

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

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

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Reward of Trust.

There must have been many others besides the Liberal women who suffered when reading Mr. Asquith's utterances at Largo Ward. The democrat, the Irishman, and the adult suffragist must have kept them sorrowful company. In a series of four questions and answers, Mr. Asquith explained away his own Albert Hall speech so satisfactorily that there was very little of it left at the close of the meeting. In the light of these explanations, and having a knowledge of East Fife, we quite understand why Mr. Asquith preferred his seclusion at Archerfield to the campaign in this constituency until the big industrial centres had all polled. He would have had to balance his party against his seat.

The Mask Off.

Later, at Auchtermuchty, Mr. Asquith was asked if he would withdraw his opposition from Women's Suffrage if a petition from the majority of the electors was presented to him. He replied with an emphatic negative. When pressed further by the heckler, he stated that "the only expression of the people's will that he recognised was the votes recorded at the poll."

This, surely, is plain enough. Every elector who votes for Mr. Asquith or Mr. Asquith's Government is recording a vote against Women's Suffrage, for imprisonment and forcible feeding. He himself has said it.

The Dilemma.

Unless the results of the polling in the few county constituencies that remain differ very greatly from those already declared the new Liberal Government will not be in an enviable position. It will only retain office at the pleasure of the Labour and Irish Parties. Mr. Asquith cannot remain in power without the support of both these groups, and he must immediately resign unless he allies himself with one of them. The average Liberal will regard this as being a choice between the devil and the deep sea. But there is another possible course, which we humbly point out. Safety could be found in Women's Suffrage. Merely as politicians, we advise Mr. Asquith to give Votes to Women, and then to appeal again to the country. It is the only way out of the present dilemma.

Sauce for the Goose.

Our activity in Cabinet Ministers' constituencies has been limited in one case by our consideration for serious illness. On this account Mr. Haldane has escaped all de-

finite opposition, except the issue of a manifesto. But we cannot refrain from pointing out that if a would-be woman elector or a would-be woman candidate had fallen ill at such a time the foolish weakness of her action would have served as an overwhelming argument against the enfranchisement of women, and we should have heard much of Nature's disqualification. Why is Mr. Haldane not disqualified?

Women who Voted.

Women have voted in quite half a dozen constituencies without any terrible local or national results. In Norfolk and in Glasgow women on the electoral roll were refused admission to the polling-booths for the delightfully mixed reason "that their names could only have got on the roll by mistake, and they might be Suffragettes"! Why don't these men in authority cultivate clearer minds and straighter statements? It would have been much easier and more honest for the sheriffs concerned to say, "We don't mean to let women vote—even by accident."

A New Occupation—Invented by W.F.L.

The Women's Freedom League can plume itself upon having opened a new occupation to women, and at the same time, wonderful to state, levelled up the rates of pay and the status of the work. A well-known London firm lately advertised for, and obtained, a smart staff of twelve sandwich girls, who are to be paid "at the rate of £1 per week, with uniform and boots found." The wages of sandwich men are about 1s. 6d. per day.

Brave Women—and Fair Men.

We have been denied many human virtues since Man became obsessed with the idea that all his good qualities and all his powers were born of his sex and not of his humanity. One of the virtues denied to us is bravery; we have no physical courage. It must, therefore, be some merely pretentious imitation of this virtue which drove Miss Sophie MacPherson to risk her life in the fire at the Christian Mission Hospital at Sierra Leone, which carried Mrs. Bell on wings of noble fear to warn the Ladybank signalman and so avert a great railway disaster, and which made a convent of Spanish nuns strong enough to resist the attack of brigands for several hours. The women who were guilty of these masculine outbreaks could certainly never be trusted with the vote. Being women, ordinary rules of logic do not apply to them. They may have done deeds for which men would have been called "brave," but they cannot have the physical and moral courage required for the casting of the citizen's vote.

Liberal Morality.

The *Glasgow Herald* has censured the *Daily News'* advice to the Liberal electors, and the *Daily News* has replied to the censure by saying:—

"It is not his [the elector's] fault if tyranny puts him in a dilemma, and forces him to choose the lesser of two deceits." And again: "If he has to disown his vote, the whole blame is surely on those who put such hard necessity upon him. The martyrs on the rack who have told verbal untruths under torture rather than betray their cause have never earned anything but the honour of mankind."

This reasoning is good enough for Liberal electors, but when its mildest imitation was once employed by women it was decried by the *Daily News* as Jesuitical. The people who drive women to employ methods they do not like must not be blamed at all.

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THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

Members who can give time should write at once to Mrs. Billington-Greig, Suffrage Centre, Glasgow, stating time when free. There is also plenty of work at the offices for all volunteers.

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In East Fife.

Mr. Asquith is in East Fife, he came on Monday. So is the Women's Freedom League; we have been here all the time. The Prime Minister is painfully aware of the fact. Not from the suffragettes; oh, no! he is too carefully guarded. But from his own electors, his own supporters, his own committees in the scattered towns and villages. Throughout the constituency previous to his visit members of Liberal committees, whenever we went, assured us that they all felt so strongly regarding his previous attitude that they were going to demand the Premier's support for Votes for Women, some going so far as to declare it would be in his election address. In due course, the Prime Minister's address appeared. It was chiefly remarkable for its absence of promises, woman suffrage included. Then we were told to wait until he came. He has come. At meeting after meeting, night after night, and generally twice in the same evening, the question is asked by the electors in varying forms: What about Votes for Women? Why should sex be a disqualification? Mr. Asquith has laid aside his promises (?) of the Albert Hall, and states plainly, "I am, and have always been, opposed to Votes for Women." At Auchtermuchty he was asked, "In the event of the majority of the electors signing a petition will you reconsider your position on Woman's Suffrage?" "No; the only expression of the views of the people I will consider is the vote at the poll."

Now, we have got Mr. Asquith's own declaration that defeat and nothing less than defeat at the poll will induce him to change his attitude. Consequently a more vigorous fight than ever is taking place. Miss Benett has been doing yeoman work in the South at Leven, Kingsbarns, Crail, and other places, ably assisted by Miss Waddell. Miss Jack, Miss McLachlan, and other Edinburgh members are covering much ground this week-end in the south-west corner of this scattered constituency, while Miss Clunas and Miss Anderson helped from Dundee, and Mr. Thomas from Dumfries.

Tuesday being nomination day we went to Cupar, and asked permission to be present at the nomination. This was refused. I then asked for a nomination paper; this was also refused as we were not on the Parliamentary register. We then lodged our protest against any election taking place so long as women were not voters. A large meeting was afterwards held.

On Thursday evening Mr. Asquith was in Ladybank, and Miss Leyson held a protest meeting alone outside, receiving a very good hearing; while within and around many police guarded the poor, weak candidate from her. The following evening we held a great demonstration, the hall packed to the uttermost, and many turned away. Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Saul Solomon addressed the gathering. In a long, wonderfully reasoned oration Mrs. Billington-Greig held her audience spell-bound, Liberals being there in full force; while she laid the case of the women *v.* Mr. Asquith before them. Mrs. Saul Solomon followed. Speaking to them as a Liberal and a Scottish woman, she demanded that they do what was Liberal and turn the Premier out. Cheer after cheer followed Mrs. Solomon's speech. Questions were asked

for, and although I begged, cajoled, and entreated the Liberal men present, many of whom were members of Mr. Asquith's committee, they had not a word to say in answer to Mrs. Billington-Greig's terrible indictment of their member. A record collection was taken, conscience money being asked from those who had previously supported this oppressor of women.

The polling day is at hand, every nerve is being strained to give him the voice of the people by putting him at the bottom of the poll. It means much work and much money. Help us to accomplish it. ANNA MUNRO.

In North Monmouthshire.

On Monday great agitation was caused at Abergavenny by the appearance of Miss Corben and myself at the Town Hall, with a request that we might be admitted to the nomination room. I pointed out that the notice outside said that nominations would be accepted "if unopposed." We were informed that ladies were not admitted, and that we had no right to oppose anything. Two open-air meetings were held to explain our position, at one of which a gentleman found great difficulty in understanding why women's suffrage should be "intruded" into this election, "seeing that representative government was at stake"! On Tuesday evening Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Gordon addressed a packed meeting in the Presbyterian Hall, Abergavenny, and on Wednesday another was held in the Co-operative Hall, Pontnewyth, where about 600 people got into a hall intended for 350. On Thursday Mrs. Despard was with us, and spoke at Blaenavon. The audience, as we have found there before, was remarkable for its quiet earnestness. We were asked whether we would take a census of the voters in the constituency. I explained that it would be expensive and asked for a fund, whereupon our questioner, a working-man, said: "Well, I'll do my part if the others will do theirs."

McKenna has got in with only a reduction of 250 in his majority; but there has been an addition of about 2500 voters to the register since the last election. The Liberals expected a 6000 majority. EDITH A. BREMNER.

In Manchester and District.

This week the scene of action has changed, and in the brief time at our disposal after the work in South Salford, a protest is being made against the attitude of Lord Bury, Conservative candidate for the Altrincham Division of Cheshire. Lord Bury does "not wish to be impolite to the ladies," but considers that there are more reasons against us than for us. Some good open-air meetings have been held in Sale, and the Free Library is engaged for January 25th, the eve of the poll.

M. E. MANNING.

In Dundee.

On Saturday, Miss Murray, in a very appropriate speech, opened the Cake and Candy Sale at St. David's Hall, held by the Branch members. After that ceremony Miss Murray, with Miss Elsie Clunas, Miss Bunten, and myself went to Mr. Churchill's meeting for women at the Y.M.C.A. The stewards allowed us to pass without question, greatly to our surprise, as we had quite expected to be turned away. Miss Lila Clunas, who was by herself in the body of the hall, was carried bodily out, though the meeting had not commenced. When question time arose, to the horror and indignation of the stewards, four bold suffragettes dared to rise up and question, in turn, the utterer of those words of wondrous wisdom: "Men have a vote because they are men." The efforts of the stewards to eject us were really most amusing to watch, and having had our questions answered in some sort of way we returned to the Cake and Candy Sale.

On Monday we held a meeting in the small Foresters' Hall.

Tuesday being polling day we were all early at our posts. In the evening I had the satisfaction of making Mr. Churchill very uncomfortable by following him from polling station to polling station, and causing our protest against his re-election to ring in his ears for two and a half hours. On the closing of the polls we returned to the shop, where we held an unexpected meeting, and did a brisk sale in badges while waiting for the result to be announced. E. LEYSON.

In Cleveland.

The contest here is over and Herbert Samuel is again member for Cleveland. In order to capture votes Mr. Samuel has had to talk about Woman Suffrage, and, according to the local papers, he has just become a member of the N.U.W.S.S. The value of his conversion can be estimated from the following extracts from a letter received this week from a male resident in the Cleveland constituency:

"With reference to Samuel's statement at Redcar the other night, that 'he was waiting until the general body of the women of England declared their views' on the Suffrage question, I thought it would be interesting to have him say what method of demonstrating their wish would satisfy him, and so I wrote to ask. He replies, 'I think that the opinions of any part of the population which is not organised in a fashion which enables it to speak through representatives—as trade unions, for example—can best be expressed by authenticated petitions.'"

"Yesterday afternoon I went along to Upleatham, where Samuel was speaking, and, as he said nothing about Woman Suffrage I asked him if he would vote for it in the next Parliament. After some hedging and dodging he had to say 'No'; he had been trying to shelter under the statement that he had never voted against it." And yet there were people who said we were wrong to oppose him!

The usual W.F.L. protest was made at the nominations and was referred to in the local papers. The returning officer stated that unqualified men on the register could vote, whilst qualified women, even though on the register, could not. Since then several women have voted. What is the law? ALICE SCHOFIELD.

In Montgomery Boroughs.

Although Mr. J. D. Rees has been returned, we can feel considerable satisfaction that his majority has been reduced to the narrow margin of thirteen. This means a good deal in Montgomery, where party lines are very rigid and every man's colour is known, the doubtful voter who in many places turns the scale being conspicuous by his absence. We know that we have done real good in arousing interest on the question of Votes for Women in a district untouched before by any of the societies, and are winning many friends for the cause among those whose antagonism was due to ignorance and misleading Press reports. Many prominent Liberals, who could not bring themselves to vote against the Government candidate, have promised to make our question a live one within their party, and we fancy that Mr. Rees will not find it convenient to resume his old methods of opposition when a Woman's Suffrage Bill is again before the House. A. M. HICKS.

In Carnarvon Boroughs.

We wait in a retired nook to hear the result of our labours. So afraid were the supporters of Lloyd George that on Thursday afternoon they tried to drown our oratory in the public fountain. Hundreds had assembled to hear us in Castle Square; it was our last meeting in the campaign, and the desperation of the so-called Liberals knew no bounds. The attentions which they tried to bestow upon us in the early hours of Friday morning, when they stormed our private residence, were repulsed by a hard-hearted police force with batons.

These simple people have been goaded on by the statements of the Chancellor and his inaccurate, though zealous wife, who at a meeting of Liberal women in Carnarvon called for a vote of censure to be passed on "the imported suffragettes." But our work has been done, and these desperate methods are the strongest testimony of its good effect. Results will prove at the declaration of the poll.

The Pavilion at Bangor was lent to us for a magnificent meeting last Wednesday. Hundreds were turned away.

MURIEL MATTERS.

In Sheffield.

Friday last and Saturday finished our election work as far as Sheffield was concerned. On the declaration of results on Monday week we were pleased to find that our worst opponent was not returned. We have heard from many sources that this election has stirred a strong desire

in the working women householders for the vote. Women who, before, were quite unmoved are now eager for information and ready to help. To this end we have been arranging meetings in various parts of the city during the coming months in order to foster this new and welcome enthusiasm. D. E.

In Dulwich.

Monday, the 17th inst., was the polling day for our constituency. Before 8 a.m. we were abroad sticking "Votes for Women" slips around the entrances to the chief polling stations. Seventeen working women (three of whom were accompanied by their husbands) as well as Miss Williams, Miss Hillsworth, and myself, stood at the entrances of the polling stations to distribute W.F.L. leaflets, and remind the electors, as they passed to and from the poll, that women also demanded the rights of citizenship. During the day, our van, with colours flying, also did its share towards advertising the Cause as it went from one station to another, relieving the pickets, or distributing literature. There being a school holiday, the small incorrigibles of the streets at first regarded this van as something worthy of pursuit and epithet. But that same exuberance of animal spirits was presently turned to our advantage. As many youngsters as we could possibly accommodate, throwing off their party badges, both red and blue, scrambled over the back of our cart—girls as well as boys—for "standing room only," and a ride round the streets.

The noise was varied, at our request, by shouts of: "One man, one vote!" (mod.)
"One woman, one vote!" (cresc.)
"Votes for Women!" (fortissimo).
"Votes for the Mothers!" (Cheers.)

Those children will not forget their ride in the triumphal car of the Dulwich W.F.L., nor will they let their parents forget the words they sang and shouted. A. S.

In Poplar.

Mr. Sydney Buxton's majority reduced by 1250 votes! When we went to Poplar we thought we were attempting the impossible, but had we had six weeks instead of three, in which to educate the electors on the Woman's Suffrage movement, it is possible that we might have achieved the impossible and kept Buxton out; for every day the electors were growing more ready to help us by giving a vote against the upholder of tyranny and torture.

The day before the poll found us amazing Poplar by sandwiching through the principal streets in several inches of mud. But more was to come before morning! For Mr. Buxton was questioned at his Town Hall meeting as to his attitude on Votes for Women, and he said that he was not in favour of making ours a party question; he preferred to leave it for an "open House" to decide! An evasive answer which did not deceive the audience. And late—after all meetings were over—we went out "fly-posting" in every part of the constituency, so that every voter could see, as he went to record his vote, large posters reminding him that it was time he helped the women instead of thinking only of his party.

Mr. Buxton's hold on the constituency is weakening, and it may be that at the next election Poplar will show him the door! MARGARET A. SIDLEY.

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MRS. ANNIE BESANT AND MILITANT TACTICS.

By MARION HOLMES.

"Down the banks of labour, through the waters of suffering; there is no other way to the Land of Freedom," says Knowledge to Woman, the Seeker, in one of Olive Schreiner's beautiful "Dreams." Mrs. Annie Besant's history—like that of all other reformers—bears witness to the truth of his words. She has come, she says in her autobiography, through storm to peace.

To-day she lives apart, a figure remote from politics and controversial matters. To-day when she speaks even the City Temple places its platform at her service with flattered delight, and crowds listen with rapt attention to her discourses on the world's religions or the deeper aspects of mysticism and philosophy. But twenty years ago Annie Besant was in the midst of the storm—a centre of strife and calumny. Then when she spoke showers of abuse, accompanied very often by the missiles that Suffragettes are familiar with, took the place of the thunders of applause that greet her now.

And it was more of the Annie Besant of that day that I was thinking when I went to see her just before she left for India last year—of the Annie Besant who resisted valiantly the attack of the police and Guards in Trafalgar Square, when the Government, with the usual shortsightedness of Governments, both then and now, measured its might of force against the will and rights of the people.

Everyone knows the history of that famous incident. The people desired to hold a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square to protest against the interference with the gatherings of the unemployed in London. The Home Secretary refused to allow it, and precipitated a riot. The Guards were called out; Mr. John Burns and Mr. Cunninghame Graham were arrested, and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, after being ably, but unsuccessfully, defended by Mr. Asquith. The irony of it! The John Burns of to-day calls fighters for liberty "female hooligans," and the Asquith of to-day acts as Prosecutor and Persecutor-in-Chief.

Mrs. Besant, however, still retains her outspoken courage and love of liberty, though many of her opinions as to the best way of carrying out her ideals have changed, and her unique gifts of oratory and intense enthusiasm are not now exercised in the political arena. She shook her head firmly when I asked her if she would speak for the Women's Freedom League.

"No; I gave up political speaking at the request of Mme. Blavatsky, when I joined the Theosophical Society."

"But at least you will tell me what you think of votes for women, and whether you approve of the much-

discussed militant tactics," I said. "I certainly think your militant tactics have enormously precipitated the question; and your women, too, have shown such wonderful qualities, such devotion and courage, that every one must admire them. Take Mrs. Despard, for instance—a dear and valued friend of my own. She is a woman no longer young, animated with great ideals, living a splendid life. It could have been nothing but the sternest sense of duty and devotion to principle that drove her to prison. All the same, I think some forms of militant tactics perhaps do more harm than good. The breaking-up of meetings, for instance, must react unfavourably on your own meetings. People lose their temper, and retaliate. But please do not think I am condemning. It seems to me it would be an impertinence for anyone who stands outside the movement to condemn those who are in it, bearing the suffering that rebellion always brings in its train."

"It is superfluous, of course, to ask if you are in favour of the general principle?" I hazarded.

Mrs. Besant smiled.

"The idea of a sex distinction is to me palpably ridiculous. Nevertheless, I would have the suffrage restricted. I would like to see some sort of intelligence test applied, and a very much more advanced age-limit—for the Parliamentary suffrage, that is. As applied to municipal affairs, it should be as full as possible, men and women alike. They know what concerns them best; understand best the idiosyncrasies of their own parish pump, so to speak. An Imperial Parliament should not touch such matters. In my estimation, members of the Imperial Parliament should be chosen from those who have proved in municipal

affairs that they are qualified to be trusted with the science of government. Politics is a skilled trade, and unskilled labour there is as much mischievous and harmful as anywhere else. But this is not exactly 'votes for women,' is it?" Mrs. Besant broke off to ask:

"Perhaps not; but it was a famous woman giving her ideas on how to conduct national business, and vitally interesting. I begged her to continue."

"I should like to see an Imperial Council, with the King as President, and representatives from all the colonies and dependencies, directing the Imperial affairs of the Empire; and every colony managing its own domestic concerns through a Home Parliament. Indeed, I think this is the sort of change that will come, and the power and dignity of the King will be greatly increased in the near future. He will sit at the head of his statesmen in council, and take an active and responsible part in the directing of affairs."



MRS. ANNIE BESANT.

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"With the power of veto, do you mean?" I asked.

"Certainly."
My democratic soul refused to let this pass without a protest.

"But in that case you surely would not have the office of King an hereditary one, would you?"

Then the high priestess of Theosophy spoke, not the Annie Besant who had led match-girls out on strike and harangued crowds in Trafalgar Square. Politics, Parliaments, even votes for women took on for the moment a tinge of mysticism and unreality.

"But if the office of Kingship were made a great one great souls would be sent to fill it, as in the case of the Mikado of Japan. There you have a most advanced soul occupying a position of the highest responsibility; and there is no limit to be placed to the growth and development of his nation, even in the near future. If you keep the office an empty one, devoid of responsibility, you will have nonentities filling it."

"You think, then, we are on the eve of great changes, both in government and conditions?"

"Yes, I do; and the woman's movement is one of the signs. A new civilisation is coming to the birth, and we must have a type of human being better fitted to express high qualities than the present type—the mother, then, must be developed. Great forces are at the back of this, and it is bound to go on and succeed. And you have chosen the right way—the way of self-sacrifice. It is one of the great laws that progress can only be made by the path of sacrifice. You will find that the only permanent change in the social conditions of the poor will be brought about by the sacrifices of those we call the upper classes—not by the uprising of the poor. The present conditions cannot go on long; they are too awful. The consciences of those who have power must and will be roused. Already there are signs that the heaven is at work."

"It's a long process," I sighed; and Mrs. Besant's smile made me feel much younger than my years warranted. "You heard of Lord Curzon's weird and wonderful objection that India will despise us if we hand over any ruling power to women, and we shall lose the respect of the brightest jewel in our crown?"

"I think the best answer to that is that Queen Victoria was the most-revered and best-loved ruler of India. There was no question at all of disparaging her because of her sex; and all down Indian history women have wielded power, and proved themselves excellent and highly-respected rulers, too. All the same, the argument that you so often hear here—that 'the woman's place is at home'—would be a sensible and consistent one there, for every man in India, with the exception of the manual-labour class, regards it as his first duty to support his womenfolk—all who are bound to him by the ties of kinship, who have no other man to look after them."

"And the Indian women?" I asked. "Are they content, or—?"

"There are signs of a great awakening amongst them at the present time. The unrest has spread to them, and they are beginning to demand more education, so that they may keep better pace with their men, and be able to act, as they did of old, as their counsellors and advisers."

"Every day brings us further proof that our movement is a universal, not a national one," I said; "we couldn't stop it now if we wished."

"You could not, and you need not wish. You are fighting a gallant fight, and you will succeed."

An Eyesight Specialist.

There is no sense in the human body more precious than sight, and perhaps none with which we are more careless. Mr. P. A. Preston, 130, High Holborn, W.C., is a well-known eyesight specialist and has had many successes in prescribing for cases of short and long sight, and that more disagreeable affliction astigmatism. His glasses are the result of careful testing, and those of our readers who have any difficulty with their eyes, either in reading at a distance or near at hand, should give Mr. Preston a trial. He is careful and scientific in all that he does.

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THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1910.

FULL SPEED AHEAD!

There has been hope expressed by the overworked and weary that the opening of the new Parliament might give us a momentary rest. For though we have been granted gladness in generous measure—gladness, that great gift of the gods—though we are the winners of great battles, and can pay our price without flinching, bright-eyed and full of faith in ourselves, yet sometimes we feel the strain of overwork and clamour for surcease.

But this is not to be. The gods have set their faces against it, and in so doing they have been kind. The results of the elections up to date have made clear that we are to have our opportunity. The polling has shown us that the stars in their courses have fought for us. Our own propaganda and that of other Suffrage organisations has produced effect. Political accidents have played into our hands. The results of the elections have established one fact—that the Government returned to power will not be a great Government, nor a strong one, but one which will have to remember the elector and his expectations, and to walk warily if it is to retain power and place.

In this fact lies our hope. In it lies the need for action on our part. In it, writ large for all to see, there is our opportunity. We must begin at once if the promise is to be fulfilled and our liberty wrested from our governors.

A Government that is not phenomenally great, that is not even great, that depends upon allies and caution and compromise to keep office is the best Government for the unfranchised to deal with. As its position is unstable, it exerts itself the more to win stability, and to do this it must conciliate the forces which render it unstable. As it is fearful of another early appeal to the existing electorate, it casts about in its mind for a line of conduct which will secure it new supporters. One of the most obvious ways of securing this end is by making new voters, and relying upon gratitude to direct the first use of the vote to those who have conferred it.

No Government likes to be hampered by the limits of a small majority. It prefers to feel that it has got a free hand. It wants its measures to pass whole, or as whole as our absurd Parliamentary system will allow. There is a distinct sense of loss of dignity when the party in power only wins peace by compromise with the Opposition, or by the conciliation of an independent group which grants its support on dictated terms. Every Government likes to escape this dilemma, and if by any means it can be led to believe that it could return to power with a good working majority by extending the franchise, it will do so. Here lies our hope—and our opportunity.

It is perhaps the best thing that can happen for us that the Liberals should go back with a small majority. Harassed by the Suffragettes and by a powerful Opposition, and driven to concession by the Labour and Irish sections, the moment will come early when the Liberal Cabinet will cry to the gods for real power. It will not be able to carry through the big items of legislation on which it has appealed to the country. It will not be able to rest on the comfortable assurance that, so far as the Commons is concerned, it can defy the world. With an unsatisfied Labour Party and a suspicious Irish Nationalist group, every move will have to be weighed and truckled for unless the Ministers are to find themselves at the end of their power incontinently and without preparation.

Under these circumstances, it is our work to persuade this new Government that its best investment from every point of view is Votes for Women. The women's vote would not be large, but it would be more than enough to carry the decision in many constituencies. If they voted

at all together, the new women-voters could put the Government into a comfortable position, in which it would be able to act. And women would be more than likely to do this. They are notoriously grateful for favours—even for the petty favours usually given to them; how much more likely are they, then, to show gratitude for the granting of a great right?

But if the new Government is to be made to recognise this, and to take action with this object, we must be up and doing. There must be no delay. Our cry must be "Full Speed Ahead!" For nothing but our emphatically-registered determination to keep up the fight until we are free will make the Government recognise this royal road of solution. We must act now, without delay, and with full purpose. A numerically weak Government will not be able to stand against us, as the last one did. It will feel our opposition much more than before the appeal to the men-electors. It will quake before every bye-election, because it cannot afford to lose a single one of its supporters. And we shall be correspondingly more powerful in the political world.

Let us realise the position. Let us face it. Let us act. This is our opportunity. We must be up and about our task without delay. We have given into our hands a great opportunity. There is more hope of speedy victory now than there has been ever before. The stars in their courses have fought with us. The gods have smiled. We have done our share in preparing the way. Now the opportunity is here, we must strike, in strength, in certainty. Those who have never fought before must fight now; those who have fought must fight the more resolutely. To arms, sisters! Rise up. Join the band who are gathering for the first attack upon the citadel.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

DEMONSTRATION IN HONOUR OF ALISON NEILANS.

On February 1 Alison Neilans will be free after three months' imprisonment in Holloway, during which time she has undergone the tortures of forcible feeding and the indignity of treatment in the second division. Feeling that one who has been subjected to this unspeakable brutality is not in a proper condition immediately on her release to face a public demonstration of sympathy, we have decided not to have any public breakfast on this occasion, but to hold a meeting in the evening at Caxton Hall, at which our "prisoner" will be present, and will tell us how a Liberal Government uses women political prisoners. Every member of the Freedom League who can possibly be present must come and do honour to this fellow-member who has been for these weary months suffering for us all at the hands of the discredited Government. None of us must be absent on that night, and every woman friend who retains any shred of belief in the justice of a purely male Government must be brought, that she may hear the truth. Application for tickets (1s. each) should be made at once to the Freedom League offices, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. We shall have also on that evening Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig amongst our speakers.

Sir Victor Horsley, continuing the discussion in this week's *British Medical Journal*, says of forcible feeding that the Home Secretary departed from his previous treatment of Suffragettes, and of his own deliberate choice ordered the Birmingham prisoners to be forcibly fed. He says: "As I have repeatedly indicated, these women, when naturally excited by a brutal refusal to them of the common right of representation, become somewhat violent, and are amply punished by a few days' imprisonment and starvation."

Central Branch.

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, at eight o'clock, at 1, Robert Street. All members are urgently requested to attend. Important business, election of secretary and officers and report of Conference delegate, Miss Sime Seruya. M. E. T.

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HOW TO HELP.

Under this heading from time to time brief articles dealing with good ideas for assisting the work of the League or increasing the sale of THE VOTE will appear.

Selling "The Vote."

We want more street sellers, and we want them to apply either personally or by letter to Mrs. Snow, the offices of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C., stating the hours they have free and any preferences as regards pitches. The public know the paper now, and buy it readily when it is offered to them. Those of our members who realise that THE VOTE is an excellent medium for bringing the cause continually to the notice of those who, though not hostile, have not become actually sympathetic ought to volunteer for this work. Even a few hours on one evening in the week would have an excellent result.

The Theatre Queues.

We are going to make a round of the theatre queues twice every week, and shall meet together for this purpose on Friday evening, the 28th, at 6.15, at 148 Holborn Bars (two doors from Gray's Inn Road), the offices of THE VOTE. Everyone who can come will be welcomed. We want volunteers also for Sundays to sell to concert crowds. The work is no longer difficult nor disagreeable; the days of rudeness and hostility from the man in the street are almost past, and those who have never sold any papers for us before will be surprised at the amount of sympathy and kindness they will experience in the most unexpected quarters. THE VOTE is not difficult to sell, and judging by the letters we are continually receiving is steadily growing in popularity. So volunteers send in your names at once, and let us find work for you.

101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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

4—THE GOVERNMENT, AS AN EMPLOYER OF LABOUR, CONSISTENTLY PAYS THE WOMEN IT EMPLOYS AT A MUCH LOWER RATE THAN ITS MALE EMPLOYEES, WHILE INSISTING UPON EXACTLY SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS FROM THEM.

Government women teachers, clerks, factory inspectors are all paid less than men, though they pass the same examinations, and there is no attempt made to assert any inferiority. Even pupil-teachers in the elementary schools are subject to this economic anomaly, boys being paid £22 10s. for their first year and girls only £12. Thus early is the market value of a woman's services altered by her inferior political status.

The object of debarring women from political life and from lucrative occupations seems to be to perpetuate their subordination in domestic life.—J. STUART MILL.

Women have proved themselves capable of competing successfully with men in almost any sphere, and the supposed psychological differences between them are more a matter of training than anything else. . . . The real remedy (for competition of women with men in certain industries) is the creation of wages boards for every legitimate occupation, and to pay women in the same terms as men for the same work.—Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL.

Equal payment to women and men for equal services shall be the rule in the Government offices. (Draft of Women's Charter.)—LADY MCLAREN.

In the General Post Office women are invariably paid less than men for precisely the same work. The salaries of clerks are:

Men—Second Division, Lower Grade	£70 to £250
Women—Second Class	£65 to £110
Men—Second Division, Higher Grade	£250 to £350
Women—First Class	£115 to £140

This universal depreciation of woman's value is a very serious matter. For one thing, it makes it practically impossible for a middle-class woman to provide for her old age. An inquiry into the lives of middle-class women workers over the age of forty-five would reveal some interesting and gruesome facts. But, like every other economic disability, this depreciation falls heaviest on those who are living nearest the subsistence level—i.e., the manual workers—for here a difference of a few shillings a week may mean starvation pure and simple.—ESTHER ROBER, B.A.

AT HOMES AND RECEPTIONS.

On Thursday, January 27, at Caxton Hall, Mrs. Despard has promised to address us on the political situation and on the position and duties of the women in the present crisis. We are also to have the pleasure of an address from Mr. Joseph McCabe, the author and lecturer whose recent work on Ferrer and political life in Spain has excited so much interest. Mr. McCabe will speak on "Woman's Fitness for Politics."

A further most attractive item will be a recitation from Miss Mary Webb, whose splendid acting and declamation were such a great feature of the Woman's Pageant last month.

On Thursday, February 3, the speakers will be Mrs. Teresa Billington-Greig and Mr. J. Cameron Grant.

One of the most interesting meetings ever held by the W.F. League is arranged for next Sunday, January 30, at the Small Queen's Hall, 3 to 6 p.m. Mrs. Despard will receive and welcome on behalf of the London Headquarters the Branch Delegates from all over England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland who are attending the Annual Conference. It is anticipated—and this should be of the greatest interest—that many of the delegates will subsequently tell us of the movement in their parts of the country, and we look forward to a delightful afternoon. Members should bring their friends. The reception will begin at 3 p.m. Admission is free, and tea will be provided. B. BORRMANN WELLS.

REVIEW.

WOMAN AT HOME (Geo. Newnes, 4½d. net.).

In the current number of the *Woman at Home* a most interesting article on Lady McLaren, her husband, her family, and her work, written by Sarah Tooley, has a prominent place. "In Lady McLaren," says Mrs. Tooley, "we have a notable example of a woman born into wealth and luxury, highly educated in youth, happily and sympathetically married, and the proud mother of clever children, who, for the love of her fellow-women has devoted herself to many unpopular causes. Lady McLaren had not even an arbitrary parent to stir her reforming zeal. She is the result of an excellent environment in childhood." Sir Charles McLaren is the son of Mrs. Duncan McLaren, a Quakeress, and the president of the first Woman's Suffrage Society to be founded in Edinburgh, of which Eliza Wigham, also a Quakeress, was the hon. secretary. Of this Society Mrs. Tooley says:—

"At the inaugural meeting Mr. Duncan McLaren, member for Edinburgh, took the chair, supported by his brother-in-law, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Professor Calderwood, *Not a woman ventured to sit upon the platform.* At the next annual meeting, John Stuart Mill spoke, and Eliza Wigham, the secretary, made the daring plunge of rising to read the report, instead of asking a man to do it for her. Auld Reekie's castle stood firm under the shock, and the toll-booth did not open its gloomy portals to take in the greatly daring Eliza Wigham. I met that sweet Quakeress in Edinburgh in the last few years of her life, and, referring to the incident, she said, 'I tell thee it was much talked of in the city that a lady had read the report!'"

Lady McLaren's mother had also advanced views, and her father (the late Henry Pochin, M.P. for Stafford) believed that a girl might even understand politics, and had his intelligent young daughter to help him as a canvasser at elections when she was only eleven years old. "When Lady McLaren succeeded, in 1895, to her father's estates, she entered most fully into the administration of her property. She is proprietor of the Croft Granite Quarries, in Leicestershire, and owner of considerable estates in Denbighshire, Flintshire, and Carnarvonshire, including the seaside watering-place of Prestatyn. Lady McLaren is also a director of two public companies, a unique office for a woman, and one which she fills with practical ability." Her life has always been a full one, and the preliminary draft of the Woman's Charter (which we noticed in this column some weeks ago) is the first attempt to systematically draft legal remedies for evils of which one-half the community is ignorant, and from which the other half suffers. It comes fitly from Lady McLaren's pen.

There is plenty of light, pleasant reading in this attractive monthly, and it is good to see that forward movements and the women who are working for the good of their sex are not overshadowed by the usual accounts of society women and their well-frilled babies.

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Genteel Employment.

At a meeting of the Irish Women's Suffrage Association various aspects of women's work came under discussion.

Miss Mary Hayden, M.A., said the earliest period of the employment of women in business dated from the beginning of the seventeenth century. The employment of women had been retarded by the idea that for women to work for pay was not respectable; and Ireland had the unenviable reputation of having kept up that idea longer than any other country. She hoped that it was now dying out. Some occupations were thought to be more genteel than others, and employers took advantage of that to pay the employés in those genteel occupations a lower salary than could be got in other classes of work.—*Irish Times.*

Aggravated Liberals.

Strict orders were given to the police at all the London polling stations that no women were to be admitted to the voting booths without the assent of the Returning Officer. The ladies did their best to nullify as many votes as possible by personally urging all electors to write "Votes for women" on their voting papers. How far this strategy succeeded it is impossible yet to say.

On the Liberal side the tactics adopted by the Suffragettes caused intense aggravation, and at times feeling ran rather alarmingly high.—*Liverpool Daily Courier.*

The Flying Chancellor.

Mr. Lloyd George has not been having a pleasant time. He travelled under police protection, which was continually augmented as the necessity for keeping Suffragettes off became more and more evident. "On leaving Louth on Sunday he was conveyed to a small station, Legburne Road, and at Peterborough his carriage was run on to a siding, but some of the people, finding out who was in it, called out: 'Tell him Miss Pankhurst is on the platform; we should like to see him run.'"—*Votes for Women.*

American Strikers

The *Woman Worker* quotes the following significant comment on the public spirit of the wealthy sexes in America: "The earnestness with which many prominent women have joined hands with the girls is in marked contrast with the aloofness of men of wealth when there is a strike in which only men are involved. There is reason to believe that if a complete victory is won the rich women who enlisted in the cause made it possible."—*Brooklyn Standard Union.*

David and the Collection.

At Ladybank Miss Munro, organising secretary of the Women's Freedom League, addressed a largely-attended meeting in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday night. Except for the tinkling of a triangle and music from a mouth-organ, Miss Munro received a good hearing. At the close questions were invited, when Mr. D. Johnstone, an ex-Army man, challenged Miss Munro's statement regarding men qualifying for the Army. The pair went at it for a time. Ultimately, Miss Munro called for someone to take up the collection, to which "David" replied: "I'll dae that for ye." Finishing his collecting, he seemed to be on more friendly terms with the speaker. Other questions followed.—*Fife News.*

The Onus of Proof.

The following letter appears in a provincial contemporary:—"Sir,—We are told that before the Suffrage is extended to women, they must show, or prove, that they really want it. I should like to ask why women are expected to prove so much more than men have ever done? The fact that women pay taxes, and help to uphold the country, never seems to strike the imagination of such enemies to Women's Suffrage.—Yours, &c., MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE."—*Sheffield Daily Telegraph.*

A Precedent.

A woman whose name appears on the register was allowed to record her vote for the Unionist candidate in the Bootle division yesterday. She was accompanied to the polling-station by two prominent Conservatives. A Liberal objection has been lodged.—*Daily Telegraph.*



TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)
No. 9.—THE PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE WHO THINKS "THAT THE WOMEN WOULD BE SURE TO VOTE FOR THE HANDSOMEST MAN."

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Head Offices: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.
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Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.
Organisers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS OLIVE ROBERTSON.
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Glasgow.

The Scottish Council met at the centre on Saturday, January 15th, when the formal resolution for its re-constitution, which had already been discussed by the branches, was carried unanimously. In future, therefore, the Scottish Council will not be an executive, but merely a consultative body, meeting four times a year.

The basis for future work is that the committees in the large towns be financially responsible for the work done in their own immediate neighbourhood. Glasgow is making a start with a shop and organiser, Edinburgh following suit, and the other towns as soon as they are able.

It is hoped in this way that more work will be done and more enthusiasm stirred up.

DENNISTOUN BRANCH.—At the meeting on Thursday, 20th inst., a paper was read by Miss Margaret Irwin, of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades. As Miss Irwin is an acknowledged authority on woman's work, her paper was deeply interesting, dealing as it did with the problem of the sweated home worker. It was crammed with facts gathered by Miss Irwin in her investigations, and showed how depressing is the position of our fellow sisters, and the only cure for it seems to be "The Vote." Knowledge of this kind can only inspire us to go on and work all the harder that it may not be long before we attain the key to our liberty.

Edinburgh Branch.

Before polling day, Tuesday, 18th inst., most of the local candidates had been made to declare their attitude to Women's Suffrage, in answer to the questions put by our members. In particular Mr. Arthur Dewar, K.C., Solicitor-General for Scotland, whose name appears in the list of "Noes" published in last week's VOTE, pledged himself at a public meeting to support our demand, after several questions had been put by Miss Jack and Miss McLachlan. Accordingly on Tuesday we concentrated our workers on South Edinburgh, to solicit signatures to a postcard in the following terms:—

"Sir,—I have this day recorded my vote, and shall expect you, if returned to Parliament, to make good the pledge to support a Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women, given at your election meeting in the Livingstone Hall, on Wednesday, January 12th, 1910."

About 1700 of these postcards will be sent to Mr. Dewar when Parliament opens. Undoubtedly the questioning of candidates, having been well reported, has proved to be the most effective means of keeping "Votes for Women" before the electors.

MISS MARGARET McMILLAN AT CAXTON HALL.

At last Thursday's "At Home" we had the pleasure of an address from Miss McMILLAN, the well-known authority on child legislation and education. Her theme was "Those who are outside," and with strong, vigorous inspiration she struck through the artificialities of the situation in which disfranchised women are tools, but never the guiding hand; they may be used in the crude design, but never to work into it independently their own ideals. Proceeding, she said there are two great movements now before the country: the freeing of the land and the freeing of the women; of those who bear life and of that which sustains it. The two shackled hands of democracy—when one is liberated it will surely help the other, but yet woman, who has been longer bound, must first be free.

Mrs. How Martyn was in the chair, and gave most interesting particulars of the work in the constituencies, also answering a number of questions asked by the audience.
B. B. W.

BRANCH NOTES.

Manchester (Central) Branch.

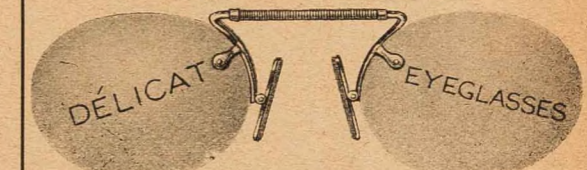
The Manchester Branch, which suspended its meetings during the election campaign, met for the first time this year on Thursday. A request from the district organiser for help in the Altrincham Division was enthusiastically responded to, every member promising help on either Saturday, Monday, or Tuesday. Two members volunteered to sell THE VOTE regularly on one evening every week in Oxford Street. This is an important part of our propaganda work, and it is hoped that others of our members will adopt the plan, so that the paper may be on sale every night in this street, which contains the three popular theatres and the principal music-hall, and therefore offers a wide field for enlisting sympathy and support.

A delightful account of the election work in South Salford was read by Miss Hordern, and everyone felt that the Manchester members had given a good account of themselves in the campaign.

Several other members gave amusing stories of their experiences on polling day, and the president then gave a few minutes' speech on "Our Work after the Election," and specially emphasising the necessity for speakers to practise before the season of open-air meetings again comes round. At least four speakers and eight chairmen will be needed if the Branch is to attain the four open-air meetings a week which are desired for next season.

Having before us such signs as this election has given us—of the urgent necessity for this reform for which we are working—every member should put forth her best efforts in this direction. Every speaker means an extra meeting, and every meeting means converts to our side. With the possibility of another election in front of us and in the near future, the necessity is apparent for earnest, constant work. Help now, lest the opportunity pass you by!—M. I. NEAL (President).

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"CANT." (No. 1.)

WOMEN AND "IMPERIAL CONCERNS."

"I think I may take it that every section in this House is only too glad to make use of the services of women when they think they can profit by them, and it does not lie in the mouths of any of us to say that taking a part in the framing of the policy of the Empire is degrading to the sex. In any other department of human thought than politics such an argument would be described by no milder word than 'cant.' Cant it undoubtedly is."—
RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR.

One of the stock objections of anti-suffragists is that "imperial and national concerns" would not be safe in women's hands. According to this kind of reasoner, Englishwomen would have no feeling for "imperial concerns" if they voted, but, as they have no vote, they are noisily besought to put the "imperial" point of view before the electors, and help "to save the country." It is the same class of man who pretends to believe that woman suffrage would constitute "a real danger," who cries out regularly every four or five years that the country will go to perdition unless his party is returned, and assures us, in season and out of season, that "imperial concerns" cannot be trusted to the hands of the hostile party. Meanwhile—*mirabile dictu!*—there are Navy Leagues, Anti-Socialist Leagues, and a Constitutional Society, all of which accept the active co-operation of women in a national conspiracy to safeguard our "imperial concerns," the last of these societies being patronised by a number of those curious males who give it as their opinion that women should take no part in politics, but invoke their assistance by sensational cries of "The country is going to the dogs." (The country which is so safely governed by males, be it understood).

Now we are told that no great country has tried woman suffrage; the great American nation, however, enfranchised its negroes, and England (under a Liberal Government) pretends to regard "imperial concerns" as safe in the hands of the South African native, though they would tremble in the balance in the hands of our white countrywomen. But I forgot: The Liberal Government does not heed "imperial concerns." Its reason for not enfranchising women is that they could not be trusted with national concerns. We will return to this in a moment—for there is a funny symptom in English party government which reaches an acute stage at election time that must not be overlooked. Whenever there is a strife of parties the entire present electorate of the country is suddenly divided into men and women. That is, every danger which threatens if women had the franchise is then said to attach to the other party; every iniquity of possible petticoat government is brought to our doors by the political opponent. At this moment no Conservative thinks the country or its imperial concerns are safe in the hands of the new Liberalism. Not only is the other party "bringing the country to ruin," but it is "hysterical" (just like women politicians), its methods are "disgraceful," the men forget not only that they are "gentlemen" but even—*horribile dictu!*—that they are not women!

Can the women do more, however much they may try, than "ruin the country" and "sell it to the foreigner"?

And now for the "national" concerns. Here, again, at election time, the women are very competent, very fit. Over 250,000 of them are enrolled at this moment to make our national concerns clear to the average male voter, and if a candidate is beardless, stuttering, or stupid, his mother or his wife makes his speeches for him. No one suggests that "woman's place is the home" in these busy weeks. When the noble politician is out on the stump, his wife is his equal; both are equally capable of enlightening the male voter and soliciting his vote. But when the election is over he thinks of her as his inferior, and she becomes one of those women who do not "understand politics," and whose letters get thrown into the wastepaper-basket because the returned M.P. is not their representative. Some of us think that the Liberal party have done little,

or more properly nothing, for women in the last sixty years. The Primrose League was the first to recognise the enormous importance of women in national concerns. Indeed, the only thing which covers the shame—for shame it is—of a lot of women canvassing for men in a society which does not demand women's enfranchisement, and which numbers among its men who say that women ought to have no share in politics, is that that society was founded in honour of a man who ardently advocated the suffrage for women.

The behaviour of men, then, amply proves that the argument about women and imperial and national concerns is one which resolves itself into cant; there is no thought behind it, it is cant and nothing more. Those "imperial and national concerns," forsooth! which will be so unsafe in women's hands, and are so safe in the hands of hundreds of thousands of illiterate men voters, to whom all politicians know they cannot even be explained! How dare anyone assert that the petty self-interests to which candidates of both parties are now obliged to make appeal, and which actually weigh with so large a number of electors, yield us the judgment of persons imbued with a sense of "imperial and national" concerns? These concerns are not in any case decided by the electorate or even by M.P.s, but by Cabinet Ministers. We all knew this when we extended the franchise to uneducated persons; it is only when we think of a woman after a hard day's canvassing recording her own vote that we discover that all male electors are deeply imbued with the ever-present sense of imperial and national concerns, and that no woman can be.

The one is as much a lie as the other.

M. A. R. T.

THE DEAD FACE.

(TO THE COUNTRY ON THE EVE OF ELECTION.)

Two sowers went to sow the seed
In the weird, grey light of morn,
Or ever the lark had shrilled his hymn
For the day that should be born,
And behold! a Woman stood by their side,
And ever she stretched her hands and cried:
"Fain would I help in the hour of need.
Let me fill my hands with the golden seed
For the workers that shall be born."

Two riders sprang to the saddle-bow,
In the glare of the noonday sun—
Oh swift they sprang, for long was the road
They must ride ere the day were done;
But a Woman clung to the bridle-rein—
Long had they striven and chidden in vain:
"Stay, brothers, stay, I, too, must ride.
For, well ye wot it, side by side
We must be when the goal is won."

Two builders strove to build a house
On the edge of a wind-swept moor.
Black scowled the storm-clouds over their heads
And a Woman stood in the door.
Oh, weary were the hours she stayed,
And fast the night fell, as she prayed:
"Have here my aid to prop the wall.
Sore bleeds my heart, as I watch, for all
Who roam Life's wind-swept moor."

Oh, woe to the land if, her cry unheard,
She turn from that seed-strewn plain,
If no echo wake to her voice on the moor
But the sigh of the wind and the rain!
Woe, if beneath the horse's tread,
She must make the dust of earth her bed!
For lo! 'tis no dead woman's face
Shall rise to haunt the guilty race—
But the face of Justice slain.

A. L. LITTLE.

BRUTALITY.

A man recently tried to excuse the conduct of certain white men when dealing with coloured races. He said that an unconquerable and inexplicable aversion, arising from the fact that these were subject races—and dark at that—caused the white man to lose control over his passions and be guilty of abominable and unspeakable cruelties. Perhaps it is the same feeling that they are dealing with a subject race that makes instances of brutality to women on the part of so-called working-men so common that they cause laughter in court and serve as amusement for the magistrate and his officers. There must be something rotten in a judicial system which thinks ill-treating a woman is funny; there must be some canker, some kink in the mind of the English working-man who, because the poor drudge whom he calls his wife has sworn to obey him, thinks she is his chattel and his slave, to be kicked and beaten. The feelings of rage and burning indignation with which every right-thinking woman reads of an incident like the following, clipped from the *Daily News*, and bearing a strong resemblance to many others appearing daily in the police news, are easily understood. The heading was the humorous one "Smuggled Evidence." Humour is cheap when the laughter is at the expense of a woman who is poor and ill-treated and old.

A rugged, weather-beaten-looking old coster woman among the applicants to the Westminster magistrate yesterday, undoing a newspaper parcel to exhibit a heavy hobnailed boot, accidentally dropped it on the usher.

"What have you brought that for?" asked the magistrate.

"To show you what 'he' knocks me about with when I can't get employment to keep him. I am black and blue all over."

Further questioning elicited that the person referred to as "he" was her husband, a Covent Garden porter "sometimes," and that the boot was borrowed to show the Court whilst he was in bed asleep.

"Has he got another pair of boots?" asked the magistrate.

"No, he hasn't, but I have reason to know he has got the fellow one to this," answered the applicant, significantly.

Mr. Francis: "Then if he should happen to want to go out while you are here, it will lead to further ructions." (Laughter.)

Applicant (apprehensively): "Yes; he might wake up and want to go out—to the public-house."

Mr. Francis: "Well, you may take a summons."

Applicant: "I haven't got the ways and means to pay for it."

Mr. Francis: "Well, I think you must try and find the money."

"It's awful," was the melancholy and final comment of the woman as she left the Court without taking out the summons.—*Daily News*.

WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

Before a large and brilliant audience in the Garden Theatre, New York City, Governor Shafroth, of Colorado (a State where women have the vote), told the women of New York who were seeking enfranchisement, of the way in which the vote has been exercised in his State:—

"This sphere of woman, we are told, will keep her out of politics, but we find that Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Australia, New Zealand, and several other countries have declared that women shall have the right to vote. The right of women to vote in Colorado is as fixed and as certain to stand as that slavery will no more exist in the United States. (Great applause.)

"The people who are opposed say: 'Oh, you are not going to interject into politics a lot of women who will be easily corrupted. It is going to be very bad. It will be awful.' Who are these people we are going to interject into politics? They are our mothers, our sisters, our wives. Is there a man, in high life or in low life, who feels that his mother, his sister, or his wife will degrade anything in politics she touches? Don't they

know that woman has stood from the foundation of the world in behalf of moral principles? Why is it that we fear our mothers, and fear our sisters, and fear our wives—fear that they will make conditions worse than they are now? I cannot understand it. You may ask the scum of the earth, in the very lowest dives in your State, but you cannot find a man but will say, 'My wife would be on the right side of this question. My wife would not be as bad as I am in politics.'

* * *

"At the Conventions any attempt at rowdiness is put down. In the old times, the custom used to be that the delegates to a political convention would first sit in the back end of a saloon and decide what candidates to put forward; and when the convention met the feeling was so intense that a good many of them had a pistol in their pocket. Now that is seldom the case. That condition has practically disappeared from Colorado. You do not find any rowdiness, you do not find any shooting or any disgraceful incidents happening in a convention. A lot of men and women go there, and attend to the duties and vote upon the candidates, and the women run no more chance of being insulted that they would in this audience to-day.

* * *

"Some women say, 'Oh, I don't care to vote.' No woman ought to say that, because, if she has nothing to accomplish by it, there are other people belonging to her sex who have the greatest interests at stake in the matter of the franchise. There is no question but that political power is strength. There is no question but that the right to vote gives political power, and there is no question but that the people who have power are respected and considered. I have no doubt that the wages of women are increasing, and will continue to increase, where they have the right to vote.—*The Woman's Journal* (Boston).

CASH RECEIVED, JAN. 1st—14th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Hicks, Mrs. L.	20	0	0	Cunningham, Mrs. M.	1	0	0
Swansea Branch	7	10	0	Cook, Lady	5	0	0
Cope, Mrs. M.	2	0	0	Carr-Shaw, Miss	4	0	0
Cressy, Miss D. V.	0	2	6	Benett, Miss	9	0	0
Harrison, Mrs. L.	0	2	6	Wilks, Dr.	10	0	0
Tite, Miss C. V.	60	0	0	Hammerschmidt, Miss	0	10	0
Washbourne, Miss E.	1	0	0	Miller, The Misses	2	0	0
Bevan, Mrs.	7	0	0	Kennedy, Mrs.	0	10	0
Paget, Miss R.	0	10	0	Highbury Branch	5	0	0
Wood, Mrs. and Miss				Borrmann-Wells, per			
E. G.	0	7	6	Mrs. —King, Miss,			
Saunders, Miss M. I.	1	10	0	ros.; Tickets,			
Hermon, Mrs. M.	2	2	0	£8 12s. 6d.	9	2	6
Spiller, Mrs.	1	0	0	Spiller, per Mrs. —			
Bexfield, Mrs.	1	0	0	Profits on sale of			
Brown, Mrs. J. S.	1	1	0	China tea	0	18	0
Manning, per Miss —				Arklay, Mrs.	4	0	0
Fitzsimons, Miss				Gottschalk, Miss B.	0	1	0
M., £5; Berry,				Ball, Miss J.	1	7	2
Esq., S. J., 2s. 6d.;				Slate, Miss R.	0	1	0
Lea, Miss, 10s.	5	12	6	Phipps, Mrs. G.	0	2	6
Le Lacheur, Miss D.	30	0	0	Byham, Esq., G.	0	10	0
Chelmsford Branch	1	8	2	Byham, Miss M. E.	10	0	0
Snelling, Miss G.	0	5	0	Kent, Miss B.	2	0	0
Clark, Mrs. E. M. N.	4	4	0	Mallalue, Mrs.	1	0	0
Harvey, Miss E.	0	7	6	Holloway Branch, per			
Sargent — Florence,				Mrs. Ayres Purdie	1	17	10
Mrs.	10	0	0	Schofield, Miss A.	4	0	0
Wood, Mrs. J.	5	0	0	Fleet, Miss	0	10	0
Brown, Miss (Brom-				Hicks, per Mrs. L. —			
ley)	1	0	0	Gill, Miss, 1s.;			
Drysdale, Mrs.	0	10	0	Clapham Branch,			
Anonymous	10	0	0	ros. 6d.; "A Gentle-			
Thomas, Mrs. P. H.	1	0	0	man from Queens-			
Matters, per Miss —				land," £1; collec-			
Newman, Miss,				tions, 15s. 2d.	2	6	8
£4 4s.; Treacher,				Fox Bourne, Mrs.	5	0	0
Sir Wm., £1 10s.;				Dudgeon, Miss F.	0	3	0
Collec-tions,				Despard, per Mrs. —			
£2 6s. 10d.	8	0	10	Hyland, Mrs. R.	25	0	0
Gellert, Miss E.	0	1	0	Morgan, Mrs.	0	2	0
Billington-Greig, per				Leach, Mrs. C.	0	1	0
Mrs. — Duckett,				Finnemore, Miss	0	5	0
Miss C., 10s.;				Saunders, Miss M. H.	0	2	6
Grant, Miss M. A.,				Schneider, Miss E. M.	0	1	0
£5 os. 6d.; Barger,				Champion, Miss G. M.	2	0	0
Mrs. F., 2s. 6d.	5	13	0	Winterne, Mrs. A.	0	10	6
Harberton, Lady	4	0	0	Sidley, per Miss —			
Bird, Mrs.	0	3	0	Collections	1	18	8
Holmes, Miss A.	0	10	0	Sundry collections	5	2	0
Wrenford, Miss E. M.	0	1	0	Sundries: Goods sold,			
Hicks, per Miss A. —				&c.	3	11	0
Scott, Mrs., £5;				Branches (affiliation			
"Anglo-Indian,"				fees, Chester, Nor-			
£3; Naylor, Miss				wich, Barry)	0	15	0
G., £2	10	0	0	Total	£322	9	10

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

A NEW JAM SPOON.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS,

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., Jan. 27th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Speakers, Mrs. Despard and Mr. Joseph McCabe. Recitation by Miss Mary Webb.
- Thurs., Jan. 27th **Willesden and Maida Vale Branch**: Meeting at 14, Great Western Road, Paddington, 7.30 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 29th **Caxton Hall**: Annual Conference.
- Sun., Jan. 30th **Small Queen's Hall**, 3 to 6: Speeches by Mrs. Despard, English, Scottish, and Welsh Delegates.
- Mon., Jan. 31st **National Executive Committee**, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.
- Tues., Feb. 1st **1, Robert Street, Adelphi**: Organisers' Conference, 10.30 a.m.
- Tues., Feb. 1st **Release of Miss Neilans**, Holloway Prison, 8 a.m.
- Tues., Feb. 1st **Caxton Hall**: Reception to Miss Neilans, 7 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Miss Neilans. Tickets, 1s., from Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.
- Thurs., Feb. 3rd **Caxton Hall**: 3 to 6: Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mr. J. Cameron Grant.
- Thurs., Feb. 24th **Release of Mrs. Chapin**, Holloway Prison, 8 a.m.

THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Jan. 27th.—Manchester Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Hordern. Subject: "Some Objections to the Woman's Movement."
- Thurs., Jan. 27th.—Sunderland Branch, Grand Debate on Votes for Women in St. Peter's Hall, at 7.30 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 3rd.—Manchester Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Subject: "The Physical Force Fallacy."
- General Election Meetings Daily at all the Special Centres.

SCOTLAND.

- Tues., Feb. 1st.—Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria: "At Home," 4 to 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 8th.—Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria: "Poor Law Reform," Miss Marshall.
- Edinburgh, Oddfellows' Hall, Public Meeting: Mr. Laurence-Housman, Mrs. Nevinson.
- General Election Meetings Daily at all the Special Centres.

OPPOSITION CAMPAIGNS.

The fight is now over in the following constituencies, where we have opposed candidates:—

	Organiser in Charge.	
Battersea	Mr. John Burns	Mrs. Hicks
Camlachie	Mr. H. J. Mackinder	
Carnarvon	Mr. D. Lloyd George	Miss Matters
Cheshire (Altrincham)	Viscount Bury	Miss Manning
Cleveland	Mr. H. Samuel	Miss Leyson
Dundee	Mr. Winston Churchill	Miss Schofield
East Fife	Mr. H. H. Asquith	Miss Munro
East Worcestershire	Mr. A. Chamberlain	Mrs. Manson
Liverpool (Walton)	Mr. F. E. Smith	Miss N. Smith
Mid Glamorgan	Sir S. Evans	Mrs. Cleeves
Monmouth (North)	Mr. R. McKenna	Miss Bremner
Montgomery Boroughs	Mr. J. D. Rees	Miss Hicks, M.A.
Poplar	Mr. Sydney Buxton	Miss Sidley
Renfrew (W)	Mr. J. Cunninghame	
Salford	Mr. Hilaire Belloc	Miss Manning
Strand	Mr. Walter Long	

Our workers are still at—	Organiser in Charge.	Polls.
Bucks(Wycombe)	Sir C. A Cripps	Mrs. Florence and Mr. Dilks Jan. 27
Buteshire	Mr. N. Lamont	Mrs. Sainty Jan. 27

Speaking at Dulwich, Mr. Bonar Law made the following definite statement:—

In answer to a question whether he would support the principle that women should be enfranchised on the same terms as men, Mr. Law replied in the affirmative. He added that he could see no logical reason why the franchise should not be given.—*The Standard.*



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OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Women Writers' Suffrage League.

A well-attended meeting of the Women Writers' Suffrage League (Hon. Secretary, Miss Bessie Hatton) was held at Alan's Tea Rooms, 263, Oxford Street, on Tuesday, 18th inst. Mrs. Thomson-Price, of the Women's Freedom League, took the chair, and there was an excellent discussion on methods of extending the work of the League. Mrs. Thomson-Price announced that the League was arranging a reception at the Waldorf Hotel on February 9, and that several eminent men and women writers had promised to read extracts from their works. The League's finances are now so flourishing that it has been enabled to take new offices at 55, Berners Street. A member of the Women's Freedom League was busily selling copies of *THE VOTE* outside the meeting.

N.W.S.P.U.

The results of the General Election have been most gratifying, and show what a tremendous influence women have had. At Louth Mr. Lloyd George was unable to speak for twenty minutes because two women interrupted from the roof. Mr. Asquith was also interrupted by two women at Bradford. In Liverpool, where the people are intensely indignant over the treatment of Miss Selina Martin, three members of the Union were arrested for demonstrating outside the house of the governor of the gaol. In Manchester the cause has scored a victory, for Miss Davison won her case against the Visiting Justices of the prison, who had ordered a hose-pipe to be turned on her.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of *THE VOTE*.

MADAM,—Although women may not possess the right to vote at Parliamentary elections, I do not know of any law which prevents a woman from standing as a Parliamentary candidate. If her nomination papers be valid and in order, it is doubtful whether the Returning Officer has the power to do other than nominate her in accordance with the usual custom. That officer's duties are plainly executive, not judicial. For fuller information on this important aspect of the case, I refer the reader to the suit, carried on appeal to the House of Lords, of Pritchard v. Mayor and Corporation of Bangor (vide Report in *Law Times* of June 9th, 1888).

I invite attention to the matter, and hope you will be able to find space for this letter in your paper. I enclose my card, and remain,

Jan. 20, 1910.

Yours faithfully,

G. F. W.

A Representative in Australia.

All of our members who have been privileged to hear Miss Muriel Matters or to work with her will be sorry to learn that she is to leave us for three months this spring. But as it is only for three months, and Miss Matters needs a rest after the strenuous work of the last year, we must submit to our temporary loss. The Women's Freedom League should benefit greatly from Miss Matters' trip, for she has consented to tour through certain parts of the Southern land as our official representative. For this we are grateful, but we shall welcome Miss Matters back again for her own sake.