

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. II.—No. 46.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

Telephone: HOLBORN 6191.

## EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... .. 6/6 per annum, post free.

Foreign Countries ... .. 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons.

## WHAT WE THINK.

### Women in the Printing Trade.

The Edinburgh Typographical Society is providing us at present with a crying example of the kind of industrial protection which the working man has so often accorded to his sister woman, and the hypocrisy which can be imported into the conduct of this purely selfish attempt at monopoly seems to be considerable. Mr. Robert Allan, the chairman of the Society, made an attempt at a recent meeting to whitewash the strike of the men against the employment of women. "They were fighting for a principle," he said, "not for the exclusion of women from any industry, but that the labour of women must not be exploited to the detriment of men." But this statement is futile and dishonest. When the master printers' concessions—concessions which involved the exclusion of women learners for a period of five years—were rejected by the men the reason given was "that they did not provide for the ultimate total elimination of female labour, which was indefatigably insisted upon as a vital necessity of any settlement." As if this were not enough, we get the Edinburgh Trades Council refusing to recognise the Women's Union, and characterising it as a bogus association which has been engineered by the women suffragists. If the men's effort to protect the trade were honest, they would not first bar the women from training, and, secondly, force them into the position of blacklegs, only to use both these deliberately-produced conditions later as arguments for their exclusion; they would rather organise the women workers alongside of themselves, admit them to membership of their societies and to full apprenticeship, and make a mutual arrangement with them to join in a regular effort to level up the women's wages gradually until the evil was eliminated. When we find the men printers making this effort we shall believe in their protestations of good faith; but meanwhile we can only emphasise the peculiar helplessness of the women—the men printers exclude them, the master printers exploit them, and they have no right of appeal except to a Government Department which is responsible only to these same men!

### Other Women Workers.

There has been unrest among women workers in various industrial centres during the week, but chiefly in Cradley Heath and Neilston. A second strike, on this occasion among the bleachfield workers, has occurred in the latter place, where the assistance given to the women by Mr. George Dallas and the Glasgow Trades Council might be followed with advantage in the East Coast Metropolis. The Cradley Heath strike is not yet settled, but is being

well supported by public subscriptions, and a settlement during the month seems to be more than probable.

The inquiry by the Belfast Board of Guardians has revealed some terrible conditions among the women outworkers in the linen trade. One relieving officer reported he found women who worked eight hours per day and earned four shillings per week, worked nine hours and earned five shillings, worked six hours and earned three and sixpence, and worked "constantly" and earned fivepence per day. All of these women received Poor Law relief. A Mr. Elliot, in offering a summary of seventeen cases, stated that the total income by work and from the Guardians amounted to £4 8s. per week, or 5s. 2d. per head, but there were seventy-one persons dependent on the seventeen recipients of outdoor relief, which gave 1s. 4d. per week for the keep of each person. It will be a pity if the Guardians allow this important matter to drop. The interests of the outworkers demand immediate and complete inquiry, and there seems to be no good reason why the ratepayers' money should be used to subsidise the sweating employers.

### Women in Police Courts.

It is to be hoped that the women of Hyde will give the chairmen of the bench of magistrates and the Chief Constable of the district the benefit of an educative protest by regular attendance, and, if possible, intervention, as members of the general public, in the local Police Court proceedings. The appearance of a number of women in the gallery one day last week called forth from these two important personages the following interesting dialogue:—

THE CHAIRMAN: It is idle curiosity.

CHIEF CONSTABLE: If they would get on with their work at home instead of coming here, it would be better for them.

It really would be better for the dignity of public offices if men of this class did not so constantly cover themselves with ridicule by this Turkish patriarchal attitude of pompose silliness.

### Illiterate Men Voters.

We are so constantly informed that women have not sufficient political education to make good use of the franchise that we sometimes over-estimate the call this function will make upon our intelligence. The recent return on the last General Election reassures us. It appears that 41,000 illiterate men recorded their votes during this election. If they performed the feat without even elementary education, perhaps we may manage without the political—about which, by the way, there are no figures supplied.

### Belloc Challenged.

Some time since it will be remembered that, on being challenged to state his objection to Women's Suffrage in a public debate, Mr. Hilaire Belloc declined to debate the subject either with a woman or before an audience containing any women. He has now been given an opportunity of debating the question with a man and before an audience composed exclusively of men, having been publicly challenged to a debate on Women's Suffrage by Mr. F. Sheehy-Skeffington. It is suggested that the debate be held in Dublin during Mr. Belloc's visit there in October, all necessary precautions being taken for the exclusion of members of the sex under discussion. After all his indiscriminate and reckless utterances impugning the integrity and patriotism of the women of the country, Mr. Belloc is in honour bound to accept the challenge. We pause for his reply.

**MADAM STEER,** Theatrical Costumier  
and Wig Maker,

22, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

Factory: 5, WATERLOO ROAD, S.E.

FANCY COSTUMES Made to Order or Lent on Hire.  
THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

**WE DON'T THINK,  
WE KNOW.**

ROYAL WORCESTER KID FITTING CORSETS are the most perfect in shape and most comfortable in wear, and give that indefinable smartness to the figure which is so charming. For name and address of nearest agent and booklet write to ROYAL WORCESTER WAREHOUSE CO., 19 & 21, Great Portland Street, London, W.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 Central.  
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD

President and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. C. DESPARD.

HON. SEC., MRS. HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.; ASST. SEC., MISS THOMPSON.

ORGANISING DEPARTMENT.—POLITICAL AND MILITANT, MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG; PROPAGANDA, MRS. BORRMANN WELLS; PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.—MISS HICKS, M.A., MRS. SNOW.

### PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT.

#### The Work.

We are making a good beginning in September, for the Southern counties will form three, and perhaps six new branches this month, and the Northern counties are just as active. What is equally satisfactory is the display of energy in the already established centres and of greater co-operation among workers. The Propaganda Department is finding plenty of helpers, and we are getting more and more in a position to support the work anywhere and everywhere. Still we ask for more help and more co-operation. If any members want to aid, practical and congenial work can be found for them immediately, and the needs of no branches will be overlooked.

#### Open-air Propaganda.

This is every day increasing, and is drawing sympathisers together, and helping us to get new members. Reports from all over the country are most encouraging, and while indicating the revival of interest in political questions, show still more the way the conviction is spreading among the public that the enfranchisement of women is not only a just measure, but one which is likely to find an early solution.

#### Bournemouth.

Next Saturday, 10th inst., a "Mary Wollstonecraft" commemoration function is to be held in Bournemouth. A deputation will leave the Square at 3.30, and will proceed to St. Peter's Churchyard, where wreaths will be deposited on the grave. At 8 in the evening a meeting will be held in the large St. Peter's Hall. The speakers will include Mrs. Despard and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson. London and other members who can spend the week-end at Bournemouth are asked to communicate with me or with Miss Underwood at 88, Commercial Road, Bournemouth. Excursion services will also run, and we hope there will be a large attendance so that the meeting may be a great success.

#### Caravan.

The caravan is now at Olney, from whence it will proceed to Newport Pagnell. With the advent of more settled weather, the van offers energetic members delightful holiday work, and volunteers are asked for.

#### Pageant of Great Women.

London district members are urged to call or send at once for tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d., for the performances (viz., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.) of the Pageant at the Beckenham Public Hall on September 24th.

#### Florence Nightingale.

A meeting in honour of Florence Nightingale will be held shortly, and those particularly interested in the life-work of this great woman are urged to help in the preliminary arrangements.

#### Falmouth.

One of our members is staying in Falmouth for the next few weeks, and is desirous to get into touch with Suffrage workers there, whether residents or visitors.

#### "The Vote" and Literature Sellers.

are always wanted, and the office at 1, Robert Street, is open until 9 o'clock every evening, except Saturday and Sunday, for those who cannot call during the day.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

### CARAVAN TOUR.

#### Wellingborough.

Miss Henderson rejoined the van on Monday, when we had another meeting in the Market Square. It had been chalked that morning, but the rain had promptly washed it off, so we were surprised to find a big crowd awaiting us, great interest in our question having been aroused by our good meetings here last week.

The next day we went over to Kettering, and spent the afternoon chalking a meeting for that night. To quote the *Kettering Leader*:—"At the time appointed two young ladies were seated on an extemporised platform near the electric lamp in the centre of the hill." The paper goes on to comment on the "hooligan" behaviour of the crowd, but we did not consider it at all severe compared with the treatment we had received in other places. The *Kettering Leader* says:—

"Suffragettes were again busy at Kettering on Wednesday in chalking the pavements, and thus announcing a meeting in the evening.

"For nearly an hour Miss Sidley spoke on the Market Place in the evening very forcefully, the 'chairman' being the same young lady as on the previous night. The attendance was even larger than on Tuesday night, and the young lady riveted the attention of her listeners, the great majority of whom had evidently come to learn and not to make sport. A few hobbledehays were there, and some of them occasionally threw paper pellets and orange peel, amid remonstrance on the part of their elders.

"When question-time came there was one interrogator, who received an answer. The young lady waited some little time for other questions, and, no more being forthcoming, she observed, 'Only one out of a crowd like this!' and attributed the lack of interrogations on the part of her male opponents to shyness. The crowd remained through collection-time, and a number of pamphlets were sold.

"But the most interesting feature came at the close, when a number of men, both married and single, pushed forward to get a penny postcard bearing a picture of the lecturer, and to wait whilst Miss Sidley appended her signature to each of the photographs."

Thursday morning we spent chalking this entire town for our women's meeting on Friday afternoon. We also called on local sympathisers, and on that evening we received visits at the van instead of holding a meeting.

On Friday morning we did more calling, and that afternoon, as a result of all our efforts, we had an audience in the Central Hall of about eighty women, who appeared very interested in the question. Miss Henderson took the chair, and Mrs. Parr, a member of the W.S.P.U., also spoke. Afterwards we adjourned to a tea-party at Mrs. James's, where we met some of the members of our audience. Miss James is hon. secretary of the Wellingborough W.L.A., and has been of the greatest assistance and encouragement to us in helping to let people know of our meetings, and supporting the cause among her members. She brought us a charming vase of flowers in the League colours to decorate our chairman's table, which with green, white, and gold bunting hung in front, looked splendid. We hope this meeting has paved the way for a local branch; we have already enrolled several members. On Saturday morning we thoroughly cleaned up the van, in the midst of which operations we were visited by two passing lady tourists, who were charmed with the cosiness of our little house, and put a contribution in the box. In the afternoon we returned to Kettering for a third and last meeting, accompanied by one of our local members. As before, we chalked pavements all the afternoon, and were "snapped" four times at the job for the local newspapers. A huge crowd gathered round us that night, and listened most attentively to the end, and then bought books and badges until the latter were sold out.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

#### Dean Farrar said:—

"Deeply have those nations rued their folly which kept womanhood in a state of servitude and depression. It may perhaps be urged that the ancient Greeks were a race splendidly endowed with physical beauty and intellectual power, and yet that in Athens women held a somewhat subordinate and depressed position. It may be answered that the glory of Greece in the zenith of her greatness was very shortlived, and the undoubted cause of her speedy deterioration was connected with the poverty of her conception of the true dignity of woman's nature. It may be said that false and degraded views about women have tended more than anything else to retard the best development of many nations and many ages."

#### Mark Twain said:—

"I would like to see the ballot in the hands of every woman."

## THE PRINTING-TRADE DISPUTE.

### THE WOMEN'S POSITION EXPLAINED.

By AMELIA L. M'LEAN, Secretary of the Edinburgh Women Compositors' Union.



MISS SYMONDS, President.

The Edinburgh women compositors are at present third parties in a dispute, the chief point of which is an attempt to deprive them of their right to earn a living in the occupation which they have hitherto followed. It is now thirty-eight years since the women compositors entered the trade in Edinburgh. At that time the men were on strike for shorter hours, and the masters took women into the composing rooms. The men, no doubt, were greatly annoyed, but, as they were not then in a strong position financially, they were compelled to return to work after thirteen weeks, being thoroughly "beaten," as they have told us. Gradually girls were brought in, until now there are between eight and nine hundred in Edinburgh. Seeing printing is the chief industry here, it is not to be wondered at that girls went in to this particular branch of the trade, now that the men had, through their own behaviour, made a way for the women to enter.

All these years, however, the men have made it quite clear to most of us women that they wanted us out of the trade, telling us it wasn't healthy work, that we ought to be servants, or follow some other means of livelihood for which they decided we were more suited.

Until two months ago there was no Union for the women compositors in Edinburgh, but, owing to the dispute hastening to such an acute crisis, it was found necessary that, if women were to keep their position in the trade, they must organise themselves. After holding a few meetings, the women resolved to form a Union, and to name it the "Edinburgh Women Compositors, Readers, and Mono-type Operators' Union." Its aims are to keep the trade open to women, and also to better the conditions of the women presently employed.

For the last four months Mr. A. Evans, secretary of the National Printing and Kindred Trades Federation (London District), has been organising all the girls in the printing trade (including warehouse, machine-room, and stationery workers), and has also impressed upon a small section of the women compositors the benefits they will derive from joining the Union he represents, and coming out on strike with the men; in other words, to help them in enforcing their demand for the ultimate total elimination of female labour.

Fortunately, the majority of the women compositors cannot see their way to join that Union, as they claim to be skilled workers, just as the men compositors are; and, having been refused admittance to the Edinburgh Branch of the Scottish Typographical Association, they had no alternative but to form a union of their own. The men demanded from the masters:—

(1) The ultimate total elimination of women compositors from the trade;

(2) The manipulation by men of all new keyboards of type-setting machines;

The masters, not seeing their way to accede to these demands, offered the following counter proposals:—

(1) No new girl learners to be introduced into the trade for five years.

(2) Old keyboards to be left as at present; one half of the new keyboards to be given to men operators; the first keyboard in a new installation in offices which has none at present to be optional to man or woman, but in offices which have already an installation the next keyboard to be given to a man, and alternately afterwards.

(3) All corrections and upmaking to be given to men.

(4) No alterations in the present working conditions to be made within five years.

Failing the acceptance of the proposals, the employers are prepared to lay the whole matter before the Board of Trade, or before a Court of Arbitration, of which one arbiter will be appointed by each side, and, if necessary, these arbiters will appoint an oversman.

This offer of arbitration has been rejected on the ground that it did not provide for the ultimate total elimination of women's labour, which was emphatically insisted upon as a vital necessity to any settlement which could be accepted by the men's representatives.

The men state they have no objections to women's labour, provided it is paid at the same rate as men's. That, we know, would be impossible—at least, in the meantime, as up till now all girl apprentices have only served an apprenticeship of three years, whereas a boy serves seven. Therefore the woman, not having had the same training as a man, cannot possibly demand the same wage; also, not being physically as strong, she cannot compete with him where heavy lifting is required. The restrictions of Factory Acts on the employment of women render their labour less valuable to their employers than that of men, seeing that, in the printing trade, Court and Government work sometimes compels day and night working.

In Saturday's paper there appears a proposed settlement which we as a Union should be glad to hear had been accepted amicably by both parties. The first proposal is that no new girl learners be introduced into the trade for five years after January 1st, 1911; the second, that after a 50 per cent. basis of men and women operators at the keyboards has been established, further new keyboards shall be given first to a man and then to a woman, and so on alternately.

### THE PAGEANT OF GREAT WOMEN.

Pageant! The word conjures up a vision of pomp and splendour, of the majesty that "doth hedge a king"! Our Pageant will lack in none of these, but its crown of glory will be the simple figures of those women who strove to right wrong, who attacked the very strongholds of evil, and, by patient courage and undaunted faith in their capacity for doing that which they had set out to do, removed mountains of difficulty and made crooked places straight.

We shall look with especial interest upon the face of Florence Nightingale, "the Lady of the Lamp," whose wise head planned and whose firm will carried out such schemes for the alleviation of the horrors of war that thousands rose up and called her blessed. Her gracious presence has "passed," but

She is not dead,  
The great can never die!  
They live forever  
In the hearts of nations!

You believe that women have been great, that they are great. Come to the Public Hall, Beckenham, on Saturday, September 24th, and realise your belief! As learned women and saintly women, artists, heroines, rulers, and warriors pass before you, as you hear of the work they have accomplished, give rein to your enthusiasm, let your hands proclaim your pride in womanhood; as these illustrious ones of all nations appear, let every woman present thank God that she belongs to the sex that, in spite of fearful odds, has left such a splendid record upon the annals of history.



MISS M'LEAN, Secretary.

## MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT.

In 1792 there was published a book which aroused a storm of protest from a scandalised public—Mary Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Woman." It is difficult for women of the present day—freed from so many of the restrictions which hampered their sisters of former generations—to appreciate the high courage of the writer who thus boldly broached rebellious ideas and proclaimed a doctrine entirely contrary to the spirit of an age which, whilst beginning dimly to realise that *men* had claims as human beings, yet sought to keep womanhood in a state of permanent subjection.

Born in Hoxton in 1759 Mary Wollstonecraft's girlhood was passed amidst scenes of domestic tragedy. Her father—a spendthrift and hard drinker—was a man of ungovernable temper, who not only ruined the family fortunes, but cruelly ill-treated the mother, whom Mary loved with all the strength of a passionate nature, and of whom she became the self constituted protector. The commonly-accepted *métier* of the unmarried woman of the period—"sitting round the family hearth and petting papa"—had no charms for her. Even had such a life been possible, she early realised that it would be necessary, not only to be self-supporting, but to contribute towards the support of her family, and to this end had taken full advantage of such poor facilities for study as were afforded her. The chief occupations then open to the single woman having no male relative upon whom to depend were those of companion and governess; and Mary Wollstonecraft, from the age of nineteen to twenty-eight, was engaged in these uncongenial pursuits, at the same time being harassed by continual appeals for assistance from her two sisters and younger brothers.

The experience gained in these years of hard and bitter struggle found expression in a pamphlet on the Education of Daughters. This maiden effort was accepted and issued by that enterprising publisher Mr. Johnson, of Fleet Street; and at last the way seemed open for her to come to London and live the life of freedom and independence she so earnestly desired. Youth, beauty, and intellect, combined with unconventionality of thought and action, made her a fascinating personality, and secured for her a prominent position in the literary world of the day. The four years which followed were probably the happiest of her short and tragic life.

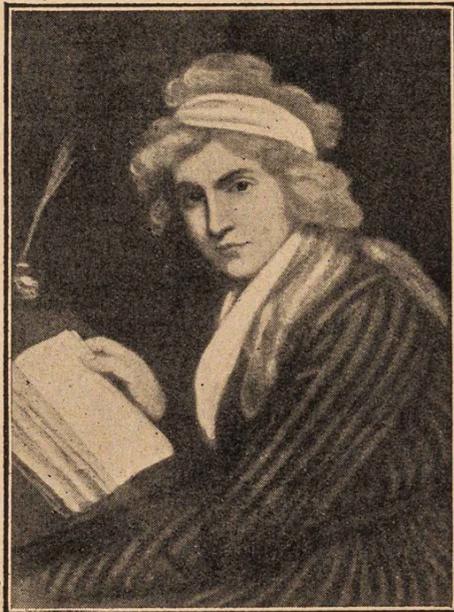
Old ideas do not easily die, and the pioneers of great social changes must always suffer when they choose to leave the easy paths, long trodden by so many other feet, to hew out new ones alone. The publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's book in 1792 brought down upon the head of the courageous author an unprecedented avalanche

of obloquy and scorn. That "this hyena in petticoats," "this philosophising serpent" (as Horace Walpole designated her) should be guilty of such an indelicacy as to write at all was bad enough, but that she should use her pen to attack the very foundations upon which the sacred superiority of man had, throughout generations, been painfully built up was an unforgivable offence, and that the writer should prove the sincerity of her convictions by putting into practice the theories she so enthusiastically advocated was to place herself entirely outside the pale of society.

Judged from a literary standpoint, the book is disappointing; its stilted diction, Johnsonian periods, and bombastic style are grotesque and unpleasing to modern ideas. Still more noticeable is its lack of continuity of thought and expression. Despite these blemishes, however, it stands apart as a trenchant analysis of the position of women in the eighteenth century, based upon bitter personal experience. The author, braving scorn and derision, pushed the question of woman's rights to its farthest limits, and boldly claimed for women as well as men social, economic, and political freedom. Realising that the progress of the race, ethically and socially, must come through the young, she emphasises the great need for change in the prevailing educational methods, and inveighs against the custom of confining girls to their needle and shutting them out from all political and civil employments.

Far in advance of her time, she outlines a system of co-education under which boys and girls, side by side, should, in addition to the three R's, study mechanics, botany, and the sciences, particularly stating that these studies should not be allowed to encroach upon the time set apart for gymnastic exercises in the open air. She prophesied that a day would come when women would be allowed to work at any art, craft, or profession for which they were fitted, and when women equally with men would receive an adequate recompense for their labour. The compulsory dependence of women aroused Mary Wollstonecraft's bitter indignation.

In a pathetic word-picture she portrays the miseries of the unmarried woman condemned to lead an unhappy existence in the house of a male relative or to live in joyless solitude upon a pittance grudgingly bestowed. Whilst proving the fallacy of the idea that the sole aim and end of woman is to make herself agreeable and pleasing to man, yet Mary Wollstonecraft, as her husband wrote of her after her death, "was a worshipper of domestic life." She points out that the care of children is one of the grand duties annexed to the female character by Nature, and that to be a good mother, a woman must have independ-



MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT.

(From the Portrait in the National Gallery, London, by Opie.)



**The William Morris Press: 42 Albert St., MANCHESTER.**

SPECIALISES ON SOCIAL WORK—REPORTS, PAMPHLETS, BOOKS, POSTERS, ETC. MODERATE PRICES. GOOD WORK.

**WE THINK YOU SHOULD BUY COALS NOW. PRICES ADVANCE SEPT.**  
 Stove Cobbles...17/6 Best Household 22/- Special House...21/6  
 Roaster Nuts...18/6 Large Kitchen...18/- Silkstone...24/-  
**William CLARKE & SON,**  
 341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.  
 95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.  
 Phones: 628 North, 1592 North, 720 Western, 665 Paddington, &c., &c.  
 DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

## WOMEN AND THE LAND TAXES.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—I have recently received a paper from the Inland Revenue Office headed "Duties on Land Values. Notice to Furnish Information," asking for the names and addresses of any persons to whom I pay rent or for whom I may collect rents, a penalty not exceeding £50 being incurred if this information is wilfully withheld. Probably this, or in the case of house owners a somewhat different, form has been issued to many of your other readers. As I am denied the rights of citizenship I absolutely decline to facilitate in any way the carrying out of the provisions of Mr. Lloyd George's Finance Bill, and am returning my paper with this written across it. I am hoping, through the Women's Tax Resistance League, of which I am a member, to obtain expert information which will enable me to make it impossible for the Government to exact the £50 penalty, and will leave them with no alternative but to imprison me in default. Will other women join me in making this protest? I feel that there must be many like myself who would gladly risk imprisonment for the cause, but who, for various reasons, find it very difficult, if not impossible, to take part in the more active protests which have hitherto brought women into conflict with the law. I cannot help hoping that we have here another vantage ground from which to attack a Government which refuses us justice.

W. S. PATCH

(Member of Women's Tax Resistance League.)

## 101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.

**32.**—The principal arguments against the representation of women are precisely those which have been urged against every extension of the suffrage to men. "Women are represented by their men-folk" is another form of the argument that the workman would find his interests carefully watched by his landowner or employer.

"The attempts to lull an unenfranchised class into a belief that their interests were the continual thought and care of the enfranchised classes have always had a certain amount of plausibility, but have always proved ineffectual.

"Men alone have a stake in the great issues of war and peace," so of old landowners alone had a stake in the country; "More will be done by the chivalry of men for women than could be done by women for themselves"; "Women can influence opinion indirectly without a vote"; and so workmen were assured that a Parliament of their rulers would never turn a deaf ear to any expression of their real needs. . . . There are no new arguments against the suffrage, and whatever ground there may be for admitting the representative principle is a good ground for carrying the principle to its logical conclusion."—L. T. HOBHOUSE, in "Government by the People."

Ruskin said:—

"We hear of the mission and rights of woman as if these could ever be separate from the mission and rights of man, as if each were a creature of independent kind and of irreconcilable claim. This is wrong, and not less wrong is the idea that woman is only the shadow and attendant image of her lord, owing him a thoughtless and servile obedience and supported altogether in her weaknesses by the pre-eminence of his fortitude. This is the most foolish of all errors respecting her who was made to be the helpmeet of man, as if he could be helped effectively by a shadow or worthy by a slave! Their relations, rightly accepted, aid and increase the vigour, honour, and authority of both."

ence of mind and character, only to be obtained by the full and free development of all her faculties. Much has been accomplished since Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin was laid to rest in Old St. Pancras Churchyard. Girls nowadays come and go with the same freedom as their brothers, the mode of their education has been revolutionised, and they earn their living in ways which even thirty years ago would have occasioned speechless dismay.

Much yet remains to be done, however, before the reforms so ardently desired and so heroically advocated by this apostle of sex equality are attained.

"Evolution," says a recent writer, "is the triumph of Hope over Heredity."

The name of Mary Wollstonecraft will go down to posterity as that of one who helped women to hope, and, so doing, helped them to live.

M. E. RIDLER.

## OUR BIRTHDAY COMPETITION.

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO "VOTE" SELLERS.

There are two sources from which THE VOTE receives financial support: (1) from its circulation, and (2) from the sale of advertising space. The concluding days of August and the early days of September are the most trying period in the life of the Advertising Manager. The gentle advertiser turns a deaf ear to all propositions relating to the purchase of space. He is so firmly of the opinion that no one reads the papers during the holiday season that it is difficult to convince him that the suffragist probably reads her VOTE more carefully during her brief interval of leisure than at any other time. Therefore, during this period of slackness we have to rely more than ever upon the goodwill and support of our readers, many of whom have recently rendered us such splendid voluntary service in introducing THE VOTE at seaside and holiday resorts at home and abroad.

Within the next seven weeks THE VOTE will celebrate its first birthday. We therefore propose to organise a special "Birthday Competition," which will, we hope, bring into play the maximum efforts of our friends and supporters who are interested in increasing the circulation of the paper. All who enter will have the satisfaction of knowing that in competing they are undertaking the best and most effective propaganda work. Few of us perhaps fully realise the power and the influence of the printed word. It is the printed word that has placed at our disposal the wisdom and the experience of former times. Today, through the medium of THE VOTE and similar publications, it proclaims the activities, the hopes, and the aspirations of the great woman's movement.

The contest we propose, with a view to making the propaganda of THE VOTE more and more far-reaching, is that of the individual VOTE-seller against her "bogey." This "bogey"—i.e., the largest amount of sales previously made by the competitor during any one month—will be verified and recorded at the office of THE VOTE. The competition will commence with our issue of September 17th and close with the issue of October 15th; and all papers sold in the competition must be obtained direct from 148, Holborn Bars, or from 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

A prize of One Guinea will be awarded to THE VOTE seller who attains the highest percentage above her "bogey"; and a further prize of One Guinea will go to the seller whose net sales reach the greatest total during the specified period.

It is expected that we shall be able to announce the result in No. 52 of THE VOTE, when we hope to be permitted to reproduce the photographs of the winners.

Intending competitors are requested to send in their names and addresses, together with their highest previous record, to THE VOTE Office, 148, Holborn Bars, London, E.C., at the earliest possible date.

The Empress Elizabeth of Austria wrote:—

"My heart bleeds when I think of the misery of those poor women and girls who work like slaves of ancient times without even being able to earn enough to feed themselves properly. The vessel entrusted by God with the propagation and continuation of mankind should at least be above want—the gratitude of us all demands so much."

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 148, Holborn Bars.  
 Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.  
 Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,  
 COUNTESS RUSSELL, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.  
 Managing Director.—Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1910.

### THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

The need of the hour is work—work that will increase our numbers and our funds, work that will register the strong public support which we have won, work which will indicate the certain political losses which must be faced by any obstructionist Government if our Bill is not passed into law. This work has begun already—it began before the House of Commons rose for the recess, it will go on until it meets again; but now that the holidays are over it must be multiplied a hundredfold. There must be no poverty of evidence for November 15th. The great total of the many little deeds which can be done must be as great as our hands and brains can make it.

Already the plans and suggestions sent out from the centre have been adopted by many branches. Already the scattered members up and down the country are getting into harness for the strain. New districts are to be developed, old ones reorganised; new subscribers are to be found, and old contributors won to an immediate increase of subscriptions. We may not be able to gather huge sums; but we know that it will be effective evidence to offer to the Prime Minister if we can boast an income doubled as the result of his threat of a blockade.

Every day is one clear opportunity; every day must have its deed. To-day it may be a letter to a local Member or a Minister; to-morrow a new subscriber or a new member, or a man won to join the Men's League; another day it may be the distribution of a hundred postcards, to be signed and posted to the Prime Minister; and another day the addressing of a meeting or the pushing of the sale of THE VOTE. But by the first week of November we must have our record ready—a record of some seventy days of deeds; of deeds which can be counted up and put to a general account, which in the aggregate will carry weight even in the mind of prejudice. This is the task before us. This is the need of the hour—the work that lies to our hands.

There are some Suffragists who shake doleful heads about the Conciliation Bill, but their attitude is mistaken. They are not looking upon the facts with wide-open eyes. There need be no shakings of heads. This Bill can pass. No other Bill ever had so good a chance of passing. Conditions never before were so favourable. Pressure is still needed; pressure will be needed to the end; but that is to be expected. We must not look to see the citadel of a prejudiced Minister abandoned without struggle. Only at the last moment will the yielding come. We shall not know we have won until the victory is upon us.

When things are so critical as this, a very little will turn the scale. Just a little more of evidence, just one more conclusive fact, just one added appeal or protest, and the scale is overbalanced—the dead weight is lifted. At no other time has every deed done so great a value; at no other time does the passing hour or day carry so momentous a decision in its short limits. We must take each of the opportunities of the next two months. We must take them and use them. We must coin them into deeds. We must pile them up, heaped and overflowing, until they are counted up as the price of the victory which we have so hardly earned—which then we shall have won.

The piling up of evidence has begun. Already new members, new subscribers, new branches, have been registered. Already schemes are afoot for postcard campaigns to be carried out in special districts. The women householders are being canvassed to sign postcards for immediate despatch to the Prime Minister. Men electors are being canvassed with the same purpose. One member has started letter-writing to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Home Secretary, on the

"snowball plan," and her example is being followed rapidly. In Wales the postcard and letter campaigns are to be specially directed towards Mr. Lloyd George. All these signs are good. Some members are about this pressing business; but all must combine.

It is especially necessary that no work done now shall go unrecorded. Meetings must be held and resolutions passed, and every one of these must be brought to the notice of the Prime Minister. We know that the public is with us. The whole point of the work of the present moment is that the Prime Minister shall also be made to know it. Therefore let every meeting be reported to headquarters, and every resolution be sent by post to Downing Street. It is especially necessary, too, that large meetings should be given their deserved importance, so that accurate estimates of all mass meetings should be noted in all reports.

Of all the evidence which will appeal to the politician there will be no evidence like that of the backing of men voters. To show that our own League has grown in numbers and subscriptions is essential, but it will be weightier even to show that the men of the country are getting restive under the Government's persistent policy of inept blockading. If the Conciliation Bill be killed, the angry men voters will be able to make effective protest—they have the weapon in their hands. Hence it is very necessary that all our men friends and supporters shall express themselves in the strongest possible way. New branches of the Men's League must be formed wherever a nucleus of friends can be gathered together. In many places they are asking for organisation; it merely needs that someone shall take the initiative. Where branches are in existence we can assist in swelling the membership roll. This will be effective political work, which will repay us many fold. For the man who is with us, but will not organise, there is the letter campaign and the protest postcard. Every friend you can reach will help to make up the grand total of these personal protests and appeals.

During special periods of stress the early Christians used to habituate themselves to do one deed of worship, one deed of grace, each day. We should adopt the same plan. We should hang a "Morning Reminder" above our beds, so that when we rise in the morning we may see before our eyes, as the first question of the day, "What Can I Do To-day to Save the Bill?" If we do this, and stick to it, and make each day give its deed to our total, we shall have some seventy deeds to record before the House opens again in November; and if some day can have its two deeds, it will become a day of special note, a red-letter day in the calendar.

But begin to-day. Remember that the evidence you collect may make the thing decisive. Take the opportunity that lies nearest to you. Do your share. However much we pay now, it will be worth it. Let us save the Bill.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREGG.

### MIDINETTES ON STRIKE.

The strike of the Paris midinettes, or shop girls, is spreading. Several large dressmakers' shops in the Rue Reamur have been thrown idle, and efforts are being made by the strikers to induce the employees in the most exclusive and fashionable dressmaking houses in the Rue de la Paix to join them. These efforts are not unlikely to be crowned with a measure of success. The strikers, who have won a good deal of public sympathy, are demanding increased pay and shorter hours of work. At present their pay ranges from one franc (10d.) a day for apprentices, to five francs for skilled hands. They work sixty hours a week. The girls are displaying an amazing knowledge of the methods of conducting strike agitations. They have formed a strong committee, and have declined the services of Labour Exchange agitators.

There is great anxiety among the most exclusive houses lest their employees should make common cause with the midinettes. As a manager explained to me to-day, these shops are just now very busy executing the orders of visiting Americans, who would be immensely put out if strikes delayed the completion of their orders. The strike fund is being well supported.—*Daily Chronicle*.



**Debenham & Freebody**  
 Wigmore Street,  
 (Cavendish Square) London W.

Famous for over a Century  
 for Taste for Quality for Value

**SPORTS  
 COATS.**

We have made a special study of Knitted Sports Coats, and have now in stock a very large assortment in wool, silk, and mercerised cotton. Our silk-knitted Coats are specially attractive. They are the most useful garment imaginable, and are suitable alike for dressy occasions and town wear, as well as for the seaside, the river, travelling, outdoor sports, and foreign seaside resorts. They have the style and effect of a perfect-fitting tailor-made garment, with the comfort and warmth of a negligé wrap. In black, white, and all the newest shades, including early Autumn tints.

**HAND-KNITTED SPORTS COAT** (as sketch),  
 beautifully made from soft, fleecy wool, suitable  
 for both slender and stout figures; 32 inches long, **29/6**  
 in black, white, and colours. SENT ON APPROVAL.

### BRANCH NOTES.

**LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.**—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

**Central Branch.**—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Mrs. Manson spoke with her usual force last Friday evening at the Marble Arch. In the course of her speech she expressed the desire that every boy and every girl should receive an education and upbringing equal to that which was at present open only to the wealthy classes. Her sympathetic words and interesting and instructive speech appealed very strongly to her large audience, and she received much applause. This morning (Sunday), at Regent's Park, our speaker (Mrs. Hicks) took the Conciliation Bill as her subject, giving a long and very interesting speech. There was much applause afterwards. Mrs. Hyde very kindly took the chair, giving a short but excellent address upon our Constitution. Next Sunday morning, 11th inst., Miss Morgan Browne and Madame Mirovitch have very kindly arranged to speak for us at twelve o'clock at the same spot.—EVELYN DE VISMES, Hon. Meeting Sec.

As presumably all Branch members take in THE VOTE, will they always look there for notices of Branch meetings, which will not be otherwise notified? The Branch now contains so many members that it is impossible to write to each one before every meeting. Members' meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m., at 1, Robert Street. Intimation of any unavoidable alterations that may take place at any time will be found in THE VOTE. If members will endeavour to be punctual, it will be a great saving of time—a matter of much moment to many of us who live at a distance. The next meeting will be an extra one on September 12th, at 7 p.m.—E. G. TRITTON, Hon. Secretary.

**Hornsey.**—8, Church Lane.

Near Hornsey Fire Station on August 29th Miss Neilans delivered a stirring address on "Politics and the Home." She spoke at length on the needs of the children, health, sanitation, education, religion, and conditions of the labour market. Mr. Simpson stimulated the crowd with his appeal for equal pay for equal work. Mr. W. Hammond acted as chairman.—M. S. S.

**Highbury.**—10, Highbury Hill, N.

Meetings have been held twice weekly throughout August, as usual, in spite of many active workers being away on holiday.

On Tuesday last Mrs. Wheatley kindly came and supported her plea for Women's Suffrage with a wealth of anecdote and argument. The main "argument" against Women's Suffrage was expressed in all its crudity by a small boy, who, asking for a leaflet, announced he ought to have one, as he was going to be an elector. When faced with the problem as to why he was to become an elector, and not the lady who gave him the leaflet, he replied, "Because I am going to be a man."

On Thursday a most successful meeting was held. Miss Neilans was the speaker, and converted one of our most constant and voluble critics to her point of view. Like Mr. Lloyd George, he was quite willing to allow Women's Suffrage a place in the Liberal programme after the Veto question was settled, and gave us to understand what a great concession he was making. A record number of "VOTES" were sold, and a collection was taken. The meetings will be continued as long as the weather allows.

**Hackney.**—4, Clarence Road.

Another very successful meeting was held in Victoria Park on Sunday, the 4th, with Mrs. Sproson as speaker and Mr. Hawkins in the chair. The inevitable "Adulterist" and "Superior Male" were again demolished, and a good impression was made upon a large crowd by Mrs. Sproson's exhaustive knowledge of labour questions and the political labour movement. It is noticeable that opponents are not now content with facetious remarks, and the crowd itself becomes impatient at irresponsible interruptions. The questions, too, for the most part, bear directly upon the economic aspects of the women's movement, and, with few exceptions, are put with the object of obtaining information. We should be glad of more assistance for the sale of literature, &c. The speaker for next Sunday is Miss Coyle.—L. P.

**Northern Heights and Tottenham.**—Meroq, Great North Rd., Highgate, N.

In spite of a grey sky and a very cold wind, there was a good meeting in Finsbury Park on Sunday, September 4th, the members of both branches turning up well to hear Mrs. Sproson. Mr. John Simpson took the chair, and devoted most of his speech to pointing out the advantages which would accrue to men through the granting of the Franchise to women. Mrs. Sproson spoke on the Conciliation Bill, and showed how in opposing the Bill Mr. Lloyd George had used the working woman as a stalking horse. A collection was taken and THE VOTE and other literature sold.—A. M.

**Croydon.**—9, Morland Avenue.

A larger crowd than usual assembled at South Norwood Clock on Friday to hear Miss Alison Neilans, who quite won their interest and applause by her splendid speech on "The Economic Position of Woman." As she had to catch an early train, she was only able to reply to two or three questions, the rest being answered by Miss E. Fennings, who had plenty to do, as the audience evinced an unusual thirst for knowledge. THE VOTE sold well, and the collection was the best we have taken there.—E. M. F.

**Crystal Palace and Anerley District.**—149, Croydon Road.

On Monday, at the Tram Terminus, Miss E. Fennings again had to conduct the whole meeting, as, unfortunately, the other speaker was prevented from coming at the last minute. There was a fairly large crowd, several questions being asked. THE VOTE was sold and a collection taken.—E. M. F.

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT.**—Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.,

Organiser's Address: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Branches: Manchester Central, Eccles, Urmston, Sale.

May I remind members of all branches that our autumn session opens with a social evening on Thursday, September 15th, at the Portland Café, at 7.30 p.m., when it is most important that all who wish the Conciliation Bill to pass should be present?

The present political situation will be discussed in reference to the autumn work and the coming Conference of our Branches.

The Manchester Organisation Committee has an important plan of action to bring forward, and the committee members are relying on the loyalty of the Branches to make the attendance at this meeting a large one and the extensive autumn campaign a success.—M. E. MANNING.

On Saturday, the 10th, meetings will be held in Colwyn Bay, and the workers will depart for the scene of triumph by the 7.50 a.m. express from the Exchange Station (L. and N.W.). The meetings are sure to be invigorating. Who is coming?—J. H.

**Sheffield.**—32, Dover Road.

Active preparations for the Pageant at the Albert Hall here on October 15th are now in hand. A meeting will be held on Monday evening, September 12th, for members and sympathisers to make final arrangements about sale of tickets, characters, costumes, and many other important points. In addition to Miss Edith Craig and Miss Cicely Hamilton, we are to be fortunate enough to have Mrs. Despard and Miss Olive Terry at the Pageant, and so we feel that, with attractions such as these, and with the enthusiastic support and energy we hope to receive from members and friends, our undertaking cannot fail to succeed.

## LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

**Waterloo.**—49, Kimberley Drive, Great Crosby.

The autumn session opened with a small but enthusiastic meeting. Miss Heyes (Manchester), in the course of an inspiring speech, pressed home the necessity for hard work during the weeks that intervene before the Bill comes forward for the third reading. Should the fates then decide against us, no pangs of conscience and regretful afterthoughts will be ours.

The immediate outcome of the meeting was a new member, and a contribution of 25s. to the National Fund, and three members volunteered to canvass women householders and men voters.—J. A. EVANS.

**Chester.**—13, Abbey Square.

Two very successful meetings were held in the Market Square on September 3rd (Market Day), successful as regards crowds, appreciation of speakers, amount collected (12s. 4d.), and copies of THE VOTE sold (eighty). A renowned male "Anti," who came "for a bit of fun," though he required tactful managing, really gave zest to the meeting by some of the points he unwittingly made. In contributing to the collection, he was careful to explain: "It was not because he agreed with us, but because the lady then speaking, Miss Heyes, was 'such a clever one.'" Mrs. Fenton (Waterloo Branch) came with Mrs. Evans, and rendered valuable help. Several new members, including one male associate, have joined us, and we, the active members of the Chester Branch, feel cheered by this good beginning of the autumn work. We hope that all our members and sympathisers will also be encouraged and roused to help.—E. WOODALL, Hon. Secretary.

**PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.**—64, Devonshire Avenue, Southsea.

We have held two open-air meetings this week. The one on Monday evening was advertised in THE VOTE to be held at the Town Hall Square. Arriving there, we found our pitch taken by the Free Trade Union. The other available corner was occupied by the Labour Party. A friendly policeman said he saw no reason why we should not hold our meeting near the Town Hall steps, but while Mrs. Crawley was hunting for a chair, a religious sect came and unfurled their banner, and so once more we were pitchless. However, we had come out to hold a meeting, and a meeting we intended to hold; so we repaired to the corner of Somers Road, where we soon collected a good crowd. Miss Gundry (one of our members) made her debut as a public speaker in Portsmouth by taking the chair.

On Friday a most successful meeting was held at St. Mary's Road. Miss Gundry again took the chair, and I spoke. After the meeting quite a number of men asked for our post cards to send to the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Crawley did good work selling THE VOTE and taking collections at both meetings. Visitors to Southsea can obtain THE VOTE at Mrs. Crawley's, 4, St. Paul's Road, Southsea.—S. WHETTON.

**EAST ANGLIA.**—Miss Andrews, 160, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

**Ipswich.**—160, Norwich Road.  
The first weekly meeting for the autumn session will take place on Thursday, September 15th. Arrangements for the Pageant which is to be held on October 20th are proceeding satisfactorily. Miss Badogh and Miss Elliott have kindly promised to provide for dances, and these, with some musical items, will fill up the first part of the programme. We are hoping for a short speech from our President, Mrs. Despard, who has kindly promised to be with us and to take the part of St. Hilda.

**Hadleigh.**

A drawing-room meeting was held on September 1st by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Bastian. An excellent address was given by Mr. Bastian on his recent cycling tour in Germany and his visit to the Passion Play at Oberammergau. The lecturer also gave from first-hand experience the effect of the Vote in those States of America where women are politically enfranchised. Mrs. Welham, in the course of a short speech, which lucidly brought out the position of the majority of working women, said "she would willingly give a small subscription to the League, but to the proposition that the women should sometimes arrange for afternoon tea she could not subscribe, as that would be too much of a luxury for a working-woman." On being asked whether the husbands did not spend money on tobacco she replied, "Oh, yes; they can have their little luxuries, but we must not."

At the close of the meeting tea was served and, best of all, a Branch of the Women's Freedom League was formed, consisting of fifteen members. The committee was composed as follows: President, Mrs. Bastian; Hon. Secy., Miss A. M. Matthew. Committee, Mrs. Heard, Mrs. Barber, Miss Wythe, Mrs. W. Clark, Mrs. Goat.

Great credit is due to Miss Matthew, who, aided by Mrs. Bastian, has worked so hard to get our movement understood in Hadleigh.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

**Talleyrand said:—**

"To see one half of the human race excluded by the other from all participation in government was a political phenomenon that, according to abstract principles, it was impossible to explain."

## SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

**Who Votes?**

At a Suffrage meeting at Portsmouth, Mr. Hugh T. Barrie, M.P., for North Derry, said he had always been in favour of giving the Parliamentary vote to women who were the owners or occupiers of property. For many years he had felt that the country had everything to gain and nothing to lose by granting that request. Locally they had, speaking generally, shown great discrimination and judgment in exercising the Local Government Franchise. He further remarked that at the last election in North Antrim, he thought he was correct in stating, it was found that not one half of the owners or occupiers of property in Portrush had the right to vote. No stronger illustration could be presented to them of the unsatisfactory state of affairs under the present law.

**Where the Laws are Made.**

At a recent meeting of shop assistants in Belfast to support the new Bill, one of the speakers said:—"A trade union did not exist for the purpose of providing a little friendly intercourse between its members; it had higher aims. He could not understand those who objected to the carrying of combination into the Parliamentary field, because if they wanted to make a radical improvement they had got to go where the laws were made. Therefore, they thought it was a good thing that the shop-workers had at least one representative in Parliament, and he hoped it would not be long until they had more. He had great pleasure in proposing the resolution."

**Lodging Houses for Women.**

Referring to the urgent need for a municipal lodging-house for women in Cardiff, the *South Wales Daily News* says:—"It is gratifying that both the City Council and the Trades Council are taking an active interest in the solution of this grave problem. The facts have only to be known to impress upon our public men to lose no time in making such provision for women as is made for men; it is a public scandal that women should be penalised and sacrificed to a policy of 'leaving well alone.' It is not well."

**Women Compositors.**

In connection with the printing trades crisis, the *Edinburgh Evening Despatch* says:—"On behalf of the Masters' Association, it is stated that they are determined, whether or not there is a strike, to improve the condition of the workers in the trade, both male and female. They anticipate such remedial measures as an apprenticeship for girls, during which the girls would be properly trained. In the course of the training a fixed rate of wages would be given, and a minimum considerably in excess of what they at present earned for the qualified women at the termination of their apprenticeship."

**Women's Labour Exchanges**

The effort to bring women workers from districts where they are not wanted into districts where they are is now being tested in a practical way.

At a recent meeting of the Leeds Board of Guardians, a letter was read from Miss Julia Thornton, supervising officer of the Yorkshire Division of Labour Exchanges, in which it was stated that, in view of the shortage of women labour for the worsted industry in the rural districts around Bradford and Halifax, and for the woollen industry in the Upper Colne Valley, it had been suggested that the Labour Exchanges might sometimes be able to find places for widows with daughters from thirteen years of age and upwards in receipt of outdoor relief, either temporary or permanently, if they were willing to move to those districts.

"Such families (proceeded the letter) must, of course, be clean, healthy, and respectable, and have good eyesight. The wages offered are the standard rates for the district—8s. 8d. to 9s. per week when learning, and rising according to the ability of the worker afterwards to 12s. 6d. and 14s. per week. The villages are healthy, and the conditions of labour in the mills good. The present employees are of a very high standard physically. I should be glad, therefore, if your Board would consider the possibility of co-operating with the Yorkshire Divisional Labour Exchange."

The Board readily decided to do all they could to carry out the suggestion contained in the letter.

**Manufacturing Voters.**

Friend George is not out for a cause, you see, but for a Party—his own Party—the Party that must be predominant if he is to remain in office. His speech on the Women's Suffrage Question was candour itself. The one object the Radical Government has in view is the manufacture of Radical voters, and any measure of female enfranchisement, to win the support of Friend George and his colleagues, must be one which will be certain to increase the number of their supporters at the polls.—*The Referee.*

## LIBRARY.

Books may be borrowed by members of the League. The following magazines and papers are taken, and may be read by members between 11 and 4, Saturdays 11 and 1, in the Literature Department, Room 28, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.: *The Englishwoman, Jus Suffragii*, the official newspapers of the W.F.L., N.U.W.S.S., N.W.S.P.U., C. and U.W.S.S., the Men's League, and the "Antis."

## THE WOMAN OF THE NOVELISTS.

By FORD MADDOX HUEFFER.

(Continued from page 225.)

## AN OPEN LETTER TO —.

MY DEAR MRS. —,

Let us now consider the woman of the English novelist, because, alas, we are a nation of readers so insular that only a few thousands of us have heard of Mme. Bovary, and a very few hundreds of Lisa. Consequently, these figures hardly bulk at all as colouring the figure of the Woman of the Novelist as she affects us English.

Let us consider the best-known woman of action in English imaginative writing: let us consider Portia. Here we have a woman witty a little beyond woman's wit; graceful a little beyond woman's grace; gracious a little beyond the graciousness of women; with a knowledge of the male heart a little beyond the knowledge that woman ever had. She is, in fact, the Super-woman.

If we love Lisa, we adore Portia; but if we believe in Turgenev's heroine, do we ever quite believe in Shakespeare's? Do we ever quite—to the very back of our minds—believe in Cordelia? Or in Beatrice? Or in Desdemona? Or in Juliet? Do we believe that we shall ever meet with a woman like these? And—what is more important still—do we ever believe that these women will "wear"?—that their qualities will not pass, their brilliances create in us no impatience, or cause in us no reactions that in their effects would try us beyond bearing? Portia might get us out of a scrape; Juliet might answer passion with passion; Desdemona might bear with our ill-humours; Beatrice would pique us delightfully whilst we were courting. We might, in fact—we do certainly—believe in these super-women during certain stages of our lives. But—What a very big "But" that is!

And yet, with the women of Shakespeare the tradition of the Woman of the Novelist is already in full swing. This particular good woman—the heroine of an episode—is a peculiarly English product—a product of what Schopenhauer called, as I have said, *Christo Germanisch Dummheit* (Christo Germanic stupidity). It is hardly, in fact, stupidity; it is rather idealism. (But then in the practical affairs of the world idealism is very nearly the same thing as stupidity.) The man, in fact, who would marry Beatrice would be a stupid man, or one obsessed by erratic idealism. (For certainly—quite certainly—she would *entrer dans mon cabinet*.)

Do not, please, imagine that these are mere cheapnesses. Or, if they are, consider how life itself is a matter of infinite cheapnesses. And then consider again how this tradition of the Super-woman heroine—the woman who is the central figure of an episode—has come right down to our own time on the wings of the English novel. She is always, this Super-woman, gliding along some few inches above the earth, as we glide when we dream we are flying. She is a sort of Diana with triumphant mien, before whose touch all knotted problems dissolve themselves. So she has traversed, this Woman of the Novelist, down and across the ages until we find her, triumphant and buoyant still, in the novels of Mr. Meredith. Do not we all adore Rose and Diana and Letty, and all these other wonderful creatures? And do not we all, at the back of our minds, disbelieve in them?

You will say that Mr. Meredith is the great painter of your sex. But we will not believe that; the statement is a product of emotion. You mean that he is the great pleader for your sex.

Ah! the Woman of the Novelist—the Woman of the Novelist; what great harm she has done to the cause of women in these days and for centuries back!

For consider what she has done; when Elizabethan England put Portia on the stage the Elizabethan Englishman considered that he had in public treated woman so handsomely that she had got as much as she could reasonably expect. He proceeded in private to cheat her out of nine-tenths of what she deserved.

You have only to read any of the innumerable "Advices to a Son," written by a Tudor gentleman, to realise to what an extent this was really the case. The

son was advised to regard his wife as a very possibly—a very probably—dangerous adjunct to a house. She was esteemed likely to waste a man's substance; to cheat his heirs in the interests of an almost inevitable second marriage; she was not to be chosen for her talkativeness, as that would distract a man; (*elle pourrait, in fact, entrer dans mon cabinet*). She was not to be of a silent disposition, because she could not entertain him when he needed entertainment. And so, hardly and coldly, with that peculiar hardness and coldness that distinguished all the real manifestations of Tudor prudence, were the lines of women's life laid down in these Tudor testaments. Woman was a necessary animal, a breeder of children, but she was a very dangerous one, or, at least, a very uncertain beast; a chestnut horse exhibited most of her characteristics. Desdemona and the patient Grisel were acknowledged to be dreams; Beatrice of the ready tongue was to be eschewed; and as for Portia . . . The Elizabethan was pretty sure even *his* lawyers, with their settlements, could not bind her.

So that, in Elizabethan days, as to-day, you had a Woman of the Novelists—a Super Woman—set on high and worshipped. But you had a very different woman whom you contemplated, if you were a man, from behind the locked doors of your *cabinet*.

To-day we have still the Woman of the Novelists—the woman of Mr. Meredith. Like Portia, she is inimitable in episodes; she will get a man out of a scrape; she will be inimitable during a season of courtship. We have that woman, and, when we marry, it is a woman something like Portia or Di Vernon or Sophia Weston, or Rose Harrington that we marry. We have given up as impracticable the Elizabethan habit of attempting, by selection or settlements, to choose and to tie down a partner for life. We have given it up; we say: "The woman of the novelists is one thing; but as for the woman we shall marry, she is an incomprehensible creature, bewildering and unknowable. We must take our chances."

But I should like to point out to you that we might say almost the same thing if we were going to make an indissoluble life-partnership with any man. We have, as it were, a romantic, a novelist's idea that men, in distinction to women, are upright, logical, hardworking, courageous, business-like. We do not really believe this. But, if we go into partnership with a man, we do it because we like him, or believe in him, because, in fact, he appeals to us. We cannot tell how he will "wear," any more than we can tell how the woman we marry, or want to marry, will "wear." He may go off with the till; it may prove intolerable to sit, day after day, in the same office with such a bounder; the fact that he comes in at night full of energy and loquacity may be intolerable, too, if he is sharing our rooms.

This will not much surprise us in a man. It is apt to disconcert us very much in our Portia, and we say: "What a strange beast woman is! She was so clever with Shylock. Has not she got the tact to see that we need our studios to ourselves?"

(To be continued.)

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, O.M.

Already various suggestions as to the form which a national memorial to Miss Nightingale shall take are being made. A public monument, the restoration of East Wellow Church and the beautifying of the churchyard; the establishment of a system of registration, combined with pensions, for nurses; and the endowment of certified midwives for poor manufacturing districts and in country parishes (proposed by Lady McLaren), are some of the propositions already put forward. A correspondent of the *British Journal of Nursing* writes:—"Why should not the Prime Minister, when Parliament reassembles, be invited to give facilities to the Women's Suffrage Bill as a tribute to the memory of the great woman whose services to the State are universally recognised as unique, who throughout her life desired the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, but who died on a political equality with criminals, lunatics, and paupers?"



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS. LONDON.



**DARE TO BE  
FREE.**

- Thurs., September 8.—Highbury Corner, 8. Miss Fennings.  
Finchley, Percy Road, Tally-ho Corner, 8. Miss Neilans.  
Acton Market Place, 8. Mrs. Tanner.  
Fri., September 9.—South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m. Mr. John Simpson and Miss E. Fennings.  
Winders Road, S.W., 7.30.  
Sat., September 10.—Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Duval.  
Sun., September 11.—Finsbury Park, 11.30. Miss Hicks, M.A.  
Regent's Park, 12. Mrs. Hicks.  
Sun., September 11.—Clapham Common, 5.30. Victoria Park, 3. Miss Coyle.  
Mon., September 12.—Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Crystal Palace (Tram Terminus), 8 p.m. Miss Ethel Fennings.  
Tues., September 13.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.  
Wed., September 14.—Willesden Green, 7.30. Mr. Yaldwyn.  
Thurs., September 15.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi, 6.45. London Branches Council.  
Finchley, 7.30 p.m. Miss Fennings.  
Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Fleisig.  
Acton, 8 p.m. Mrs. Whish.  
Fri., September 16.—South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m.  
Sun., September 18.—Finsbury Park, 11.30. Miss Neilans.  
Victoria Park, 3 p.m.  
Mon., September 19.—Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m.  
Tues., September 20.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Wed., September 21.—Willesden Green, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cunningham.  
Thurs., September 22.—Finchley, 7.30. Mrs. Tanner.  
Sat., September 24.—Beckenham Public Hall. The Pageant. At 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets, 5s. (reserved) and 2s. 6d. (unreserved), may be obtained from W.F.L. Office and from Mrs. Harvey, Bracken Hill, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent.

### Portsmouth.

### PROVINCES.

- Fri., September 9.—Chichester Road, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Whetton.  
Mon., September 12.—Town Hall Square, 7.45 p.m. Mrs. Whetton.  
Bournemouth.  
Sat., September 10.—St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, 8 p.m. Mary Wollstonecraft Commemoration. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson. Tickets, 2s., 1s., 6d., from W.F.L. Office, or from Bright's Stores, Bournemouth.  
Cheltenham.  
Wed., September 14.—Clarence Street. Rev. W. B. Graham. Bennington Hall (if wet).  
Chester.  
Mon., October 24.—8 p.m. Hall announced later. Mrs. Despard and Miss Janet Heyes.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

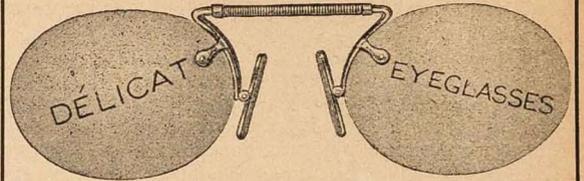
### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Preparations are being made for a campaign in Cambridge and district during the Church Congress Week, September 26th-30th. Meetings will be held at Royston (26th), Ely (27th), Newmarket (28th), Cambridge (29th), Huntingdon (30th). Open-air meetings will be held daily in the neighbouring villages. Among the speakers will be the Hon. Mrs. Henley, Miss Maud Roydon, Miss Frances Sterling, the Rev. C. Baumgarten, the Rev. A. C. Hoggins, the Rev. C. Hinscliff, the Rev. Llewellyn Smith, Miss Maud Roydon will also speak at a public meeting and a drawing room meeting at Bath on September 19th and 20th; also at Wells on September 21st and 22nd., and at Southport on September 23rd. The third week in October is set apart for special effort work. During that week a large meeting in London will be addressed by Mrs. Archibald Mackirdy (Olive Christine Malvery), whose magnificent efforts on behalf of and work for the "submerged tenth" are well known to the world. On the day preceding the opening of Parliament the League will go in procession to attend service at some well-known place of worship.

### BUYING SHARES FROM MARRIED WOMEN.

"Your ungallant correspondent," writes a married lady, "could easily demand to know the date of the marriage and the date of the acquirement of the shares, if he doubts whether the shares he is asked to buy from a married woman are really hers to sell. An annoying thing occurred to me this week. I have my own estate, and am in no way dependent on my husband, and he does not know I am insured. But on attempting to sell my insurance policy the solicitors for the buyer required my husband's consent! No wonder there are Suffragettes!"

## WHY WEAR HEAVY EYEGLASSES?



The "DÉLICAT" Invisible Eyeglasses are the daintiest and lightest eye wear yet manufactured, being suitable for all forms of lenses, including Astigmatic; the mounts are self-adjusting, consequently the lenses always set in a horizontal position before the eyes.

**COMPLETE WITH LENSES IN ROLLED GOLD 17/6; IN GOLD 25/-**  
Orders by post should be accompanied with an old pair of spectacles or eye-glasses, together with Cheque or M.O., crossed "& Co"

**P. A. PRESTON,** Eyesight Specialist,  
130, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

## THE

# UNITED VACUUM CLEANER COMPANY, LTD.,

48, Palace St., Westminster, S.W.,

## CLEAN EVERYTHING.

DRESSES, BLOUSES, FEATHERS,  
&c., CLEANED OR DYED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS GUARANTEED.

Carpets, Curtains, and Furniture cleaned at your own house without removal, or collected, cleaned at our works, and delivered within 24 hours.

ESTIMATES FREE.

Telephone 4320 }  
1774 } Gerrard.

Estab.  
1850.

Floral Artists to  
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

Phone  
2324 Padd.

## CHARLES WOOD & SON

(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD).

23, HIGH ST., MANCHESTER SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or  
Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut  
Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Estimates  
Free.

Window  
Boxes, &c.