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Notes.

THE TIMES, in its issue of last Tuesday, commenting in a leading article on the excision from the Licensing Bill of the clause excluding barmaids, makes the following strong admission of the necessity of representation. "Motives are apt to be mixed, even in dealing with temperance, and it is understood that a desire to secure for men the employment now enjoyed by women in bars, counts for quite as much as sincere desire for the moral well-being of barmaids."

AT the time of going to press the full results of the Municipal Elections are not to hand, but we are glad to be able to state that Mrs. Hughes has been elected for Oxford, and that Miss Ashton has been elected for Manchester.

We are sorry that at High Wycombe the polling results in the return of four candidates pledged to vote against Miss Dove, the nominated Mayor, and only two in her favour.

MR. BEAUMONT has given notice to move the following motion in the House of Commons: "That this House, having regard to the methods with which the movement in favour of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women has become identified, declines to proceed further with any Bill having that object in view."

We conclude that Mr. Beaumont would permit all the inhabitants in a city to die of thirst because one citizen attempted, according to his opinion, hastily to obtain some water.

WE are glad to note that Women's Suffrage is being received favourably by at least one of the South Wales papers. In last Friday's issue of *The Western Mail* there is a leading article in reference to a meeting held in Cardiff the night before, containing these words, "No doubt Mr. Ivor Guest will take note of the character of the audience which listened to Mrs. Fawcett in Cardiff last evening. The public life of the country suffers by the exclusion of these women from direct vote and influence in public affairs."

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

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.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

THE letter written to *The Daily Mail* of October 28th, by "A Magistrate and Observer," is one that demands the careful thought of all our friends as well as of our opponents, for it is more than time that people began to realize, if they deplore the militant action of the Suffragettes, that the blame lies with those who have driven them to this course.

M. R. E. D. WALROND is paying for a copy of this paper to be sent to the Mechanics' Institute, Barnard Castle.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

BOHEMIA.—Just now Bohemia is affording an object lesson in the process by which women are deprived of existing rights when new ones are granted to men. It is not in England alone that a so-called Reform Bill has served to disfranchise women. Bohemia, which has hitherto, with the exception of Prague, escaped electoral reform, is on the point of amending the electoral law of 1861. In addition to the three existing classes of voters, who exercise the franchise on an educational and tax-paying basis, it is now proposed to add a fourth for all men excluded from the other three.

So far from being universal suffrage, the passing of this Bill would actually exclude the women who are at present enfranchised. Needless to say, the women of Bohemia are protesting energetically against this injustice, and their claims will be supported in the Diet by a prominent member of the Agrarian party, who will introduce a resolution in favour of universal, equal, and direct suffrage for men and women alike. They have also appealed for help to all the political clubs, and invited all the women's associations in the country to send up petitions. A large meeting of protest was held on October 2nd, attended by over 800 men and women. A resolution was carried unanimously that action should be carried on till the Bohemian Diet grants universal, equal, and direct suffrage. At any rate, the political equality of women should be maintained, and any extension of the suffrage should refer alike to both sexes. This claim is opposed by a "progressive" paper, on the old illiberal ground that it is selfish of women to put their claims first. The women answer rightly that their first duty is to secure political equality, for only on this basis can they work together with men for universal suffrage.

Another proof, were such needed, that the demand for Manhood Suffrage is a hindrance to Women's Suffrage, and that whenever the two issues are confused it is the women who go to the wall.

SWEDEN.—The women's part in the election campaign was mentioned in a previous number. Of the three great political parties, two, the Liberals and Social Democrats, have been induced to include Women's Suffrage in their programme, while the Conservatives, though professing to be in favour of the abstract principle, think that the time for carrying it into effect has not yet come. It is satisfactory to the women's cause that the two parties friendly to them have gained twenty seats from their opponents.

All over the country women speakers have attracted large audiences. On one occasion a thousand people were present, for the most part peasants and farmers, who have never before given a thought to the question. At another meeting there was an audience of over two thousand.

On September 16th the Women's Suffrage Association held a meeting at Stockholm, at which there were representatives of three political groups, the General Association of Electors, the Liberals, and the Socialists. All three stated their views in favour of Women's Suffrage. Miss Lydia Wahlström, who presided, called attention to the great interest taken by the women in the approaching electoral reform. They had taken part in more than forty meetings of electors, questioning the candidates as to their views. Notwithstanding the defeat in the Riksdag this spring, she said, the cause had been continually making headway. Women from all classes joined the movement, and it counted friends and supporters among all political parties.

A. ZIMMERN.

"Readjustment."

BY MRS. JAMES FRANKLAND.

THE ordinary man, when he is asked if he is in favour of votes for women, nearly always replies that he thinks women ought to keep out of politics; and the ordinary woman has heard this said so often, that she is sometimes inclined to agree with the ordinary man in identifying politics with foreign relations and international treaties, and therefore something quite distinct from babies and housekeeping; and this idea has become so imbedded in the ordinary intellect, that neither the law for the registration of midwives, and the insurance of the "general" and the charwoman, nor long discussions in Parliament on the education and care of children, have had any power to dislodge the idea that politics are unconnected with domestic details. But we should not allow ourselves to be deceived and entangled by verbal expressions. What, after all, are imperial matters, but matters which, if arranged to the satisfaction of nations, allow the human beings, who make up these nations, to live in domestic peace and comfort? Most of us are bound upon the wheel of life, and "lay waste our powers" in an incessant whirl of "getting and spending"; and it is unusual to meet with any one who will pause for a time, and sit apart in that state of critical contemplation and constructive imagination which must precede the readjustment of social conditions. Human institutions should have for their aim the happiness of human beings; no keen and sympathetic observer of women will affirm that thoughtful women are satisfied with what, until quite recently, has been the lot of the majority of their sex; this in the chaos of fluctuating industrial and social conditions, has too often been a choice between degradation and ill-paid drudgery, unrelieved domesticity or triviality; and well-to-do women, finding themselves inhabitants of the wrong paradise, bored by the trivial round unaccompanied by the common task, have forced their way into the bracing and interesting atmosphere of public affairs. The right to serve on municipal bodies, which has at last been conceded to women, is found, when put to a practical test, to be in many ways incomplete, and hedged around with verbal inaccuracies and irritating legal uncertainties, the result of carelessness in drafting, and carelessness in observing the result of amendments hastily inserted in the course of debate, and which would never have been allowed to pass uncriticized if the persons directly interested had been able personally to supervise the clauses. I am continually struck by the fact that men and women are sealed mysteries to each other. I should decline to legislate for men without consulting them. Unfortunately they have not hesitated to legislate for women while holding them aloof, and we have only to look around us to see how they have dwarfed and injured women by forcing unnatural conventions upon them, from which, with painful but unceasing struggles, they are seeking to free themselves.

George Meredith says: "Women must have brains to have emerged, as much as they have done, from their bondage." Nobody who has studied history should be surprised at the demand of women for political freedom, which has been claimed and grasped by succeeding sections of the community. The interests of no class and neither sex can safely be left in the hands of rivals. It is too late in the history of the gradual enfranchisement of the English people to complain, as I have heard a good many men do, that too many ignorant men already have the vote, and that the whole voting system is a nightmare of unwieldiness, and that the affairs of the "nation" are settled by ignorant people voting ignorantly. That might have been an argument for withholding the vote from the masses of men, but it is an additional reason for giving the vote to women. If the men vote ignorantly about their own affairs, how much more ignorantly do they vote about the affairs of women.

But no one who has watched the conduct of imperial matters and diplomatic relations can have failed to observe that their management remains in the hands of the few, and that, though the mass of voting opinion, which forms what is called "the democracy," swings the pendulum of party to and fro, international relations are scarcely affected or disturbed even by a change of personnel in the Cabinet.

Bread and beer, taxes and pensions, appeal principally to the masses of the electorate, and no one can say that these things are outside the woman's sphere.

People forget that the privilege of voting, which most men now possess, and of which numbers of them never avail themselves, is a comparatively recent acquisition. They are apt to talk as if votes for men were bound up in some way with the laws of nature. Mrs. Humphry Ward says: "It would appear that women are not naturally voters." Nobody is naturally a voter. We live in the midst of a complex and bewildering civilization, burdened with the nature called "human," which is a tangle of brutal instincts and divine aspirations. Man has had a tough struggle so far in the history of the world in seeking single-handed to co-ordinate these incompatibilities; and perhaps a better solution of many problems will be found, when woman is allowed to help, and when her point of view is plainly stated by herself, and considered by the two sexes in common council. Our political machinery is not a natural product. It is an artificial contrivance which requires constant readjustment to meet varying needs in different centuries. The age of chivalry may be gone, but let us hope that the age of commonsense is approaching.

The civilizing influence of John Stuart Mill has never passed away, and the seeds sown by him and other pioneers have been growing up and gaining strength to thrust aside and overtop the tangled undergrowth of prejudice and ignorance. There are earnest and thoughtful men fighting on our side, who seize every opportunity of furthering our cause, and who have earned our deepest gratitude. The vote for properly qualified women—long overdue—should be conceded now, before any change in the basis of the franchise is taken into consideration; and it should be accompanied by a manly recognition of error and injustice in the past.

La Rochefoucauld said long ago in his cynical way that the root hatred between the sexes is ALMOST ineradicable. Fair play and equality of opportunity would do more than anything else could do to eradicate bitterness of feeling, and the Liberal Government of to-day has it in its power to do an act of justice which would be an angelic message of "peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

Apparel and its Meaning.

BY EBLANA—(Continued from p. 194.)

Working upwards, we now come to the head. Formerly, among the Romans and others, the head was uncovered. Then came hoods, until the fifteenth century, when caps appeared.

The Vitta, or fillet, was worn by Roman women and by priests.

At one time covering the head was a mark of infamy. At another, an emblem of honour. There was the Mitra head-dress of the Greeks; there was the famous Phrygian Cap, the emblem of liberty, donned by a slave when freed, and also in early times, worn by priests. When Constantine emancipated the Church in the beginning of the fourth century, Pope St. Sylvester put on the Phrygian Cap, which was the origin of the present Tiara.

In Ireland, from the earliest ages, women wore a linen head-dress, and men a kind of cap called a baread.

Milton, in describing the long tresses of Eve and the comparatively short hair of Adam, argues therefrom the subjection of the former to the latter. But the Gauls, under the Roman Government, were obliged to have their hair cut short as a mark of subjection, while the peoples of free states had it flowing down their backs in curls. The Irish, in particular, held long hair in such esteem that no soldier or officer durst appear without it, nay, its loss was a mark of the greatest contempt, and an indignity to be offered only to slaves.

It seems strange that a mere detail of dress, a petty piece of cloth or other material, should have any relation to such a

sublime subject as the Image of God. Yet, so it is; and of course, as usual, women are made to suffer by the connexion. Chief Justice Fortescue harps on it *ad nauseam* to prove that because women cover their heads they are not God's image and that, therefore, they may be defrauded of human rights. He quotes St. Paul—"The man indeed ought not to cover his head because he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man"; and "Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered, disgraceth his head. But every woman praying or prophesying with her head not covered disgraceth her head, for it is all as one as if she were shorn," &c.

It is not very clear whether it may be taken as a mark of dignity for man to be uncovered or for woman to be covered. In some Arab tribes men only wear veils. Jewish women were at one time required to cut off their hair, on their marriage, and wear wigs in order to frighten away all men save the husband, who, poor fellow, was supposed to be charmed with the manufactured bogie!

Even in Christian times and to the early part of the nineteenth century the moment a girl married, though only fifteen years old, she clapped a frightful monster of a cap upon her head, no matter with what a wealth of hair God had endowed her, and all in order to carry out the behest of St. Paul. And yet that Apostle says, too, "Doth not even nature itself teach you that a man indeed if he nourish his hair it is a shame to him, but if a woman nourish her hair it is a glory to her, for her hair is given to her for a covering?" But this was made to give way to "Judge you for yourselves, doth it become a woman to pray to God uncovered?" "Therefore ought the woman to have a power over her head, because of the angels." In a note in the Bible we are told that a *power* is a veil or covering, as a sign that she is under the *power* of her husband. We wonder who gave this article of head-dress such a name, and for what purpose. Whether *power*, as an article of dress, has any relation to *power*, implying authority, is not at all clear. If not, it was for man a fortunate coincidence, as it gave him a handle for airing his dignities and privileges at the expense of the unconscious wearer of the article. But if the term was invented as a token of the inferiority of women, to what does it lead?

It is chiefly spoken of as being worn in the church while worshipping. The question arises: Was it worn by married woman only, as the unmarried had no husbands? And with regard to wives, how could it prove them to be under the power of their husbands alone any more than that of their brothers, and sons, and male servants, or slaves, none of whom, of course, wore the power, being men, and as such privileged to look down upon their humbled sisters, mothers, or mistresses, as the case might be?

Who made the Church responsible for this brand of degradation upon the sex which has been treated with such favour by its Divine Founder? Is it the Commentators; or did the apostle intend it? for he says it is "because of the angels." Then it is *not* because of the *husbands*, but because of the *angels*. He surely did not mean to term the husbands angels! The husbands were men, and as such "a little lower than the angels." Yet the angels, like the women, worshipped with their faces veiled, or might be said to have *powers* over their heads as well as the women. The bishops were sometimes termed angels, as, "the Angel of the Church of Antioch," &c. But these angels in the flesh were covered likewise. They had *powers* on their head in the form of mitres; for, curiously enough, while laymen worship with their heads uncovered, as becomes their dignity, it is only such beings as women, bishops, and angels that cover their heads in the church and wear the *power*!

Thus, taking the *Power versus Nothing*, the *Skirt versus the Trousers*, and, altogether, *Female versus Male Attire*, we see that the latter, highly lauded though it be, is, even by men themselves, tacitly acknowledged even to be much inferior to the former, which they affect to despise.

What a mistake, therefore, women—happily few in these countries—make in thinking that they elevate themselves by discarding their own for men's apparel—and how unfair, too! Why?

Because while women, if only "strong-minded" enough,

can with little opposition adopt the trousers and go bareheaded, the privilege of wearing the flowing robe and the power is restricted to such men only as have attained to positions of dignity and honour, spiritual or temporal, and even to these only when engaged in the administration of their exalted duties.

Pressing On.

Courage! for the good cause prospers; turned at last the ebbing tide;
Now it flows towards us, bringing help and friends on every side.
Where we met in scanty numbers, now we muster thousands strong;
Yes; we're winning, winning surely, and we're pressing, pressing on.

In our ranks are women standing, who have now a glorious name;
And recruits are daily joining, candidates for work and fame.
Spite of failure, opposition, we may sing a triumph song,
For we're winning, yes, we're winning, and we're pressing, pressing on.

Where we faced the taunts and scoffing, where we heard the ribald jeer,
Now we meet a hearty welcome, now we get an honest cheer.
Ah, the hill is steep for climbing, and the way is weary long;
But we're winning, winning slowly, and we're pressing, pressing on.

Not in vain we've fought and laboured, not in vain our toil and pain;
Perhaps some may not see the victory—they have worked for others' gain.
But the goal is quickly nearing, and we know it won't be long—
All along the line we're winning, as we gallantly press on.

EVELYN HUNT.

A Husband's Power to Revoke.

EXTRACT from *The Scotsman*, Wednesday, October 28th, 1908. The Court of Session (before the Lord President, Lords Kinneir and Mackenzie.)

A Mr. and Mrs. Crawford made a mutual trust disposition and settlement in August, 1894, with codicil 1896. She died.

He made in 1892 a trust disposition and settlement by which he professed to revoke and recall all previous settlements made by him, including the mutual settlement made by him and his wife.

In the Outer House the Lord Ordinary had decided that the surviving husband had no power to revoke or alter the provisions of the mutual settlement, as by his own later settlement he professed to do.

This decision was reversed, the Court holding that Mr. Crawford was—

"within his rights in revoking by his own testament the provisions in favour of his wife's grandnieces which were contained in the mutual testament of himself and his wife."

We are not so much disposed to argue the correctness or otherwise of the decision, as to question, with gravest doubts, whether the judges would have given the wife such rights of revoking provisions in favour of the husband's grandnephews.

Correspondence.

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

DEAR SIR,—Please allow me to make a correction in Mr. Mackenzie Bell's letter. Miss FitzHerbert is the author of the clever and amusing skit 'Men's League for Disfranchising Women' to which he refers. I am sorry I cannot claim the honour.

Yours faithfully,

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

A PUBLIC MEETING

ARRANGED BY

Professional and Industrial Women

IN SUPPORT OF

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

WILL BE HELD IN THE

Queen's Hall, Langham Place, London,

ON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 1908,

At EIGHT o'clock.

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. AYRTON (Science).
Madame SARAH GRAND (Novelist).
Mrs. J. S. TURNER (Miss Agnes Ward), (Education).
Miss TITA BRAND (the Stage).
Miss ALICE CLARK (Commerce).
Miss REDDISH (Textile Worker).
Mrs. DICKENSON (Women's Trade Unions).
Miss GORE-BOOTH (Women's Trade Unions).
Miss ROPER (Women Workers).

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19, Buckingham Street, Strand

FOUR SONGS

For Suffragettes.

MUSIC BY

MRS. ALICIA ADELAIDE NEEDHAM.

1. DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND.

Words by M. A. MARTIN.

2. MARCHING ON.

Words by JOHN RUSSELL.

3. FIGHTING ON.

Words by CONSTANCE CLYDE.

4. CLIPPED WINGS (humorous).

Words by C. M. GEORGE.

Arrangements have been made to give a Royalty on each Copy sold to the Suffrage Cause, and the four Songs can be had complete for 2s. 6d. net, or post free, 2s. 9d.

To be obtained from

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' OFFICE,
13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON

Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A.

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1060 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS I. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.D. (Lond.)

MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN
MISS LOWNDES

MISS WARD
LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

We wish to draw the attention of our members to the meeting of Professional and Industrial Women convened in support of Women's Suffrage, which will take place in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, November 17th, at 8 o'clock. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., and her supporters will include leaders in their special branches of work. Among the many distinguished women present will be Mrs. Ayrton, Miss Dove (nominated Mayor of High Wycombe), and Miss Jane Harrison, LL.D., who has achieved world-wide reputation through her researches in Greek archaeology and by her brilliant books on ancient Greek religions. Admission free, but there will be reserved seats for 2s. 6d. and 1s., which can be obtained on application to Miss Gore-Booth, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand.

The Birmingham W.S.S. have arranged a series of lectures to women only in November. Miss Abadam will be the speaker at all the meetings—at Edgbaston, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Saltley, Solihul, Stratford-on-Avon, Worcester, and Redditch. It is hoped by this means to make some attempt to stir the women of the upper and lower middle class. We have been fortunate enough to secure Mrs. Fawcett on the first day of our Exhibition of Banners, November 26th, and Miss Margaret Ashton on the second day.

Tunbridge Wells.

We are glad to announce that a Suffrage Society has been started in Tunbridge Wells, and has become affiliated to the National Union. Madame Sarah Grand has consented to be President, and the Hon. Treasurer is Miss Power, 8, Broadwater Down.

Threepenny-bit Fund.

MISS THOMSON, our Highgate secretary, writes:—

"I have read your announcement about the starting of a Threepenny-Bit Fund, and hope the idea will be heartily taken up. I have for long been in the habit of collecting threepenny-bits, and I can assure people that the odd threepennies are not much missed, and have a pleasing way of mounting up at quite a respectable rate. It is astonishing how fascinating the process of collecting grows, and, in fact, one becomes quite experienced in knowing which shops make a speciality in dealing in the coveted coins. My present collection consisted of ninety-six threepenny-bits on Thursday last, but I have since been able to add four more to it, and have now very much pleasure in sending you the equivalent, 25s., towards your fund. I know one or two people who are starting to collect at once, and I hope many will join, for we must remember that by far the greater part of the valuable work done by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is absolutely dependent on a sufficient supply of money.

Miss Robertson has also received promises to collect from Mrs. Hill, Miss Vellacott, Miss Dorner Harris, Mrs. Catlin (Leamington), Miss Lawrence (Penrith), Mrs. Longden (Ealing), Miss Allen (Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth), and Miss Dalby (Birkenhead), who writes: "Miss Dalby will collect for the Threepenny-Bit Fund. She thinks it a very good idea; she has eighteen already."

The Present Situation.

SUPPORTERS of Women's Suffrage will do well to consider the words recently spoken by Lord Courtney of Penwith at a great demonstration held in Manchester on October 23rd, and by Mr. Yorke Stanger, M.P., in the Town Hall, Leamington, on October 29th. Both these meetings were held to swell the "proof" demanded by the Prime Minister that women are in earnest in asking for enfranchisement.

Of the fidelity of both these men to the cause there can be no doubt. Lord Courtney, as Miss Ashton explained, is "a long tried friend," he has rendered valiant service in and out of Parliament for over thirty years, "even contact with the House of Lords has not dimmed his ardour" in our cause. Mr. Stanger's able services in connexion with this year's Women's Suffrage Bill are fresh in our minds. For these reasons, the recent utterances of these two men, one speaking from experience of long years of work on behalf of this or other reforms; the other, with his hand on the pulse of the House of Commons, and with special opportunities of judging of the opinions of those inside that House, deserve careful study and attention at this particular crisis in the history of our movement.

Both the speakers admitted, as every one must admit, that the patience of women has been sorely tried during the last forty years by the neglect shown by Parliament and by Press in regard to their wishes and their work for this reform; both speakers admitted—as we all admit—that "there is good excuse, if not good ground, for impatience"; both refrained from condemning the policy of those who in despair have adopted methods and tactics of disorder and violence. Both recognized that the claim of women to participate in the political life of this country must be recognized as promptly as possible. On the other hand both, though speaking from the different points of view already indicated, preached the futility of adopting violent methods to accelerate the end we all have in view.

Lord Courtney, in particular, pointed out what must be obvious to all who will follow the signs of the times, "that by constitutional means the reform is coming; that we are on the brink of victory; that the obstacles are dying away; that the education of the Government is going on; that the education of the opponents is going on, that the education of the country, already considerable, is going on." "Step by step, every outwork has been gained," and if members of Parliament are still reluctant—and some of them are—to extend full justice to women, "a little more patience grounded in faith" will win the day.

The policy indicated by Lord Courtney as certain of success is the policy of the National Union. Our "faith" in the justice of our cause led us to adopt constitutional methods. Our belief that a just cause needs no violence leads us to still pursue those methods, adapting them to the needs of the times. Our knowledge of the enormous progress made since the time when John Stuart Mill first broached the question in the House of Commons leads us to have a little more "patience" before we think of "imitating the unconstitutional means of which men have so often set the example."

"Patience" with us does not mean "slackness"; it does not mean "ceasing to work"; it does not mean lack of enthusiasm, devotion, self-sacrifice; all these qualities are to be found in abundance among the members of the National Union. It is

faith in our cause, patience, perseverance, self-sacrifice, hard work on constitutional lines, which have brought us within measurable distance of success. It is a combination of the same qualities which will enable us to force open the door now "banged," "barred," and "bolted" against us.
BERTHA MASON.

County Campaign Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Warwickshire.—Miss Lindsay ..	0	2	6			
				2	13	0

Total to Saturday, October 31st, 1908 .. £738 17 2

Branch Societies.

DARLINGTON.—On October 22nd, at a well-attended meeting, held by kind permission of Mrs. Foster at Westbrook, Mrs. Wood read an interesting paper on the history of the Suffrage Movement. Miss Lucas, who presided, proposed a resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Dennes, approving of the by-election policy of the National Union.

LONDON.—*Highgate.*—By the kind invitation of Mrs. Fisher White, a well-attended Suffrage Tea was held on October 28th. Miss Marjorie Strachey, in an able address, traced the gradual change in the social and economic position of women from the eighteenth century to the twentieth, and showed how the need for political change accompanied it. Miss Alice Zimmern gave an encouraging account of women's political progress in other lands, and interesting speeches were also made by Mrs. Russell James and Miss F. Straker. Several new members joined the society.

PONTYPRIDD.—There was a large and representative gathering of ladies and gentlemen at the Lesser Town Hall on the 28th to listen to addresses by Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. Mrs. H. M. Gregory presided, and among others present were Mrs. Henry Lewis, Mrs. John Parry, Miss Nanet secretary, to the Cardiff branch of the National Union, and Mr. H. M. Gregory, J.P.

WALLASEY.—A Women's Suffrage Society for this district was inaugurated at a Public Meeting held on October 21st, in the Liscard Concert Hall. Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided, and Miss Alison Garland made an interesting and stirring speech in moving a resolution to Mr. Asquith. Mr. Lyon Blease supported the resolution, and urged men to join the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—Mr. Stanger, M.P., presided over a meeting on the 29th. The Town Hall was packed, and an attentive crowd stood in the ante-room listening through the open doors to Mrs. Pember Reeves's graphic and humorous description of how the vote was granted to women in New Zealand. Miss Margaret Robertson was received with enthusiasm, and her speech was listened to with much interest. During the proceedings she was presented with a workcase as a small recognition by the committee of the valuable services she has rendered the branch. Miss Robertson addressed an open-air assembly on the evening before the meeting. This proved an excellent method of advertising, for whilst she was speaking members of the committee presented notices to every man and woman in her audience.

WHITBY AND DISTRICT.—*Lythe.*—October 26th, Miss Pringle presided over a meeting of the Lythe Mutual Improvement Society. Miss Gardner gave an address, which was followed by a lively discussion. On October 28th, at Miss A. M. Watson's invitation, the Lythe members met Miss Gardner and Miss Pringle for tea and discussion.

Sleights.—October 27th, a public meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms. Miss A. M. Allen presided, and the speakers were Miss Gardner and Miss Pringle.

Whitby.—October 29th, Annual Meeting in the Lecture Hall, Silver Street. After tea Miss I. O. Ford spoke on 'The Present Position of the Movement,' and Miss Gardner on 'Caravan Experiences.' That evening, at an open-air meeting in Station Square, Miss Ford, Miss Gardner, and Miss Pringle addressed a crowd, said to be unprecedented in Whitby, probably numbering over 2,000 interested, orderly, and sympathetic.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

Mrs. Taylor	£1	0	0
Mrs. Ernest Harrington .. .	0	10	0

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

		P.M.
Nov. 5.	Bridlington , Public Meeting, Temperance Hall Speakers, Miss M. Royden, Miss Fraser, and others	7.30
6.	Bridlington , Debate, Literary and Debating Society Edinburgh , "At Home," Café, Oak Hall Hostess, Miss S. E. S. Mair	
	Windsor , Drawing-Room Meeting Hostess, Mrs. Muford Speaker, Miss Abadam	4 3
10.	London Society Annual Meeting , Caxton Hall	3
11.	London , Newington Green, Debate, Mildmay Club, 34, Newington Green Portsmouth , Public Meeting, Town Hall Chair, Mrs. Godfrey Baring Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, John Russell, Esq., T. A. Bramsdon, Esq., M.P. Miss Abadam. Chair, Henry Seddon, Esq. Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Miss Gardner, B.A., and others Speaker, Miss Abadam	7.30 7.30
	Whitby , Public Meeting, Temperance Hall Chair, Mrs. Godfrey Baring Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Miss Gardner, B.A., and others Speaker, Miss Abadam	7.30
12.	Redditch , Meeting, Women only London , Westminster, Drawing-Room Meeting	7.30
	Portsmouth, Exhibition of Banners used in London Procession , Fuller's Tea Rooms Newcastle , Drawing-Room Meeting, Mayfield Hostess, Miss Ericsson Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser Hostess, Mrs. M. D. Shaw Speakers, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Miss Helen Fraser	3 3
	Evening Meeting , 13, Bristol Terrace	
13.	Newcastle , Drawing-Room Meeting, 19, Ellison Place Stratford-on-Avon , Meeting for Women only Speaker, Miss Abadam	3.30
14.	Birmingham , Meeting for Women only Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
16.	Newcastle , Public Meeting, Drawing-Room Café Chair, Dr. Ethel Williams Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	7.30
17.	Gateshead , Drawing-Room Meeting, 10, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell Hostess, Mrs. Eyres Speakers, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Miss Helen Fraser Chair, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. Speakers, Mrs. Ayrton, Mme. Sarah Grand, Miss Roper, and others Speaker, Miss Abadam	3 3 8 3.30
17.	Wolverhampton , Meeting for Women only, Y.M.C.A., Darlington Street Speaker, Miss Abadam	3
18.	Saltley , Meeting for Women only Speaker, Miss Abadam	3
19.	London , Chelsea, Invitation Meeting, Humphrey's Tea Room, 145, King's Road Wandsworth , Public Meeting, Town Hall Chair, W. H. Dickinson, Esq., M.P. Speakers, The Right Hon. Earl Russell, Miss Alison Garland, and others Speaker, Miss Abadam	8 3.30
20.	Solihull , Meeting for Women only Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Russell Cooke	3.30
23.	Southampton , Public Meeting, Shaftesbury Hall Worcester , Meeting for Women only Speaker, Miss Abadam	3.30
24.	Birmingham , Edgbaston, Meeting for Women only New Forest , Public Meeting, The Milton Hall, New Milton Speaker, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. London , Paddington S., "At Home" Hostess, Lady Spicer Speakers, Mrs. Eltham Mylne, Miss Cicely Corbett	3.30 7.30
26.	London , Central Hackney, Debate League of Young Liberals	
26 & 27.	Birmingham , Exhibition of Banners To be opened by Mrs. Fawcett (26th) Miss M. Ashton (27th)	
	Altrincham , Public Meetings	

* * * Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N. U. W. S. S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Harcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.F.A.).

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

The "Grille" Protest.

OCTOBER 28TH, 1908, will be marked as a red-letter day in the history of the Women's Suffrage agitation, for it will be remembered that on that day the Women's Freedom League made it necessary for the House of Commons to choose between the adjournment of business and the removal of the insulting grille. This is the central fact of last Wednesday's protest; but in addition to it, further protests were made both inside and outside of the legislative buildings. If women cannot enter the House of Commons by force, they have demonstrated the fact that they can and will enter its precincts by strategy and secrecy.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League prides itself upon the fact that its plan of attack could not really fail. Whatever attitude was taken by the House, whichever alternative it chose, the women triumphed. To talk the House out would have been triumph indeed. To remove the grille had even greater symbolic value. The names of Miss Muriel Matters and Miss Helen Fox may not go down to the future ages. They may be forgotten, but their deed will never be forgotten. They were instrumental in removing the grille—that sign of sex-subjection—of women's exclusion from citizenship. The thing they did will stand as a sign of the breaking of barriers, of the shattering of sex-slavery.

Their central protest was ably supported in four other places: Protests were made in the Men's Gallery, in St. Stephen's Hall, at St. Stephen's entrance to the House, and from Richard Coeur de Lion's statue in Palace Yard. In spite of police suspicion and special precaution, every part of the plan devised was carried out. Even in the Strangers' Gallery—though from here a large body of our sympathizers were excluded on suspicion, only two gaining admittance out of twenty—even here the protest was made. Our two friends, finding themselves alone, carried out their task unsupported—a fact which must be remembered to their lasting credit.

For our own women words can scarcely suffice. Their protests were extraordinarily successful; the work to be done was carried out with dignity, courage, initiative, and unswerving loyalty. I was never prouder of my fellow-members than on the evening of this protest, unless it were on the following morning; when I listened to their speeches in the dock. The meaning and purpose of our agitation was never more clearly placed before the public than it was placed before them through the agency of the press and the magistrate on that day. Twelve of our members went to Holloway from the dock, one was dismissed, and the case of one was remanded in order that she might prepare her case to bring a counter charge against the police.

Our women, committed to prison in the third division, classed as the worst of common criminals, are still the victors. They have achieved something; they have brought the day of our liberty appreciably nearer; they have assisted at a symbolic ceremony; they have prepared the way for other women passing in freedom where they passed in chains.

T. B.-G.

The Case against the Police.

THE officers of the Women's Freedom League are responsible for Miss Neilans obtaining a remand in order to protest against the action of the police. On the evening of the "Grille Raid" Miss Neilans was assaulted by a constable in St. Stephen's Hall before several witnesses.

During the course of the evening serious bodily harm was

done to two members of the League. The attitude of the police seemed to be that no arrests were to be made until every effort had been employed to drive the demonstrators away by violence. Against this line of conduct we protest. As Miss Leighfield said in the police-court, when commenting upon the evidence of a constable who arrested her: "If an offence is committed it is surely the duty of the police to arrest the wrongdoer, not to assault her."

Let our position be understood. We do not blame the police as a body. We know that it is the instructions of the Government that determine their conduct. If they are told to keep down the number of arrests, it naturally follows that they must resort to violence. But this is not to be endured in silence any longer. The responsibility must be driven home. We are not prepared to have our members assaulted and injured in order that the cowardly clique of Cabinet Ministers may find comfort in the artificially reduced numbers of women demonstrators.

T. B.-G.

"The Habit of Throwing Things."

MR. P. W. WILSON, of *The Daily News*, has had a bad fright. To the Speaker's decision to guard the "dignity" of the House, P. W. W. says: "to which I may add, its safety." He says: "Members have a right to demand protection from the possibilities which may arise if the habit of throwing things be recommended by these women to men." This, à propos of a bundle of leaflets being thrown on the floor of the House! Little things do startle a man when he is half asleep, but it was only 8.30, and P. W. W. is a journalist, and ought always to be wide-awake. Can it be that he smoked cigarettes when he was a child, and that his nerves have suffered ever since? However that may be, his 'Pictures in Parliament' on October 29th and 30th were painted with a trembling hand: "If women make men contract the habit of throwing things, where is it to end?" He seems to say, "The leaflet that alighted on my head did not hurt me much, but next time it may be a bomb!" If it is any consolation to P. W. W. we can assure him that though the possibility of doing a little something with a jampot and some nails may have occurred to some of us, it never has been and never will be seriously considered as a policy as long as there is one righteous man in the House—to say nothing of the housemaids. Besides, how could we part with P. W. W. if he is to develop humour at this rate? His column on October 29th is far better than anything in *Punch* and only costs one halfpenny. He writes: "Mr. Remnant deserves the thanks of the House for the perfect success with which he continued his remarks.... Not for an instant was the debate interrupted"; so that the perfect success of a Parliamentary speech lies in getting it delivered, not listened to. It is worthy of note that the reporters were busy taking down Miss Matters's speech, not Mr. Remnant's. The two speeches must have flowed on together without becoming diffused like the Rhine and the Rhone—the muddy and the clear, one and yet two. The House addressed simultaneously by Mr. Remnant and Miss Matters with the grille being removed incidentally and as an accompaniment, would not strike every one as a perfect success in the way of a debate; but then Parliamentary notions of perfection are not very exacting. P. W. W. daubs on the colour a little too thick when he hints that the ladies chained to the grille were mad, and "scarcely in a condition to stand"; and that the other women were "trembling" in a huddled heap at the sight of policemen. The mad ladies must have recovered very quickly, as they were shortly afterwards to be found conducting a protest meeting outside with much apparent sanity

and no apparent fear. The Kaiser, however, says all the English are mad, and as Miss Matters is Australian she was probably really the only sane person present. As to the other ladies, is P. W. W. quite sure that it was *they* who were doing the "trembling?" P. W. W.'s funniest effort is his picture of "the cause of Women's Suffrage wrecked for the moment beyond immediate repair." These are the brilliant things we say when we try to be tragic and accurate at the same time. Long may P. W. W. live to amuse us, and long he will live we may prophesy, protected by the police force outside the House, and the one righteous man and the housemaids inside.

Holloway Prison Protest Meeting.

ON Saturday afternoon, October 30th, at 3.30 P.M., the grey walls of Holloway Prison had Suffragists both within and without. Those who were inside, classed with the worst criminals in the third division, were there for the *crime* of trying to make a protest in the House of Commons (which belongs to the people) against the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary vote. Those who were outside were protesting against the injustice of treating Suffragist prisoners as criminals, instead of political offenders, and especially against them being placed in the third division.

A large crowd soon assembled, and the speakers were listened to with the deepest interest and enthusiasm. Mrs. Manson took the chair, and from the taxicab which constituted the temporary platform, three other speakers from the Freedom League, and one from the Men's League, addressed the audience.

At the close of the meeting the chairman put a resolution protesting against the Suffragists being placed in the third division, and calling upon the Government to treat the prisoners as political offenders. This was carried with acclamation, there being only two dissentients in the large crowd of men and women.

A great shout of "Votes for Women" was then given, and a call for "three cheers for our prisoners," was responded to with the greatest enthusiasm, and, judging by the volume of sound, must have reached the ears of the plucky women who are now enduring the loneliness and discomfort of Holloway after so splendidly carrying out the demonstration of last Wednesday.

A. M.

News from America.

THE disability of the disfranchised has just had a forcible illustration in the United States. Reduced railroad rates are given to Governments, to enable them to return to their respective homes to vote at the general election. Among the thousands who presented themselves to obtain the reduced rates were some women from the States where women vote, and they were as gladly accorded the privilege as were the men. But other women clerks, who thought this would give them an opportunity to make a home visit, were received with an icy stare at the railroad offices, and told that the reduction was given only to voters. It is rumoured that the matter will be laid before the Inter-State Commerce Commission, on the ground that the new law prohibits discrimination.

A Colorado woman who has been a voter in that State for some time has now taken up her residence in New York. As she does not like being reduced to a political entity after having the rights of citizenship, she has brought suit against the registration officers to compel them to show cause why she should not be allowed to register and vote.

CLARA BEWICK COLBY.
Oregon, U.S.A.

Parliamentary Committee.

THERE are now twenty-four M.P.s Vice-Presidents of this Committee. It is intended to hold in December a conference in the House of Commons, with the Members of Parliament who are Vice-Presidents of the Committee, to discuss Parliamentary action during the next session.

Promoters of drawing-room or other meetings in London or provincial constituencies may apply for speakers to the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The L.C.C.

MEMBERS! the W.F.L. has absolutely justified its existence as a militant body. There is now only one thing needed, and that is the enthusiastic co-operation of individual members.

The L.C.C. has been in distress at Peckham. Those who helped us are gratefully thanked, but not nearly enough have helped. Miss Tillard has been imprisoned in the shop when other workers were required to relieve her.

We want help—every day and every night. Clapham and Battersea workers forward! We want all kinds of labour.

Wandsworth Town Hall meeting must be a success, for the honour of our prisoners.

Protection of Members of Parliament Bill.

MADAM.—It is extremely interesting and instructive to note in *The Daily News* of October 31st that the Government will find time to introduce and carry through in a week or ten days a Bill for Brawling in the House. We were told that by no power could time be found to carry through its Third Reading a Bill to which a majority of the House are already pledged, and which would thus presumably go through with little opposition. But when it comes to inflicting punishment on women for a nominal crime, all our over-worked members are so eager to help that they find they can arrange for the passage of this Bill in the interval between the Committee stage and the Report stage of the Licensing Bill. So feverishly anxious are they that there shall be no loss of time that it is proposed to suspend the eleven o'clock rule, in order to further facilitate this truly despicable measure. I am afraid the attitude of the brawlers concerned and of the onlookers is little less than amusement. Ye Gods! what a spectacle! Rather than carry through a simple measure of justice—a measure which is unavoidable sooner or later—our noble law-makers prefer to protect themselves night and day by police, to barricade themselves in their meeting-house, and from that safe retreat issue orders that any woman who opens her mouth in her own defence shall be pitched into jail for as long as the "law" permits, merely going through the form of a trial to satisfy public decency. What a laughing stock the Government of this country has become. No one would mind if they would fight fairly, but they hit below the belt all the time. Nevertheless it will be strange if our countrymen before long do not insist on a *fair* fight over this matter. There is, unfortunately, no disguising the fact that it is a fight!

B. DRYSDALE.

[We are not responsible for the tone of the above letter. It is high time something was done to preserve the majesty of the House of Commons, and we agree with P. W. W. in trembling for the personal safety of the members. We suggest that majesty and safety might be preserved in the following way: Each member to be surrounded by a circular fireguard, the head to be protected by a waste paper basket. We have proved by experience that such a covering affords ample protection against bats, and doubtless it would be equally efficacious in the case of leaflets. These simple precautions, added to the penal enactment about to be passed, ought to ensure the dignity and safety of the present Government till such time as it dies of sheer ineptitude.—

Ed. W. F. L.]

Correspondence.

Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Textile and other Workers Representation Committee.

DEAR SIR.—In answer to Dr. Wilks's suggestion that the Women's Freedom League should adopt the policy of running independent Women's Suffrage candidates, may we suggest that if any one is interested in this policy they should co-operate

with the Lancashire and Cheshire Textile and other workers Representation Committee, a society which has been formed with this object in the north of England, and is at present looking out for recruits to help in the work which they hope to undertake in Rossendale at no distant date.

Yours faithfully,

EVA GORE BOOTH.
ESTHER ROPER, *Hon. Secs.*

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in reading Dr. Wilks's letter in the *Women's Franchise*, proposing that in the future we should run a Women's Suffrage candidate instead of opposing the Liberal one. In the first place, positive policy involves more enthusiasm than a negative one; and secondly, I think, many people are beginning to think that it is a pity to turn Liberals into enemies. Although it would cost a good deal of money to run a candidate of our own, still I am sure many people would gladly contribute for this purpose. Then I think the effect of such an action would have a beneficial effect in the House of Commons. I quite realize how much good our present policy has done, but I am sure that by this change we could do a great deal more.

I am, &c., one much interested,
E. G. M.

Branch Notes.

Woking Branch.—After a successful campaign in Woking a good branch has been formed, with Miss Clare Pocock as hon. secretary.

Miss Muriel Matters had the assistance of Miss Tillard, Miss Dorothy Le Lacheur, Miss Seruya, and Miss Cowen. To add to the comfort of the campaigners Miss Cowen placed a charming cottage at their disposal.

Manchester Branch.—The Manchester Demonstration was a huge success. On Friday the large Free Trade Hall was full, though not "packed." Large crowds assembled along the route on Saturday, and in the park there were enthusiastic audiences around each platform. The resolution in every case was carried by an overwhelming majority.

In preparation for this demonstration a social was held at the Portland Café. A large number of guests greatly enjoyed both the speeches made by Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Zimmermann, Miss Schofield; and the songs, recitations, and violin solo by Misses Frapner and Race and Mr. Westerly respectively. A public meeting will be held in the Coal Exchange on November 24th, when Mrs. Despard will speak. We call upon our members to sell tickets to as many outsiders as possible, and to invite friends, sympathizers, and antagonists to meet Mrs. Billington-Greig on December 10th, when an At-Home will be given in her honour at the Portland Café.

A jumble sale will take place early in December. We ask that all parcels and gifts, for which we thank you in anticipation, be addressed to our offices, 47, Mosley Street, Manchester. The Manchester Branch's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4th. It is hoped that all members will attend for the election of officers for the next year.

Central Branch.—Will members and those wishing to join please note that this Branch (with which is incorporated the Despard Debating Society) meets at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, on Thursdays, at 7.45 P.M. for business, and 8 P.M. for lecture or debate.

November 5th, no meeting. November 12th, Miss Mocatta's At-Home to branch members, 108, Iverna Court, Kensington (near Kensington High Street, on District Railway).

P. H.

The **Hackney Branch** are organizing a Suffrage entertainment for November 20th and 21st in the Free Library Hall, Church Street, Stoke Newington, and they want other members of the League to help to make it a great success. This entertainment will present many attractions: the duologue, waxworks arranged and shown by Miss Cicely Hamilton, tableaux vivants, the prison cell, music, speeches, &c. A very important feature will be a sale of goods left from the bazaar or collected during the next fortnight. Contributions towards a doll stall are invited, and also cakes, jams, and dainties of all kinds for a Cake and Candy Stall. Members are earnestly requested to make this entertainment known to their friends living in the north and east of London.

Edinburgh Branch.—Our winter session has begun in rather a promising fashion. Meetings are held weekly; much interest is shown in the subjects discussed, and new members have been enrolled at every meeting. We had Miss Husband from Dundee, who spoke on 'Married Women in Factories,' Lady Steel, who delivered a most interesting address on 'Municipal Politics,' and last week one of our own members spoke on 'Women and Race.'

Our Special Effort Week resulted in quite a substantial sum being won for the exchequer, and much ingenuity was displayed by the members in ways and means of raising money. A whistle party, street-door collecting, a tithe of weekly income, flower-selling, glove knitting, toffee retailing, and general begging were some of the means employed. We feel that all our efforts were very successful, and thank heartily those of our members who entered so energetically into the schemes.

A. B. J.

London Council.

Volunteers Wanted.—Members willing to undertake a little "commercial travelling" for the League in their own districts or in Central London, are invited to communicate with Miss Marie Lawson, London Council, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Our representatives will be able to offer very favourable trade terms, for re-sale, which is perhaps the best argument that can be used to influence orders.

Samples and quotations will be sent to any of our members on application.

Cyclists' Corps.—Will the cyclists please meet at the Suffrage shop at Wandsworth as early as possible next Saturday?—when Miss Seruya will be glad to give them some work.

HELEN LEVY.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

November 5th to November 24th.

Nov.			P.M.
Thurs. 5.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Dr. Marian Thornett Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C. M.P.	3.30
	Recitation	Miss Elaine Limouzin	
	Merthyr Tydvil	Mrs. Despard	
	The Polygon, Old Town, Clapham	Miss Underwood	8
	Opposite Holloway Prison, Camden Road, N.		7.30
Fri. 6.	Opposite Holloway Prison, Camden Road, N.	Mrs. Toyne	7.30
Sat. 7.	Opposite Holloway Prison, Camden Road, N.	Mrs. Nevinson	3
Sun. 8.	Colne	Mrs. Despard	A.M.
	Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval	12
	Hyde Park	Mrs. Manson	3
	Battersea Park	Mr. Duval	3.30
	Clapham Common	Mrs. Richards. Mrs. Toyne	3
	Clapham, corner of Long Road and South Side	Miss Underwood	7
Mon. 9.	Opposite Holloway Prison, Camden Road, N.		7.30
Tues. 10.	13, South Side, Clapham Common	Miss Neilans	8
Thurs. 12.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Countess Russell Mrs. Despard Mrs. Nevinson	3.30
	The Polygon, Old Town, Clapham	Miss Underwood	8
Sun. 15.	Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval	A.M. 12
	Battersea Park		P.M. 3.30
	Clapham Common		3
Mon. 16.	Hanley Temperance Hall	Mrs. Despard	8
Tues. 17.	Chester, Temperance Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Despard	8
	Thornton Heath Public Baths	Mrs. Holmes	8
Wed. 18.	Wandsworth	Mr. Lawler Wilson Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss M. McMillan	8
Thurs. 19.	"At Home," Caxton Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. Atherley Jones	3.30
Tues. 24.	Kensington Town Hall, Debate	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. St. Loe Strachey	8

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

WE are interested to see that *The Statist*, having compiled a formidable array of figures, arrives at practically the same result as Mr. Snowden as regards the number of women who would be enfranchised on the basis of present equality. This fact should be made widely known among opponents who dread the outnumbering of men by women voters, and among Adult Suffragists.

We learn that a Men's League recently formed in Victoria—the only state in Australia which is behindhand in respect of women's political status—has secured a promise of reform from the Government.

The question of the constitutional status of the Women Suffragist prisoners received the consideration of the Executive last Tuesday. It is hoped that a statement will be possible next week. Those members of the League who are satisfied that second and third class imprisonment is out of keeping with the whole character of the offences should lose no time in communicating with their local M.P.s. At the same time the meaning and extent of the term "political offender" is a difficult problem, concerning which it is easy to fall into error. A man who breaks the head or the windows of a Cabinet Minister on the ground of political hostility cannot, therefore, expect to be treated as a "political offender." The line has to be drawn very carefully. It is often said that women, being outside the constitution, are, therefore, not to be blamed for breaking laws they have not helped to make. This is quite a false argument, which would equally justify lawbreaking on the part of a great many other persons.

We are not arguing here that laws may not sometimes be broken with excellent results, nor that women have not taken action in a just and a "political" cause. We do say, however, that in making protests against the character of their sentences, Suffragists will serve the cause by paying due regard to actual facts. Assumptions are dangerous, and false generalizations merely make the cause ridiculous, without helping the women themselves.

The Social Meeting.

THE first social meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Holborn Restaurant on Monday, October 26th. In the course of the proceedings nearly one hundred members and friends were present. There was a fair sale of literature and badges, and several of the guests joined the League. Between 8 and 9 there were no formal proceedings. Members were introduced, and a good deal of informal discussion took place. Several members promised to arrange for local meetings, with the double object of propagandist work and the advertisement of our Queen's Hall meeting on January 26th.

About 9 o'clock Mr. Jacobs took the chair, and invited expressions of opinion from members and friends. Mr. Victor Alberry suggested that members should group together for the purpose of holding open-air meetings in the neighbourhood of London. The proposal was warmly approved, and names were received of those who were prepared to assist. The hope was expressed that the work should be taken up at once, and Brockwell Park was suggested as the first scene of operations.

Mr. Joseph Clayton then moved that the meeting should pass a vote of censure upon the authorities for the "methods adopted to secure a conviction" against Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Drummond, protesting also against the treating of

Suffragists as second-class offenders, instead of as political prisoners. He expressed the hope that such a vote would be unanimous.

A vigorous discussion followed, opinion being greatly divided, more especially as regards the first part of the resolution. The members paid one another the compliment of perfectly frank criticism throughout. At the outset the majority of those present was undoubtedly with Mr. Clayton, but the opposition was sufficiently strong to make it clear to the chairman that unanimity would not be attained either on the propriety and value of any such resolution or on the particular form of words to be employed. He probably carried the great majority of the meeting with him in the end, when he ruled that, having regard to the difference of opinion, and to the fact that in any case a social meeting of members and non-members could not pronounce on behalf of the League, the resolution should not be put to the vote. The discussion hinged mainly on the difficulty which many felt in assuming a breach of faith on the part of the magistrate at Bow Street in the absence of incontrovertible evidence.

MR. STANGER'S SPEECH.

Mr. H. Y. Stanger, who had most kindly consented to sandwich a visit to the social between an important Suffrage speech in Marylebone and an urgent duty at the House of Commons, then gave an address on the position of the cause in Parliament, with special reference to Mr. Asquith's Reform Bill promise and his own Bill. His arguments, though they indicated a degree of optimism which not all the audience could share, were listened to with marked attention. He discussed the various points with that exactness of detail which we have learned to associate with all his utterances on Women's Suffrage, and it was felt by all that the opinions he expressed were the result of careful consideration of the facts as they appeared to him.

Pontypridd and Cardiff.

THERE is every chance of strong branches being formed in Pontypridd and Cardiff. Meetings were held in these places on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, at both of which the speakers were Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. J. M. Mitchell. The audiences were large and enthusiastic; many men signified their intention of joining the branches and many copies of Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet and the 'Speeches' were bought. Mrs. Fawcett's speeches were very highly appreciated, and many persons expressed their pleasure that after the disgraceful receptions she had experienced in both places on previous occasions, she had been able to come again with so striking a success.

Mr. Gregory, of Ynysyngharad, Pontypridd, and Mr. F. W. Hubbock, of the University College, Cardiff, have consented to act as representatives of the Men's League.

Portsmouth Meeting.

AN important meeting, under the joint auspices of the National Union and the Men's League, will be held in the Town Hall, Portsmouth, on November 11th, at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Godfrey Baring will take the chair, and the speakers will be Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Despard, and Mr. John Russell, M.A.

Manchester Branch.

THE first Annual Meeting was held in the Portland Street Café on October 19th. In the unavoidable absence of Canon Hicks, the Chair was taken by our Treasurer, Mr. H. V. Herford. The Chairman read the Annual Report, which covered the work done by the Branch since its foundation in June last. It stated

that two Open-air Meetings had been held by the League near Manchester; a Corps of Stewards had been founded, which had attended meetings of all the Women's Suffrage Societies; also at the W.S.P.U. Demonstration in July the whole of the stewarding arrangements was undertaken by the League, and members gave help at the Exhibition of Banners held in the same month by the North of England Society; a Suffrage Debate held in the County Forum last month was opened by our Secretary, Mr. Brooks, and other members of the League took part in it. The Branch was represented on the Joint Committee for the demonstration to be organized by the North of England and other Societies on October 23rd and 24th, and had undertaken the stewarding of the Free Trade Hall Meeting on the 23rd; the Committee had also guaranteed 10l. towards any loss on the Demonstration. Letters had been addressed by various members to the Local Press, which had served to direct public attention to the movement.

After some discussion the report was adopted, and it was decided to have it printed for circulation. The President, Vice-Presidents, Committee, and officers were re-elected. The action of the Head Office in addressing a circular letter to all M.P.s, calling upon them to bring pressure upon the Government, was approved, and it was mentioned that this action, in a modified form, was initiated by the Manchester Branch. The replies of the local M.P.s, to whom the secretaries had addressed letters, asking them to join the League, were read, and strong disapproval was expressed of the Laodicean attitude adopted by almost all of them. It was announced that a Stewarding Committee had been formed to take in hand the provision of stewards for any meetings of which such committee had notice. Miss Ashton, President of the North of England Society, who had been asked to attend, delivered an eloquent address in which she spoke appreciatively of the work of the League in Manchester since its foundation, and suggested methods by which its utility might be increased.

There are now nearly 120 members of the branch.

E. W. HENDY.

The Manchester Demonstration.

THE Suffrage Demonstration at Manchester on October 23rd and 24th was an unqualified success. It is not necessary to give a detailed account in the portion of this paper which is devoted to the Men's League, but some description of the proceedings, in so far as they particularly affect the men's organization may be of interest. Members of the Local Branch who served on the Organizing Committee and Sub-Committees were glad of an opportunity of giving some small help to the hard-working and businesslike staff of the North of England Society, and of taking a little of the responsibility off their shoulders. It was encouraging to note the considerable number of men among the audience at the crowded meeting in the Free Trade Hall on the 23rd; at a moderate computation some hundreds must have been present, and they were all orderly and attentive; throughout the evening there was only one interruption, and that a friendly one. Members of the League undertook the stewarding of the greater part of the Hall, and some half-dozen of our members were on the platform. The Chairman referred sympathetically to the League in her opening remarks, and we were glad to hear our representative speaker, Mr. Stanger, publicly declare himself a member of the League and say he was proud of it.

In the Procession on the 24th, the ranks of our contingent were thinned by the absence of some thirty of our members who were scattered up and down among the women's ranks as banner-bearers; and other adherents preferred to walk with their sisters or wives, but in spite of this we managed to muster a compact body of about fifty, among whom, as the local press remarked, were included some of Manchester's most respected citizens. Walking in this procession it was interesting to note the demeanour of the Lancashire spectators. In the London procession in June we walked for the first mile or so among a crowd whose jeers tempted one at times to test the thickness of their skulls with one's banner pole, but the Manchester men and women who stood along the route were for the most part quiet and interested spectators. Take him

for all and all the Manchester citizen is a more serious politician than the Londoner, and he has realized for some time past that the Suffrage Movement is a force to be reckoned with and that the season for cheap jeers and empty gibes is gone.

The proportion of men in the crowds round the platforms in Alexandra Park was apparently larger than at the Free Trade Hall Meeting; here too there was a fair number of men among the various speakers, four of whom were members of the Local Branch of the League. Again one was pleased to notice that there was practically no disorder. At one platform a callow youth with a cheap Virginia cigarette and a pasty countenance endeavoured to exercise what he would no doubt call his wit, but his voice was that of a pelican in the wilderness; the crowd advised him to "shut his silly head"—and he did it.

The Demonstration was very fully reported and illustrated in the local press, particularly in *The Manchester Guardian*, to whose unfailing friendship the cause owes so much, and cannot fail to kindle the flame of enthusiasm throughout the North.

E. W. HENDY.

The Working Woman.

WE have received from Mr. Wm. K. Hill, a member of the League, a copy of his new novel, 'Edwin Trafford, Altruist.*' Those who have read Mr. Hill's 'Under Three Kings,' which deals with the days of Charles II., James II., and the Revolution, will be prepared to find the author thoroughly at home in the treatment of a stirring episode arising out of a difficult economic problem in a commercial centre.

The lesson of the book is threefold. One is described in a couplet on the sub-title-page—

To either sex and any age,
Let equal work bring equal wage.

The second lesson is the true method of profit-sharing as contrasted with the false methods which are most readily suggested by enthusiasts. This column is not the place to discuss these two questions, though the former is, no doubt, in the minds of most Women Suffragists. It is the third lesson, namely, the necessity for the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women as an indispensable pre-requisite for the solution of economic inequalities, with which we are here concerned.

The protagonist of the story is Edwin Trafford, junior partner in a great commercial firm. He enters upon his work with high ideals, and his difficulties and their successful solution are the theme of the story. Ultimately he becomes a Member of Parliament, and the story ends with the conclusion of the debate in which he makes a great and triumphant speech for Women's Suffrage. It is a fine speech in many ways, and deserves the careful attention of Suffragists.

With the literary and artistic merits of the book—which are very marked—we must not deal. But we cordially and unreservedly commend it to all who wish to study the question of women's enfranchisement from the economic standpoint. The character drawing is vigorous, the incidents are intensely dramatic, and the whole atmosphere is stimulating in the best sense.

To Our Correspondents.

WE much regret that, owing to lack of space, we are compelled to hold over until next week a letter from Mrs. Maud Arcliffe Sennett, originally sent to the editor of *The Daily Graphic*; a letter from Mr. John Cameron Grant, dealing with the incident in Kensington Town Hall on October 15th; and a reply by Mr. R. F. Cholmeley to Mr. Cameron Grant. For the same reason we are compelled temporarily to postpone publication of a review of Mr. Belfort Bax's pamphlet "The Legal Subjection of Men: a Reply to the Suffragettes."

* 'Edwin Trafford, Altruist,' pp. 528, David Nutt, 57-59, Long Acre.

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