

THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 7.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Goodwill in Holloway.

For three years now some women have spent the season of joy and goodwill in prison solitude, paying a bitter price for women's freedom. The Christmas resolution of the Women's Freedom League must be, "It shall never happen again, be the price of victory what it may!"

* * *

Britons never will be Slaves!

Mr. Asquith has been thundering lately about the high misdemeanours of the Lords. All his Cabinet have also been belching forth fire and smoke and—gas. The Lords have broken an unwritten law of the Constitution, and their abolition, lock, stock, and barrel, is vehemently demanded by the apostles of liberty and democracy. Yet there is a statutory part of the Constitution—to wit, "The Right to Petition"—that has not only been threatened, but broken, thrown down in the mud, and spat upon by the very men who are now appealing for help and votes—oh! first and foremost for votes!—against the miscreants of the Upper House. In the *Nation* of this week we are told that "should the people of Great Britain decide to lay their liberties at the feet of the peers, the minority would instinctively act as their fathers acted two hundred and fifty years ago. . . . Hundreds of thousands of Englishmen, Welshmen, Scotsmen, and Irishmen will, if necessary, refuse supplies. . . ."

This is terrible. Can no one persuade these misguided men that they are putting back their cause by this wild talk, and proving themselves unfit for political power?

* * *

A Stale Joke.

Mr. Philip Snowden's question about the forcible feeding of Miss Neilans was received, as usual, with laughter by the gentlemen of the House of Commons. As a joke, though, it must be getting a little stale by now. Foreigners have always been amazed at the Englishman's sense of humour. They are beginning to pass public resolutions now, saying that they like it less than ever, and to ask what it means.

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GREETING.

At the close of this momentous year, and during the brief holiday breathing-time, I desire to say a few words of salutation and welcome to those who prepare, to those who help, and to those who read *THE VOTE*. I hope we are all beginning to find in this much-needed organ of our Women's Freedom League not only the friend for which we had been looking, but also a link in the chain which is binding us together. Late events have shown us the obduracy of our opponents. We know that to condemn, crush, and discredit us they are ready to use any means, however cruel and unjust. All the more should we, in the strong kinship that comes of mutual trust and a common sense of injury, hold out our hands one to the other, and stand together, dauntless and firm.

Volumes will be written this month about Christmas, its meaning, its joy, the memories it evokes, the love it symbolises. To thousands of human beings all that means nothing—nay, less than nothing—for the show of plenty, the forced geniality, brought face to face with their loneliness and misery, seems but a poor mockery.

To those, the sad and oppressed, we send out our voice in the silence. Ah, if they could hear! Some of them may. During these late strange years I have seen on worn faces of women the dawn of a new hope, and I think of Shelley's words, of those who

"Love and bear, who hope, till hope creates
From its own wreck the thing it animates."

To those who now, to-day, in this holiday-time, are suffering for the great hope of woman's freedom, of society's redemption, we, from these pages, would send out our tribute of love and admiration. Most earnestly do we wish our words could reach them in their prison. That the harsh law, which treats political as criminal offences *when the offenders are women*, forbids. But heart and spirit cannot be bound, and it is our joy to know that they in their solitude will feel our love around them.

To our brave and strenuous workers, organisers, speakers, missionaries, men and women, we send thanks, love, gratitude. By them we measure the strength of our movement; through them we are certain of its success. We know we cannot fail, because we see that "Baffled—they fight better"; seeming to the enemy "to sleep," they are awake.

To the party politicians who, in the heat of their fierce battle for dominion, are scattering illusions amongst the people we send out a wish for that open eye, that clear understanding through which alone the road to freedom can be discovered and trodden. We know that *then* they will take the first step towards this great end. Recognising that "People" includes in its greatness women as well as men, they will give to woman's emancipation a first place on their programme.

These are the wishes, the hopes, the greetings, the welcome which our little vessel of good hope, *THE VOTE*, sends forth at this troubled Christmas season to all to whom it goes. May these be many.

C. DESPARD.

WOMEN ARE ADVISED

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WHY I WANT THE VOTE.

By J. F. DOVE, M.A.

Yes, certainly I want the vote, and have wanted it for some forty years, *i.e.*, ever since I first left the shelter of my home and discovered the disabilities under which a woman works. I wanted it even before that, though I did not know then what it was that I wanted, for a keen sense of the injustices that I endured and saw others enduring, merely because we were not men, has been mine from childhood.

Since those days the world has moved on rapidly. Home is still and always will be the best and happiest place for a woman, but then she must be a real part of it, one of the home-makers and not a useless encumbrance. The whole status and ideal of womanhood must be lifted into a region that it has not hitherto occupied. It must, in fact, occupy the same place as that of the best men, and the same principles and ideals must govern it. Now this will never take place until women have the franchise, *i.e.*, until a woman counts for as much as anyone else among the citizens of her country. The perfect work can only be accomplished in church, or State, or home where the gifts of both men and women, working together in an equally responsible manner, are combined to attain it.

By ETHEL SNOWDEN.

There is no class in the community more in need of the vote than the women who work for their living. Other women may rightly aspire to possess it, that they may use its power for the benefit of the less fortunate. But the wives, sisters, and daughters of working men stand to lose everything and to lose nothing by their enfranchisement.

By means of the vote working men have wrung from listless Governments amelioration of their condition. Each addition of voters to the register has seen an increase in the rate at which Acts of social and industrial legislation have been placed upon the Statute Book. The legalisation of Trade Unions, the Workmen's Compensation Act, effective Mines and Factory Regulations—all these have been secured through the Parliamentary Franchise. Bad social conditions press more heavily upon women than upon men. The average rate of pay for women is not much more than a third of that for men. Attempts are constantly being made by men to restrict and generally interfere with the labour of women, particularly that of married women.

To help social and industrial legislation, to secure such industrial reforms as the Legal Minimum Wage and the Eight Hours Day, to secure the economic freedom of married women, to insist that the Government set an example to employers by paying their men and women servants the same salary for the same work—these are a few of the things which need to be done by working women for themselves. And the vote will give them the power to do these.

Above all, for the sake of their own dignity and the dignity of their labour must they be enfranchised. Parliament should never have opened its schools to girls if it meant to deny them the opportunity, as women, of using

their knowledge in their own and their children's best interests.

By MARGARET McMILLAN.

Though I dislike the personal note, yet I find it necessarily imposed on one who writes under this title.

In the first place I do not want the vote merely for myself at all. No one who thinks can doubt that a large sphere of life and influence may be open to a few voteless women to-day. Many women, indeed, can say, "I have found my work and can do it, handicapped it is true, but I can do it," and the temptation is to add, "Let us be content. Politics is not a very nice kind of business. Let the people who like it do it."

That was the attitude of many women—yesterday. To-day it is almost impossible for a thinking woman to reason so. A great light has flashed on the thinking womanhood of Britain. We hear of women goaded to violence. We hear how they are subjected to shameful treatment. And we know in the same moment that the storm will not be stayed by the severity of the House of Commons. It is not their womanhood that makes women now range themselves with the militants. It is, if I may say so, their impersonal sympathies that are awakened. They are not merely feminine. They begin to be fully human.

The true human being in woman begins to unfold itself in the light of day. It is freeing itself now, and she realises that a whole world of sympathies, powers, aspirations, and desires sleep in her which, conditioned by sex, are distinct from sex and the sexual life (howsoever refined) which has been for ages exclusively assigned to her. She will express this larger life in the larger world as freely as man. And why? Because she is as fully human.

I want the vote for all women—though I would be glad to see only a section of women get it. I want it

because, when it is won, every problem may be considered in the light of a new fellowship. I think that her exclusion from public life has made continuous progress in every age and place impossible; and though I feel that the feminist movement has not yet had all the influence that some of its leaders claim, yet I feel equally sure that it will ultimately have greater results than even they have ever prophesied.

By CHRYSYLL MACMILLAN, M.A.

I want the vote for women because they are different from men, different in the external accident of life and in much of the work they have to do. To be just, a Government should represent such differences.

And I want the vote for women because they are the same as men, the same in those fundamental human qualities in virtue of which a share in self-government is given to men. Both are moral beings. But whereas women as well as men are held responsible to the law, the Government is unjust in that it is held responsible to men and not to women.



MISS DOVE, M.A.
Photo by S. Sweetland.



MISS MARGARET McMILLAN.



MRS. ETHEL SNOWDEN.
Photo by courtesy of Miss Lena Connell.



MISS CHRYSYLL MACMILLAN, M.A.
Photo by Moffatt.

THE RISE OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The Early Days.

Those who were privileged to take part in the early activities and adventures of the militant Suffrage movement have a remembrance which is a precious possession. Whenever I look back upon it it is with feelings similar to those I experience in watching the dawn break from a mountain top. The rosy light suddenly illumines the tops of the distant hills, just as young militant Suffragist illumined the forty years old movement for Women's Suffrage with the fire of her dauntless enthusiasm.

The first outward sign of this fresh development in an old agitation was the imprisonment of two girls at Manchester on October 13th, 1905, members of—up to that time—a practically unknown society, the Women's Social and Political Union. In the early spring of 1906 London became the centre of the new movement. The inspired enthusiasm of Annie Kenney, combined with Teresa Billington's political sagacity and organising capacity, aided by the work and devotion of a small group of friends, accomplished the task of making "Votes for Women" familiar to the politician, the man in the street, and the woman in the home. The first Suffragist went to Holloway Prison on June 21st, and during the subsequent three and a half years nearly 500 women have been imprisoned within its walls, mostly in the second division as ordinary criminals.

The first conference of the Women's Social and Political Union was held in October, 1906, and the second was fixed to take place in October, 1907. During that year the growth in membership and the extension of the work in all directions had been phenomenal.

The Cleavage.

It might almost be said that the Union had grown too quickly for its internal organisation, as an individual is said to outgrow her strength. Differences as to the best mode of conducting the internal affairs of the Union became so acute that on September 10th, 1907, occurred a cleavage in the ranks of the Union. At an ordinary members' meeting Mrs. Pankhurst announced that in future the governing power of the Union would be vested in a committee chosen and appointed by herself. She also announced that the conference called for a fortnight later was to be abandoned, and that there would be no further need for conferences, as the branches were to become local autonomous unions.

Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss Hodgson, and other political stalwarts held to the original constitution of the Union, and took steps to form a Provisional Committee. This committee continued the arrangements for the October Conference. At that momentous Conference, at which thirty-one out of fifty-two branches of the Union were represented, it was decided to adhere to the constitution of the Women's Social and Political Union, but to change the name.

The Women's Freedom League.

A referendum of the branches resulted in the selection of the "Women's Freedom League."

It is almost impossible to realise that this happened only just over two years ago. We were but a small body, in spite of the fact that half of the branches of the Union had remained true to their democratic constitution. As Mrs. Billington-Greig said in her chairman's speech at the Conference, "Surely, we must recognise that the spirit of the members in an association like this is a spirit that requires democratic machinery. It is not a thing put on from above, given or granted from any other body of people. It is a garment, as it were, in which our spirit must clothe itself if it is to do its work, and we cannot do away with such machinery in any free association like ours. It is needed for this first reason, that the spirit that is within us is the spirit of independence, and of equal human right; and it is needed for the further reason that we cannot manage a big and ever-growing society without some kind of machinery."

We were poor. £2 2s. 1d. was the sum remaining in our exchequer after that Conference. We could, of course, have claimed all the original documents, funds, and literature of the original society, but the Conference unanimously decided that it would be better both for our

own movement and its effect on the general public to renounce our legal rights and to set ourselves to build up another militant body pledged to work heart and soul for Votes for Women.

Our faith in the life of our movement was speedily justified, our faith in the loyalty of our members speedily confirmed. The two pounds quickly multiplied, and in less than a fortnight's time we were installed in offices in Buckingham Street planning the campaign that was to make the name of the "Women's Freedom League" of world-wide renown.

Militant Protests.

The characteristic which chiefly distinguishes the militant Suffrage societies from other Suffrage organisations is the spirit of self-sacrifice which leads its members to protest against the exclusion of women from citizenship, even when the result of that protest is the prison cell. The fact that nearly 500 women have suffered imprisonment stands unparalleled in history. What this has meant in suffering, in loss of health, in loss of occupation only those who have endured it know, and this suffering pales into insignificance compared with the methods recently adopted—those of the stomach tube, the gag, handcuffs, and the padded cell—by the Government to crush a political agitation.

About two years ago the League initiated the police court protests, which were made to draw public attention to the injustice of legislation without representation.

Miss Irene Miller and Mrs. Billington-Greig made the first protest at Bow Street, and this was quickly followed by others at all the London police courts. A few members of the League attended each court, and when a woman was placed in the dock the members rose and in turn protested against the trial of women by men alone and by laws exclusively made by men. The protest made, the members quietly left the court. This procedure was followed in all the towns in which the League had branches.

Dramatic Protests.

At the opening of the 1908 session of Parliament an attempt was made to present the King with a petition soon after he left Buckingham Palace. Miss Neilans, who nearly reached the Royal carriage, was arrested, but was almost immediately released. Along the route Votes for Women flags were unfurled as the King passed. At the opening of the autumn session another ingenious plan was devised for drawing public attention to our claims, and that was the placarding of a proclamation on Cabinet Ministers' houses and on public buildings in London and other parts of the country. This scheme was carried out by members of the League, who sallied forth after midnight armed with brushes, pots of water, and a stock of proclamations. Miss Matters was putting the finishing strokes to one on the door of the House of Commons, when the door suddenly opened, and an astonished official almost ran into her. Recovering from his astonishment, he tore down the offending poster, and this fate was shared before 10 a.m. by most of the proclamations put up in London; but as the London and provincial Press, either struck by the novelty of the device or by the political and literary value of the said proclamation, reproduced it verbatim, we felt well satisfied by our night's work.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

(To be continued.)

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MRS. H. W. NEVINSON.

By ETHEL HILL.

Mrs. Nevinson is a very welcome figure on the Suffrage platform. She possesses a ready fund of humour, is intensely sympathetic, and brings to this many-sided question the vast experience of a woman who, in her capacity on the Hampstead Board of Guardians and Education Committee, has had the opportunity of studying the sad side of life at close quarters.

Mrs. Nevinson has always been a Suffragist. She thinks the vote will better the position of women and also be good for men. The Women Suffragists, she considers, were well received in Bermondsey because there is a large number of unemployed there, and these men realise that an important cause of industrial distress is the undercutting of men's work by women which is possible because women have at present no remedy by vote. All over the country the workhouses are crammed with men, and the Hampstead Guardians have found it necessary to board the men out in Cambridgeshire because their accommodation is overtaxed; but in the women's portion there are still several vacancies.

In Mrs. Nevinson's opinion the demand for the vote rests on the solid base of justice. Laws by men are made for men, and do not protect women. The other people not qualified to vote besides women are paupers, lunatics, idiots, criminals, and minors, and even they have a chance of gaining the vote. Paupers may become millionaires, lunatics may get better, idiots improve, criminals be let out of prison, and minors grow up and so become qualified. But once a woman always a woman; she never has a chance. By the laws married women with children are never reckoned as parents; but unmarried women with children are reckoned the only parents, and suffer all the disadvantages. Women, however, are waking up on the subject, and since they began to go to prison the general public are looking up too. But custom and prejudice die hard, and the task of killing them beyond all hope of a resurrection is a long and heavy one.

Mrs. Nevinson is a graphic and moving writer. A very illuminating article entitled "Juvenal on Latter Day Problems" recently appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*. But perhaps Mrs. Nevinson is at her best in the touching and beautiful articles on "Workhouse Characters" which she contributed last spring to the *Westminster Gazette*. To the thinking individual—a very much rarer person than one imagines—they threw a new light upon the Suffrage question. They showed vividly the storm and stress of a woman's life, and the great need there is for a wider horizon, a less circumscribed existence. She portrays her, also, in her blind gropings after betterment, even when held firm in the relentless grip of hereditary vice; paints a lurid picture of her as the victim of sensual

passion—the only sufferer—"whilst the 'gentleman' who was the real offender ranged free and unmolested."

Byron cynically remarked that love was a woman's whole existence. Mrs. Nevinson would fain that in the race of life both men and women had an equal start, no field or favour, but the best of either sex to win. To fail in one way may be to win in another.

Mrs. Nevinson tells a tale of a woman brought in by the police, drunk. It appears she was a highly educated woman, the daughter of a brilliant scholar and successful journalist who had killed himself with drink. Her mother, on her death-bed, had warned her that she had the taint of drink in her blood, and had urged her never to touch alcohol. And she had light-heartedly promised. Time went on, and she became engaged to be married. A fortnight before the wedding-day she received a letter from her fiancé bemoaning his unworthiness, but asking her to release him from his engagement, as he had found his love for her had been a mirage now that he had come across his twin-soul.

She got through the days somehow, but the nights were terrible—all the great army of forsaken lovers know that the nights are the worst. She used to lie awake hour after hour, sobbing and crying for mercy and strength to endure, and she used to batter her head against the floor, not knowing anyone could hear. One night a fellow-lodger who slept in the next room came in, and begged her to be quiet; she had her work to do, and night after night she was kept awake with the woman's sobbing. She told her that she had left her husband, who had been carrying on with another woman, and that no man was worth the love women give them. She gave her a glass of strong brandy and water.

After years of anguish and strife she woke up one bright spring morning and felt that she was cured; but by strange irony of fate the very day she escaped from the toils of love she fell under another tyranny—that of alcohol.

She died in the workhouse, unconscious and delirious till her death, reeling off sonorous hexameters from Homer and Virgil, stately passages from the Greek tragedians. Perhaps in the future the life of a woman will be fuller, and if love deserts her she will not, in Byron's bitter lines, lose her whole existence.

When Mrs. Nevinson visited a lunatic asylum most of the inmates complained of unlawful detention, and begged pathetically for freedom. "It is a dreadful place. Why should I be kept here? We have just had a harvest festival, but I'm not thankful. What have we to do with harvest festivals?" one said to her.

Politically women have been classed with lunatics, and have had nothing to do with the political harvest. May the future negative the past!



*Gain in the Cause
May and Wynne Nevinson*

Photo by Thomas Fall, F.R.P.S.

Next Week: Mr. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

THE OLIVE.

Gift of Athene, hail! Again for me
Your far-flung, solemn, sylvan mystery
Sweeps, like a mighty incense cloud along
The Inland Sea.

Snow gleam and stern sobriety of pine
Ascend above ye; at your feet there shine
The sapphire and the silver of the sea;
While ye entwine

And link the bosomed hills. Each cloudy grove,
Whereon the slow, wine-purple shadows rove,
Fraught with some wonder of the hyaline
Would seem to move.

There wakes a tender flame along the dawn—
A budding of faint rose and gold and fawn
Kindles the brooding mist in jasper dreams
On each grey lawn.

The Eastern fires, when sunrise, half afraid,
Peeps like a lover at his sleeping maid,
Anoint with sudden, amber loveliness
Your gentle jade.

The morning lifts and pales upon each spray,
And all your terraced kingdoms raptured day
Kisses to strange sea pearl—greyer than green,
Greener than grey.

There is a glittering of lambent light
Upon the sea-born wind; your hearts grow white
And throb and leap with sparks of silver fire
Frostily bright.

Along your ancient trunks the lichen weaves
One colour with the harmony of leaves,
While upward, tier on tier and crown on crown,
Each column heaves.

Sure ye are shadowless and only fling
An azure gauze about the feet of Spring,
Where corn and grape rejoice upon their road
To ripening.

Ye stand for more than fatness of the earth,
For more than fire upon the hearth of mirth—
Ye own Athene's might to feed and warm
The heart's own dearth.

O olive groves of Italy, that shrine
Haunt of the violet and latticed vine,
Your hillsides, to the last dark cypress spire,
I thought were mine!

Above possession mine—the secret part,
The spirit-haunted truth that knew no mart,
Hard won from steadfast, patient vigils by
A humble heart.

But when day droops along the waning west,
Fades o'er the sea, and on each dove-like breast
Faints in a rosy joy, what soul can share
Your hour of rest?

When the dim huntress, from her starry place,
Bends low upon your sleep her own sad face
And tranced aisles of silence shivering wake
To breathe her grace—

Shiver and start and almost seem to stare,
Then, cherished by the queen of all the air,
Are hushed, and slumber once again, and dream—
What soul can share?

None, none; no earthly sleight of word or stain,
No human divination, toil or pain.
Your miracles of dawn and noon and night
Can weave again.

Emblem of peace, farewell—when Liberty
Doth make your glades a home, perchance some free
And golden harper of the great unborn
Shall honour thee.

Only a radiant spirit got among
The generations of that blessed throng
Cradled in Freedom, from his winged heart
May sing your song.

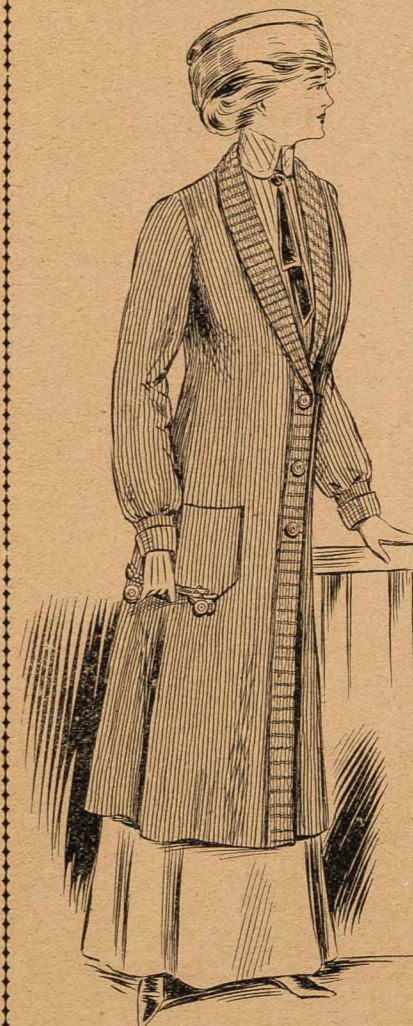
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1909.

WITHOUT CEASING.

Into the midst of strain comes strife, and the promise of peace is snatched away from us. The long months of effort during 1909 are to close with a greater effort. The struggle in the summer heat is to be followed by the struggle in the winter's snow. The old year is to die in strife, and the new year to be born in it. In spite of the need for rest and the call of the season of pleasure, the Suffragette must set forth again to battle. A time of crisis is given to us instead of one of rest and recreation. Christmas may come and go, and the New Year dawn, but we must be preparing and planning and pleading for the work and the workers, the protests, and the expenses of the General Election.

Some six months ago the delegates of the many branches of the Women's Freedom League met in conference to discuss the question of General Election policy. To that gathering were submitted the letters and documents that had been exchanged between the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League and the leaders of the various political parties. In every case the answers of the Party leaders to our questions were unsatisfactory, and it was thus again made clear that all the masculine political parties were alike determined to do nothing for women except as the result of pressure. This left the ground clear for a general decision based independently upon the political position of women apart from any complicating considerations due to the pretended friendship of any one party. The lines of action finally decided upon take their rise from the same foundation as our general militant policy of protest and our anti-Government activity.

The Women's Freedom League is an anti-Government body directing its forces against those who hold, at any given time, the reins of national authority. By propaganda, deputations, and protests, as well as by our bye-election campaigns, we have fixed the principle of Governmental responsibility in the minds of the people, and the burden of that responsibility upon the backs of Ministers. We have taught the simple, obvious but forgotten lesson: *the Government rules*. We have restated a truth that the deliberate haziness of the interested politicians had obscured. We have stated it, and driven it home. So long as circumstances are normal this anti-Government policy is impregnable. It cannot be undermined. But before it can be applied it is necessary that a Government shall hold the reins of power in its hands—it is essential that some Government shall be in authority.

During a General Election this condition is not fulfilled. It is not a time of performance, but of promise. Neither party holds the power; hence, an attack upon those in power is not possible—they do not exist—and the Suffragette forces must make other choice of the avenues of possible action. There is no Government in power. True, but there are a retiring Ministry and an eager Opposition seeking to form a new one. The one body has had the power, and misused it; the other body seeks the power, and must be taught how to use it. Here lie two possible courses of action.

The men who have had the power have refused to grant votes to women; they have ignored the women's demand, and meted out to them injustice with brutality. With the supreme power of law-making in their hands they have violated their own principles, misused their power, and corrupted the national administration of law. These things they have done while they have been secure in the temporary possession of the national machinery. But now they must face the constituencies and the public scrutiny of their actions. This is our opportunity. With the record of this Government of cowards we must expose and oppose its members. We must write the record

of its dark deeds in letters of flame across the length and breadth of every Ministerial constituency. These men have violated a national trust. Against them our only possible line of policy is one of stern opposition.

But this alone is not sufficient. The leaders of the opposing party, thirsting for office, with the promises of place already in their pockets, must not be neglected. It is not enough for us to hold up to them, by example, their own possible fate at some future General Election. The time such a course would waste is over-long. The lesson must be applied now, and nearer home. Among the men who will assume office with Cabinet rank in the next Conservative Ministry are some who are already known as bitter opponents of women's enfranchisement. The views of others are but vaguely known, yet such knowledge as is public property tends to show that no more is to be hoped of them than might have been hoped of the members of the present Government before they accepted office. An immediate effort must be made to get clear public declarations from these probable future Ministers, then the return of all who declare against us must be opposed by every possible means. The return of every known enemy of Cabinet rank must be strenuously opposed. Those who have already possessed and misused power and those who seek it to misuse it must be kept out of Parliament if it is humanly possible to keep them out. Then, whatever be the verdict of the rest of the country, whatever party holds the reins of office, we shall not have to face the virulent opposition of such sex-prejudiced males, who are obviously unfitted for the responsibilities of government. Our way will be clearer by their absence from the Cabinet, whatever be the issue of the fight.

There are still left the great majority of constituencies in which the candidates are of the rank and file order. Here, wherever our influence extends, we must enter our protest against the election of any Government over the heads of women. We must employ every known political method of protest against this outrage upon the womanhood of the nation. We must drive home to the consciences of the electorate by peaceful and militant means the knowledge that no election is valid from which qualified women have been excluded. We must make it impossible for the Government that is returned to power to ignore the strong mandate that the electors must be made to give. These three lines of action—opposition to the retiring members of the Cabinet, opposition to the known enemies who are probable members of a future Cabinet, and a campaign of general protest against any Government being elected without the consent of women—cover the whole ground of the Conference decisions with the exception of certain detailed schemes approved conditionally.

It will be obvious to everyone concerned that to carry through these plans we must have every available member of the League, every woman and man friend, and every possible guinea or shilling. We shall need two hundred workers and five thousand pounds, and we shall need both at once. There must be no delay. There is no time for argument and discussion. The workers are needed now; the money is needed now. You must help. Make arrangements to leave your ordinary duties during the General Election campaign. Make your arrangements now. Let us have word at once that you will be at our service. And send a Christmas present to the Treasurer for the General Election Fund. Send as much as you can. *Send it now.* TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

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INVITATION, December 16th, 12 to 6 p.m.

Mrs. DESPARD has kindly consented to give a Short Address on

"Women's Work."

At The Art Gallery, 29, Newman Street, Oxford Street, W. Examples of Artistic Dresses will be exhibited by Mrs. Mora Puckle, and Miss M. Roberta Mills will show Hand-Wrought Leather. All Members and Friends cordially invited. Tea, 3.30.

"FREE WOMAN TO FREE MAN."

(From the "Pageant of Great Women.")

I have no quarrel with you; but I stand
 For the clear right to hold my life my own;
 The clear, clean right. To mould it as I will,
 Not as you will, with or apart from you.
 To make of it a thing of brain and blood,
 Of tangible substance and of turbulent thought—
 No thin, grey shadow of the life of man.
 Your love, perchance, may set a crown on it;
 But I may crown myself in other ways
 (As you have done, who are one flesh with me).

I have no quarrel with you; but henceforth
 This you must know: the world is mine, as yours,
 The pulsing strength and passion and heart of it:
 The work I set my hand to, woman's work,
 Because I set my hand to it. Henceforth
 For my own deeds myself am answerable
 To my own soul.

For this in days to come
 You, too, shall thank me. Now you laugh, but I
 Laugh, too, a laughter without bitterness;
 Feeling the riot and rush of crowding hopes,
 Dreams, longings, and vehement powers; and knowing
 this
 'Tis good to be alive when morning dawns!

CICELY HAMILTON.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

On Dec. 1st, when the House of Commons reassembled after the adjournment from Nov. 26th, Mr. Philip Snowden put the following questions to the Home Secretary: (1) Are Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans, who were recently sent to prison for three months without the option of a fine, being forcibly fed? (2) Is the forcible feeding having any bad effect on their general health? and (3) in view of the political nature of their offence, and the statement of the prisoners that if they were treated as political prisoners they would obey all prison rules, will you recommend their removal to the first division?

Mr. Gladstone: Mrs. Chapin takes her food quietly. (Laughter.) Miss Neilans has refused her food, and, as all attempts to persuade her to take it failed, the medical officer has had to feed her by tube. Her health is not suffering. I am sorry I cannot transfer them to the first division. It was for the judge to decide in what division they should be placed, and he ordered them to be in the second division, where they have the advantage of separation from ordinary criminals of the third division.

THE APPEAL CASE.

The ruling given in the appeal case brought by Mrs. Pankhurst and the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield will not improve matters. It will simply lead to further complications. The right to petition was admitted, but, ruled the Lord Chief Justice, it must be exercised in a reasonable manner. The question is, how can one present it in a reasonable manner when the member whom you wish to present it to bolts out of back doors, hides in underground passages, dodges behind policemen, and says "Go away. Don't be silly!" and makes mysterious exits and entrances to public meetings like an elusive pantomimic clown?

Another Act should be passed by the next Parliament compelling the receiver of a petition to stand still and behave like a gentleman while it is being handed to him, and insisting that—for the honour of the country—he shall not exhibit such pitiable signs of panicky fear at the sight of a woman.

We shall deal fully with the General Election Policy of the Women's Freedom League in our next issue.

A full report of the Yuletide Festival will be given in the next number of "The Vote."

WOMEN DO NOT NEED THE VOTE. (Not) By G. K. Chesterton.

It was a lovely damp afternoon in November, and I was sitting on an upturned wheelbarrow in my garden with my umbrella in my hand (I have got ninety-two umbrellas), watching the slugs and snails, and thinking what subject to choose for my weekly jokes in *THE VOTE*, when my charwoman shambled across my lawn bearing a pail.

With a wave of my umbrella I thus apostrophised her: "Woman, hewer of wood and drawer of water throughout the ages, approach and tell me from the depths of thy mother-heart what thou thinkest of Christianity, man, and Mr. Page Hopps. Come hither, Rebecca, and tell me also, Dost thou want a vote?"

And Rebecca, masking her feminine elation at being thus addressed by Man, remarked crustily that her name was Missis Jones, and would I please to tell her what a vote was before she could say whether she wanted it or not.

"A vote, O representative of all thy sex," I replied, "is a democratic weapon forged for the suppression of democracy, by the use of which Man has set himself free to be a slave."

Mrs. Jones, muttering that if a vote was going to make her more of a slave than she was already she could do without it, picked up her pail and disappeared into my house, there to fulfil her woman's destiny. I took out my fountain pen, and on the back of an old envelope headed my article "Woman does not want a vote."

At that moment a click of the garden gate warned me of the arrival of the postman. He handed me a letter. It was from my maiden aunt who lives at Tooting. I took it with a jolly laugh. A maiden aunt is such a humorous idea; living at Tooting, too. So droll! The letter contained a cheque. Dear Aunt Maria! Living refutation of that slander that would have us believe that woman of to-day does not realise her mission! Surely to name a vote and my Aunt Maria in the same breath is to commit profanity.

Thus thinking, I indignantly kicked a slug, and scratching out my first heading, substituted for it "Votes for women a sacrilege."

I got no farther, as the gentle voice of my wife calling me to dinner let loose in my mind a flood of emotions. In my excitement I rose, and pacing up and down, brandishing a snail in mistake for my umbrella, I declaimed aloud the following virile lines of Walt Whitman:—

"Man, his Wife and his Dinner!
Ineffable Trinity, I sing to Thee!

To Man, his eyes, eyebrows, eyelids, nose, tip of the Nose, hair, forehead, transverse lines running across the Forehead, ears, cheeks, colour of cheeks, teeth, gums. Oh, immeasurable littleness, microscopic immensity! Oh, cosmic minutiae, I sing to Thee, I sing to Thee!"



TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)

No. 3.—THE LADY WHO THINKS "WE ARE VERY WELL AS WE ARE."

My wife's voice again! And suddenly it was as if a veil was torn from my mental vision, and I saw clearly.

I saw that my wife has got something far more precious than a vote. She has got Man! More than that, she has got Me!

Hastily snatching my pencil out of my pocket, I once more altered my heading to "Women do not need the vote."

And that is how I solved the Woman question for ever.

CIVILISATION.

In those days Woman took thought, and invented the Button and showed it to Man. When Man learned its uses he called it *Civilisation*, and begged Woman to wrap him up in many garments that he might have many Buttons, and thereby become civilised.

Woman rejoiced with great joy in her invention, and sewed on Buttons all life long.

But Man could not learn how to fix on Buttons, and when he came undone had always to flee to Woman to get himself buttoned up; and Woman, smiling at his helplessness, would patiently fix him together again.

Hence arose the saying, which is used by the common people to this day, "Woman's chief end is to sew on Buttons and keep poor Man together."

Now one morning as Man went forth to his labours, Woman said, "I also must go forth, for I have work to do."

And straightway she arose to set about her own business.

But Man threw himself in the dust at her feet, and did moan aloud, crying, "Nay, stay, I pray thee, for if thou goest forth who will sew Buttons upon my shirt?"

And Woman paused—to wonder. F. L. B. G.

A pamphlet dealing with the Bermondsey Protest, and containing a full report of Miss Neilans' speech to the jury, is now published. Photographs of Miss Neilans and Mrs. Chapin are on the cover. Order from the Literature Department, Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert St., Adelphi. Price 1d., by post 1½d.

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I am a Camisole specialist—buy from the actual maker—save all middle profits and get an article that cannot be equalled in any shop at the price. I am now offering a special line—all original designs—pretty effects in lace insertion and ribbon—yoke back and front—puff sleeves—at the remarkable price of

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PORTMAN ROOMS "AT HOME."

In spite of the downpour of rain and the attraction of a special bazaar at Covent Garden, the "At Home" last week was one of the best yet held. Mrs. Railton and Mrs. Bexfield welcomed the guests, and had the pleasure of greeting many women who had never before attended a Suffrage meeting. Mrs. Fagan made a most admirable chairman, and in her introductory speech summed up the aims and objects of the League in such a way as to put the new-comers into the position of being able to follow clearly the arguments of the speakers. Mrs. Borrmann Wells dwelt on some of the reasons for and against, and amused the audience by quoting from a well-known weekly journal a passage in which the efficacy of a woman's tears was insisted upon and the opinion expressed that if all the Suffragettes were to shed tears over Mr. Asquith a Bill to enfranchise women would be rushed through the House without delay. The writer, however, omitted to give directions as to how Mr. Asquith was to be caught. Mrs. Wells then went on to give facts from her own American experiences, and received much applause for her quotations of authorities from the Suffrage States of America. Many members expressed a wish that Mrs. Borrmann Wells would speak more often at the meetings. Our President, who had just returned from Hull, made us realise the spiritual nature of our movement, and bade us think of our prisoners each day with love and with deep gratitude for what they are now enduring so that women may enter into moral and political freedom.

OUR PRISONERS.

The Rev. Hugh Chapman visited Mrs. Chapin in prison and found her very cheerful and courageous. Mrs. Chapin is in the hospital, and speaks in the highest terms of the care and kindness shown her by the prison officials. Mrs. Chapin is not protesting by refusing her food, as, after considering the matter very carefully, she decided that for this, her first time of imprisonment, at any rate, she would obey all the prison regulations. The Women's Freedom League leaves its members perfectly free to follow the dictates of their own consciences in all these matters. Mrs. Chapin sent messages of hope and encouragement to all her friends.

Of Miss Neilans we have no news this week, and all applications to visit her have been refused, but we know that, after being fed for a fortnight by means of the stomach tube, her health must have suffered considerably.

Our efforts to secure removal to the first division or immediate release must not be relaxed, and resolutions, postcards, and letters (which need not be stamped) of protest should pour in to Mr. Gladstone by every post. Special handbills, entitled "Is Political Agitation a Crime?" "Why the Lords Threw Out the Budget," and "Representative Government," have been printed for distribution at political meetings, and are especially suitable for Liberal meetings where the candidates are making their first appearances before the constituencies. Write stating the number required and enclosing a small sum for postage to the Hon. Sec., W.F.L.

At the end of a month Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans will be able to receive a letter and a visit each, and also to write a letter. An account of the interview will be published in *THE VOTE*. Meanwhile hold protest meetings, distribute the special handbills, and sell *THE VOTE* containing a true account of the trial, and the pamphlet containing Miss Neilans' splendid defence.

IRISH WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The above League celebrated its first birthday last month by holding a magnificent meeting in the Molesworth Hall, at which Mrs. Despard spoke, Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, M.A., being in the chair. The hall was filled to overflowing by a most enthusiastic audience. Some slight opposition was apparent at question time, but at the end several men called out, "Madam, you have quite convinced us." She also spoke at the League's own hall in the Antient Concert Buildings on the afternoon of the 10th, when she made a stirring appeal to Irishwomen to work for the cause. Mrs. Despard made a deep impression during her visit, and we are looking forward eagerly to another visit from her. The usual Tuesday meetings of the League have been held during November, and have been very successful. Among the speakers were Mrs. Richardson, B.A., Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, M.A., Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Bac, Miss Tatlow, Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., Mr. Fred Ryan (of the *Egyptian Standard*, Cairo), and Mr. Patrick Collum, the poet.

INDIGNATION ABROAD.

The following is typical of many resolutions that are being passed in other countries:—

RESOLUTION.

The extraordinary general meeting of the Munich Branch of the Bavarian League for Women's Suffrage expresses its deepest indignation at the cruelties practised on the Suffragettes in the English prisons.

It protests especially because women who are arrested for political offences are treated like common criminals and even tortured.

Shame to a Government which permits such things! German women, full of admiration, watch the martyrdom of their courageous English sisters for the sake of equal rights. Coming generations will reap the fruits of their struggle, and will proudly cherish their memory.

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By ENNIS RICHMOND.

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—YULETIDE FESTIVAL.

Saturday, December 11th, 3—10.30 p.m.

At last the great Yuletide Festival for which we have toiled and wrought and thought for the last few months is upon us! All the patient service which has been rendered by our London members and by our visitors from the provinces is about to have its reward in next Saturday's magnificent festival. Never has any Suffrage society tackled such an undertaking, and never has such a measure of success been won as that which will, we are convinced, crown our efforts on Saturday. In the midst of the political upheaval we are going to turn aside for a few hours to celebrate the traditions of Christmas, while we gain fresh courage and inspiration for the stiff battle that lies before us at the General Election.

It is interesting to learn that Mr. Asquith is having a meeting at the Albert Hall

SANDWICHED BETWEEN TWO SUFFRAGE DEMONSTRATIONS!

On account of this, though all our properties have to be in the hall (locked up in a special room!) by Thursday, decorations cannot be commenced before Saturday morning, so we want as many volunteers as possible to help.

The proceedings on Saturday will begin at 3 o'clock with a reception by Mrs. Despard in the arena. Immediately afterwards there will be

SPEECHES.

which, from the names of the speakers, and the tension in the world political at the present moment, cannot fail to be of the greatest and most absorbing interest. Tennessee Lady Cook will be in the chair. Mr. Israel Zangwill will take as his topic "The Lords and the Ladies," on which Mr. Zangwill is sure to be at his happiest. We are to have speeches from Mrs. Despard and from Mrs. Billington-Greig, for whom we are preparing a royal welcome on her return to the fighting-line. Our members will also be delighted to hear that Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett has cheated her illness sufficiently to be able to speak as at first announced. With these names the success of the meeting from the intellectual and political standpoint is assured.

Of the gorgeous

WOMAN'S PAGEANT.

which will form the *pièce de résistance* of the evening's entertainment, we have already spoken repeatedly. Written by Miss Cicely Hamilton, and staged by Miss Edith Craig, it pictures in splendid allegoric fashion the struggle of womanhood towards the light of freedom, her appeal to justice, and the defeat of prejudice. Some of the leading figures of the English stage are taking part—Miss Ellen Terry as Nance Oldfield the irresistible, Mrs. Brown-Potter as the fearless Charlotte Corday, Mrs.

Langtry, the Misses Suzanne Sheldon, Marion Terry, Maud Hoffmann, Edyth Olive, and Janette Steer. Mrs. Despard will appear as St. Hilda, Mrs. Billington-Greig as Boadicea. The pageant alone would make the success of any festival.

At intervals during the afternoon and evening there will be dramatic performances

IN THE THEATRE.

"How the Vote Was Won," by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John, is an old favourite with all Suffragists, who will also eagerly welcome a new play by the same gifted authors, "The Pot and the Kettle." "At the Gates" is a picketing incident of very special interest to all those who took part in the weary siege of Westminster this summer. The author is Mrs. Chapin, who is now serving the preposterous sentence of four months' in the second division in Holloway.

For the first time will be produced

"BEFORE SUNRISE."

a new play by Bessie Hatton (daughter of Joseph Hatton), an Early Victorian costume play, dealing with the first attempts at the enfranchisement of women. The cast is a star one, including Mrs. Theodore Wright—whose return to the London stage will be welcomed by all playgoers—Mr. Nigel Playfair, and Miss Henrietta Watson. Tickets (1s. 6d.) should be written for at once (W.F.L. Offices, 1, Robert Street), as "Before Sunrise" takes place immediately after the opening of the festival.

In addition to all these we have secured the first public performance in London of

"PRESS CUTTINGS."

To the admirers of Mr. G. Bernard Shaw's epigram and wit the Yuletide Festival is a gift from the gods. Mr. Redford has been propitiated, and the offending names "Balsquith" and "Mitchener" changed in the most Shavian manner to "Jones" and "Bones"! No Suffragette is present in the play, but her spirit, like that of Caesar, is all-pervading. The Prime Minister who has to chain himself to the door-scraper and shout "Votes for Women" in order to enter his own house may yet become an historical figure! The orderly who would sooner "be sworn at human" than ordered to "Right about face, march!" is a character which gives to think. But it is impossible to tabulate the points of "Press Cuttings." You must come and see it for yourselves.

Not the least of the attractions we offer is an

ENORMOUS CHRISTMAS TREE,

laden with gifts for the smaller Suffragists, whom we are expecting to turn out in full force. The gifts will be distributed by Mrs. Despard and by Her Majesty the Fairy Queen, attended by a full court. There will be sixpenny and shilling dips, from which the children will draw tickets entitling them to presents from the tree. Will all friends who are sending in presents send a list at once to Miss Seruya at the office, in order to prevent duplication? A large number of gifts have already been received, for which we wish to thank the donors.

If you have not already bought your Christmas presents

DON'T!

Wait until Saturday, and then buy. The different branches of the W.F.L. have arranged the most attractive stalls in the gallery at the Albert Hall, covered with everything your friends can possibly want for Christmas—and nearly everything in the colours. So support the League, help to make our colours known more widely than they are, and buy your presents at the W.F.L. Yuletide Festival.

One more word:

TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL

are selling splendidly, but we want to get rid of every one. We want you to make an enormous effort these last few days to get your friends to come, and send to 1, Robert Street for tickets at once to ensure getting them.

We wish to thank all those who by their untiring energy and enthusiasm have made this great undertaking possible. There has been much tedious and troublesome work to do, but love for the cause has made our members come

forward willingly and gladly. This same enthusiastic devotion is the very spirit for our Yuletide Festival, and is going to make it a

RED-LETTER DAY

in the annals of the Suffrage agitation!

EXTENSION OF THE LONDON OFFICES.

The Freedom League is growing at such a rate that new premises are being needed all over the country. Glasgow has its Suffrage centre, Ipswich has just taken a club house, and now we have been forced to extend our central London offices. A large new office has been secured in the same block of buildings in Adelphi Terrace, to which the whole of the Press and Literature Department has been transferred.

FUTURE EVENTS IN LONDON.

Sat., Dec. 11th Royal Albert Hall: Yuletide Festival, 3—10.30 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 13th 1, Robert Street: N.E.C. Meeting.
Wed., Dec. 15th "At Home," Portman Rooms, Baker Street: 3—6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 30th Alan's Tea Rooms, 263, Oxford Street, W.: Mrs. Toynce, 8 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 8th 1, Robert Street: N.E.C. Meeting.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Head Offices: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.
Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.

Organisers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS OLIVE ROBERTSON.
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

The Opening of the Scottish Suffrage Centre.—In spite of the proverbial incapacity of the British workman to finish his job to time, the Suffrage Centre was opened on Wednesday, December 1st. A series of successful meetings marked the appreciation of our members and friends, and the income from their purchases and gifts has been quite gratifying. Things have not yet begun to run quite smoothly, but the rush of the removal, added to the strangeness of new duties and the general interest and excitement, more than explain that. Within a few days Miss K. MacArthur, who has been appointed centre secretary, will have everything in apple-pie order.

The premises are acknowledged on all sides to be delightful. There are shop, hall, and kitchen on the ground floor, a cloak-room and the National sub-office for Mrs. Billington-Greig on the next (gallery) floor, and a large office for the Scottish Council above. The centre is decorated throughout in colours of the League, white predominating. The artistic hall, which serves as tea-room, meeting-place, and showroom for women artists' work, has been visited by many hundreds of people during the four days it has been open. The workers who have given willing service and beautiful goods are entitled to the best thanks of all friends and especially of the Centre Committee.

Glasgow Branches: Western.—At a committee meeting held 25th ult. we agreed on a banner for our branch from a sketch sent by Miss Willis, Suffrage Atelier, and hope to have it ready for the Albert Hall Fête, December 11th. It was with much regret we had to abandon the idea of having a stall there, but we have decided to send a donation, and so have some little share in this great event.

Kirkintilloch.—On Thursday, Nov. 25th, Miss Kirby and Miss Anna Munro paid a visit to the Young Scots Society by request, and Miss Munro gave them an address on the "Fundamentals of Women's Suffrage." The sympathy of the audience was entirely with us, and we hope in a short time to have a branch in Kirkintilloch.

Central.—At the meeting on Wednesday we decided to have the design for the banner which had been sent by the Suffrage Atelier of the Glasgow coat of arms and the motto "Let Glasgow Flourish."

Dennistoun Branch held its fortnightly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18th, and, despite the thick fog all the week, there was a good attendance. Miss Bunten charmed her hearers by her vivid description of her experiences in London and picketing outside the House of Commons.

Springburn held its first meeting (a social one) on the 26th ult. in the Reid Hall. Mrs. R. Wilson presided, and Miss Munro spoke. Twenty new members were gained, and also some for the other city branches and one for Paisley.

Edinburgh Central.—On Tuesday we had as speaker in the Café Vegetaria Miss Isabel Hamilton, LL.A., of the Glasgow Junior Student Centre. Miss Hamilton's wide experience in educational matters made her address on "The Influence of Women on Modern Education" particularly interesting and suggestive. It had the further good quality of rousing discussion, which was taken part in by several of those present, and which was continued even after Miss Hamilton had left to catch her train.

Mrs. Paterson's term of office as president having expired, Mrs. Bell was unanimously elected as her successor, while Miss Sarah Munro became vice-president. The retiring president was heartily thanked for her services to the branch. Mrs. Thomson

and Miss Mary Jolly, M.A., were appointed literature secretaries, and some vacancies on the committee were filled up.

HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assist. Sec.

Dundee.—The usual branch meeting was held last Tuesday. Final arrangements were made for the jumble sale. A resolution was passed protesting again the sentences imposed upon Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans. Copies of this have been sent to Mr. W. Churchill and Mr. A. Wilkie, the Dundee members, and to the local Men's League. In the event of a General Election it was intimated that Miss Schofield would be sent to work Dundee and district. The members were also extremely gratified at the news that Mrs. Billington-Greig was to be with us in January.

In the *Dundee Advertiser* have been appearing letters from the president of the Dundee Women's Liberal Association (Lady Leng) upholding the Government in everything they have done, do, or may do. Our Press secretary challenged one statement she made. It was to the effect that Mr. Asquith had cordially received duly-accredited deputations of women, and, moreover, had given them satisfaction in his replies. By looking up files of papers, beginning with the deputation at Ladybank in 1906, when Mr. Asquith was Chancellor of the Exchequer, down to the present time, the few deputations that Mr. Asquith had met and his extremely unsatisfactory replies were duly set down, also the *Advertiser's* own comment on one, that the deputation received cold comfort from Mr. Asquith.

This was sent in to the *Advertiser*. Two days elapsed, but no letter appeared. Then our Press secretary wrote to the editor asking for her letter back, as the information was too valuable to be flung into the waste-paper basket, and expressing surprise that the opinions of both sides should not be published. Back came a communication with the editor's regret that the letter had not been kept, and that he thought he had given sufficient space to both sides; but it was curious that a letter from Miss Pankhurst was published the following day.

Since then our secretary has written commenting on the fact that no arrests were made in connection with the pro-Budget crowds around the Houses of Parliament, and contrasting that with the treatment accorded to the women. The *Courier* (Unionist) has published this, but not the *Advertiser*.

J. A. SMART.

FUTURE EVENTS IN SCOTLAND.

Thurs., Dec. 9th Lochwinnoch: Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 10th Glasgow, Hamilton Cres. Literary Society: Miss Semple, 8 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 14th "At Home," Cafe Vegetaria, Edinburgh: Hostess, Miss Clapperton; speaker, Miss A. B. Jack, 4 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 15th Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street: Mr. Robert Sclanders, 8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 18th Jumble Sale.

REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES.

Liverpool—Headquarters: Organisers: Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Miss Farquharson, M.A.
25, Canning Street. Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.
Manchester—Organiser's Address: Assistant Organiser: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.
South Yorkshire—Organiser's Address: Assistant Organiser: 12, Athol Road, Manningham, Miss L. Irene Tillard, Bradford.
N.E. Yorkshire—Headquarters: Organiser: Northgate, Roman Road, Miss Alice Schofield, Middlesbrough.
South Wales—Temp. Headquarters: Organisers: 14, Coldstream Terrace, Cardiff. Miss M. Matters, Miss V. Tillard.

Liverpool and North Wales.—Two public meetings have been held during the week, one in the Balfour Institute, Smithdown Road, and the other in the Temperance Hall, Chester. At the Balfour Institute an interesting and interested audience gathered to hear about "Votes for Women." The audience was for the most part working-class, and the economic pressure under which women are unjustly labouring left a deep impression. The district is populous, and we hope to hold another meeting soon. The Chester meeting was very small owing to the fact that the workers had nearly all been taken up with the play "How the Vote was Won," and that the evening was particularly stormy. On the following evening a dramatic entertainment, including the production of "How the Vote was Won" and the Court Scene from the "Merchant of Venice," was given by the Chester members, under the direction of Mr. Oliver, to strengthen the finances of the district.

Arrangements are now being made in Liverpool for the working of the Knotty Ash district, where we propose to hold the week after next a public meeting, at which Lady Geraldine's speech will be acted. MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON.

South Yorkshire.—The arrangements for the meeting on December 7th are now practically finished, and everything promises to make it a success. A large number of tickets have been sold, and many local men and women have volunteered to act as stewards.

A reception is being given at the Midland Hotel on the 8th, by the kindness of Mrs. Alfred Unna, who has issued invitations to many people, inviting them to come and meet Mrs. Despard.

The leader of the Liberal women has to-day announced at a meeting of the N.U. that, owing to the glories of the Budget, they will not dream of leaving their party at the General Election to work for their fellow women. With tears in her eyes she informed us that now, if ever, women should lay aside this question of the Suffrage, because it is a more important question whether the poor woman shall have a twopenny tax on tea than have a vote.

South Wales.—Llandilo gave us a good reception last Friday night, the Public Hall being full. But one meeting in these outlying parts is not sufficient, and at present we cannot spare longer time. An inspiring audience of colliers assembled in the Public Hall, Brynamman, on Saturday night, when we gave our point of view and heard theirs. This meeting had been arranged by Mrs. E. A. Cleaves and the Swansea Branch. Our novel charge at Llanelly on Monday attracted the notice of the Welsh Press. We had had more than enough of our meetings being disturbed by irresponsibles, so we brought in the help of the responsables, viz., women, and made this charge—women, 3d.; men, accompanying their women-folk, 6d.; men unaccompanied, 1s. No man came alone! The result was fine. Never have we had a better meeting, and this in spite of one of the local papers inciting the men to have a "lively time." With a little more work a branch could be formed in Llanelly. Another meeting arranged by Swansea took place at the Institute, Gorseion, on Thursday night. Miners of all ages filled the hall, and followed keenly the political arguments.

We are now in Cardiff, working up an audience for the performance of "How the Vote was Won" at Penarth on Monday next. Viscount Tredegar's orchestra is helping us again, and everything promises well. A permanent organiser is absolutely necessary for Wales now that we have got so much of the country under way. Money is wanted and a suitable personality—Celtic if possible—to carry on the work. The Freedom League is now well known and appreciated in Wales: the railway officials alone demonstrate this. As we pass up and down the country the guards come to buy our literature, and ask for future dates of meetings, &c. They serve as channels of communication in more ways than one. Help and all offers should be addressed to 14, Coldstream Terrace, Cardiff.

MURIEL MATTERS.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PROVINCES.

- Fri., Dec. 10th **Swansea** ("Graigden," Eaton Grove): Show of Goods for Festival. Hostess, Mrs. MacGillivray, 7.30 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 11th **Swansea**: Special Train for Yuletide Festival leaves High Street, 6.15 a.m.; Bridgend, 7.15 a.m.; Cardiff, 8.4 a.m.; Newport, 8.28 a.m.; arrives Paddington 11.20 a.m.
 Wed., Dec. 15th **Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells**: Mrs. Despard, Rev. W. R. Holman (chair), 3 p.m.
 Thurs., Dec. 16th **St. George's Hall Liverpool**: Tableaux. Cardiff: H. Baillie Weaver, Esq., Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

W.F.L. speakers for public meetings and drawing-room meetings should be asked for through the Head Office some weeks before the date fixed for the meeting. Apply to Mrs. Hicks, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

CASH RECEIVED, NOVEMBER 21—DECEMBER 4.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Boothby, Miss E.	0	1	Cook, Lady	50	0
Craig, Miss E.	1	10	Borrmann Wells,		
Matters, per Miss			Mrs. B.	1	15
(South Wales cam-			McGregor, Miss E.	0	2
paign): Mullins,			Central Telegraph		
Mrs., 5s.; Jones,			Office (per Miss		
Miss M., 1s.;			Wolf)	0	5
Lloyd Davies,			Petty, Miss R.	0	1
Mrs., 1s.; collec-			Benett, Miss S.	0	1
tions, £9 4s. 2d.	9	11	Sutch, Miss E.	0	1
Manning, per Miss...	1	15	Sidley, per Miss:		
Jeffries, Miss E. E.	1	1	Westroy, Mrs., £1;		
Chapman, Miss	1	0	collections, 15s.	1	15
Anonymous	0	10	Snow, Mrs.	0	1
Despard, Mrs. (lec-			Knight, Miss E.	0	2
ture fee)	0	10	Symes, Mrs. M.	0	2
How, Miss L.	1	0	Morris, Mrs. A. G.	0	5
Bache, Miss	0	10	Armstrong, Madame		
Atkinson, Miss G.	0	1	M.	0	2
"A Sympathiser"	0	1	Carey, Mrs. W.	0	5
Maclachan, Mrs.	0	10	Fryer, Miss H.	1	1
Kent, Miss B.	0	10	Branches	0	15
Wheatley, Mrs. A. L.	0	2	Tickets	34	16
Northern Heights			Collections	8	7
Branch	1	0	Sundries	0	6
Mocatta, Miss	50	0			
Hicks, Mrs. L.	3	7	Total	223	7
Anonymous (per Mrs.			Amount previously		
Hicks	0	2	acknowledged	4,194	11
"One who disap-			Grand total	£4,417	18
proves the action,					
but admires the					
spirit" (Bermond-					
sey Protest)	50	0			

BRANCH NOTES.

Bromley.—An entertainment and social were held in the Bromley Town Hall on Saturday, November 27th, from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Mrs. Brown presided. Mr. Alfred Baker, in his opening speech, gave a true version of the trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans, and warmly upheld the motives and actions of the Suffragettes. The Bromley Branch congratulates itself on having such a champion in its midst. Mrs. Borrmann Wells made a forcible speech, emphasising the aims and work of the Freedom League and inviting those present to join.

There was a good attendance, and in spite of many disappointments owing to the illness of several speakers and performers the meeting was a successful one. Miss Law and Miss Bremner kindly filled gaps at the last moment, the former speaking and afterwards reading a Suffrage poem, the latter occupying the Holloway Cell, which was on view at 6d. a head. Songs, recitations, waxworks, literature stall, cake and candy stall, and refreshments were further attractions. Mr. Manson rendered invaluable service during the evening, though illness unfortunately prevented Mrs. Manson being with us.

One novel feature of this Suffrage gathering was the fact that many non-Suffragists gave us valuable help, one professed "anti" "toiling terribly" for us all day. We think this a hopeful sign.

A. EVANS, Hon. Sec.

Sheffield.—A most enjoyable "At Home" was held on Monday evening, November 29th, by this branch at the Ethical Rooms, at which there was a good muster of members and friends.

Music and recitations were given during the evening, and a discussion on the Bermondsey Policy, ably opened by Miss Clarke, furnished a most interesting feature of the programme. There was also a cake and candy stall, the delicious contents of which were made by Suffragettes, and realised a substantial sum for the funds.

D. E.

Sunderland.—This branch held its first members' meeting on Thursday night, Mrs. Storey presiding. In spite of the pouring rain quite a good number were present, and discussed the different ways and means of extending the work and making the monthly meetings attractive. We are all looking forward to a debate on "Votes for Women" which is to be held in St. Peter's Hall the third week in January. Particulars of date, &c., will be announced later.

L. ROBINSON.

Hampstead Branch.—We are glad to be able to report that our Wellington Hall meeting last Monday was a great success. The Branch had been working hard during the previous weeks to rouse a somewhat apathetic neighbourhood, and was rewarded by seeing an audience of well over 300 turn up to hear Mrs. Despard and our other speakers. To our great regret Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett was prevented by illness from speaking, but we had a magnificent substitute in Mrs. Amy Sanderson. Mrs. Nevinson gave one of her practical speeches, and Mrs. Hicks made an ideal chairman. The audience was most attentive.

M. LUCAS.

ELIZABETH RUSSELL.

Wolverhampton.—The first meeting held by militant women at Upper Etingshall took place on Tuesday last, when Mrs. Emma Sproson addressed a large meeting at the Methodist Chapel. Mrs. Darby, an enthusiastic member of the League, presided. Mrs. Sproson was well received, and dealt eloquently with the question from the working woman's standpoint. A gentleman in the audience, in moving a vote of thanks, said he had never before taken the Suffragettes as serious people, but after listening to the able address by Mrs. Sproson he fully realised the importance of Woman's Suffrage. Other members of the audience spoke.

F. S.

Swansea.—We had two meetings this week, one on Thursday at Carmarthen Road, when Miss Phipps, B.A., addressed a good gathering. On Saturday we were at Brynamman, when the audience of some thousand, mostly colliers and tinplate workers, gave Miss Phipps and Miss Muriel Matters a capital hearing. Mr. John Davies and other members of the local I.L.P. rendered most valuable help. The usual resolution was put, and there were no hands held up against it. We were besieged afterwards by friends wanting meetings in neighbouring villages. Things are coming in well for our Yuletide Festival Stall, and this week I thank Mrs. Morgan Williams, Mrs. and Miss Neal, the Misses Macdonald (London), Miss Jeffreys, Miss Hall, Miss Fischer, Miss Hoskins, Miss Mamie Jenkins, and Miss Johns for their contributions.

M. MCL. CLEEVES.

The Manchester Central Branch met as usual on Thursday, the 25th inst., at 9, Albert Square, and though the attendance was small the members made up by enthusiasm for lack of numbers. In the absence of the President through illness, Miss Heyes conducted the speakers' class and the business meeting, and the general meeting was adjourned to give the members an opportunity of advertising the "At Home," which takes place on Wednesday, December 1st. Arrangements were made for the sale of THE VOTE during the week-end.

M. I. NEAL, President and Press Secretary.

All communications for the W.F.L. pages to be sent to the Press Secretary, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., not later than the first post on Saturday morning.