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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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Published by the Suffrage Atelier.

Notes.

AS we are going to press we can only allude to the failure of another attempt to interview Mr. Asquith on the subject of Votes for Women. Unless Mr. Asquith is a strong advocate in disguise he cannot realize the sympathy for the movement he creates by his continued refusal to receive the leaders of such a powerful Union as the National Women's Social and Political. Unfortunately such sympathy has to be very dearly bought, and Mr. Asquith must be made to realize that the world considers it is too dearly bought. Comparatively few men on the last occasion were observed to take any possible action which might prevent the ill-usage of women—such as petitioning the King, being present in Parliament Square, &c. If we are still worthy of being called a great nation, those few are the vanguard of a mighty host. We are not upholding any tactics or policy, we are simply giving voice to the truth that women must at least have the same protection as that afforded to men by the vote.

Mr. Asquith has also, we understand, refused to receive a deputation from schoolmistresses, the bearers of a most influentially signed petition.

THE chair at the Women's Suffrage Professional and Industrial Meeting, to be held in Queen's Hall on July 7th at 8, will be taken by Philip Snowden, M.P., instead of Mr. Campbell as at first advertised.

The meeting is in support of women's right to vote and their right to work.

MRS. OLIVER of 115, New Bond Street, is this week showing several desirable hats, blouses, and costumes at sale price. Hats, &c., may be obtained in the colours of the Leagues—the two well-known tri-colours of green, white, and gold, and purple, white, and green. Suffragists should take advantage of a Suffragist's sale, and support a Suffragist who advertises in our columns.

WE are steadily advancing our projects for an enlarged paper and expect in our next issue to furnish our readers with details. We shall be glad to receive additional names of those willing to take shares in a Limited Liability Company, formed along the lines indicated in our article of June 10th.

While fully anticipating continuity of publication, we wish to be advised by any of our subscribers who prefer the balance of their subscriptions returned rather than that it should be adventured in the circumstances.

Petition to the King.

MR. ALBERT DAWSON, Chairman of the Men's Committee for Justice to Women, has received the following communication in reference to the petition praying His Majesty to "give such directions or take such measures as will ensure a proper hearing to-day by Mr. Asquith of the deputation of women":—

"Home Office, Whitehall, June 29th, 1909.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that the petition presented by you will be forwarded to the King at once.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"W. P. BYRNE."

[We shall hope to print the reply and full text of the Petition in our next issue.]

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

THE second series of lectures was delivered on Wednesday, June 23rd, at 64, Victoria Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Fabian Ware). Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., late Agent-General for South Australia, took as his subject 'Women and Imperial Defence.' He pointed out that such defence was of paramount importance. It had been the dominant note of the Press Conference. Imperial defence was a many-sided problem, as it was a question, not only of numbers in men and ships, but of finance and resources. The sinews of war depended on the fostering of imperial trade, and women who abound in common sense would never have allowed our trade to go out of the country. Had they the vote, we should have Tariff Reform to-morrow. Women largely shape national life and character, and were more patriotic than men as the home meant more to them. That they were strongly in favour of an increased imperial navy is shown by the action of our colonies. Australia was the pioneer in local coast defence, and New Zealand persistently proffered an increased contribution to the imperial navy. These were the colonies which first offered us Dreadnoughts. The lecturer carefully explained the close analogy which exists between biology and sociology, and drew attention to the physiological fact that in the process of waste and repair destructive energy predominated in males, constructive in females. Hence in any age of iconoclasm women are at a discount, and conversely, they come prominently to the front in a constructive period, such as the present, where co-operation is the rule, as is shown by the formation of great unions of capital and labour, and by the great political federations. The synthetic genius of women would aid greatly in the consolidation of the empire and would make effective imperial defence.

The Suffrage Atelier.

A SOMEWHAT novel Suffrage meeting was held by the Suffrage Atelier at the Caxton Hall on Saturday, June 26th, of which the subject was Art and National Movements. Mr. Laurence Housman, who presided, showed, in an inspiring address, that art had long suffered from a want of connexion with life in this country. Pre-Raphaelitism had been an attempt to re-unite art and national life, but the growth of internationalism in technique had not been connected with any international idea or inspiration, such as the Woman's Movement now supplied. The pageants of the present day, the revival of old folk-song and dance, and of something resembling a national costume in the purple, green, and white—or green, gold, and white of the Suffrage societies, were signs of the renewal of the blending of art and life.

In the course of some remarks on the importance of symbolism, Mr. Housman noted that when a small war was the subject of cartoons in *Punch*, England was represented by John Bull, but when a really national crisis intervened the national spirit was symbolized by Britannia, the woman. Our representative house, in its more heroic moods, called itself the "Mother of Parliaments": at present it resembled rather an absconding father.

Miss Muriel Matters spoke much to the point on the usefulness of pictures as propaganda. She had found people who were impervious to argument and reason convinced by the postcard representing the lunatic and the lady, or an illustration of Mrs. Poyser's classic remark on men and women. Mr. John Russell, headmaster of the King Alfred School, Hampstead, referred to his happy position as benevolent despot in a realm of boys and girls, among whom sex was made no bar, and there was equality of justice—as far as human nature could attain that ideal—for both. The entrance of women into possession of the rights and duties of citizenship seemed to him to be fitly expressed in the words: "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

Before the meeting broke up a generous response was made to the appeal for funds, and several new members joined the Society. Features of the evening were the beautiful flowers which adorned the hall, and the members of the Society (whose badge is a red rose), and the cartoons and reproductions of the work of members, which were displayed on the walls.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

ITALY.—England is not the only country where Suffragists seek interviews with Prime Ministers, but it will soon be the only one where the request is refused. On Tuesday of last week a very influential deputation of women was received by Signor Giolitti at the Palazzo Braschi. All the leading women's associations were represented, and most of the occupations pursued by women. Unfortunately, the notice given was too short to secure the presence of a peasants' representative. Among the members of the deputation were the Princess Venosa, the Countess Pasolini, the Marchesa Lucifero and Prof. Teresa Labriola, who introduced the deputation.

In her address she stated their wish to know what was the present stage of the deliberations of the Parliamentary Commission appointed to consider the Enfranchisement of Women, and she insisted that Italian women were now ready for this electoral reform. The minister stated that the Commission was not yet ready to report, and in view of the large mass of material for their consideration this was not surprising. For his own part he was convinced of the necessity of the reform, but believed that it should be brought about by gradual stages. To this Signorina Troise replied that at the present day there would be nothing very startling about such a change, since all women are becoming convinced of the necessity for the vote. This was sufficiently shown during the late elections, when the North Italian women demonstrated with cries of "Votes for Women," and those of the South joined as well. In answer to a request that he would reply in person when the question was raised in the Chamber the Premier readily assented.

UNITED STATES.—The National American Woman Suffrage Association has issued the "call" to its forty-first annual convention, to be held at Seattle from July 1st to 6th. "In entering on the fifth decade of its work for the enfranchisement of women in the United States," says the signatories, "the National American Woman Suffrage Association invites to share in its councils all those who believe that the help of women is needed by the Government. It is a grave mistake of statesmanship to continue to ignore the wisdom of the thousands of our women citizens who, fitted by education and home interests, are anxious to help solve the many and vital problems upon which our country's future safety and prosperity depend." Then follows the enumeration of the successes of 1908, which give hope for the future. "These triumphs will encourage us in renewed efforts, to which we are summoned by 'the cry of the children,' by the knowledge that our country is one of the most backward of the nations in the protecting of its working children, and by the disclosures of the awful extent of the white slave trade in girls." The call closes with a pathetic poem by a young American poetess, of which this is the opening verse:—

The Lord of little children to the sleeping mothers spake:

"Lo, the dreaming time is over, ye the hand of life must take."

And the dawn was in our faces as we started up awake

On Liberty's great day.

The programme is a most interesting one. Among the subjects for discussion are 'Conditions which create Suffragette Methods'; 'The American Situation versus the English Situation'; 'Parents Organizations: their value in creating Suffrage Sentiment'; 'The Tariff in its Relation to Women.' Mrs. Catt will report on the national petition for the submission of a sixteenth amendment to the National Constitution which will enable women to vote.

Progress, the organ of the Association, publishes pictures of the Congress headquarters hotel, with views of gardens, mountains, and river, which make us feel that it would be pleasant to invoke some charm which would transport us quickly to Seattle, to join our American sisters in conference and play.

A. ZIMMERN.

Correspondence.

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

Victor Hugo and Lord Curzon.

SIR,—The State of France has commissioned a statue to be erected to the memory of the women of Paris in the Commune. The statue is being exhibited in this year's Salon, and on its base are inscribed the following lines:—

"Eh bien, dans ce Paris sous l'étreinte inhumaine
L'homme n'est que Français, et la femme est Romaine.
Elles acceptent tout—les femmes de Paris
La famine, l'horreur, le combat sans rien voir
Que la grande patrie et que le grand devoir."

Victor Hugo, 10th January, 1871.

As I stood before that statue this afternoon I thought of the statues and recognition accorded to women in this country, and could not but compare Victor Hugo's generous appreciation of his countrywomen's patriotism with the views held by Lord Curzon; and I wondered what we Englishwomen have done to forfeit confidence in our patriotism when he dubiously asks at the dinner given by the Men's League to oppose Woman's Suffrage, "If women are enfranchised, will it strengthen the hands of the foreign minister?"

Has Lord Curzon any proofs to doubt us? Have we ever been found wanting in patriotism? And I ask, in due submission, are we so much behind our Continental sisters that our English statesmen doubt us and deny us equal political rights with our own Colonial sisters?

Of one thing I feel very sure (and never more so than when on the Continent, where one meets so many American and Australian women, besides foreign ones)—that there is no civilized country in the world where the status of woman is so low as in England, and none where the conditions of the working women are so frightful.

Perhaps if men like Lord Curzon believed in us more and shared the generous views of a Victor Hugo it would not be so. Yours truly,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

Paris, June 9th, 1909.

Women's Franchise.

DEAR SIR,—In my neighbourhood are many people who cannot afford the luxury of subscribing to papers who are thoroughly and sincerely interested in the question of Woman Suffrage, and to whom your paper especially appeals as giving the news of various societies and meetings to which they cannot belong and attend. There must be many such in other neighbourhoods.

I myself pass on as many copies as my means allow, and these copies I know are again passed on to others. The idea has occurred to me that if this were more generally known some kind-hearted people would be glad to give this pleasure to those less well circumstanced than themselves, and at the same time do useful propaganda work for the cause.

I have pleasure in enclosing two subscriptions for six months and names and addresses of two people to whom I wish copies sent for that period. Yours faithfully,

SUFFRAGIST.

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LONDON AGENTS—289, OXFORD STREET, W.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

DERBY (N.U.W.S.S.).—In spite of very indifferent weather a most successful meeting was held in the grounds of the Friary, Derby (kindly lent by Mrs. Boden), on Saturday, June 19th. Mr. Francis Smith, of Wingfield Park, took the chair, and Mrs. Francis Smith, as President of the branch, received the guests. Between three and four hundred people were present, and were addressed by Miss Abadam and Mr. Baillie-Weaver (of the Men's League).

Miss Abadam's eloquent and forceful demand for a new chivalry—that of women for women—of the woman who has all she needs for the woman who has not enough to eke out a decent existence, stirred many a heart, and made the need for women's protection by means of the vote abundantly clear.

Mr. Baillie-Weaver delighted his audience with his able and witty *exposé* of the strange absence of logic of the Anti-Suffragist, from Lord Cromer downwards, and his telling championship of the women's cause will, it is hoped, result in the foundation of a branch of the Men's League in Derby.

A good collection was taken, and new members joined the branch, which has only been in existence eight months.

MADELEINE ONSLOW, Vice-President.

KENILWORTH (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Cumnor College, Kenilworth, by kind permission of Miss Blatch Cox, on June 26th. The principal speaker was Miss Rendel. We hope that the outcome of this meeting will be the formation of a separate committee for Kenilworth, which has hitherto been worked at some disadvantage from Leamington, and that eventually the little town good Queen Bess graced with her presence may be the home of a vigorous Women's Suffrage Society.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

| | | | | P.M. |
|---------|---|---|-----------|------|
| JULY 1. | Cardiff, Greenmeadow. Garden Party. | Hostess, Mrs. Lewis Speaker, Miss Abadam | | |
| 3. | Farnham, The Institute. Annual General Meeting. Tea and business. | Speaker, Miss Dorothy Edwards | 3.30 | |
| 5. | Redhill, Reigate, Open Air Meeting, Market Sq., Reigate. | Speaker, Miss Abadam | 8 | |
| 6. | Redhill, Reigate, Open Air Meeting at Horley | Speaker, Miss Abadam | 7.30 | |
| 7. | Redhill, Reigate, Garden Meeting at Fingates House, Redhill Lawn. Garden Fair | Speaker, Miss Abadam | 3.30-6 | |
| 8. | Windsor, Drawing-Room Meeting | Hostess, Mrs. Harrow-Ryde. Speaker, Miss Harriet Cockle | 4.15 | |
| | Redhill, Reigate, Meadvale | Special arrangements being made | 7.30 | |
| 9. | Redhill, Reigate, Garden Meeting at Cambray, South Park | Speaker, Miss C. Corbett | 7.30 | |
| 10. | Redhill, Reigate, Chapel Road, Redhill | Speaker, Miss Alison Garland | 7.30 | |
| 17. | Cheltenham, Sandford | Hostess, Mrs. Swiney | 2.30-7.30 | |

The National Union Quarterly Meetings will be held at Nottingham on July 5 and 6.

MONDAY, JULY 5.—Secretaries' Meeting, Circus Street Hall, 4.30.

Mass Meeting, Great Market Place, 7.30.

Platform I.—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and others.

Platform II.—Miss Margaret Ashton, T.C., and others.

Platform III.—Miss I. O. Ford, and others.

TUESDAY, JULY 6.—Business Meetings, Circus Street Hall, 10 to 1, and 2 to 4.30.

A reception will be held at Circus Street Hall, at 8 o'clock, by the Vice-Presidents and Committee of the Notts Branch.

Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Philip Snowden, and others.

JULY 17.—Suffrage Play, 'A Woman's Influence,' by G. E. Jennings, given by the Actresses' Franchise League in the grounds of Henry Bury, Esq., Rowledge, at 3 o'clock. Tea and an address.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.**Women's Freedom League.**

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.
Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL
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Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.SC. A.R.C.S.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.
Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNET.
Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Special Conference.

THE Branches were well represented at the Special Conference held at the Caxton Hall on Saturday, June 26th, and a large number of resolutions dealing with the subject of our General Election Policy was discussed. As the Conference was a secret one, and each delegate was pledged to regard the proceedings as "private and confidential," I cannot, of course, disclose the nature of the conclusions at which they arrived; but if the policy be carried out, there is no doubt that the Women's Freedom League will be a feature to be reckoned with at the next General Election. There was about the whole proceedings an air of buckling on of armour, polishing of swords, and getting ready for the fray that was very gratifying to the members of the National Executive Committee. Mrs. Despard was in the chair, and addressed the delegates very briefly at the commencement, then every one settled down immediately to stern business.

One feature of the Conference which aroused much indignation was the reading of the answers to a series of letters sent by the four officials of the League to the leaders of the various parties in the House of Commons, containing requests for an interview. These letters, with their answers, are to be published in pamphlet form as quickly as possible, and members of the League should consider it a point of honour to procure as many as they can, and scatter them broadcast, for it cannot be too widely known how the perfectly decorous and constitutional requests of the women of this country are regarded by those in power, and will doubtless continue to be so regarded as long as women are content to remain political nonentities.

However, as events are happening very quickly just now, I am going to anticipate the pamphlet and publish the letter that was sent to the Prime Minister and the answer it evoked:—

[COPY.]

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith.

SIR,—We have been directed by the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League to call your attention to the fact, that in spite of a series of requests unprecedented in history, you have not received a single deputation of women Suffragists since your acceptance of office as Prime Minister.

In view of the ever increasing demand for the Parliamentary vote for women, of the serious nature of the condition of women, who are unable to protect their industries and interests by any legislative power, and of the constant interference with women's interests in which the House of Commons indulges, we feel it imperative again to request you to receive a deputation of our members. While we make our request in a courteous manner we cannot do otherwise than point out to you that we consider that you are under a moral obligation to accede to our request. The properly elected delegates of any section of the people of Great Britain who have temporarily accorded to you the powers of government, are entitled to place their grievances before you. We claim this right along with every other section of the British people.

We desire further, to point out to you that the verdict of the by-elections, and the growing unrest and discontent in Liberal ranks, give evidence that the public and your own party are beginning to hold you responsible for the disturbances and breaches of the peace which have been caused by your persistent refusal to receive any deputation of Suffragists.

With these facts before you we hope that you will accede to the justifiable request that is again laid before you.

Yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD, TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG,
SARAH BENNETT, EDITH HOW MARTYN.

[COPY.]

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.,
June 19th, 1909.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to say in reply that Mr. Asquith is well aware of the arguments with which the demand for an extension of the suffrage to women is supported.

I am further to say that Mr. Asquith's own statements on the subject are on record, and that he has nothing to add to them, and could add nothing in answer to a deputation.

He is therefore unable under the circumstances to accede to your request that he should receive a deputation from your Society.

I am, yours faithfully,

VAUGHAN NASH.

Mrs. E. How Martyn.

Doubtless Mr. Asquith will go on saying, as he did last week in answer to Mr. Philip Snowden's and Mr. Kettle's inquiries in the House, that he does not consider himself responsible for any of the consequences that may follow his action, and certain of his slavish followers will go on cheering him, and saying "serve 'em right" when they hear that women are being arrested and sent to prison for persisting in their constitutional right "to approach the King or his duly appointed representative in deputation." And sapient gentlemen like P. W. W. of *The Daily News* will write leaders and articles, asking, with virtuous indignation, "How long shall these things be? How long shall a freedom loving nation consent to the degradation of being ruled by a section of the community that represents only its own narrow interests and its own prejudices" (they are talking of those monsters of human depravity the Lords, of course) "and the duly elected representatives of the whole people be swept aside as of no importance," &c.; while in another part of the paper they will probably describe with light and airy grace how they went out into Palace Yard to "watch the fun" of women being arrested in the intervals of rest between their arduous duties.

But we, too, are beginning to ask with more and more impatience, and more and more indignation, "How long must we submit to this insolent sweeping aside of women's claims to justice and representation?" And the answer to that question will be given at the next General Election, if not before.

EDITOR.

Thanks, Plans, and Appeals.

ALL our readers will join with us in our regrets that we shall soon make our last appearance officially in the pages of *Women's Franchise*. A further announcement as to time of change will be made in these columns. As most of them are aware, Mr. Francis, the proprietor and general editor, finds it imperative to make considerable changes in the conduct of the paper, and therefore the space which he has hitherto placed so generously at our disposal must regretfully be abandoned. We owe him many thanks, not only for his courtesy, but also for his courage in being the pioneer of a purely Women's Suffrage paper, and for his consistent and unselfish support of our principle. Both he and Mrs. Francis—who is an ardent member of our League—have worked hard and laboriously to make *Women's Franchise* a broad and representative medium for all aspects of the Suffrage Movement, and have thus won the gratitude of every friend of the Cause.

The plans for publishing an attractive weekly magazine or newspaper of our own in the near future are proceeding apace.

Most of the preliminary arrangements for floating a limited liability company have been complied with, and our readers will soon be in receipt of a prospectus, setting forth the ends and aims and objects of the company.

Miss Marie Lawson, of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League has been appointed the managing director of the company, so that all shareholders will know that their interests will be in safe and experienced hands.

The policy of the paper will be one of strong and vigorous agitation for "Votes for Women," worthy of the Society which it will represent. The officers of the paper are not appointed yet, but there is no doubt they will all be ardent Suffragists. Well known writers who are interested in our movement, have with their usual generosity, promised to contribute to its pages.

Our members must all co-operate with us; this new venture cannot be a success unless they do. Begin at once organizing your corps of street sellers; collect promises of regular subscribers, and send us their names and addresses. Get promises of advertisements. A copy of the cover with a scale of advertisement rates will be ready for all applicants in a day or two. Remember advertisements form the principal revenue of a paper and if business men see that its supporters are determined to make it a success, they will be ready enough to use it.

We hope to be able to announce the name, and a general description of the style and appearance of the paper next week. All that we can say with certainty at this juncture is that this new organ of the Suffragette will strive to be like herself—strenuous, strategic, and, above all, successful.

EDITOR.

Hyde Park.

THREATENING rain and an absolutely sodden ground militated greatly against the noon meeting, but despite everything it was most successful. When Mrs. Manson bravely commenced the attack the only animate objects in sight were a forlorn looking man in a frock coat and a Newfoundland dog enjoying the elements. A surprisingly large crowd quickly gathered, however, and displayed keen interest in the subject throughout. Mrs. Sanderson followed with some home truths to which a few factious opponents paid the tribute of audible disapproval. With great skill Mrs. Sanderson evoked little storms of protest, and rode them to victory every time, until all opposition ceased, and she had won a courteous and enthusiastic hearing.

The questions which followed were answered by Mrs. Manson with much felicity in a series of convincing little speeches. In closing the meeting she quoted with effect Omar Khayyam's splendid lines in regard to this "sorry scheme of things" and the applause with which these stirring "revolutionary" sentiments were received would certainly have caused poor Lord Rosebery to fade the palest primrose hue had he been present.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

On to Westminster.

WESTMINSTER still fills the centre of the stage. During the last three weeks we have held two hundred and forty-three meetings there, and the campaign continues without flagging, without rest.

How it epitomizes the whole struggle, this siege of Westminster! At the centre, in the Houses of Parliament, prejudice sits entrenched; around, to the North and the South, to the West and the East, is, or shall I say was, ignorance of our Cause. That sums up the opposition to our just demands; prejudice encircled by ignorance. We have to break down the bulwarks of the one that we may attack the other, and so we have worked day and night, we have worked and are conquering. New Cut is capitulating, shall Westminster remain obdurate?

The call has gone forth and no true woman can stand aside while these great issues are at stake.

The past is full of splendid endeavour, the present of patient work, the future of radiant hope. We must go on. To look back, is to go back; to hesitate, is to lose.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

"Our Work—Past, Present, and Future." THE "AT HOMES."

THE "At Home" last Thursday was a singularly attractive one, as we had with us Madame Vera Figner, who has suffered twenty-two years' imprisonment in a Russian prison.

Mrs. Despard, in the chair, spoke of the constitution and methods of the League—democracy without, democracy within.

Madame Figner then described her experiences in the solitary fortress, washed by the black waters of the Neva. No sound of the outside world ever penetrated those walls; the very sentinels were cut off from communication with human kind; no sound was to be heard but the groans of the dying. The black painted cells turned the strongest brains, drove the most courageous to suicide. The brutality of the gaolers tried to violate both body and soul. Offences of different kinds were resorted to by the political prisoners in the hope that they might be dragged forth for trial, but those who enter the portals of Schlüsselberg step into eternal silence.

Mrs. Holmes made sacrifice the subject of her speech. It was on sacrifice that the fabric of woman's liberty must be built; the sacrifice of money, of leisure, of aesthetic pleasures, of so-called womanly dignity. Women were out fighting for broader issues. In comparison with the sacrifices which such women as Madame Figner had been called upon to make for liberty, those demanded of Englishwomen to-day were trifling. Mrs. Holmes illustrated her speech with quotations from Olive Schreiner's beautiful 'Dream in the Desert,' of the development of womanhood.

M. N.

CARAVAN TOUR.

OUR meetings in Whitchurch were very successful, in spite of the fact that on the first evening we had to compete with the town band, and that on the second day the rain descended fitfully until the evening. Resolutions in favour of Votes for Women were carried at both meetings with three dissentients. A notable and pleasant feature was the very great interest and enthusiasm shown by the women.

On Monday Miss Henderson and I went on to Andover to secure a pitch for the Caravan, and arrange for the meeting at night. Andover—like so many of the places visited by the Caravan—had never seen a Suffragette until we arrived, and great was the interest shown in our pavement advertisements. We had an enormous meeting in the evening, and were told on all sides that so many people had never before assembled in the Market Place for a meeting. On Tuesday we had the very great pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Despard, who came down to address the meeting. Unfortunately the day was stormy, and soon after Mrs. Despard mounted the chair, a very heavy storm came on. However, the meeting was carried on through the storm, and very few members of the audience went away to seek shelter. Naturally those who heard Mrs. Despard were spellbound. We heard many expressions of pleasure and sympathy. Our third and last meeting in Andover was again a very large and enthusiastic one, though again heavy rain descended during the meeting. At each of the Andover meetings resolutions were passed, with two dissentients at the first two meetings, and unanimously on the last occasion.

At Stockbridge we have already found kind friends, who have given us most useful and acceptable presents—bread, cake, fruit, eggs and vegetables. We have had two meetings here, at the second of which we passed a unanimous resolution in favour of Votes for Women.

We feel that the Caravan is really doing splendid educational work, bringing home to the men and women in the country places something of their responsibility in the State, and teaching them to understand a few of the laws under which they live.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

LONDON BRANCHES.

Bromley, Highbury, Finchley, Northern Heights, Tottenham, Holloway and Croydon, have been visited during the past week. The branches are keenly alive to the fact that protests must be made, and members who are unable to take part in this necessary work are endeavouring to make more strenuous efforts to arouse their districts and to supply the means for effective work at headquarters, and where campaigns are necessary.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.

THE KING'S VISIT. CHANGE OF OFFICE. A JUMBLE SALE.

By the kindness of Mr. Norman Spencer a house has been secured on Stretford Road for the occasion of the King's visit on Tuesday, July 6th. Decorations in green, white and gold are being prepared by the Misses Hunt and a band of able co-workers, and we hope to make the Women's Freedom League windows one of the sights of the day.

We invite all Suffragists to join the party. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, may now be had from the branch secretaries: Miss Hines, The Studio, Tatton Buildings, Sale; Miss L. Hunt, "Ravenslea," Whalley Road, Whalley Range; and Miss A. E. Hordern (Central Branch), 12, Limefield Terrace, Central Avenue, Levenshulme.

Miss Hordern will also be pleased to receive promises of help towards the Jumble Sale on July 10th, and will give directions as to the collecting and forwarding of goods.

It has been decided to give up the present office, 47, Mosley Street, during the summer months, and to look out for more suitable premises in September, so we have decided until further notice to hold our Central Branch meetings in the committee room of the Women's Trades Union Council, 9, Albert Square, on Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m. Letters and inquiries re branch work should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., Miss A. E. Hordern, and on matters of general organization to me at Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

M. E. MANNING, Organizer.

LIVERPOOL CAMPAIGN.

In Liverpool the Women's Freedom League is steadily gaining ground. During the week a considerable amount of canvassing and visiting has been done, with good results. On Thursday, 24th inst., the Branch was formally inaugurated, and the membership is now over fifty. Miss Broadhurst, M.A., who is a graduate of London University, with first-class honours in Mental Philosophy, has been appointed President. Each day sees the advent of some new members, and the Branch is enthusiastic, ambitious, and sure of success.

A strong body of men have gathered round the League, and are forming themselves into a Men's Political League, to be associated with the Women's Freedom League, and to exist to help them.

In Southport, on July 2nd and 3rd, the National Liberal Federation holds its annual Conference, at which will be present some 1,800 Liberal delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom. On Thursday, July 2nd, just after the afternoon sitting of the Conference, we are arranging to invite the delegates to a Women's Suffrage meeting, in order to hear a statement of the policy of the Women's Freedom League. Political leaflets will be distributed, and we feel sure that this advertisement will result in an access of sympathy to the Women's Freedom League, and prove a means for gaining an entrance to the Liberal organizations of other towns.

Through the friendliness of Liberal officials, we have received invitations to the reception of the delegates to be held in the Municipal Buildings, and we hope to make full use of such an excellent opportunity for propaganda.

In view of the Autumn Campaign to be held here, we commence on Monday a series of open-air meetings, the first to be held at West Derby on Monday, in advertising which Miss Harvey has been invaluable.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON, Organiser.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

OUR speakers and helpers responded splendidly to the call for help and made our meetings on Sunday a triumphant success. After a flying squadron of chalkers had radiated the news of our doings eastwards to Fleet Street and westward to Piccadilly, our standard bearers took the field and proved one of the most attractive features of the afternoon.

The brunt of the speaking fell on Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Matters, Mrs. Sproson, and Miss Logan, who were supported by Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Manson, and Miss Law. Unfortunately, towards the close and just at a most critical moment—when the collection was announced!—a heavy storm of rain, no doubt in answer to the prayers of the Antis, swept the Square. However,

it fell to my lot to hold the field and to defy the elements, in which I was joined by one of our most enthusiastic supporters, who gave a rousing speech to the few hundred umbrellas left. The meeting finished amid applause and enthusiasm, also in a torrent of rain.

Thanks to the energy and devotion of our little army of helpers much literature was sold and a good collection taken.

Next Sunday, at the same hour and place, we renew our attack.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

Pioneers, Oh, Pioneers!

ON Monday afternoon the Freedom League did honour to two of the pioneers of the militant Suffrage agitation when Mrs. Billington-Greig, the first Holloway prisoner, and Miss Irene Miller, the first Suffragist to be arrested in London, were entertained at a crowded reception in the Portman Rooms. The rooms were hung with the banners of the London Branches, and were prettily decorated with marguerites, yellow irises, and beech foliage, while the waitresses who served tea wore the colours as tabard pinafores.

After a musical programme Mrs. Despard, who was Chairman, recalled the early days of the agitation to which she was then an outsider. But the insults heaped on Miss Billington and her confrères had awakened all the chivalry in her, and had brought her to the side of those who had so splendidly thrown down the glove to convention.

Countess Russell then presented the guests of the afternoon with bouquets in the colours on behalf of the National Executive Committee.

Mrs. Billington-Greig in her reply was as fiery, enthusiastic, and yet as cool-headed and logical as ever. From earliest childhood she had felt scorn for those who called themselves Suffragists and did nothing. She spoke of that first weary six months, when cast off by friends and foes alike, a tiny band of pioneers, they had suffered the insults of jeers and wilful misunderstanding, when the utmost courtesy shown them by the Press was contemptuous reference to "the woman Billington," or more shortly "Billington." She urged the necessity of continued action, lest politicians should say the movement was a mere flash in the pan. The struggle was not yet over, and some day, perhaps very soon, the women of Britain would be called upon to advance still further along the path of rebellion.

Miss Irene Miller also spoke of the early days, saying that so strong was the faith that was in her that she had never even felt the contumely heaped upon her.

An appeal for funds was made by Miss Benett, which resulted in over 70*l.* being given or promised.

M. N.

Stolen Goods.

MRS. DESPARD's goods that were seized some weeks ago by order of the Government will be sold on July 6th by Messrs. Debenham, Storr & Sons, at 26, King Street, Covent Garden. Many of our men sympathizers are taking the matter up, and we mean to hold one of the biggest protest meetings that have ever been held.

Special Notices.

THE Editor is regretfully compelled by lack of space to hold over this week a letter from "Tzil" dealing with the question of the Liberal women, and also other interesting communications.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett has written a most interesting and trenchant reply to Madame Sarah Grand's article 'The Policy of Nag,' which we hope to publish shortly.

The result of the "Couplet" competition will be announced the last week in July in the Women's Freedom League news sheet. Readers are meantime reminded that the offer of a 5*s.* prize for the best couplet on Mr. John Burns somewhat after the style of his quotation—

The noblest answer to them all

Is simple silence when they bawl—

like Mr. Asquith's statements on Women's Suffrage, still remains on record.

Branch Notes.

BROMLEY BRANCH.—On June 29th Mrs. Nevinson held a large and appreciative audience spellbound in the Market Square by her masterly array of facts, dry humour, and pitiless logic. Many questions were asked, and the speaker warmly thanked for her courteous and patient answers. It was gratifying to hear on all sides, as the meeting dispersed: "They have some splendid speakers." "No one can deny the truth of what they say." "The lady knows what she is talking about, which is more than the men do half the time." "Why don't they give the women the vote, they've a right to it." These remarks, in every case, made by men.

WORKING BRANCH.—Owing to the unfavourable weather, the visitors at our Garden Fête and Sale were not numerous. But success is not always a matter of numbers, and, thanks to the splendid speeches of Mrs. Despard, Countess Russell, and Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, good propaganda work was done, fresh members made, and fresh spirit put into our Branch. Miss Theodora Diehl recited 'The Song of the Shirt' with such power as to inspire not only our beloved President but prepare our minds for the speeches that followed.

The Suffrage Atelier, under the charge of Miss Willis, was well represented, the cartoons exciting much interest. The local press, with a courtesy that puts to shame the line taken up by the London press, gave lengthy reports of the speeches.

HERNE HILL AND NORWOOD BRANCH.—At the meeting in Brockwell Park on Sunday, June 20th, the speakers were Mrs. Toyne and Miss M. Lawson. A large audience assembled and listened attentively while Miss Lawson explained why women were justified in their militant protests and continued resistance to a government which refused to listen to the claims of justice. Mrs. Toyne referred to the objections that are frequently made that if women are allowed political responsibilities they will interfere with their domestic duties, and showed that for women to vote it would not be necessary for them to neglect their homes, any more than for a man to neglect his business when he voted.

At the meeting on Sunday, July 4th, Miss Irene Miller will be the speaker. On Monday, June 21st, Miss Benett visited our Branch, and gave us a very interesting account of the many and varied activities of the Women's Freedom League, and much useful advice for our future work.

On Thursday, July 8th, a drawing-room meeting will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at 28, Carson Road, W. Dulwich, S.E., to read and discuss 'The Women's Charter of Rights and Liberties,' by Lady McLaren. Visitors are cordially invited to attend. Further particulars may be obtained from Miss B. Spencer, 32, Geneva Road, Brixton, S.W.

CROYDON BRANCH.—An open-air meeting was held at the Clock, Thornton Heath, on Wednesday, June 16th. As our promised speaker from London was unable to come, we had to fall back on local talent, and made in consequence the discovery of a very promising speaker in Miss Jennings. The audience, which at one time reached right across the road, was very enthusiastic. Many questions were put, and the crowd afterwards cheered the speaker and thanked her heartily for her admirable speech. The question of militant tactics seems still to worry some of the crowd, but many were convinced of our wisdom at the late by-election. Mrs. Reader also spoke, another Branch member, and the secretary took the chair. We are not downhearted.

EAST EDINBURGH AND LEITH BRANCH (REPORT).—Open-air meetings and street sales of literature have been the channels for the outlet of the activities of members of this Branch during the past fortnight. Two exceptionally good meetings were held at Musselburgh and Newhaven. At the former place the audience applauded any reference to the militant tactics, while at Newhaven a vote of confidence in the movement was proposed and seconded by two strangers and carried by the audience.

The extremely interesting method of propaganda by street sales of literature is recommended by our members to others of the League who have not yet tried it. Last Saturday morning a hundred copies of *The Hour and the Woman* were disposed of in quite a short time in Princes Street by two members. "If you wish a rapid sale wear a poster and a cheerful smile" is our advice to those who wish to "do" something for the Cause.

Demonstration on Clapham Common.

On Sunday evening a successful demonstration was held by the Women's Freedom League on Clapham Common. There were three lorries from which Mrs. Despard, Miss Benett, Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Duval, Miss Underwood, Mr. Laurence Housman,

Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Duval addressed the crowd. The member for Battersea came in for a good deal of criticism for his recent remarks concerning militant Suffragettes. It was pointed out that it was the man who a few years ago had suffered imprisonment for breaking the law in Trafalgar Square who called the women now fighting for freedom "female hooligans."

Cash Received June 7th to 26th.

| Amount previously acknowledged | £ s. d. | Brought forward | £ s. d. |
|--|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Anderson, Miss M. | 1 1 0 | Le Lacheur, Miss D. | 20 0 0 |
| Anonymous | 0 10 0 | Lilienfeld, Miss E. | 0 4 6 |
| Bache, Miss | 0 2 0 | Livingstone, Mrs. | 0 5 0 |
| Benett, Miss S. | 10 0 0 | Matters, Miss Muriel | 4 0 0 |
| Borrmann Wells, Mrs. | 1 1 11 | Monro, Miss M. C. | 0 2 6 |
| Bremner (per Miss E.) | 0 14 3 | Mottershall, Miss | 0 1 0 |
| Byham, Miss M. C. (Charity Sub. withdrawn) | 1 1 0 | O'Neill, Miss M. | 0 1 0 |
| Byham, Miss M. C. | 0 10 0 | Pickering, Mrs. J. | 0 3 0 |
| Central Telegraph Office | 0 13 2 | Read, Mrs. (per Mrs. Bevan) | 0 6 0 |
| Crompton Walker, Misses | 1 1 0 | Roberts, Mrs. E. | 0 1 0 |
| De Jonge, Miss | 0 1 0 | Roberts, Mrs. N. | 0 5 0 |
| De Visnes, Mrs. R. | 0 1 0 | Russell, Lady | 0 17 6 |
| Downs, Mrs. (self-denial) | 0 2 6 | Saunders, Miss M. I. | 0 10 0 |
| Drysdale, Mrs. B. | 0 10 0 | Sidley, Miss M. | 0 1 0 |
| Dunbar, Mrs. Agar | 0 10 0 | Slamer, Mrs. | 0 1 0 |
| Every, Miss E. | 0 4 0 | Snow, Mrs. J. E. | 2 12 0 |
| Fawcett, Miss D. | 0 1 0 | Snow, Esq., W. K. | 2 5 0 |
| Fels, Mr. and Mrs. J. | 20 0 0 | Tillard, Miss M. | 1 10 0 |
| Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. | 7 2 10 | Tremain, Mrs. L. J. | 0 1 0 |
| Frazer, Mrs. (per Mrs. Hicks) | 1 0 0 | Van Dorp, Miss C. | 0 1 0 |
| Goodacre, Mrs. C. | 0 10 0 | Westray, Mrs. | 0 1 0 |
| Hartie, Dr. Mabel | 0 2 0 | White, Mrs. E. | 1 1 0 |
| Hicks, Mrs. L. M. | 5 0 0 | Wilton, Miss M. | 0 10 0 |
| Hicks, Miss A. | 0 10 0 | Witcomb, Miss | 0 4 8 |
| Kemp, Miss D. | 0 1 0 | Woodward, Miss | 0 10 0 |
| Kimball, Miss K. | 0 4 0 | Branch Fees | 4 5 0 |
| Labrousse, Mrs. | 0 5 0 | Collections | 23 1 4 |
| | | Sundry Sales | 6 13 4 |
| Carried forward | 1,812 16 7 | Total | £1,882 12 5 |

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

| July 1st to July 28th. | | P. M. |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| JULY | | |
| Thurs. 1. | Midhurst Kensal Rise, Harvist Road Council School | 8 |
| Fri. 2. | Chichester Assembly Rooms Outside Lambeth Palace | 7 |
| Sat. 3. | South Hackney, 23, Terrace Road. Garden Meeting. | 6 |
| Sun. 4. | Victoria Park | 3.30 |
| | Hyde Park | NOON. |
| | Ravenscourt Park | 3.30 |
| | Brockwell Park | |
| | Wandsworth Common | 11.30 A.M. |
| | Battersea Park | |
| | Clapham Common | 6.30 P.M. |
| | Trafalgar Square, | |
| Tues. 6. | Caxton Hall "At Home" | 4.9 |
| | Bromley Branch, Market Square | 8 |
| Wed. 7. | Croydon Branch, Aberdeen Road | 8 |
| Wed. 8. | Hampstead Heath, The Flagstaff | 7.30 |
| Tues. 13. | Ramsgate Bromley Branch, Market Square | 8 |

Twenty Meetings every evening in the Westminster District. Well-known speakers.

Dinner-hour Meetings: Doulton's Pottery Works, Crosse & Blackwell's, Pimlico. Speakers, Miss I. Tillard, Mrs. Sproson, Miss Law, Miss Vernon, and others.

Meetings for women only, Vauxhall Road. Speakers, Mrs. Sproson, Misses I. Tillard, Vernon, Law, and others.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

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

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL

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

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

The International Women's Franchise Club.

THE first meeting of the provisional committee met at the offices of the Men's League. Mr. Conybeare was moved into the chair. The first business was to elect officers and appoint sub-committees to carry out the various duties placed upon the committee by the meeting at the Holborn Restaurant on June 14th. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. C. A. V. Conybeare; Vice-chairman, Mrs. Hicks; Hon. Sec., Miss Cicely Corbett; Solicitor and Treasurer (*pro. tem.*), Mr. W. Goldfinch Bate. It was decided that for the time being business should be conducted from the Men's League Office, 40, Museum Street. A sub-committee was appointed to search for premises, and another to consider and report on the best methods of bringing the club to the notice of Suffragists, and obtaining members.

The question of the form which the club should take was carefully discussed, and Mr. Jacobs fully explained the advantages of various possible schemes. Eventually it was decided unanimously that the club should be a company limited by guarantee, and that Messrs. Jacobs and Bate should draw up and submit draft articles and so forth.

Of those who were originally invited to serve on the sub-committee, Mrs. Grant Richards, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell are unable to do so. Miss Blakelock of the National Women's Social and Political Union and Mr. W. R. Snow were unanimously invited to serve, one place remaining unfilled.

Notes and Comments.

OUR readers have already seen in the daily press what purports to be an account of the deputation which endeavoured to wait upon the Prime Minister on Tuesday last. We are quite unable to find any reason sufficient to justify Mr. Asquith in declining to receive the deputation. Whatever view our readers take of methods and policy, no one who has any real knowledge of events during the past three years can fail to know that the progress of the militant societies has been an amazing phenomenon. Few political movements can ever have had so rapid a progress over so wide an area.

Now Mr. Asquith said last year that we Suffragists must give him evidence of our progress. He must know that the National Women's Social and Political Union has facts of importance to bring before him. It is, therefore, in our opinion, his bounden duty as a public servant to accord to so powerful and vital an organization the normal opportunity for stating its case.

For us, however, the chief lesson is the urgent necessity for increased labour. Our workers are, it is true, increasing in number, but not in proportion to the needs of the moment. Our open-air speakers, for example, are being absurdly overworked, and recruits are not coming in as they should. We regret that comparatively few attended the open invitation meeting arranged for last Friday at the Eustace Miles Restaurant. At the meeting held in Mr. Jacobs's chambers at the end of May it was agreed that we should all meet on June 25th to make up the lists for July and save correspondence. Now, unfortunately, Mr. Gugenheim is faced with the necessity of correspondence again. We, however, hope that speakers will at once send postcards to Mr. Gugenheim promising their services for the Sundays in July—4th, 11th, 18th, 25th. Each Sunday

there will be meetings in Hyde Park (2.30), Finsbury Park (3.0), Brockwell Park (6.30).

A serious problem is, of course, the fact that many of our regular and most successful speakers are being approached by other societies. We cannot ask them to decline these invitations, but we could ask them not to deprive us of their services more often than they can help, and in general to find out how we are situated for any particular day before going elsewhere.

Open-Air Campaign.

THE meeting in Hyde Park last Sunday was largely attended, and the crowd was sympathetic and appreciative. Mr. Laurence Housman spoke as chairman, and was followed by Dr. Macpherson, Mr. Barley, and Mr. Kennedy. An informal discussion was carried on in the crowd long after the meeting was over, and more than one expressed an intention to join the League.

FINSBURY PARK.

At Finsbury Park our pitch was a mere quagmire, and the comparatively small audience which assembled evidently had its thoughts evenly divided between votes for women and double pneumonia. The chair was taken by Mr. A. W. Holland, who in a short speech introduced the Men's League and described its attitude. Mr. Herbert Jacobs and Mr. Mitchell subsequently spoke, after which the rain got to work in its best style, and the audience wisely melted away.

Chivalry: Facts and Fiction (Continued).

MEDIAEVAL secular literature culminates in Chaucer, whose poems are permeated by the chivalrous teaching of the French. This poet translated the 'Romaunt of the Rose,' the tedious text-book of French chivalry, and sang the duties of knights to do service to a lady and to be constant in love. What service exactly meant is sometimes a little vague, but very important items of it seem to have been to compose sentimental love-songs and to look melancholy. Chaucer in his youth did not escape this affectation, and we have some short poems written by him which are abject and humble petitions to his lady love. Unfortunately, they lack the sincere ring which might make them touching. In his more original 'Prologue to the Canterbury Tales' we have a truer picture of his ideas concerning chivalry and its affectations, womenkind and their follies.

He passes in review the typical mediaeval hero:—

A knyght ther was and that a worthy man,
That fro the tymé that he first began
To ride out, he lovèd chivalrie,
Trouten and honour, fredom and curteisie.

And though that he were worthy, he was wyse,
And of his port as meeke as is a mayde.
He never yet no vileynye ne sayde,
In al his lyf, unto no maner wight.
He was a verray parfit, gentil knyght.

With hym there was his sone, a yong squier,
A looyere and a lusty bacheler,
With lokkes crulle as they were leyd in presse.

Embrouded was he, as it were a meede
Al ful of fresshé flourés whyte and reede;
Syngyng we has or floytyng, al the day;

So hoot he lovèd that by nyghtertale
He scoot namoore than dooth a nyghtyngale.

In these portraits Chaucer summed up the special virtues and affectations that chivalry demanded of knights and squires.

The characters are distinctly pleasing. So are other men—pilgrims described in the Prologue; but for the women of the party the poet has nothing but good-humoured derision and unchivalrous innuendo. Other interesting sidelights are thrown on chivalry by other of Chaucer's poems. The idea that a man should give up wooing a lady because she does not want him is the "perfit reason of a goose," according to the sparrow in the 'Parlement of Fowles.' We have reason to suspect from what we read that the service of a knight to his lady is not for a moment expected to survive marriage. Indeed, the idea of a man treating his wife with the courtesy that betrothal has demanded from fairly early times, is distinctly modern, and only obtains, broadly speaking, amongst the upper classes.

Towards the end of his life Chaucer repented the evil things he had said of women, and he wrote as a penance the 'Legend of Good Women,' in which he extolled the sex in flowery language. Unfortunately, we find in his biography a sordid reason for this death-bed repentance. The poet, it seems, was poverty-stricken during the latter part of his life, and it was after the queen's influence had helped him financially that he showed his gratitude to the sex in general, and to the queen in particular, by beginning a 'Legend of Twenty Good Women,' and by comparing her Majesty to Alcestis the deonayre. This circumstance offers a strong presumption in favour of the theory that the greater a woman's influence over public affairs, the more chivalrous becomes man's attitude towards her. Weakness only inspires chivalry in a few magnanimous breasts. With the majority it is power that commands respect—the power perhaps of youth and beauty, oftener of wealth and social position.

The ideals of chivalry, so voluminously, yet so vaguely, defined in much Middle English literature are summed up, clearly and tersely in a passage of Malory's 'Morte d'Arthur.' This is what Arthur's knights swore: "Never to do outrage, nor murder, and always to flee treason. Also by no means to be cruel, but to give mercy unto him that asketh mercy, upon pain of forfeiture of their worship and lordship of King Arthur for evermore; and alway to do ladies, damsels, and gentlewomen succour upon pain of death. Also, that no man take no battles in a wrongful quarrel, for no law, nor for world's goods. Unto this were all the knights sworn of the Table Round, at the high feast of Pentecost." It will be seen that their aims were high; but the 'Morte d'Arthur' is a sometimes tedious, sometimes thrilling, history of how the knights of the Round Table failed to live up to them. Sir Galahad alone was able to sit in the Seat Perilous, fatal to sinners, and he alone, by the purity of his heart, achieved the Holy Graal. The rest were failures, some sublime failures, like Sir Launcelot, others out and out failures. Roger Ascham, Lady Jane Grey's tutor, denounced the book in these words: "What toys the daily reading of such a book may work in the will of a young gentleman or a young maid that liveth wealthily and idly, wise men can judge and honest men do pity." This is rather unfair to Arthur's knights. To formulate an ideal is a great thing, to acknowledge failure is even greater. The humility of the knights of the Round Table when once the glamour of youth and innocence had passed, is a stimulating picture, and the constancy with which they loved is a redeeming feature of their lives. Beyond this the 'Morte d'Arthur' can hardly be called an idealization of womanhood. Its morals are mixed. It is evident that though King Arthur's knights manifested a genuine desire to do right, they showed in the face of temptation the most naive inability to distinguish between right and wrong. The writer often tells us in extenuation of their sins that they were bewitched. To consider witches the cause of one's sins was a distinctive feature of mediæval belief. It illustrates the tendency of mankind, noticeable all down the ages, to find a scapegoat for their offences, and the scapegoat was necessarily some defenceless creature, commonly a woman. Dr. Springer estimates that 9,000,000 women were burnt as witches during the Christian era. This belief in witches lasted till fairly recent times. Luther said: "Spare none of them, I would burn them all." When we reflect that the word witch means "one who knows," we have some clue to the possible fate of the women

geniuses of the past, and we also understand how extremely dangerous it was for a woman to show signs of anything bordering on intelligence. This is not a pleasant feature of mediæval chivalry. Intelligent women are, perhaps, glad that it exists no more, or they might end in worse degradation than in Holloway Jail.

Malory's 'Morte d'Arthur' was the last great work of Mediæval England. During the Tudor period there came to Western Europe a new learning, a new, or at least a reformed, religion, and a new literature. For some time previous the practices of chivalry had been in abeyance, but in Henry VIII's reign, they were revived. Tournaments, sports and other revelries became the order of the day, and they were attended with a splendour hitherto unknown, a splendour that made the Field of the Cloth of Gold the wonder of ages to come. Nor was the beheading of Anne Boleyn and Katharine Howard an unfitting prelude to the new age of chivalry. Even in the 'Morte d'Arthur' we come across instances of similar domestic tragedies. We are told of Sir Bedivere that he "swapped off his lady's head," and after some penance, "fell to great goodness and was an holy man and a hermite." So Henry VIII. with an irony equally unintentional, became the Defender of the Faith (i.e., of Rome) in his youth, and afterwards the reformer of the Church of England, of which he dubbed himself Supreme Head.

The new Learning and the Reformation had a vivifying effect upon every kind of life, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth we find the culmination of all the forces of the revival. The naval and sea-faring achievements of the time are too well-known to dwell upon. No reign before or since produced a literature so perfect, no age till quite modern times offered such ideal examples of true chivalry in the world of thought and action. Yet it was an age essentially remarkable for the power exercised by women. It saw Elizabeth Queen of England, Mary Queen of Scotland, and Catherine de Medici wielding in deed, if not in letter, the sovereign power of France.

The literature of the Elizabethan age was very largely inspired by a desire to do honour to the Queen, and the flattery meted out to women in general is most extravagant. One doubts its sincerity till one thinks of the history of the time. Then one is struck by the alacrity with which men faced dangers and death to do honour to their sovereign, and one understands how real was some of the adoration so magnificently expressed in the literature of the time. In our childhood most of us liked to dwell upon the exploits of Sir Francis Drake, who after he had sailed round the world, laid his treasures, so to speak, at the Queen's feet, and was dubbed knight on his own ship. We know how Sir Walter Raleigh, who, as a courtier, flung his cloak in the mud for Elizabeth to walk upon, sailed across the seas and founded a colony which he called Virginia, in honour of a Virgin Queen. We know how that perfect pattern of chivalry, Sir Philip Sydney, as he lay mortally wounded on the field of Zutphen, refused the water offered to him because a dying soldier needed it more. We could multiply instances of the courage and high-mindedness that characterized the time. These glories reflected themselves in the literature of the day, and found vent in

Those melodious bursts, that fill
The spacious times of great Elizabeth
With sounds that echo still.

Spenser in his 'Faerie Queene' revived the machinery of mediæval chivalry and grafted upon it the more noble moral sentiments of his day. The Queen of Faerie is of course Elizabeth, and Una stands for truth, the Reformed Church and Elizabeth all thrown into one. It was considered a delicious compliment at the time. Ruskin remarks that the only knight never overcome in its pages was Britomart, the woman knight. This idea of a woman warrior was not the invention of a poet's fancy. Spenser says:—

Here have I cause in men just blame to find,
That in their proper praise too partial be,
And not indifferent to womankind,
To whom no share in arms and chivalry,
They do impart, ne maken memory
Of their brave gests and prowess martial.
(To be continued.) L. F. WARING.

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