. . . . his old mother. . . . (A Manchurian bullet, coming from the right bank of the river, strikes his forehead. He falls.) (Trying to rise): I should like so much. . . . to see Natasha. . . . again. (Dies.)

A red spot spreads over the snow. In the distance the mysterious Korean mountains rise. The Yalu roars in the depth. The moon rises between two peaks.

"Women won't want war." Well, I hope the day will come when men won't want it either. Of what good to be born to slaughter one another? Of what good to weary at labour if the harvest must be destroyed? Of what good to live if it is to break violently, stupidly, the cycle of existence.

Oh, that one day Divine Peace may reign! Thus chants the hope of the world. E. H.

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RIGHT OF WAY.

Man is an adventuring animal; in the discovery of new ways, new outlets for his energy, he fulfils the law of his being; and it is his superiority in adventure and discovery over all other forms of life that has, after countless ages of evolution, given him the place of control he now holds among the forces of nature. Without adventure, without the full and free exercise of every faculty of mind and body, his evolution would have been limited and retarded; he would not have stood where, physically, intellectually, and morally, he stands now.

But you cannot adventure without a certain risk; and man's physical and intellectual progress has always had about it this element of the heroic—that it has been attained at the risk of great suffering and even of life itself. In order to gain life it has been necessary that he should be willing to lose it; and in his persistent resolve to lay down life for the sake of freedom man has discovered the power to take it up again, and so has moved on from strength to strength, fulfilling that law of worship and honour so curiously yet so graphically expressed in scripture—"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, and the honour of Kings to search it out."

Following that impulse man attains to the kingliness which is his birthright. Again and again the concealment—the mystery divinely ordained—has been his direct incentive; and his discovery that he himself and all things surrounding him are fearfully and wonderfully made has impelled him into that exploration, physical and intellectual, which distinguished him from all the beasts that perish. But in his path there has stood, and still stands, one enemy of his own making—men who, usurping the godlike function, have endeavoured to add artificial contrivances, repressive of free action and free investigation, to the great natural concealments on which the foundations of the universe are based; and from this usurpation has resulted persecution, waste, bloodshed, hideous and cruel reaction, but in the end always victory, always a re-assertion of man's right of way.

Escaping from superstitious prohibition, rejecting alike the taboo of primitive tribes and the veto of science-hating theologians, he has pushed his way into all departments of activity and of knowledge, and into all regions of the known world; and he has done so, not for utilitarian reasons alone, but because freedom was his law, and because if he did not follow that law his powers and faculties, both physical and spiritual, would inevitably deteriorate, and his joy in life diminish.

That is why we have the spectacle of many valuable lives thrown away in the making of apparently useless discoveries—of such things, for instance, as the North Pole, which turns out to be an unfixable point, shifting with the vibrations of the moving world, crossed by perpetual drifts of ice, and allowing no record of its attainment by man to remain in the place where he sets it up. That is why the value of such pursuits cannot be reckoned in the merely material and monetarily worthless results which they bring to hand. To impose a check upon man's instinct for adventure and for the risking of life and wealth in the realisation of his powers would be far more withering and destructive than any amount of temporary loss and waste that may ensue from the indulgence.

But if that is true of man—the male—it is true of woman also. She, too, as a human being, as the mother of life, has exactly the same right as the male to adventure, to experiment, and to develop her furthest faculties, without veto, without rebuke, or the imposition from outside of any artificial restraint. And though, broadly speaking, the instinct of mothering womanhood is to make her mark in directions where the earth is populous rather than where it lies savage and barren, the principle is still the same, and the price

paid for any repression of that instinct is the same also—it is withering and destructive to woman's natural powers, and leads to deterioration in the race.

If manliness demands for itself a right of way, womanliness demands it also; you cannot claim for one half of humanity the open road and the "illimitable veldt," while you are driving the other down a cul-de-sac into a compound that is not of her own choosing. Woman must be given, like man, a deciding voice as to her own career; she must be free to make her own risks, her own adventures, her own experiments and discoveries.

In the old days, before any land south of the equator had been explored, there was a point on the coast of Africa which European navigators were afraid to pass, partly by reason of its rocks and its rough waters, but more because of a belief that any white man who ventured across that point would—turn black! And in consequence of that fond notion the great era of geographical discovery, with all its attendant incentive to intellectual, commercial, and social progress, was for centuries delayed, until some man had the courage to risk the blackening process and to discover that it did not take place.

Of course to the modern mind, the idea that a man could suddenly (or even gradually) turn black because he had passed a certain point on the world's surface is infinitely ludicrous; but it is not really more ludicrous than the idea that women will cease to be womanly if given the same liberty of action as man, and an equal control of their own destinies. The only thing that the liberation of women can destroy is the old superstition that true womanliness is less robust or less permanent in principle than manliness itself. Womanhood being a thing of nature cannot fail to evolve into fuller and more efficient form if once granted its right of way.

But in this country, neither in the home nor out of the home in the market of the world, are women's interests and liberties sufficiently safeguarded; to the one they are too often compelled against their will by economic pressure, and there left without any economic independence; in the other, they are under limitations which are not imposed on men, and are subjected, from the Government downwards, to a process of sweating that has received such general sanction or careless acceptance as to have become a system.

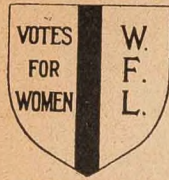
It is because they have awakened to that broad fact that women are now fighting—not on lines laid down for them by men, but by an independent way of their own, forming their own army, and choosing their own generals. They may meet with reverses, temporary defeats; they may make mistakes in tactics and in strategy; but the fact that they are daring to fight for their independence independently shows, more than almost anything else, that the women's movement is now really alive, and that women have come to understand what "right of way" means. While they worked politically at the bidding of men, women were still politically asleep; as soon as they dared to work independently they awoke; and in that fact alone the anti-Government policy of the Militant Suffragist finds abundant justification. But is it not sad to hear so many earnest Liberal women suffragists still talking in their sleep?

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

To the Proprietors of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, London, E.C. I am willing to support "THE VOTE"— 1. By ordering copies weekly { through my newsagent. from the office direct. 2. By obtaining new subscribers. 3. By selling THE VOTE at meetings and in the streets. 4. By taking up Publishing Co., Ltd. 5s. shares in the Minerva 5. By obtaining advertisements and supporting those firms advertising. Name (Please state Mr., Mrs., or Miss). Address Please strike out the lines not required.

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OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Another militant protest has been made by our League, one of the results of which, unfortunately, is an injury of, we have reason to believe, a very slight nature to an official engaged in the Bermondsey election. But since what has happened may confuse, and even disturb some of our friends, I think it wise to put before them as clearly as I can what our responsibility is, and where it ends.

Our protests should be logical; they should, that is to say, have political significance. No one, I think, however they may differ from us in opinion, can deny that the Bermondsey protest answers to this description. Year in and year out the men of this nation, without the least reference to the women, have been selecting from the candidates whom different parties bring before them, persons of their own sex to represent them in Parliament. Women, conscious of innumerable grievances, have protested—in former days quietly—lately with strenuous insistence, the moment having come, as they believe, for them to say practically, "Since you refuse to admit our right, we will try to prevent you from exercising yours."

We realise that this may entail a breach of the law. Without such risk no great reform has ever been carried through. We welcome the risk, we accept the responsibility. But our responsibility goes further. We must act with thought, with care, with determination.

This, I maintain, was done in the case of the Bermondsey protest. Thought and care were employed in the working out of details. The fluid used was tested on hands and clothes before it was used. So far as was possible injury of any kind was guarded against, while even those who have drawn their information from the daily Press must admit that the coolness and determination of those who carried out the scheme left nothing to be desired.

I cannot but feel that there our responsibility ends. From no scheme, however well planned, can the possibility of accident be eliminated. Our motive, our object, our action—these are in our own hands; what follows our action (the result) is on the knees of the gods. To realise this is to free our souls from burdens they were never intended to bear. This to the public! To you now, my beloved friends and colleagues of our League, I am speaking through our organ, because I lack time and strength to go round and speak to you face to face in your branches. Bring to your aid the political insight you are forming in this struggle! The storm passes over our heads. We survive, erect, fearless, ready for the next move. Only let us be loyal and trust one another. In our protest at Bermondsey we have departed in no one particular from our principle—to be ready when militant action demands the sacrifice, to break the civil law, but to be true to our conscience on which the moral law is inscribed.

C. DESPARD.

SCOTTISH NOTES

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The £1,000 Fund.—The Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the W.F.L. appeals to Scottish readers of THE VOTE for contributions to the £1,000 Fund.

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Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wool, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

Glasgow.—One of the most interesting events of the week was the Anti-Suffrage meeting held last Monday in Glasgow. It was widely advertised, the result being that about 30 antis attended, the vast bulk of the audience being Suffragists of all persuasions. The chairman, Mr. G. Calderon, early in his remarks mentioned the Women's Freedom League; thereupon a great burst of prolonged applause indicated on which side were the "brains and interest of thinking Glasgow," as one of the speakers referred to the audience. Miss Markham and Mrs. Arthur Somerville followed with the arguments we are now so familiar with. Questions were allowed, so for about three-quarters of an hour we proceeded to demolish their citadel. Dr. Marion Gilchrist, Miss Burton, Miss Anna Munro, Mr. Bannatyne, Miss Hill, Mrs. Sloan, and others took part.

Edinburgh, Central.—It was not possible to hold a special Protest Meeting of the Branch so soon after our public meetings, but the monthly "At Home," held on November 2nd in the Cafe Vegetaria, might well have assumed that name. There was a large attendance of members and friends, and after Mrs. How Martyn's letters had been read, and the action of the League had been defended in a spirited speech by Miss Eunice Murray, those present were unanimous, both in their condemnation of the Premier's attitude and in their support of the ladies who are bearing the brunt of this protest. We had also with us Mrs. Wood, Treasurer of the Scottish Council, who was successful in imparting some of her own keen enthusiasm for the financial independence of the Scottish section of the League. Her appeal for annual subscriptions met with an encouraging response. Members are reminded that saleable goods of every kind will be gladly received for the Jumble Sale to be held next month.

Paisley.—There is a Scottish saying, "Keep your eye on Paisley." We are acting up to the maxim with very favourable results. Two large open-air meetings, addressed by Miss Anna Munro and Miss Sloan, were held on Saturday, with the result that again THE VOTE was sold out, and 25 new members gained, which, added to the 74 the previous week, promises a splendid start for the Paisley branch on Friday.

FUTURE EVENTS.

- NOVEMBER.
- Fri. 12.—Paisley Y.M.C., 8 p.m. Miss Anna Munro. Govan. Miss Semple.
 - Sun. 14.—Clydebank, 2.15 p.m. Miss Anna Munro.
 - Tues. 16.—Stepps. Edinburgh (Central Cafe Vegetaria, 8 p.m. Business Meeting. Miss Anna Munro.
 - Wed 17.—Glasgow "At Home," Evening Galleries, 3.30 to 6 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray. Kilmarnock, 8 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray.
 - Fri. 19.—Glasgow Athenaeum, "How the Vote was won," 8 p.m.
 - Tues. 23.—Edinburgh Cafe Vegetaria. Joint Discussion, Men's League. Speaker, Miss "What are Militant Mary Jolly, M.A. (leader for Tactics?" W.F.L.).

LONDON ACTIVITIES.

Hon. Organiser: MRS. BORRMAN WELLS.

Portman Rooms "At Home."—The interest taken by the general public in the dramatic protest of the W.F.L. at Bermondsey, was once again shown last Wednesday afternoon, when the Portman Rooms were filled to overflowing to hear Mrs. Despard and the two heroines of the ballot boxes. Mrs. Chapin and Miss Alison Neilans, both of whom were received with the greatest enthusiasm, related the incidents as they actually happened at Bermondsey. Mrs. Despard, whom we welcomed for the first time after her tour in the North, spoke of the general satisfaction with which she had been received all over Scotland. Mrs. Ennis Richmond, representing the picketers, urged on the W.F.L. to plan some new action which, like the picketing, would give an opportunity for personal service to those unable to volunteer for danger duty.

In view of the recent reception accorded by the President of the French Republic to our sister Suffragists, a vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett to President Fallières. This was passed unanimously.

Towards the end of the afternoon "The Vote" arrived, and had an enormous sale, both amongst W.F.L. members and strangers. A good collection was also taken.

The success of the "At Home" was in no small measure due to Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Beith as hostesses, to Mrs. Richmond who arranged the stewarding, and to Mrs. Fisher, who, as before, superintended the tea-room.

The One-Sided Debate.—It is not given to all mortals to debate with a spirit, so that Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett may consider herself particularly favoured of the gods. Mr. Machonachie, of the Men's League for Opposing Woman's Suffrage, who was billed to speak on the negative side, withdrew at the last moment. A one-sided debate was therefore held, at which Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett advanced her case for the suffrage, and then replied to the objections which Mr. Maconachie would inevitably have brought up, had he been present. Mr. Albert Dawson, who had kindly consented to take the chair, explained the altered character of the meeting. Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett met with an enthusiastic reception, and her witty remarks kept the audience in a ripple of laughter, particularly when she traced the evolution of the latch-key back to Adam.

Mrs. Despard followed, the whole audience rising to their feet as she came forward. She spoke of the things which she had witnessed in the police court that day, and which cried aloud for the hand of woman in the law.

The meeting was thrown open to discussion and many questions were asked. The resolution in favour of the vote being given to women was carried with only one dissident.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Yuletide Festival, Saturday December 11th, 3 to 10.30 p.m. Woman's Pageant, arranged by Miss Edith Craig. Madame Marie Brema will sing old Christmas Songs. "Press Cuttings," by G. Bernard Shaw. News Plays, by Cicely Hamilton, Christopher St. John, and Bessie Hatton. Mrs. Brown Potter, Mrs. Langtry, Miss Pauline Chase, and Miss Margaret Halstan have promised their services. Speeches by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington Greig, Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, and Mr. Israel Zangwill. Tickets 2s. 6d. and 1s. Children 6d. On sale now at 1, Robert Street.

STEWARDS FOR THE ALBERT HALL.

To the Editor of *The Vote*.

Madam.—Will you allow me through your columns to call the attention of readers of THE VOTE to the fact that a large number of stewards will be necessary for the proper organisation of the Yuletide Festival to be held at the Albert Hall, on December 11th. I should be glad if all ladies able to act as stewards would write to me (at West Heath School, Hampstead, N.W.) saying whether they can come for all or part of the day.

On receiving names, I propose to hold two stewards' "At Homes" at Alan's Tea-rooms, to discuss and arrange the stewarding of the hall.

Sincerely yours,

ENNIS RICHMOND.

Women's Freedom League Offices, 1, Robert St., W.C.

November 8th, 1909.

FUTURE EVENTS.

- NOVEMBER.
- Fri. 12.—The Library, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead, 8 p.m. Mrs. Borrman Wells. Princes Head, Battersea. Mrs. Duval. Park Road. Miss Underwood.
 - Sun. 14.—Clapham Common 3.30
 - Wed. 17.—At Home, Portman Rooms, Baker Street. Chair, Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett. Hostesses, Lady Harberton, Mrs. Snow.
 - Mon. 22.—Wellington Hall. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett; Chair, Mrs. Hicks.
 - Thurs. 25.—Alan's Tea Rooms. Miss Mary Macarthur, 8.
 - Mon. 29.—At Home, Portman Rooms, Baker Street. Miss Margaret McMillan, Mr. John Russell, M.A.; Chair, Mrs. Nevinson, 7.30.

DECEMBER.

Sat. 11.—Yuletide Festival, Albert Hall, 3-10

REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES.

- Liverpool.**—Headquarters: 25, Canning Street. Organisers: Miss Broadhurst, M.A.; Miss Farquharson, M.A.
- Manchester.**—Organiser's Address: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire. Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.
- South Yorkshire.**—Organiser's Address: 12, Athol Road, Manningham, Bradford. Assistant Organiser: Miss U. Irane Tillard.
- N.E. Yorkshirs.**—Headquarters: Northgate, Roman Road, Middlesbrough. Organiser: Miss Alice Schofield.
- South Wales.**—Temp. Headquarters: 22, Hamilton Street, Cardiff. Organisers: Miss M. Matters. Miss O. Tillard.

South Wales.—The reception at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, on November 9th, promises to be a very great success, and we hope that the numerous "anti" men who have promised to attend, will be made to amend their ways ere it is too late by seeing the sad plight of "Harry" in "How the Vote was won."

Once more the Albert Hall, Swansea, was packed for a W.F.L. meeting. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Matters, and Miss Phipps, B.A., were the speakers, and the resolution was carried by an enormous majority. The night before we had a full hall and a sympathetic audience in Bedwas; and on Friday had a most successful meeting in Barry. We had been told to "expect the worst" as it was November 5th, but although some of the more intelligent sex had brought their toys with them—a baa-lamb (which baa-ed in the most life-like manner)—various squibs, etc., there was no serious interruption, and the majority for the resolution was large—as usual. Unfortunately a large number of people had to be turned away, as the hall—the largest in Barry—was full, but we hope to return shortly and form a branch. Next week we are turning our attention to Penarth, where we hope to find many sympathisers, and also form a branch. We shall be glad if any one interested will communicate with Miss Matters, 22, Hamilton Street, Cardiff. V.T.

Liverpool.—Miss Cicely Hamilton's visit to Liverpool marked the beginning of a series of "At Homes" which we hope to continue every month. A large company gathered on Tuesday in the Adelphi Hotel to meet the distinguished authoress, whose latest book "Marriage as a Trade," had given rise to somewhat frenzied criticisms in the Liverpool Press. A very apt interpretation of the title was given by Miss Oman, Miss Henderson, and Mr. W. Lyon Blease, in the old-world scene from Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice"—"The Courtship of Mr. Collins"—Miss Oman made a charming and piquante, but haughty, Elizabeth, while Mr. Lyon Blease, in the rôle of Mr. Collins, drew much applause from the audience.

Great interest was evinced as Miss Hamilton rose to speak. In quick, effective, tones, she told how she had become a Suffragette. "When quite a young child I was asked what I was going to be, and quick as a flash I wrote down 'an agitator.' (Applause.) From that day I have been a militant Suffragette."

After Miss Broadhurst had painted our North Wales work in glowing colours, and had outlined the extent and nature of our work, she made an eloquent appeal for members to help to raise an annual income of £500 a year. "Surely there are 500 people who are willing to give a guinea a year!"

"Lady Geraldine's Speech" was then acted by Liverpool members. Miss Fletcher made a most effective Dr. Alice, while Lady Geraldine was played by Miss Minnie Henderson. Our thanks are also due to Miss Evans, Miss Fletcher, Miss Hirst, Mrs. Hide, Miss Abraham, and Miss Gregson, for their assistance in the play.

During the week an interview was obtained with Mr. Frank Joseph, the prospective Parliamentary candidate for Walton Division, with the result that he has promised to put Woman's Suffrage on his political programme. A debate was held at Ellesmere Port, at which the principal speakers were Miss Nellie Smith, of Chester, and myself. We are in the thick of preparations for our North Wales campaign, starting November 17th, with three meetings in Bangor. We shall be glad to hear of anyone who will help us either with work or money.

South Yorkshire.—We have been the victims of ill-luck here; owing to a mistake made by the Secretary of the St. George's Hall, we are unable to hold our meeting there on December 7th, and have been obliged to engage a smaller hall.

The tickets are going very well. There is a Theological College here, and one of the students has taken a number of tickets to sell to the others, who are very anxious to hear the Rev. R. J. Campbell.

The leading women of Bradford are nearly all strong Liberals, who, unfortunately put the old empty husks of Liberalism before the actual substance. Most of the people upon whom I have called have needed to be enlightened upon the fact that virioli was not thrown at Mr. Thorley, and I have to explain that the newspapers do not trouble to contradict the statement that an acid was used.

The week has been spent in calling, and the sending out of tickets, and the writing of innumerable letters.—L. I. T.

