



VOL. II.—No. 8.

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'Women's Franchise.'

OWING to the very small response to our appeal, we are obliged to keep our paper to eight pages again this week. In fact, had not Mrs. Herringham kindly and promptly forwarded a second £50, we should have had to consider a cessation of the paper as at present constituted. The curtailment of space is greatly to be regretted, as it prevents our publishing the prize essay on Women's Suffrage, besides causing us to withhold much interesting correspondence, including a letter from the Earl of Meath, and the conclusion of our article on the Suffrage in America.

We had hoped to avoid individual application—attended as it must be by expense and trouble—to friends who have heretofore offered help; but, doubtless owing to people being away on holiday, this must now be done where this second appeal does not bring response.

THE Index—for the compilation of which we again express our gratitude to Miss E. Watson—to our first volume is now published, and constitutes a guide to the mine of information on all matters connected with Women's Enfranchisement which our pages have contained. It would be a false pride which would make us refrain from saying that every Suffragist bookshelf is incomplete without this volume of *Women's Franchise*, price 6s.

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 paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' FUND.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Carlsaw, Mrs. E.	0 13 4	Brought forward	3 6 4
Fitzsimmons, Miss	0 10 0	Lumsden, Miss L. I.	0 5 0
Green, Miss J. G.	0 3 0	Powell, Miss Maud	1 0 0
K. K. and J. O.	1 0 0	Wall, Mrs.	0 3 6
Hyland, Mrs.	1 0 0	Woolf, L. G.	0 4 0
Carried forward	3 6 4	Total	£4 18 10

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. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS WARD. *Organisers:* MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON.
 Telephone: 1980 VICTORIA.
 Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

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.

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.B., B.S.

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

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

Current Topics.

THE result of the competition held at the Cambridge Banner Exhibition to decide which are the six most popular banners, was as follows:—The Prize (Clark's 'Illustrated Book on Cambridge') was won by Miss G. H. Bracken, Newnham College. Next in order of merit came Mrs. Weatherley, Miss F. Pidduck, Miss M. K. Body, Miss A. Brassey, and Miss Crompton. The banners named on the winning card were Cambridge Alumnae, Elizabeth Fry, Artists' League, Australia, Holborn, Scriveners'. Other special favourites were Joan of Arc, National Union Women's Suffrage Society, Education, and Music.

We have looked through the Anti-Suffrage manifesto in the hope of discovering an objection which has not been answered over and over again, but in vain. We would point out, however, that in any case a discussion on it would be fruitless, for the arguments are based on a premise which we do not accept—namely, the necessity for women's subordination to men in matters which directly concern the "public management of the State."

The results of the Finnish elections show that the new Diet will be of approximately the same composition as its predecessor. The number of women absentees from the poll was considerably less than that of the men.—*Reuter.* In commenting on the above fact, *The Daily News* reminds us that when women were granted the vote in New Zealand the following General Election showed exactly the same result, the percentage of women polling was larger than that of men, contrary to general anticipations.

The Annual Conference of the International Council of Women will meet at Geneva this year on September 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Seven ladies will represent the National Council of Great Britain. Among them is our President, Mrs. Fawcett.

A pension scheme has just been established in connexion with the Association of Women Pharmacists. In view of the fact that the majority of registered women chemists are employed in institutions, and that their earning power diminishes after the age of forty-five, the Committee of the Association urges all women chemists to take advantage of the scheme which has just been inaugurated. There are at the present time 160 duly qualified women chemists, of whom about two-thirds are employed as dispensers in public institutions and doctors' surgeries, while about twenty are in business on their own account, and a few are engaged as teachers.—*Englishwoman's Review.*

Copies of the play 'Man and Woman,' by Mrs. Ward, will not be obtainable before the first week in September, when they may be had on application to the authoress, 16, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, at 2s. each. For the benefit of the funds of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Society a royalty of from 1l. to 2l. will be charged on each performance.

We would remind our readers that the report of the Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, recently

held at Amsterdam, is now published, and can be obtained at the office, price 1s. 4d., postage 2d. The report will be found of great value to all interested in the question and especially occupied in propaganda, either as speakers, writers, or organizers.

Caravan Tour.

IF any one wants to do good work for the Suffrage cause let them support the caravan. We have carried the fiery cross into villages and country towns where it has never been seen before; everywhere it has been received with enthusiasm. Since my last report we have had one meeting at Spittal, two at Berwick, two at Alnwick, one at Warkworth, one at Felton, two at Amble, two at Morpeth, one at Bedlington, two at Blyth, two at Whitley Bay, and one at Tynemouth. We have had magnificent audiences and good collections. The van itself, on which we have chalked the name of our Society and president in large letters, attracts a great deal of attention. Its elegant appearance removes immediately all suspicions that we may be gipsies or vagabonds. In fact we have had inquiries if Mrs. Henry Fawcett was inside. At the same time people think that we are very "sporting" and energetic to be carrying on our campaign in this fashion, and they remember us far better than if we came in the ordinary way. Several women have joined our Society, and everywhere we are asked to come again and stay longer. We feel, too, that not only are we converting the particular town at which we are staying, but that we are spreading news of Women's Suffrage and the National Union all over the country, for at most of the places where we have been, there have been many tourists who have come out to listen and carried away leaflets and *Franchises*. At Felton I met a woman who greeted me warmly because she had heard me speak in Keswick in July.

As I said last week, we are not able to go as far south as we hoped, as the weight of the van does not allow us to travel more than about twelve miles a day. It will be a very great pity if we have to leave Scarborough, Filey, and the places near Hull untouched, for we are able to do magnificent work in the seaside towns, as we have found at Whitley Bay and Tynemouth. I know of another van that we could have for the whole of September and part of August for 7l. It would start from Whitby, and do the Yorkshire coast thoroughly. It would be a splendid present for some one to hire this van for the National Union, or a few small donations would soon do it for us. I have already had one pound offered towards it, and it should not be difficult to get the rest. Except for the hire of the van, the horse, and the driver, these campaigns should almost pay for themselves, for we can practically rely upon taking a pound a day in collection, sale of badges, &c. We should be very grateful also for donations towards this campaign, as yesterday we had the misfortune of knocking down a lamp-post! A tram frightened the horse, which backed against the lamp-post, knocking it down. The bill is heavy, and if I could receive a few donations it would not need to appear in the accounts.

Our amended route is as follows: Aug. 21st, Hexham; 22nd, Haltwhistle; 24th, Alston; 25th, Penrith; 26th, Penrith; 27th and 28th, Carlisle; 29th, Longtown.
 E. M. GARDNER.

Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—Our van is doing such splendid and valuable work (more so than space will allow me to explain to your readers), that I wish we could at once start another van to work during September along the East coast of Yorkshire. Just when the world is taking its holiday at the seaside is the time to preach our cause to them, and it is the time, too, when they will listen. I have found personally that the Punch and Judy man and the ginger-beer stall-keeper could get no audience or customers till our platform was folded up and our speeches were over.

I will gladly subscribe towards another van if others will do so too. We must raise the money, even if we have to sell some of our possessions to do it. Yours truly,

ISABELLA O. FORD.

International Press Exchange.

IN order to meet the annoying result of misrepresentation through the Press of the conduct of Suffragists—the methods employed, the operation of Woman Suffrage in practice, &c.—a Press Exchange will be established. Each President has been asked to name a member whose business will be to watch the newspapers of her own country, in order to discover any communications, or dispatches, which are derogatory to the work, or workers, of another country. Such articles should be cut from the paper and sent at once to the member of the Press Exchange in the country concerned. That member will investigate the facts stated therein and send a statement in return giving the truth. A reply may then be written to the article which is in question. By this plan, proposed by Miss Palliser, of England, and adopted by the Board of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, it is hoped that untruthful and harmful representations may be corrected. The members of the Press Exchange thus far reported are:—

Great Britain—National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster.

United States—Suffrage Headquarters, Warren, Ohio.

Hungary—Miss Rosika Schwimmer, 36, Elemer utca vii., Budapesth.

Netherlands—Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92, Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

THE following sums have been received since our last notice of this fund:—

Mrs. Powell	1 1 0
Mrs. Peerless	0 11 3
Miss Hickman	0 2 6
Miss E. Montgomery	0 2 6
Miss S. E. S. Mair	1 1 0
Miss Jean Stone (third donation)	0 9 0
Miss Bowen	0 2 0
Miss A. Eley	0 1 6
Miss M. B. Thornton	10 0 0

Banner Exhibition at Cambridge.

At the opening meeting on Aug. 6th, Dr. James Ward took the chair, being supported by Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Rackham, Dr. Pattison Muir, and Mr. Cornford. It is unfortunately impossible, owing to lack of space, to do justice to the speeches—it is much to be desired that several of them should appear in the Reviews.

On Friday we arranged a debate—Suffragists v. Anti-Suffragists. Mrs. Heitland wrote to the Headquarters of the Anti-Suffrage League for a speaker; but they replied that they could not supply one at such short notice. We also made every effort to discover a local champion to enter the lists against us; but when Mrs. Ward took the chair at 3.30,

we held the field alone, except for an expectant audience. Miss Alice Gardner opened, and speeches were made by Mrs. Heitland and Mrs. Rackham.

On Saturday evening Miss Geraldine Hodgson and Miss Raleigh, with Mrs. Rackham in the chair and Mr. Hubboth to support, conducted an admirable conference.

The rising generation made itself felt in many ways. The speeches of the younger University men, both graduates and undergraduates, were remarkable not only for their intellectual power, but also for the evidence they gave of a firm belief in the promise this women's movement gives for the future of the race. There was an absence of all pomposity in their references to their own sex. "Women may be emotional, but if they are, they are emotional about things that matter; but men are terribly so, and about such silly little things, such as collar-studs and the like." There is a certain freshness about this view.

Many kind ladies had provided cakes, and Mrs. Cook's organization was excellent. While, however, some of the lazy ones dallied at the tables, Miss Flack never failed from the post of duty for a moment, and it is impossible to say what we should have done without her. Miss Cockle found the literature table made a splendid centre for general discussion, for convincing the scoffer, for strengthening the weak, for counselling the doubter. Without question many were beguiled from the error of their ways, and we have left Cambridge feeling that our show has been a real success.

County Campaign Fund.

FURTHER donations, with totals to date:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Midlothian</i> .—Miss Mair	1	1	0			
<i>Monmouth</i> .—Mrs. Mitchell				14	0	0
<i>Surrey</i> .—Miss Staley	0	5	0			
Lady Betty Balfour	1	1	0			
Mrs. Leon	1	1	0			
Miss Prescott	3	0	0			
Mrs. Hope-Pinker	1	7	0			
Miss James	1	1	0			
Mrs. Bulley	1	1	0			
Miss Amy Kemp	1	0	0			
Mrs. Unwin	1	1	0			
Mrs. Gutteridge	1	0	0			
Mrs. Straker	1	0	0			
Mrs. Methuen	0	10	0			
Miss Macnaughton	0	10	0			
Miss M. Kemp	0	10	0			
Mrs. Dryden	0	10	0			
Miss Sylvia Drew	0	7	6			
<i>York</i> .—Mrs. Richardson	2	2	0			
Edwin Gray, Esq.	2	0	0			
Mrs. Daniel	0	10	6			
<i>Cambridge</i> .—Miss Thomas	1	1	0			
Miss Hentsch	0	5	0			
				18	16	0

Brighton W.S.S. generously offers to place her second donation to the credit of counties which have not yet made a start. Are Bedford, Huntingdon, Lincoln, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, Shropshire, Stafford, Westmoreland, and Worcester (to name only English counties) willing to accept this subsidy as an encouragement?

Want of space prevents the inclusion in this issue of all names and amounts received. The total to August 15th is 556l. 15s. 6d.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 27, Sept. 10 and 24, **Hull, President and Committee At Home to meet Members of the Society at No. 3 Room, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street, at 8 p.m.**

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

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

Notes.

THE TOOTING STRIKE.—The strike of the girl-workers at the Corriganza Works, Tooting, illustrates the want of weight which attaches to the opinions of the best informed women in their present position as non-citizens. The girls had been working for small wages with a possible maximum of 15s. a week. Under the new regulations these wages would be so greatly reduced that the manageress and forewomen all agreed that it was impossible for the girls to accept the terms. No notice was taken of their opinion, however, and the girls are now enduring the miseries of the strike.

The Birmingham Trades Council on Saturday last entered a protest against the "treatment of the women imprisoned for acts committed during their political struggle for the enfranchisement of women." The speakers urged that the Suffrage campaign was of a political character; consequently it involved a principle which the workers ought to vindicate; and called upon the Government to deal with the women under the category of political prisoners.

The Belfast District Trades and Labour Council, at the suggestion of the Woolwich and District Trades and Labour Council, by a large majority passed a resolution strongly protesting against the treatment meted out to the women who are arrested in their struggle to secure women's enfranchisement. They considered that the fact that the women should be treated as common criminals, and not as political offenders, was of evil omen for future Reform movements.

THE LOOKER-ON.—Will the women get what they are agitating for? The answer to this is that in the judgment of those well qualified by experience of political agitations to form an opinion the Women's Suffrage Movement is the most powerful, best organized, and most ably directed agitation of modern times. Two-thirds of the members of the House of Commons are said to be in favour of granting the vote to women, and to the plain man who does not understand the wiles of politicians it is difficult to understand why a House of Commons so composed does not immediately pass a Bill giving women the rights to which every sane man believes them to be entitled, the same rights—neither more nor less—than men.

The pertinacity, devotion, and self-sacrifice in the thankless task of political agitation which the women are showing, if it can be sustained until success has crowned their efforts, will be an example and a source of inspiration to all those who need encouragement in their fight for progress.

Guernsey Herald.

WORK FOR ALL.—Any members and friends who can be at Bournemouth or Weston-super-Mare or in East Fife within the next few weeks will be highly valued as helpers there.

Other members and friends who have a short or long holiday will receive a hearty welcome at the Caravan.

All who remain in London are warmly invited to make the open-air meetings in the London Parks a still greater success.

Please help the speakers by distributing leaflets, selling papers, badges, &c., and talking to individuals.

Some Facts for Speakers.

WHY MEN VOTE.

MANY members and friends are asked at Question Time, and on other occasions, for information which it is impossible for them to obtain. During the holiday season especially, adherents of the Women's Freedom League will often encounter this thirst for knowledge—the wearing of the red button being in itself sufficient introduction for the average inquirer. During the next few weeks we shall (if space permits) deal with such difficulties. Questions should be sent to the office at once.

The subject of voters' qualifications bristles with interrogation marks. It is seldom we meet with anybody who has clear ideas on this complicated result of legislative effort. At the same time it is essential for all of us to be sure of the main facts, for as soon as Mr. Stanger's Bill becomes law, women who possess any of the qualifications which now give men the vote, will themselves become voters.

One is constantly asked "What women will have the Franchise when your Bill is passed?" This question cannot be answered unless we know in some detail why men now vote.

The chief capacities in which voters figure on the Parliamentary register are seven in number:—

I. *Property Owners.*—This only applies to counties, and is an extra acknowledgement of the rights of those who "have a stake in the county."

It includes freehold estates of the clear yearly value of 2*l.*, land held for life of yearly value of 5*l.*, and leaseholds of the yearly value of from 5*l.* to 50*l.*, according to the length of the lease.

The voter need not be a resident, the vote represents the land, not the landlord.

II. *Occupiers.*—An occupier is an owner or a tenant who has the exclusive right to live or to do business in a house or separate part of a house of the annual value of 10*l.* It may be an office, shop, &c. The voter must occupy the house for twelve months up to the previous July 15th.

In counties the voter need not be a resident, in boroughs residence for six months of the year is required.

III. *Residents.*—"The Household Franchise." A resident is an "inhabitant occupier," the owner or tenant of a house, or an official who lives in the house as his official residence.

The voter need not live altogether in his house, as long as he has a legal right to return to it at any time. The house in this connexion may be a flat or a single room.

This qualification is quite independent of the amount of rent which the resident may pay, and by the recent decision in the case of *Kent v. Fittall*, has been extended to many thousands of "latch-key" voters renting single rooms.

IV. *Lodgers.*—This includes paying guests and sons living at home. The voter must have his own separate room of the annual value unfurnished of 10*l.*, or furnished of about 5*l.* a week, and live at the address for twelve months up to the preceding July 15th.

V. *Servants.*—This includes officials in public buildings and shop assistants who live in.

VI. *Freemen.*—In certain towns where previous to the Reform Act of 1832, Freemen as such had the right to vote.

VII. *University Graduates.*—The possession of a degree carries with it the right to vote for the Parliamentary representative of the University which grants it.

The Woman's Parliament.

THERE is a shrewd man of Shrewsbury who has thought of a plan by which the women of this country who are demanding the bread of political freedom shall be presented with a stone, cunningly painted and disguised to simulate a loaf. This plan he has confided to the Editor of *The Daily News*, in a letter. Divested of the verbiage and the eccentricities of literary style by which it is more or less veiled, the plan is simply this: That women should have a House of Parliament of their own, in which they would not be able to make laws, but in which they could talk as much as they liked, and frame Resolutions which they could send up to the House of Commons, where the men would still be occupied in making the laws by which the women are to be governed. The House of Commons having received these Resolutions, would be free to consider them, in their spare time, when there was nothing really of importance going on; or to put them away in the place where they keep all the petitions for the enfranchisement of women which have been sent up to them by innumerable Parliaments of women during the last forty years.

In the last paragraph of his letter the author of this "scheme," as he calls it, holds out the following inducement to women to accept his scheme: "It would enable women to bring their influence to bear on political questions with far greater force and directness [the italics are ours] than if they simply shared the power of the male voter to elect representatives to the House of Commons, and it would also give women the opportunity of showing their capacity for statesmanship."

Women have often been accused of being illogical; but I think they would find it difficult to beat the want of logic of this scheme. What the author practically says is: "If you advise some one else to vote for a Bill, you are more likely to get it passed than if you vote for it yourself." It is an insult to the intelligence of the women of this country to attempt to convince them by such logic as this. The parliamentary vote is a power; it is the only power by which the men of this country are able to put pressure on the Government. The House of Commons rules this country. The women are quite as well aware of this fact as the men who in past years have struggled and fought and made sacrifices to get themselves represented in that House where the laws are made. The women know that when a Bill is before the House the Members of Parliament vote whether that Bill shall become law or not; they know that the great majority of the members will vote as the electors in their constituency require them to vote; the only people who have the power to put pressure on the Members of Parliament, and through them on the Government, are the voters in the various constituencies. When it comes to a fight over a Bill, when it is a question of vital importance whether or not it should become law, how much attention would be given by the lawmakers to a "resolution" sent in by a parliament of women who had no power behind them to enforce their resolution? The voter has a power behind him. He cannot actually prevent a member from voting for or against a Bill, but he can say to him, "If you vote against that Bill, I shall not vote for you again at the next election." And when the "Ts" are many, the member knows that to go against them is to lose his seat. When the women send in a resolution from their "Woman's Parliament," and it is treated with silent contempt and neglect, what can they do—what power have they to enforce attention? As much as they have now, without their State-paid Parliament, and not one atom more.

As for "the opportunity of showing their capacity for statesmanship," the women are not asking for greater opportunities than have been granted to the men of this country. No class of men has had an opportunity given them of proving their capacity either for statesmanship or for anything else before they were given the vote. We ask for the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as it is granted to men; we do not ask for "greater force and directness" than our brothers have; nor for "opportunities" which have been denied to them; we are quite contented to accept what satisfies them—the old vote for the old House of Commons where the laws have always been made.

HELEN BOURCHIER, M.D.

Women's Freedom League Caravan.

OUR caravan is making its way quietly through the country, and producing, I believe, a good effect wherever it goes. We spent four delightful days at Battle. Our pitch was close to the old abbey, a large stretch of meadow land, undulating and fringed with woods and gardens. The owners of the gardens entertained us and gave us freely of their flowers and fruit and vegetables. We had many visitors anxious to hear about our movement, and our meetings grew in volume every evening. On Saturday we had our van drawn out upon the green, and hundreds flocked round us, listening with deep attention to our message. The quality of the questions addressed to us showed that an intelligent interest was being taken in the question, which, up to the time of our visit, had not been discussed at all in the place. Sunday was a day of rest, though I was captured to give a short address in the afternoon to a P.S.A. audience at Zion Chapel. On Monday we set off, Miss Lenn preceding the van to make necessary arrangements, for Rye. She found a quiet field behind a little inn, and there we established our van. Our meeting was to have been held outside the station gates, and we decided, in order to draw public attention, to bring out the van and make it our platform. We had heard that public meetings were held there, and, in fact, the hunger marchers had assembled at that spot the day before. When, however, we drew up in our van and the crowd gathered round us, we were told that we were on private property and must meet elsewhere. This was unfortunate, for our meeting had been announced by pavement chalking; as a fact, however, the slow passage of the van through the streets was sufficient advertisement, and by the time we reached the recreation ground at the abbey end of the town, we had an immense crowd about us, many of them women.

In the midst of Miss Neilans' vigorous opening address, the heavy storm-clouds broke in a series of sharp showers that scattered the more earnest elements of the crowd, and left boys and young men bent on fun. It was good-natured fun; but it made the meeting very difficult for a time. Nevertheless, we succeeded in interesting even some of these; and when the rain ceased, a few of our former audience returned, and the meeting closed with an interesting discussion, in which several of the audience took part.

On the following day we had several visitors, and sold some literature. It had been arranged that we should hold our meeting from our van on our own pitch, which was close to the high road. We did little or no advertising, and I confess I was surprised at the numbers and quality of the people who came pouring in. Before 8 o'clock some hundreds were assembled in the meadow, and save for a few scoffers at the back, who were kept in order by the audience, the deepest interest was shown.

After the meeting many, both men and women, came round to ask further questions, and a drawing-room meeting is being arranged for a later date. At this last meeting in Rye we took our largest collection, and made our best sale of literature.

I am more and more convinced that this is a fine mode of propagandism, and I wish there were twelve instead of only one van upon the road. The life is extremely interesting. Will no one start another van for the Women's Freedom League?

C. DESPARD.

The Women's Freedom League Caravan reached Hythe yesterday (August 19), and will spend a week at least in the neighbourhood taking the large towns near Sandgate, Folkestone, and Dover. All these seaside towns are very full of visitors, who, being in holiday mood, are delighted to have something new to talk about. Other visitors are already interested and only want an invitation to join the league and become active workers. All who can help as auxiliaries to the caravan are requested to write at once to the Hon. Sec. Women's Freedom League, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

Scottish Council Summer Centres.

THE summer centres at the coast continue to be very successful. A large number of people from north, south, east, and west who never have attended a Suffrage meeting, stand and listen, and are often converted to the justice of our claim.

The east coast centre, which has been so ably conducted by Miss Farquharson, M.A., and Miss McNeil, was closed with a very enjoyable café chantant and cake and candy sale, Miss Husband, Mr. and Misses Anderson, Mr. Norwell, Mr. Spront, and many others rendering valuable assistance. On the west coast we still continue to hold very large meetings. The audiences are always orderly and attentive.

As a general rule, when we arrive at Rothsay or Largs, for instance, we hold a forenoon meeting if there is a sufficient number of people about. This advertises our afternoon meeting, and we also chalk the streets, a proceeding which arouses great interest and excitement. Miss Eunice Murray, Miss McMillan, and Mrs. Martin gave much help by speaking, and Miss Brand in other directions. Miss W. Canning and Miss Bell are doing much towards the success of the campaign.

ANNA MUNRO.

East Fife and District.

DURING the last fortnight meetings have been held at Elie, Buckhaven, Leven, Galloway, as well as at Ladybank, Springfield, and several of the smaller villages inside the constituency, addressed by Mrs. Sanderson, the Misses Scott, and myself.

The meetings at Elie, Buckhaven and Leven were very successful, and a universal opinion was expressed by the audience at each place that the Suffragettes had made good their case. Everywhere we find the principle is accepted, occasional heckling as to tactics, and the everlasting Adult Suffrage questions, being the only difficulties encountered.

Meetings are arranged for Markinch, Methil, and Wemyss, also an organized tour of the constituency later on, in view of the approaching visit of the Executive Committee.

My grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Westwood, of Buckhaven, who has spared no pains to advertise our meetings and to assist in making them a success.

M. MITCHELL.

WORK IN THE WEST COUNTRY.—Weston-super-Mare is our centre here; but, unfortunately, the Urban District Council so far have not granted us permission to speak on the sands. In the meantime we have been distributing literature and talking to the loungers on the front and the passengers on the steamers, &c. One day we went by boat to Lynmouth, and of course supplied the passengers with reading matter. A speech was called for, but the wind made that impossible. All the young men wore badges, and, when we left the boat nearly every one was discussing "Votes for Women." We have held several successful meetings in the districts round about. The Kewstoke Campers, among whom are representatives from all over the world, were delighted with our visit, and invited us to have another meeting there. As a result several invitations were extended to us to speak at places in various parts of the country during the autumn and winter.

Our meeting at Yatton Cattle Market was quite a surprise to the people there. The dealers came from all over the country and carried away our literature to some very remote districts. I have since had several communications from some of the farmers who at that meeting began to understand something about our agitation.

The chalking of the morning and afternoon at Clevedon, on Wednesday, brought a big meeting in the evening in a field. Mme. Mirovitch and I spoke, the former kindly coming down from Gloucester. It was dark before we finished. The people were most enthusiastic at the close, and begged for another meeting. How I wish we had more helpers here! You know even an organizer needs support.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Paignton.—On Bank Holiday, and each evening during the week, Miss Benett, supported by Miss Mills, a local young enthusiast, and Miss Woodall, held meetings on the Green, near the Pier. A party of young people had distributed handbills and chalked pavements, and large crowds assembled round a gay flag, which had a Holloway prison in black and white and the motto, "Stone walls do not a prison make," above this being: "300 women have suffered imprisonment. Total, 12 years." It was interesting to notice the increasing interest among people who came night after night.

E. W.

Branch Notes.

Dundee Branch.—A meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11th, when Miss Brand, delegate to the Scottish Council, gave her report. It was resolved to take advantage of the visit of the Members of the National Executive to Scotland next month by holding a demonstration about September 23rd, at which Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. How Martyn, and Miss Cicely Hamilton have agreed to speak. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for a Cake and Candy Sale, which is to take place on the Saturday following the demonstration.

Manchester Branch.—Because, at present, many of us are away from the city, no papers will be given at the weekly meetings till September, when it is expected that all will attend regularly. For the greetings received from our colleagues on holidays, the Branch returns hearty thanks, coupled with the wish that our friends have found all the good they sought, and will return to work in "real earnest." We understand that two members are spending their vacation in Scotland working for the League; two others hope to do something next month.

An "At Home" has been arranged for September 16th, which it is hoped will be the opening of a fortnight's hard campaigning. Full particulars will be sent to all members and sympathizers.

Hampstead Branch.—We have had successful meetings through the summer, and have made friends and converts. Many men and some women have attended every meeting, and several have always kept order and promised to remember us at the election.

Bangor, Ireland.—We congratulate our friends who have made a good start here in the face of unpleasant opposition, and wish our youngest branch great success in the distinguished career its unusual inception portends.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 19th to 30th.

			P.M.
Wed. 19.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Dr. Knight Miss Taplin	7.15
Thurs. 20.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Holmes	3.30
Fri. 21.	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Central Branch Members	8
Sat. 22.	Prince's Head, Battersea	Mrs. Duval Miss Molony	7
	Bedford Park	Cyclists' Corps Members	6
Sun. 23.	Battersea Park	Mrs. Duval	3.30
	Brockwell Park	Miss Hillsworth Miss Lawson Miss Molony	3.30
	Clapham Common	Miss Underwood	6.30
	Finsbury Park	Miss Ridler	3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Dr. Helen Bouchier	3.30
	Wandsworth Common	Mr. and Mrs. Duval	12
Wed. 26.	Wandsworth Common	Mr. and Mrs. Duval	7
	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Dr. Thornett Dr. Knight Miss Lenn	7.15
Thurs. 27.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard Miss Cicely Hamilton	3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Central Branch Members	8
Fri. 28.	Prince's Head, Battersea	Mrs. Duval	
Sun. 30.	Holborn Town Hall	London Council "At Home"	7-10

* * * All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday morning.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

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

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

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

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

AT two suburban stations in the north of London, *Women's Franchise* is really on view, the bookstall managers having been induced to regard it as a paying investment. At one of these, one of our friends began by guaranteeing the manager against loss, if he would take two copies weekly. The other day he asked for a copy on the Saturday, and learnt that six copies are now being taken regularly, and that all six were already sold.

Probably other readers are doing their best, and many have no doubt succeeded in producing a similar result. Will not every one make a serious attempt during the next few weeks to get the paper well established? We should like to have reports as to the various methods adopted and the success or failure which has attended them.

We have received a copy of the admirable *Woman's Journal*, published in Boston, U.S.A., and are interested to notice that our prize epigram on the Anti-Suffragists is there quoted.

We have read with shame and disgust stories of ruffianly demonstrations against women speakers in Blackpool, Kent, and Sunderland during the last few days. With such reports before us it is with difficulty that we restrain ourselves from bitterness against those comfortable women who are the sponsors of the Anti-Suffrage League. The perpetrators of these outrages may be dismissed in the bulk as unmannerly idiots. None the less it remains that they are insulting the idea of womanhood. Every one of these persons has been indebted for his comfort, his physical and mental nurture, such moral qualities as he possesses, to his mother; every one in his declining years will look to women for nursing in illness and sympathy in distress. It is well, for prudential reasons and as a matter of diplomacy, that we men should help women to make light of stone-throwing and coarse abuse, but there will be forgiveness for the man whose indignation breaks forth, when diplomacy gives place to physical violence.

"An Elderly Male" in a letter to *The Times* (discussed further below), warning the Anti-Suffragists to be active, says, with delightful primness, "I do not, of course, suggest that the League should imitate the silly lawlessness of the Suffragette societies." No doubt he would be consistent enough to protest against those Blackpool roughs who flung sand in the faces of two defenceless women. But being an "Elderly Male," he should not be so ready to speak of Suffragette tactics as "silly lawlessness." Lawlessness it may be; but is it silly? Possibly, but he has no right to say so unless he has been admitted to the secret councils of a militant society and heard the leaders developing a plan of campaign. We have not had that privilege ourselves, but we shrewdly suspect that our "Elderly" friend looking for "silliness" would be rudely awakened. The lawlessness of the Blackpool Anti-Suffragist may be "silly"; that of Buckingham Street and Clement's Inn is of a different quality, not only in motive, but also in kind, and it has the sanction of tradition from the sex to which "Elderly Male" ostensibly belongs.

A Criticism of 'The Freedom of Women.'

I HAVE just been reading an entertaining little book called 'The Freedom of Women.' Now you might read a long way into it under the impression that you were reading a treatise

in favour of Women's Suffrage, only on the cover, at the left-hand corner, are the words "Against Female Suffrage." Only for that, I repeat, you would imagine Mrs. F. Harrison, the writer, had been collecting all the arguments possible in favour of the Suffrage—that is to say, if you thought anything either way—for some parts of the treatise seem to have no conceivable connexion with the Suffrage at all.

I will take it bit by bit. Mrs. Harrison first of all treats us to the explosion of three fallacies:—

(a) "That women are a separate class."

This occupies about three pages. Now if you talk about *men* and *women* it seems to me you are at once classifying the human species, and there does not seem to be much point in denying the fact. In the course of the three pages there are some remarks which convey nothing whatsoever to my mind. One is: "It seems a strange time to bring forward the rights of women, when the whole doctrine of Rights is being superseded by the new gospel—the duty of man in society to his fellows and the social organism." Doesn't woman come into society, and hasn't man any duties towards her? It doesn't matter much whether you talk of women's rights, or man's duty to her. We mean much the same.

Another strange remark is this: "The angles of no two human beings can be made equal to a right angle!" I imagine that the author means that no two human beings can be made equal to two right angles, but has forgotten the necessary mathematical phraseology. Certainly I CAN imagine two acute angles of very different size making up a right angle. The remark is pointless—the simile stillborn.

The second fallacy is: (b) "That women are not citizens."

Mrs. Harrison is at pains to prove that women perform certain duties to the State, and must accordingly be citizens, therefore (this is really ingenuous) women do not need the vote to be citizens. Now there would be no case for the Suffragists in demanding the vote if women did not share the burdens of the State. This conviction of woman's participation in the duties of citizenship is the whole *raison d'être* of the demand for the privileges that ought to go with it. Most of this chapter is unconsciously an eloquent argument for Women's Suffrage. It ends up with the quotation, "Our sex needs duties to determine feelings."

The third fallacy is: (c) "That the interests of the sexes are antagonistic."

We are told that the Suffragists talk of the injustice, brutality, and selfishness of men. Mrs. Harrison opposes a melodramatic list of "heartless, selfish wives and daughters, cruel, drunken mothers, vain, extravagant, and altogether worthless women... sirens who charm the souls of men to lead them to destruction." She says we cannot prove which sex is the worst, and it is no good calling men names. Unfortunately, the next paragraph gives away the case. "We live perforce in a man-made world." If it is so, then surely man must be chiefly responsible for the wickedness in it. She says, "Our codes of law, our political constitutions, our systems of religion, all come to us through the agency of men, from the Decalogue downwards, with its gift from the East of a day of rest. Shall we quarrel for these things? or shall we not rather be grateful for these things?" Now if our laws and political institutions have degraded woman, why on earth *should* she be grateful?

The author, in the next paragraph, is refreshingly naïve. The obnoxious men, she tells us, will find plenty of obnoxious women to marry them. Apparently the brutes are to be paired off with the sirens, and the sirens are only to attract brutes. This is a very practical suggestion; but I fear sirens and brutes do not appeal to each other much as a rule.

Mrs. Harrison says the "social evil" does not come into the sphere of politics. This is absurd. It is brought into the

laws concerning divorce. It is treated of in the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The writer says that one cause of friction between man and woman is the money question. Undoubtedly! "How... material independence is to be won is a problem still awaiting solution." Quite so. The vote is to achieve it. Few working women, we are told, are able to earn a living wage, "most women's wages are a grant-in-aid rather than independence." Exactly. That is just what the Suffragists complain of. We do not, however, agree with Mrs. Harrison when she says that the domestic servant is an exception, and is able "to save out of her earnings for her own old age... and send money home to keep that home afloat." No, we cannot believe that all that can be done on, perhaps, 18l. a year.

At the end of this chapter there is a note to this extraordinary effect: "It is not clear that women desire a fixed minimum wage!" Do not women want more money when they can get it? They must, in that case, be strangely altruistic.

The next chapter treats us to some platitudes, so axiomatic that we should have thought they might be dispensed with: "There are to be found women who are very like men, and there may be found men who are very like women." "Neither sex has the monopoly of the virtues," and so forth. One claim that woman has to the gratitude of men has hitherto been overlooked by Suffragists. Mrs. Harrison gives it to us: "Was it not, &c. (woman) who gave to mankind the inestimable gift of the domestic animals?" No; frankly, we do not think so. We cannot imagine women taming wild horses, bulls, cats and dogs, or even white mice. What that has to do with the Suffrage we do not know. Mrs. Harrison goes on to say that in music, painting, literature, women have done no supremely original work. To what category would she relegate Jane Austen, George Eliot, the Brontës, George Sand, Mrs. Browning, Lady Butler, and Rosa Bonheur? We should be interested to know, not that it concerns the justice of the Suffrage question in the least. Men have not to be Beethovens, Shakespeares, and Michael Angelos to qualify for the vote.

The next chapter begins with the words, "The vote is an expression of force." It is nothing of the sort. It is the expression of a wish. The following paragraph is unique. "The Suffragist women have dined into our ears the adage, 'No taxation without representation!' as if it were the law of the land or an integral part of the British Constitution. But the Constitution of our country is not to be found on parchment in a strong box. It is the pride of Englishmen that the Constitution is so elastic (!) that it consists in a somewhat fluid set of understandings and agreements;... but there is no Statute-setting for 'Representation shall follow taxation.'" Well, the last remark is literally correct, for it has always been said that representation should precede taxation. As for the rest, is it possible that the writer has forgotten her history as well as her mathematics? Has she never heard of Magna Charta, or of the blood shed for what she calls a "Suffragists' adage"? That that Suffragist adage is admittedly the basis of the constitution of the English Government can be gathered from a child's history book. Mrs. Harrison admits the present lamentable state of the wage-earning woman, but denies the power of the vote to improve it. The Suffrage has improved the condition of the working-class man; why, then, should it not improve the status of the woman?

In Chapter v., the writer naïvely asks, "Are any existing laws unfair to women?" She says she would like to leave this subject alone, for she is no lawyer. That we readily

believe. Mrs. Harrison admits the terrible injustice of former laws concerning women's property. She shows that that injustice has been remedied. But one thing I should like to know. Would that injustice have been remedied but for the women's rights agitation? I should say most certainly not. The author says women's second quarrel with the law "concerns marriage, divorce, separation, and the custody of children." She classes all these absorbing questions into one category as so many details. She does not deal with them *in extenso*. She does not discuss the rights and wrongs of them. She merely says the law cannot "probe hearts," and "hard cases make bad law"—"it is not wise to legislate for the exceptions." Murder is an exceptional event; is it therefore not to be legislated for? On the other hand, are marriage and the custody of children exceptional human contingencies? The writer, we fear, has lost her bearings. Her observations are too transparently silly to be worthy of the name of casuistry. "To lie," she says, "is a vile, dishonourable action; but Shakespeare and Victor Hugo have shown us cases where to lie has been virtue." Such remarks have no conceivable connexion with the subject in hand. They are only calculated to perplex the unintelligent.

The rest of the book is unimportant as an argument against Women's Suffrage. One feels almost that the writer, as she progresses, is becoming, against her will, imbued with the real meaning and real justice of the Suffragist cause, and is finishing her work against it only by an effort of the will. There is no conviction about her opposition at all. She ends with the time-honoured simile of the mess of pottage. It is a simile that always appeals to me; but to my mind, women's birthright is justice, her mess of pottage chivalry.

L. F. WARING.

Correspondence.

The Anti-Suffragists and Anonymous Munificence.

SIR,—A correspondent signing himself "Elderly Male" writes in *The Times* of August 12th, offering to "gladly contribute 10l. toward the necessary expenses (of the Anti-Suffragists), but like many others, hesitates to do so until there is some evidence to show that the League intends to act vigorously, instead of being content to rely upon magazine articles and letters." He further adds:—"Unless some active steps are soon started to counteract the statements and assertions of the Suffragettes, &c., people will be content with sending good wishes to the League, and keep their money in their pockets"!!! Generous, isn't he?

How in Heaven's name are the dear Antis (as Mrs. Fawcett calls them) to act vigorously without coming out of their homes; and how can they come out of their homes without forfeiting the great principle of theirs, that they should remain in them? To be logical and consistent (as they hold the Suffragists are *not* in demanding the Franchise) they must forfeit the Elderly Male's 10l., and read all about what is going on from the cosy corners of their own firesides.

Many of the Suffragettes in this great fight have not experienced that comfort for nearly three years! I enclose my card, and am,

Yours obediently,

A HOME-SICK SUFFRAGETTE.

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