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Notes.

WITH the present number we start our second volume. We tender to all our friends thanks for past help—not without large hopes of favours to come. Our heading represents the combined work of two competitors, Miss R. T. Doggett and Miss Maud Fabian. We also acknowledge with thanks 20*l.* received from Mrs. T. Callaghan, 15*l.* of which is to be devoted to securing space at the Franco-British Exhibition to show our paper—final arrangements for doing which are now actively proceeding. We state two needs this week, which we hope will be promptly met. We want money to subsidize street newsvendors who will take out sandwich-boards and copies of this paper to sell, each man will cost about 12*s.* a week; and we want some one to give time to compile an index to our first volume.

WERE it not that we have good reason to be aware that to many what they read in their weekly paper is fact, we could laugh at the gross exaggeration that finds its way into print. At the same time there is much to be encouraged at. *The Academy* devotes the whole of its first page to the subject of Women's Franchise, and to those who can lay claim to some knowledge of the movement and the personalities engaged therein the whole is delightful nonsense—unhappily, as we have just said, to those who have not yet looked into the matter for themselves it may be prejudicial. Happily its extravagance will be in most cases its own undoing and will deter many, as it did us, from proceeding further than the first page. We imagine the person responsible must be the same who has missed the exquisite irony displayed in a letter, which has been pointed out to us, inserted among correspondence under the heading 'A Short Way with Socialists.'

To instance one other paper, *The Nation's* leading article devoted to our question is certainly worth reading by those who understand that all the societies formed with the idea of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women make their first demand the removal of the sex disability. We may sympathize with this politician and that politician in their anxiety to know how

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1*½*d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1*s.* 8*d.*; half-yearly, 3*s.* 3*d.*; yearly, 6*s.* 6*d.* 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.

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it will affect their particular party; but for us it is a question affecting the progress of the world, not a party vote. We think it would be well if those in favour would, following ancient example, end every discussion, on whatever topic, with the words "but the sex disability must be removed."

THE ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION, which numbers men, as well as women, students among its members, met on June 19th, Miss Morrison, vice-president in the chair, to discuss what part it should play in the forthcoming Rectorial election. Miss Dunn, M.A., the secretary, moved that the Association oppose Mr. Asquith, Miss Cook, M.A., seconded. Both ladies made telling speeches, pointing out the moral effect of a combined opposition to Mr. Asquith on the Woman Suffrage question. Miss Richards, M.A., moved the amendment that the Association *qua* Association, take no part in the election, but Liberal members support Mr. Asquith. Miss Coutts, M.A., seconded. On the vote being taken, the motion was carried by a large majority. Therefore a fighting committee was elected. It is significant that this committee is composed, for the most part, of prominent Liberals.

In the interests of order, the University authorities decided that the meeting should be held in the women's rooms, so the men members were unavoidably absent. They voted separately, and two-thirds declared in favour of the motion. As they are mostly Liberals, this is a most gratifying result.

QUESTIONS for 1908: What is "a step forward," and how many "steps forward" are made when 10,000 women walk three miles from Victoria Embankment to Albert Hall, at 1,760 yards a mile, and two steps to a yard?

WILL our readers kindly take special note of an error in Editorial arrangements last week. Under the Scottish Women's Social and Political Union, a paragraph appeared with the heading "The Scottish Summer Centres." The context of the paragraph will show that this ought to have appeared under the Women's Freedom League heading, of which League the ladies mentioned are well-known members.

We advised the Scottish Women's Social and Political Union, if it was a question of deciding whether it be represented in *Women's Franchise* or *Votes for Women*, to choose the latter, which is the organ of their Society only, but they have desired us to continue to allow the insertion of their matter in this paper in the Autumn, and if our funds will permit us to give them space we can but be glad that this paper should thereby be made more truly representative of the movement as a whole.

THE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE acknowledge the following donations to the Propaganda Fund of above League:—Miss Em. Hughes, 10s. 6d.; Miss R. Vigers, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. McDonald, 5s.

A RECENT number of the *Anglo-Russian* contains an interesting article on Russian women and the Duma. Russian women have the same Parliamentary Franchise on the same terms as the men, except that they may only record their votes through male representatives. The Central Committee of the Octobrist party made a special appeal to the women of Moscow before the last elections, asking them to take an energetic part in the forthcoming contest. They are addressed as "Citizens of Moscow" (the Russian word "grazhdanki" is used, which means female citizen), and they are asked to transfer their voting rights to the unqualified men supporters of the party. Therefore, women voters who have every qualification are debarred from voting simply because of the accident of sex; but may transfer their privilege to men who have no

qualification at all, but may profit by the women's qualification, also by accident of sex. It will be interesting to hear how this topsy-turvy state of things works, and whether women are allowed to be represented at all or only at the initial stages of the elections, and also how many take advantage of the voting power by proxy.

MISS MARY HICKMAN has kindly promised to post her copy of the *Women's Franchise* each week to the Woolwich Free Library, and Miss H. Martin has paid for the paper to be sent to the Plumstead Free Library. We are indebted to Miss R. Powell for 5s. towards postage for sending out specimen copies.

Psalm lxxviii. v. 11.

(Tune of "Hark, hark my soul," Hymns Ancient and Modern.)

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of the preachers." (Prayer-book version.)

"The Lord giveth the word; the women that publish the tidings are a great host." (Revised version.)

The Lord gave the word, and they that published tidings
Then were, as now, of women a great host,
Miriams and Hannahs, Deborahs of Israel,
Preaching God's Will, taught by the Holy Ghost.

The Lord gives the word, and Judith saves her nation,
Pits faith and cunning 'gainst all Assyria's host,
Trusts in Jehovah, and by word inspiring,
Preaches faith and patience when both were nearly lost.

And when the Word Himself had come among us,
Preachers of His Triumph the women first He chose,
"Go tell my brethren, in Galilee to meet me"—
This their glad tidings the morning that He rose.

Great is their company all along the ages
Who by God's sending His church have warn'd or freed;
Bridgets, Teresas, Catherines, and Hildas,
Preachers of righteousness both by word and deed.

The Lord gives the word: here, and now, in England
Preach they His tidings in our Church's throng,
Mothers in Israel join with men their voices
To proclaim the Right, to war against the Wrong.

The Lord gives the word—here and now in England,
Women proclaim it with no uncertain voice,
In the cause of Truth, of Temperance, of Justice,
Claiming their duty to share their ruler's choice.

The Lord gives the word: be this our stay and comfort
And 'gainst His Word, can earth or hell prevail?
He, born of Woman, grant to us His sisters
Wisdom, and courage, and love that cannot fail.

Chorus after each verse if desired.

Women of England, publish His Word,
Seek Truth and Justice, trust in the Lord.

M. S. N.

Correspondence.

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

SIR,—I beg to enclose a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Asquith last week by the Women's Franchise Declaration Committee.

We hoped that this letter, which testifies to the written desire of 54,000 women for the vote would, at least, have been mentioned by every one of the many newspapers to which it was sent—especially since every one makes a point of mentioning and blaming every noisy or sensational act committed by any member of any Suffrage Society. But only very few papers even mentioned the letter, and, to the best of my belief, not one made any mention of it in a leading article.

The ordinary English press, while deprecating in words all

aggressive or obtrusive Suffragist action, furnishes by its acts a fairly conclusive proof that all modest and unobtrusive work is, as far as publicity goes, entirely thrown away.

Will you allow me a few words concerning the latter?

In the first place, the last sentence is so awkwardly constructed that it seems to ignore the far larger group of women (over 250,000) who petitioned years ago for the vote. It is too late to recast the sentence, but not too late to acknowledge that great body of predecessors.

In the second place, I wish to express the regret of the whole committee that the name of Miss Eveline Mitford, to whose zeal, energy, and powers of organizing, our success was largely due, does not appear to the letter. The letter was held open to the last possible moment in the hope of receiving it—and it arrived one post too late.

I am yours faithfully,

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

1, Worsley Road, Hampstead.
June 30th, 1908

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith.

SIR,—As you have said that before the Suffrage is granted to women there must be evidence that women desire it, we beg to lay before you the following statement:—

In the autumn of 1906 Miss Clementina Black suggested to a representative of *The Tribune* newspaper the desirability of inviting women to sign a declaration of their wish to be allowed to vote on the same terms as men; and on November 10th a letter was printed in that paper explaining the nature of the movement, and signed by eighteen representative women.

An eager response followed, and a committee of ladies was formed, which met for the first time on November 28th. It was originally intended to include the signatures only of women who were or had been engaged in some kind of work, and to confine the Declaration to London. So strong a desire to sign was, however, shown by women outside these limitations, that the committee decided, on December 17th, to accept the signatures of all women over eighteen who were British subjects and who were not already enfranchised.

By March 4th, 1907 the number of signatures sent in was 28,261. At that time the first 25,000 signatures were analysed, and the numbers of women in various occupations were found to be as follows:—

Agricultural	41
Artistic	574
Civil Service	730
Clerks	486
Domestic	2,769
Dramatic	58
Educational	5,692
Factory	252
Literary	410
Married	1,741
Medical	445
Musical	380
Nursing	498
Scientific	93
Secretarial	659
Social and Philanthropic	2,044
Poor Law Guardians	3,068
Trade	3,068

5,060 who either gave no description of their occupation or who did not fall into any of these classes made up the total of 25,000.

A copy of the interim report containing these figures was sent to every member of Parliament just before the debate upon Mr. Dickinson's Bill; but as far as we can learn no member made any reference to its contents.

The collection of signatures and the keeping up of an office continued until June, 1907; when the committee resolved to spend no more upon rent or upon paying a helper; the reason for this decision being an unwillingness to draw away money at that particular time from work more distinctly propagandist. The number of signatures received (duplicates and

names written in the form "Mrs." or "Miss" excluded) was then over 52,000. Nearly 2,000 more have been received since, notwithstanding a general belief—due to a change of policy on the part of *The Tribune*, which suddenly dropped all mention of the movement—that no more signatures were being accepted.

That a small committee of persons neither wealthy nor eminent could, between the last week of November, 1906, and the third week of June, 1907, gather the *bona fide* signatures of 52,000 women to a declaration of their desire to see the Parliamentary Suffrage granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men is surely significant of a real and considerable desire on the part of women. Fifty-four thousand adult persons who deliberately declare in writing that they desire the enfranchisement of their class, form, we venture to submit, a larger body than has ever before been known formally to demand the franchise in this country.

We are,

Yours obediently,

Caroline Lowden Downing.
Edith E. Downing.
Louisa H. Frankland.
Edythe Mary Glanville, B.A. LL.B.
B. U. Graham.
Caroline Ormsby Yannings, A.R.C.M.
Myra E. Luxmoore.
Lilian A. Maule.
M. E. Stanbury.
Alys Thurston.
Aphra Wilson.
Alexandra Wright, B.Sc.
Clementina Black (Hon. Sec.).

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in your columns to intimate to your readers that I have resigned my position as Organising Secretary to the Scottish Women's Social and Political Union, owing to certain action taken and restrictions laid down by its Executive Committee, which it has been impossible for me to accept, these being likely, in my opinion, to hamper and retard the work in Scotland. I very much regret being under the necessity of taking this step and so severing official connexion with the members of the Union with whom my relations have been at all times most cordial and harmonious. I would take this opportunity of expressing to them my sincere and grateful acknowledgment of many kindnesses shown and assistance given me in my official capacity. I trust still to continue my work for the Suffrage movement, and will welcome opportunities of speaking or working on its behalf in any part of the country.

I am, faithfully yours,

HELEN FRASER.

139, West Regent Street, Glasgow.

SIR,—At the great Mass Meeting for women of the Pan-Anglican Congress last Tuesday evening at the Albert Hall, after some fairly interesting speeches, Mr. William Temple (son of Bishop Temple) made the speech of the evening. He told the women that it was their duty to see that "sweating" should be abolished in the land, and, he said, to do this, "You women must insist on having the vote." The effect was electrical and superb. Yet, as far as I have seen, the reporters or their editors left this out of the papers.

Yours truly,

MARIANNE DALE.

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

A Friend, per The Hon. Mrs. Russell	£ s. d.	Brought forward	£ s. d.
Bartholomew, Miss E.	1 1 0	Jameson, Miss W. G.	10 10 6
Callaghan, Mrs. T.	0 10 0	Kennedy, Mrs. M.	2 0 0
Clarence, Miss E.	5 0 0	Killburn, Miss C.	1 0 0
Dale, Miss B. R.	0 7 0	Lamont, Miss A.	0 10 6
Frankland, Mrs.	1 0 0	Martyn, Miss	1 0 0
Green, Miss C. I.	1 0 0	Montgomery, Miss E.	0 5 0
Henderson, Miss L. G.	1 10 0	Naylor, H. C.	0 10 0
	0 2 6	Underwood, Mrs.	1 0 0
			0 5 0
Carried forward	10 10 6	Total	£17 1 0

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.

Organiser: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS I. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

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

LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

Will the lady who promised to subscribe 5l. 5s. to the funds of the society at the Albert Hall meeting on the 13th inst., but who forgot to put her address on the card, kindly forward the amount to the Treasurer, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

Mrs. Rackham, of Cambridge, generously writes: "Please regard my expenses to Sunderland to address a meeting there (36s.) as a subscription to the National Union."

We beg to acknowledge the following donations to the 5,000 guinea fund: from Miss Eleanor Rathbone, 30l.; Mrs. Davidson, 4l. 9s. 6d., proceeds of a garden party.

Mrs. Ashworth Hallett's donation of 26l. 5s. was announced last week as for the 5,000 Guinea Fund; this was a mistake. Mrs. Hallett wishes her money to go to the General Fund of the Union.

PROCESSION.—The attempt to make the University section of the procession pay its own expenses is receiving great support. In addition to a large number of small sums from graduates, 3l. 11s. 6d. has been received from Cambridge University Women Students, 15s. from Holloway students, and 14s. from Miss M. C. Foley; Miss Whitley and Mrs. Bull have given 2l. 5s. towards the cost of the beautiful University of London banner, which Miss Lowndes so kindly and generously undertook to get made at short notice.

The Committee wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Emerson Club for its welcome hospitality; everything was arranged in the most careful way for the comfort and convenience of University women in the room set apart for them at 19, Buckingham Street. They wish also to thank Lady Buck for kindly sending a carriage for the use of ladies who were unable to walk so long a distance.

They feel, also, that very special thanks are due to those graduates who came from long distances to take part in the Demonstration, and so helped to make the Cap and Gown contingent such a striking feature in the procession.

We are asked to express the thanks of the medical women to the members of the Women's Freedom League for the use of the room kindly placed at their disposal for robing in on the occasion of the Procession.

CARAVAN.—Miss Rendel proposes to travel with two Newnham friends in a caravan from Beatlock to Oxford in July, and to hold Suffrage meetings in the villages through which they pass. They would be very grateful if friends who live near the route would give them information about camping grounds, good places for meetings, &c.

It would help them greatly if sympathizers would speak at the meetings, make them known, and send names and addresses of Suffragists living close to the route, which as far as Skipton is as follows: Beatlock (July 2nd), Lockerbie, Longtown, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Keswick, Ambleside, Windermere, Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, Settle, Skipton. Information can be sent either to Miss Rendel, 15, Melbury Road, Kensington, London, W. or to Post Office at the above places.

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage League is making good progress. Fresh interest is being aroused, especially since the National Union Procession, in which many of our members took part under various banners. Many letters have been received expressing satisfaction and pleasure at the formation of the League, which enables Conservative women to join the Suffrage Movement without forsaking their party. "I agree with the need, but should not have joined had not there been a Conservative League," writes one. "Very pleased to hear of your League, it just meets my wants," writes another. The League includes several presidents, wardens, honorary secretaries, and members of the Primrose League. It has to acknowledge an anonymous donation of 12s. 6d., and the gift of a large-sized roller desk for this office, the hired one being much too small for present work.

During "Pageant Week," i.e., from 6th to 11th of July, this office will be open to members all day. The Organizing Secretary will be in there every morning from 11 to 12, and glad to see any one who likes to call. H. H. Wright, Hon. Organizing Sec., Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place, Cheltenham.

Councillor E. M. Beaumont has set us a splendid example of how Suffragists should spend their holidays. During his brief holiday in Bridlington he secured introductions from the Mayor to ladies who could give him assistance. He found the result most favourable, and is to return to get up a meeting in September. Councillor Beaumont hopes to get Mr. Luke White, M.P., to be a vice-president of the Bridlington branch, and encourages us by saying that we could easily form fifty new branches if this holiday idea was carried out.

A drawing-room meeting was held at Beechwood House, Berkswell, on June 10th, when an audience of seventy listened with deep interest to an address on Women's Suffrage by Dr. Ethel Bentham of Newcastle-on-Tyne. As a result of the meeting a branch of the Birmingham and Midland Women's Suffrage Society has been started in Berkswell. It has fifteen members and confidently hopes to increase the number.

Miss F. G. Wright has received permission from the Committee of the Barnes Tennis Club to address the Club on Women's Suffrage on July 4th at 7.30. Miss Wright will take the chair for Miss Gertrude Conolan and Mr. John E. Raphael. Cannot other Suffragist members of games clubs take the hint?

National Union of Women Workers.—Annual Council Meeting, Aberdeen, Oct. 14th, 15th, 2.30 P.M. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is entitled to send ten representatives to the above. Miss Corbett will be glad to receive names of members of Women's Suffrage Societies within the Union who will be willing to represent it on this occasion.

Mrs. Snowden sailed for the United States on July 1st, and will return at the end of November. She is to lecture at Chautauqua and at several women's clubs and universities. Among her subjects will be the English Women's Movement, Woman Suffrage, and the present political situation in this country.

What the Congress taught us!

THE Amsterdam International Women's Suffrage Conference was really a most remarkable affair, and showed in its own way, quite as much as the London Demonstrations did, that the woman question is absolutely the greatest, most vital, and powerful question of the day. In fact, I think, being International, it showed this, even more than any other event has done, or can do, lately. As we sat in that pleasant but somewhat hot room in Amsterdam, it was almost at times as if we were holding the future of all the world in our hands; for in spite of the usual inevitable misunderstanding and confusion attendant on all such Congresses, due to differences of language and methods of procedure, there was a sense of unity of purpose, and a feeling of solidarity and mutual sympathy, stronger than I have ever before felt at International Conferences. Every national difference that at any time arose, was almost instantly pushed aside as being of entirely minor importance: our object was International solidarity amongst women. I longed for the presence of those persons whom one meets in life, who delight to say that women cannot unite and stand together. There were women of all political parties and many religious creeds, from twenty or so different countries, all standing together firmly united, and working for absolutely the same end.

When, the last evening, as we sat at a great banquet, Mrs. Catt, our President and Chairwoman (a President whom I have never seen equalled at any Congress), moved a resolution of sympathy with Finland at her terrible fate, the scene was one I can never forget. The deepest meaning of our Congress, and of our whole cause, suddenly stood revealed, and as it cannot be, when one stands surrounded by only one's own race. Mrs. Catt said that now we women of all nations were banded together to help each other, to stand by each other, and to work together for the welfare of the whole world, of both men and women, for the world needs us. Her words seemed to sweep through the little group where I stood, of Finlanders and Russians, and as we looked at one another, I felt as if our battle were already nearly won, and also—so noble and strong for good were some of the women there—as if, where as now the women of the world stand united, nothing can resist them, and the "skirts of light" are indeed widening. The world of men and women needs us, and we shall not disappoint it nor stand silent any longer. The Congress taught us all that.

I. O. FORD.

Meeting at Uxbridge.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Davidson a garden meeting was held on the 24th inst. at St. Andrews, Uxbridge. The hostess acted as chairman, and the speakers were Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and Miss Edith Palliser, late Parliamentary Secretary to the N.U.W.S.S. In opening the proceedings Mrs. Davidson offered a very hearty welcome to all present, with a special welcome to any of the number who might not, as yet, see eye to eye with those who ardently desired the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Palliser spoke most ably and warmly in support of the resolution proposed by Mrs. Davidson and seconded by Miss Katherine Raleigh, and votes of thanks to the speakers and to Dr. and Mrs. Davidson brought to a close a most enjoyable meeting.

A Bad Blunder.

WE have been so overwhelmed with matter that we have had no room in which to notice an article in *The Academy* of June 20th entitled 'The Suffragist and the Socialist.' With the first part of the article we have no concern; but later *The Academy* discusses our meeting at the Albert Hall. In the article the writer states that Lady Henry Somerset, in her speech, said the exact contrary of what was correctly reported by practically every newspaper in the United Kingdom. Upon this statement he builds up proof that woman in general, and Lady Henry Somerset in particular, "by reason of her feminine mind, is utterly unfitted to be trusted with the power to assist in making the laws of the country."

New Branch in the New Forest.

WE held our inaugural meeting on June 24th at Milton Rectory, the Rev. J. E. Kilsall in the chair, and were fortunate enough to secure Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Margaret Robertson to address us. Our branch originated from a small drawing-room discussion which was held at the same place in April. A society was formed, and we were duly constituted a member of the National Union on May 29th, when our first business meeting was held, a committee elected, Miss Bateson appointed hon. sec., and Miss Kelsall treasurer. Considerable interest has been shown from the first, all the meetings have been well attended, and we have enrolled members rapidly, and now number over 100. The able speeches were greatly appreciated, and were followed with keen interest, particularly by our working class members, to some of whom a woman speaker was an absolute novelty. The discussion which followed, and the grasp shown of the points at issue made it evident that the subject is being hourly considered in households great and small. We would urge others to form small societies and thus to follow Mr. Herbert Gladstone's recommendation "to carry the question into every village and every hamlet." We would recommend every Suffragist to get together the nucleus of a society in their country homes during the coming holiday season. We are sure this could very easily be done. When we began to break ground here we were told no one took any interest in the question, but in eight weeks' time we have enrolled over a hundred members.

Further Donations to the Procession Fund.

The Misses Beck	£2 2 0
Mrs. Currey	5 0 0
Miss F. Kinsett	0 5 0
Mrs. C. Hancock	5 5 0
Miss J. Allen	0 1 0
Mr. H. C. Stuart	0 1 0
Mrs. Coffin	0 1 0
Miss Hawes (per)	0 9 0
Mrs. Picot	1 1 0
Mrs. H. Sargant	5 5 0
Mrs. C. King	0 19 0
Miss J. Green	5 0 0
Miss Urlin	5 0 0
Mrs. Hodgson	5 5 0
H. Rackham, Esq.	1 1 0
Mrs. Shrive	0 5 0
Mrs. Powell	0 2 6
Miss V. Shillington	1 0 0
Dr. Eliz. Wilks	2 0 0
Miss A. M. Cooke (per)	0 11 0
Miss C. Downing	0 2 6
Miss R. Durand	0 2 6
Mrs. Hobhouse	0 5 0
Mrs. Home Gale	0 1 0
Anon (per Mrs. Bertram)	0 1 0
Miss Leigh Browne	2 0 0
Miss Pritchard	1 0 0
Mrs. Blyth	0 5 0
Miss Spuhler	0 2 0
Mrs. Long (per Miss Lake)	2 2 0
Miss A. Eve	0 2 6
Miss Newcombe	0 2 0
Mrs. Hoskyn Abraham	1 4 0
Mrs. Sayer	0 2 6
Miss Rose Paul	0 10 0
Mrs. J. Haworth	5 0 0
Miss A. Gardner	0 5 0
Miss Anderson, M.D. (per)	1 11 0
Miss Churchill	1 0 0
Mrs. Napier	5 0 0
Mrs. Warren	0 2 6
Miss Cruttenden	0 1 0

£61 15 0

An American View of Mr. Asquith's Pronouncement.

THE June number of *The Woman's Journal*, Boston, contains an excellent article on 'The Situation in England,' wherein it discusses Mr. Asquith's recent pronouncement to the Liberal M.P.'s, and the attitude of the different Suffrage Societies on the matter. Referring to the Hon. Bertrand Russell's article in our pages, in which he says, "it is to all intents and purposes as if the Government had directly taken up the enfranchisement of women." The writer thinks it "looks as if the older and more Conservative societies were inclined to this view." Evidently she had not seen Mrs. Fawcett's letter in the next issue, in which she points out that the article in question is merely Mr. Russell's private opinion, and must not be considered as voicing the opinion of the National Union as a whole. Referring to the unfranchised men, we read that "Mr. Asquith says Women's Suffrage must not be granted without proof that an overwhelming majority of women want it. . . . The overwhelming majority of the unfranchised men in England have never expressed the slightest wish for the ballot. These unfranchised men, as a class, seem totally indifferent on the subject. They have not shown a tithe as much desire for the ballot as the women."

Branch Societies.

BIRMINGHAM Women's Suffrage Society—like many other Societies in the large towns—took a shop in order to advertise the special train for the Demonstration on June 13th. The shop was open all day, and meetings were held every evening. The work was made easy by the number of volunteers both as workers and speakers. Altogether it created quite a sensation, and gave rise to a great deal of talk and interest, which is always good for the cause.

A great many more people went to London than we had ever hoped or expected. Some at a real sacrifice of time and money—and inclination—but all who went were fully rewarded by the great success of the day, and will always be glad that they took part in the great Demonstration on June 13th, 1908.

BOLTON.—We recently held a very successful social evening, when Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., gave an interesting address, in which she urged upon those present to make Saturday's Procession as widely known as possible, and begged all women with time and money to spare to join in it.

GLOUCESTER.—A very successful meeting of this new branch was held on June 25th. Miss Curtis Hayward presided, and after an opening address, greatly appreciated by those present, she introduced Mrs. Martin from Bristol, who made a most stirring and interesting speech. The following resolution, moved by her, and very ably seconded by Mrs. Chesser, M.B., was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting—recognizing that politics deal largely with questions affecting women's labour, and the home life and child life of the nation—is of opinion that the time has come for the nation to cease to suffer from the want of the direct voice of women in the legislation of the country."

Copies of this resolution were sent to the Prime Minister and to the county and city members.

LIVERPOOL.—We opened a committee-room at 57, Bold Street, in order to interest people in the procession. The banner, which was designed by Mr. G. Harris, and executed by Mrs. Paul, was displayed in the window, together with literature dealing with the women's movement. We hope by this means to have made many converts to the cause.

LONDON, Beckenham.—A well-attended meeting was held on the 28th ult., and the list of speakers was a most impressive one. The chair was taken by Miss Abadam, President, who was supported by Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Stanger, and others. After an excellent speech, which was listened to with great attention, Mrs. Fawcett unveiled the banner of the branch. Mrs. Dice, Hon. Organizing Secretary, proposed a resolution welcoming the pronouncement of the Prime Minister, but

calling upon our supporters in Parliament to press forward the Bill. Mr. Cholmeley seconded, and it was carried.

Highgate.—Our annual meeting took place on the 2nd inst at Mrs. Garnett's, when a very successful evening was spent. Miss Janet Case, M.A., gave an address which was much appreciated. Members were pleased to hear of the progress the branch had made since it was started a year ago with only 8 members. It now numbers 70. Many Suffrage teas have been given. A public meeting has been held, when the audience numbered over 400, and another meeting to enlist the interest of working women.

Richmond.—The Committee and officers of the Society gave an "at home" to meet Mrs. Rackham, who addressed the meeting. Councillor W. Sandover presided. Mrs. Rackham, in the course of an interesting address, dealt particularly with Mr. Asquith's reply to the recent deputation, the apathy of so many women to the cause, and the unjust position women occupied before the law.

NOTTINGHAM.—A crowd of nearly 4,000 people assembled in the Nottingham Forest to hear speeches on Women's Suffrage. Mrs. C. L. Rothera presided, supported by many well-known local people. Mrs. Stanbury was the principal speaker, and her admirable address evoked frequent applause. There was very little interruption; occasionally a small bell was rung, and a few youths sang songs. There was a large sale of literature, and the meeting from all points of view was a great success. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried with enthusiasm by a large majority.

SHREWSBURY.—Mrs. Moss presided over a well-attended meeting in the Camera Club Room on June 18th. Miss McCrea described Saturday's procession, and moved her audience to great applause when she spoke of the splendid order and boundless enthusiasm shown by the women who took part in the great march. She was followed by Miss Fraser, who gave an account of the speeches in the Albert Hall. In describing the banners as they showed in the vast building, she said she hoped another year Shrewsbury also would have its own particular banner.

The Hon. Secretary said it was proposed to institute a canvass of all the women on the burgess roll of the town in order to persuade those who had a municipal vote to join the Suffragists in demanding the Parliamentary vote, and she asked for help in beginning the work of canvassing. She said it was most necessary to increase their numbers, since Mr. Asquith had recently said the Suffrage could only be granted to women if it were shown that the great majority of them really desired it. At the close of the meeting some new members were enrolled. When it is known that two months ago Shrewsbury had no Women's Suffrage society, and that now the branch consists of over fifty members, it will be seen that a good deal of effective work has been done in a comparatively short time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

JULY			P.M.
4th	London, Barnes Tennis Club	Chair, Miss F. G. Wright Speakers, Miss G. Conolan Mr. J. S. Raphael	7.30
	Croydon, Suffrage Garden Party		
6th	Birmingham, W.S. Meeting, 166, Broad Street		
6th	Fleet, Hants, Garden Address, The Beacon	Speaker, Mrs. Alderton	7.30
	London, N. Paddington, Invitation Meeting	Hostess, Miss Green Speaker, Mrs. Percy Boulnois	4.30
8th	Leamington and Warwick, Meeting	Speaker, Miss Evans	
13th	Birmingham, W.S. Meeting, 166, Broad Street		
17th	London, N. Hackney, Garden Meeting	Hostess, Miss Richards	
20th	Highgate, Suffrage Tea	Hostesses, The Misses Sharpe Speaker, Miss Janet Case	
20th	Birmingham, Public Meeting, Birmingham and Midland Institute	Speakers, Mr. Stanger, M.P. Mrs. Cooper	6
21st	Stratford, Woman's Co-operative Guild, Meeting of Members re Suffrage, Workman's Hall, Romford Road.	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

The Storm Centre.

BRITAIN was recognized by the whole of the International Congress in Amsterdam as the storm-centre of the women's rebellion. Why? Because the movement in our country has been vitalized by the sacrifice and enthusiasm of revolt.

The new life and hope infused into the movement by these forces have manifested themselves in many directions, but they spring always from the same ultimate source. This was universally recognized at the Congress. To be British was enough to make one interesting. But to be a militant suffragette increased the interest a hundredfold.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, the beloved president of the Alliance, set the standard by her presidential address, in which she acknowledged the good work we have done. She again showed her appreciation of our struggle when she asked the Congress to give us a special hearing. This it did with enthusiasm. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Sanderson, and I addressed the delegates, and at the close of our statement of the case they rose *en masse*, cheering and waving handkerchiefs, and pressing gifts of flowers upon us.

Later in the proceedings a similar demonstration greeted Dr. Drysdale of the Men's League, who showed in his speech that the body he represented owed its inception to the militant agitation.

On the last day of the Congress a further evidence of the spirit with which British doings were regarded was given. A resolution condemning the action of any government which imprisoned women suffragists as common criminals instead of political offenders was passed with very few dissentients.

The enthusiastic reception given by the Congress to the invitation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies must be interpreted in the same way. Suffragists of every land are awakened and enthused, and desire to touch the heart of the revolt, the storm-centre of the women's fight for liberty.

The last message I heard was one of encouragement and trust. "Go on with your work," said one of the noblest women of the Alliance. "We are proud of you and bid you God-speed. You are doing the finest work in the world." This is the message of the earth to us. Who is ready to sacrifice more that we may fulfil the hopes of our sisters and open to them the gateways that are closed?

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Impressions of the Amsterdam Congress.

HAVING been privileged as one of six fraternal delegates from the W.F.L. to attend the great congress of women which has just taken place, I desire to record my impressions of it as a whole.

No less than twenty-two countries sent delegations—one national society alone being officially represented—and there were also many fraternal delegates and associates.

As I look back over the busy and crowded days, spent for a successful meeting was held at Cardross last Thursday evening. Mrs. Kennedy of Helensburgh presided. Miss Ennin Murray gave a vivid and interesting description of the London procession. Miss Anna Munro also addressed the meeting. Several new members joined.

At a very successful social meeting of the Central Glasgow Branch last Wednesday, Mrs. Graham Moffat was presented with the Holloway Badge of Honour.

Hillhead Branch also held a delightful social meeting last Monday, Mrs. Gemmill giving a most interesting record of pioneer women in the temperance cause.

As to the Congress, I think my deepest impression is that in organizing—in practical ability—in power of initiative—women are not behind men.

Only those who have had something to do with the business-side of international congresses can have any idea of the difficulties that have to be met and conquered before success can be ensured. The confusion of tongues, the widely varied points of view, and the profound differences in temperament, differentiating these congresses from ordinary councils, make the task of engineering them extremely arduous. That these difficulties were successfully overcome is due to the hard work of those who prepared for the Congress, and to the talent and devotion of those who carried it through. Several notable personalities come before me as, in memory, I see again the little group of women on the flower-decked platforms—the indefatigable self-effacing secretary; the editor of the international organ *Jus Suffragii*; the indispensable and ever-ready interpreter; the Russian and Finnish delegates, with a tragic victory behind them, with, it may be, a still more tragic future to face; above all, the chairman, Mrs. Chapman Catt, calm, judicial, patient, untiring; and as I see them, my brightest dreams of that new world in which woman will have her true place seem more than justified.

In the brief space at my command I can only touch upon the business. The chairman opened with a brilliant and statesmanlike summing-up of the development throughout the world of the woman's movement since the last Congress at Berlin. In her speech she made special reference to the work done in Great Britain by the militant Suffragists. Then followed detailed reports from the official representatives of the different countries. The question of the future of *Jus Suffragii* was discussed, and a committee was appointed to deal with the suggestions and definite resolutions of the Congress. Then came the important subject of methods, with an open discussion, in which the fraternal delegates were allowed to join. And then, as one of the representatives of the Women's Freedom League, I must offer my tribute of gratitude to Mrs. Chapman Catt, the officials of the Association, and the Congress generally. It was felt not only that our militant tactics were original and effective in rousing public attention, but also that what the methods we employed really had been, their justification and their effects, were imperfectly known, if known at all, to the world that gains impressions of current events through party-inspired journals. When, therefore, the chairman proposed that a special hearing should be given to the fraternal delegates from our League, the Congress unanimously agreed, and the business of Friday morning opened with a brief exposition of the militant attitude from three of our number. I spoke first on the methods; Mrs. Billington-Greig followed with their meaning and justification; Mrs. Sanderson, in conclusion, spoke of their effects. Never shall I forget the outburst of enthusiasm evoked by the eloquent and touching words with which the last speaker closed. The whole of the audience rose, and did not resume their seats until militant delegates, standing together, and deeply moved, bowed their acknowledgments.

Tuesday afternoon of Friday was devoted to the offering of greetings from the fraternal delegates, when I had the pleasure of speaking in the name of the militant Suffragists. On Friday I returned to London.

To sum up, there comes from the Woman's Congress a mandate to unite and a message of hope. If the movement gains unity continues, if the courage and determination now inspiring women everywhere are maintained, I feel that the result is certain—our victory is assured.

C. DESPARD.

The Foundation of the International.

At the meeting to receive the report of the International Convention at Amsterdam, Mrs. Fenwick Miller gave an account of the foundation of the International organization. She said that, like many other advances, it was initiated by the American women. Mrs. Stanton and Miss Susan Anthony desired to found it during their visit to London in the early eighties, but the then leaders of the movement in England would not accept the idea. In the autumn of 1906, Mrs. Fenwick Miller received an official letter from Mrs. Chapman Catt, backed by a private letter endorsing Mrs. Catt from Miss Anthony, asking her to take up for Great Britain the question of forming an International organization, as the American Suffrage Society desired to call an International Convention to arrange the formation of an International Society, and felt it would be impossible to carry through the plan unless Great Britain was brought into the movement. Mrs. Miller explained that this idea appealed to her because she believed that the influence of women would do more to promote brotherhood between nations and check discord and war than any masculine efforts could ever accomplish. She knew that a similar hope had been cherished and had been falsified by events as the result of extending the franchise to working men; but as womanly influence in the family and in all communities is always conducive to gentleness, peace, order, and tactful arrangement in place of violence, she believed that the influence of women on international relations would be of a similar character, and that we should become ashamed of the expenditure of human resources on war preparations, and still more would shrink from the inhumanities of war itself, when women helped to control the feelings and acts of nations. To help in promoting this sense of amity between the women of all peoples, she determined to give the time and trouble that she foresaw would be necessary to start an International organization. Mrs. Fenwick Miller made a feeling reference to the fact that every one of her best friends in the Suffrage movement whom she consulted in the first place, on this new movement, naming especially Mrs. Priscilla Bright McLaren, Mrs. Scatcherd, of Morley, and Mr. J. P. Thomasson, have died in the short time since she mooted the question to them and received their support for the idea and their help. After considerable correspondence and interviewing, the British National Union of Women Suffrage Societies decided to adhere to the project, and to appoint Mrs. Fenwick Miller to go as their delegate to the Washington Convention in February, 1902, where it was formally decided to establish the International organization. That Convention included delegates from all the chief nations of the world, including Miss Vida Goldstein from Australia. The British National Union of Suffrage Societies, on her report, appointed a committee of three members Mrs. Fenwick Miller as President, Miss Palliser as hon. sec., and Miss Methven of Edinburgh, to continue the arrangements for organization, and these being completed, the International Alliance was finally started on its interesting career at Berlin in 1904. Another Convention was called in Denmark in 1906, and the Amsterdam Congress just held has continued the work. Mrs. Fenwick Miller was elected at Washington the first Treasurer of the International, but resigned at Berlin.

Aberdeen Branch.

A FEW quotations from the Aberdeen Free Press will serve my purpose in describing the Café Chantant held at Central Hall, Aberdeen, on June 6th:—
 " 'Surely the spirit of Freedom was in the air,' for held sooner had I reached the end of Skene Street than I floating above the doorway of the Central Hall, the beautiful, who designed legend, 'Women's Freedom League.' Now, having keen 'flair' for whatever aims at unshackling us from great fetters of stupid convention, I determined, with a true Athenian purpose, to find out 'some new thing' in that and so crossed the portals of the Central Hall.

"It was a happy, peaceful, refined scene, and I was glad to be a part of it. Bright ladies in white, in blue, in pink, in all shades of pleasing colours, passed and repassed on hospitable thoughts intent. I perceive the throng may be classified. There are some who wear a large red button. 'These are our badges,' said my companion, pointing to her own. 'How old are you?' I inquired. She looked puzzled. 'Does your branch enjoy a long retrospect?' I pursued. She understood and laughed. 'We are a month old,' she said, 'and have already arrived at this,' indicating with a sweep of her hand the busy scene before us. 'We must have funds for the Suffragist cause,' she said. Agreeing that things looked promising for a good monetary return, we drifted into confidential talk about the aims of the League, which need not be repeated, as the cause is now world-wide, but which left me with the impression that the members of this particular branch have the courage of their convictions—a rarer thing than is generally supposed—and are prepared to fight with all their strength the powers of darkness, ignorance, hostility, and prejudice. Here a bell rang, and Miss Alice Davidson sang. I was brought back to the present by another ring of the bell. Looking up I found that the pretty little stage was occupied, and a one-act comedy was in full swing. This comedy carried the suggestive title of 'Turn Him Out,' and met with keen appreciation. Following the play was a selection by a capital stringed orchestra.

"I was introduced to the president of the Aberdeen Branch of the League, Mrs. Farquharson Kennedy. They conducted me to the flower, fruit, and cake stall—a beautiful stall, banked with a mass of brilliant flowers. Pausing before the literature stall, I spent my last shilling; and to keep a reminder of as pleasant a Saturday afternoon as I ever hope to spend, I departed carrying with me photographs of the foremost women of the Suffrage Movement. Once more I was out in the street, leaving behind me the brightness, the vitality, the wholesome atmosphere which earnestness always produces. I saw in imagination again that little toiling band of self-sacrificing women, and wished them 'God-speed' with all my heart."

When the adverse result of the Kincardine by-election was told to me, my thoughts flew for consolation to the remembrance of the brave willing women who had come out and joined our ranks during the campaign. Although the Aberdeen branch is scarce a month old, it has done veteran work, and made converts on all sides. More than ever do I feel proud of my poor share in uniting these useful and enthusiastic workers in this glorious cause.
 DOROTHY MOLONY.

London Council Cycling Corps.

THE next run of the Cycling Corps will be to Dulwich. Will members please meet in Duke Street, near the Embankment at 3 o'clock?
 HELEN LEVY.

Our Million Penny Fund.

SOME members who have not filled their cards have suggested keeping them after June 30th, as the holidays will give opportunities for collecting amongst fresh people, so we have decided to keep the fund open until the end of August. All the cards are not yet out. Will any friend have a second one?

13th	Birmingham, W.S. Meeting, 14th, Broad Street	Hostess, Miss Richards	
17th	London, N. Hackney, Garden Meeting	Hostesses, The Misses Sharpe	
20th	Highbury, Suffrage Tea	Speaker, Miss Janet Case	
20th	Birmingham, Public Meeting, Birmingham and Midland Institute	Speakers, Mr. Stanger, M.P. Mrs. Couper	6
21st	Stratford, Woman's Co-operative Guild, Meeting of Members & Suffrage Workmen's Hall, Romford Road.	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8

East of Fife Campaign.

FRIDAY 19TH.—Springfield was the scene of action. It rained so heavily just before the meeting that I had to seek shelter. As I came to the cottage door after it had cleared off, I saw a beautiful rainbow stretching overhead, and took it as a promise of good things to come; and so it happened.

The audience which was a large one, responded at once when asked to come closer, which is a very unusual thing, and they were as responsive during the whole meeting, which was a very happy one. Literature and picture post-cards sold well. The "champion heckler" did not heckle me, but thanked me for the address, and said they were entirely on our side, and would use their influence with Mr. Asquith, as far as that would go.

MONDAY 22ND.—Falkland. This was one of the most disappointing meetings I have yet had, owing to the apathy of the men; the women seemed more interested. It seems their annual fair was held on the Saturday and I was told it was therefore not the best night for a meeting.

TUESDAY 23RD.—Frenchie was next touched, and though a smaller place than Falkland, I had a good meeting here; the audience appeared to be quite interested and in sympathy. *The Courier* said so too.

WEDNESDAY 24TH.—Gateside is but a small hamlet, but our plan is to visit all places where there is the possibility of getting a meeting, and here also I was accorded a kindly reception.

A gentleman asked, "Will you women not give a pledge to the Government that you will ask no more if they will grant you the vote?" I told him the women of the Freedom League were united for the purpose of breaking chains, not making them, and a foolish promise of that kind would certainly bind the women of the future in a way we neither intended nor had the right to do. Thursday I was again in Dundee.
 JANE DONALDSON.

Scottish Council.

THE final arrangements for the summer campaign are now completed. From Dunoon centre, Rothesay, Gourrock, Helensburgh, Langs, Millport, Ayr, will be visited. Any friend living in, or who intends to be in, any of the fore-mentioned places would help us greatly by sending her name at once to Miss Anna Munro, 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow, who will be in charge, even if she can only be present or tell us the best place to hold a meeting in her locality.

The west coast centre will start with large meetings on Saturday on the Castle Hill at 4 P.M. and 6.30. All members and friends are urgently entreated to do their utmost and rally round to help in every possible way.

Carnoustie will also be started about the same time. Several of the lady students of Glasgow University are taking charge there, assisted by the members of the Dundee branch and other sympathizers. The funds are at a very low ebb at present, so money is urgently required at once if this far-reaching propaganda is not to be seriously crippled for want of the necessary money. A special fund has been opened. Every one is asked to help in whatever fashion available—donations (however small), meetings, sales, garden parties, hospitality, &c. Money to be sent to the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Moffat, at 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

A successful meeting was held at Cardross last Thursday evening. Mrs. Kennedy of Helensburgh presided. Miss Ennin Murray gave a vivid and interesting description of the London procession. Miss Anna Munro also addressed the meeting. Several new members joined.

At a very successful social meeting of the Central Glasgow Branch last Wednesday, Mrs. Graham Moffat was presented with the Holloway Badge of Honour.

Hillhead Branch also held a delightful social meeting last Monday, Mrs. Gemmell giving a most interesting record of pioneer women in the temperance cause.

Scottish Council Summer Centres Fund.

Miss Eunice Murray £5 0 0

London Council.

LARGE meetings have been held in Finsbury Park and Brockwell Park.

Speeches at the Islington Empire.—Arrangements are being made with the London Theatres of Varieties, Ltd., for members of the Women's Freedom League to address the audiences at the Islington Empire, N., on Monday next, the 6th inst., and every evening during the week. Miss Irene Miller and Miss D. Molony will speak at the first and second houses respectively. It is proposed that each speaker should be accompanied on the stage by four of her colleagues from the Women's Freedom League; and it is hoped that as many members as possible will be "in front" throughout the week to support Miss Miller and Miss Molony in this new departure. The speeches will be preceded by an exhibition of the Bioscope pictures showing the United procession of women.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Secretary to the London Council.

Caravan Campaign.

OUR Suffrage van has now been on the road since May 16th, and the good work it has done cannot be over-estimated. But the van, in spite of good collections and sales of literature, cannot pay its way in rural England, and therefore we must appeal for funds. We have received the following donations, so far:—Per Mrs. Hicks (sales of pictures, &c.), 9l. 13s.; Miss Cox, 1l.; Miss Ibbotson, 2l.; Miss Seruya, 10s. We want at least 30l. by the end of July. Please let us have it.

MARGARET S. CLAYTON, Hon. Treas. Van Committee, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
 July 2nd to July 14th.

Wed.	1. Hampstead	Mrs. Nevinson	P.M. 7.15
Thurs.	2. At Home, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand	Miss Aphra Wilson Mrs. Bewick Coby, of Oregon and Madame Mirovitch	3.30
	Despard Debating Society, 18, Buckingham St., Strand	Miss Hurst	8
Fri.	3. Cheltenham, Town Hall, Reception and Duologue	Mrs. Meredith Miss Hodgson Miss Fitzherbert Mrs. How Martyn	8
	Birmingham, Town Hall	Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Sanderson Mrs. Billington-Greig	
Sat.	4. Cheltenham, Town Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.	8
		Mrs. Sanderson Miss Irene Miller	3
Sun.	5. Finsbury Park, N.	Mrs. Pardie	
	Battersea Park, S.W. Gate Brockwell Park, S.E. Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Nevinson Miss Molony	3.30 3 11 A.M.
Wed.	8. 147, East India Road	Mrs. How Martyn	8.30
Thurs.	9. Hyde Park, near Marble Arch At Home, Caxton Hall Catherine Street, Croydon,	Central Branch Members Mrs. Aekroyd	8 3.30 8
Fri.	10. The Clock, Thornton Heath, Open-Air	Miss Sinclair Miss Milner	7.45
Sun.	12. Battersea Park, S.W. Gate Brockwell Park, S.E. Finsbury Park, N.	Miss Molony	3.30 3 3
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch Wandsworth Common		3 11 A.M.
Tues.	14. Meeting, Mrs. John Russell's Garden, Hampstead	Mrs. Hicks Miss Aphra Wilson Mrs. John Russell and others	

Special July 11th open-air performance of 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' with Mendelssohn's incidental music by the South Place Orchestral Society, 8 P.M. Tickets, 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d., from this office.
 * * * 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.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

WE are glad to learn that at a meeting to be held to-day the Woolwich Borough Council will discuss a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, moved by the Independent Labour Party. An amendment which will receive the support of most of the Municipal Reform members, who are in the majority, differs from the resolution of the Labour Party only in so far that, while the resolution advocates universal adult suffrage, the amendment advocates the extension of the franchise to women on the terms on which men now enjoy it. One of our members, Dr. T. A. Ingram, will speak in favour of the amendment, the wording of which is largely due to him. In its original form, we understand, the amendment was more limited in character, but Dr. Ingram and his friends insisted that they could do no less in common fairness than demand equal treatment of the sexes.

It is possible that the amendment may be lost by a combined opposition of those who dislike women's suffrage altogether and those who demand adult suffrage; it is almost certain that the resolution will be lost, since the Municipal Reform party is in the ascendant. None the less two highly important facts are noticeable. The Woolwich councillors regard the subject as one on which they ought to express an opinion, although it is not a municipal matter, and secondly, in spite of differences as to the proper basis of citizenship, the majority is in favour of making women equal to men in the matter of the Parliamentary franchise.

We call attention to a letter printed below on the subject of certain articles which have appeared recently in the *Academy*. We agree with the writer in his indignant protest against the tone of those articles. At the same time we feel that their publication cannot but assist our cause by exciting contemptuous disgust in the minds of those who read them. The more crudely such prejudice is set forth, the more quickly will the inherent futility of the anti-suffragists be laid bare, especially in the minds of those from among whom we are accustomed to imagine that the *Academy* draws its readers.

We are interested to learn that a man who was summoned recently to serve on a London jury requested to be released on the ground that he could not conscientiously take part in hearing the case of a woman who was charged under laws in the passing of which her sex had had no part. Such a protest may be a very dreadful thing from a legal standpoint—like Necessity, we know no law—but it must have had a very considerable effect even on those choice spirits who are said to have greeted it with laughter. Similar laughter greeted Jonas Hanway when he first, in Nottingham, used an umbrella to keep off the rain!

The Anti-Suffrage League Again.

ANOTHER EXTRA-SPECIAL INTERVIEW.

[We must again ask our readers to pardon any inaccuracies, as we experience great difficulty in getting the gentleman interviewed to see a proof.]

I SOUGHT the Secretary of the Anti-Suffrage League to find out whether any counter demonstration was to be organized, but again failing to find Mr. Ivor Guest, I had to put up with the same representative as last week.

"No," said this worthy man, in reply to my enquiries, "our League is not going to get up any counter demonstration, and I think it's a pity, for the public has certainly been impressed by what the Suffragists have done. In fact since the Hyde Park

meeting several persons who might have joined us have written to say we shall get no support until we prove that we are a genuine society."

"Well, why not organize a big anti-Suffrage demonstration?" I asked.

"It's no good," was the answer, "the League won't do it. It's true we have had a good many promises of support for a Hyde Park Demonstration. Here is a letter from 'Seven Bold Butcher Boys of Bethnal Green' offering to take part in such a meeting, and to 'bash' any Suffragettes who may be there: it's rather an illiterate epistle, but it's well meant. Then here's a letter signed by all the upper servants of the Dowager Lady Stuffroom hoping we will do something to keep the womanhood of England 'pure and holy.' From Upper Tooting 'Noblesse oblige' writes that though he thinks demonstrations 'low,' he and twenty other gentlemen friends of his 'representing the élite of Upper Tooting,' are willing to assist for once in Hyde Park in order that the 'voice of England's manhood may prevail.' He adds in a postscript that he doesn't want his name to appear, because his employer would object and might give him the sack. A stock-broker's clerk, three draper's assistants, a bookmaker's clerk, two ladies' maids, and six 'girls and boys of the bull-dog breed,' living in Lisson Grove, have also written very encouraging letters. But our leaders will never allow the League to demonstrate in public."

"Tell me what the real objection is. You are not afraid of it being a failure?"

"Oh, no! After the letters I've mentioned we could count on a successful meeting. Besides, the sort of people who support Women's Suffrage aren't the sort to make a row at other people's meetings; they wouldn't interfere with us. No, it's not that; but the Anti-Suffrage League believes that woman's place is at home, and it won't do anything to encourage her to leave that place. We hold that the glare of publicity is bad for women and bad for England. The hearth is woman's true throne, if she but knew it; and our Anti-Suffrage League hopes to do something to win women back from all this mistaken zeal for public life. We can't have our homes made desolate; and, mark my words, when once women think they have higher responsibilities outside the home, and want to be independent of us, the floodgates of infidelity and anarchy will be opened, and it will be a bad day for old England. No, no; woman's place is at home; and if only she had been kept at home, and there hadn't been all the fuss about higher education of women (as though any true woman or sensible man believed in women being educated!), and about letting married women keep their own property, we shouldn't have had this 'Votes for Women' agitation. However, our Anti-Suffrage League will do something to stem the tide."

"Now, where are you going to begin," I asked, "with the schools, the hospitals, the factories, or the theatres?"

The League's representative looked at me in perplexity. "I don't quite understand," he said blankly. "Well," I said, "are you going to make a start with the hospitals? Think of the thousands of women who leave their homes to become hospital nurses. Now, although women subscribe largely to hospital funds, they are not allowed any voice in the management of hospitals, and there's nothing to prevent the directors getting rid of women nurses and employing men. If the profession of nursing was closed, that would at once prevent quite a number of women from leaving home; and there's a great deal that's very unpleasant about nursing. What does your League say to that?"

"Oh! Well, the League doesn't object to women leaving their homes if it's for works of charity and mercy."

"I see. Then what about the schools? Why should women leave home to become teachers in our elementary schools? Why not appoint only men?"

"For one thing it would come so much more expensive on the rates. Women are cheaper than men. Besides, teaching may be called a work of charity or mercy, and anyway our League can't do anything that would increase the rates. Women must be prepared to leave home if, by so doing, they are helping to keep down the rates."

"That can't apply to the public appearance of women in theatres, music-halls, and concert-rooms. I suppose, now, your League advocates the abolition of actresses, singers, and dancers? Why shouldn't all these ladies stay at home? Why should they be allowed to perform in public?"

The League's representative seemed a little puzzled before he answered.

"We are against any interfering with people's amusements. It's right enough for women to leave home if they do it to give us pleasure; and women on the stage make us laugh, and keep us good tempered. There can't be any objection to women leaving home so long as it's only to provide amusement for men."

"Then we come to the factories and offices. Is the Anti-Suffrage League doing anything to prevent the employment of women in mills and workshops, and as clerks and typists? Why aren't all these women at home?"

"You don't understand. Our League doesn't interfere in questions of employment. If women's labour is more satisfactory, more profitable than men's, women are bound to be employed. You can't interfere between capital and labour. And if it pays men to employ female rather than male labour, why, of course, females will be employed. There's no room for sentiment in business. But because women have got to leave home every day to go to work, that's no reason why they should leave home to go and vote. Let her at least stay at home on polling day and mind the baby and cook the dinner while the man goes and votes, even if she's out every other day earning her living."

"I'm afraid this League of yours won't do much for hearth and home, after all," I said pensively, "but, at least, I take it, it will do its best to discourage women from political life."

"Yes, that's it. The League doesn't want politics to interfere with our dear old English home life." And with that the League's representative smiled earnestly.

"So, I suppose, the Anti-Suffrage League will set its face against ladies leaving home for Primrose League meetings, and Liberal Demonstrations?"

"Oh! no. There's nothing unwomanly in leaving home to speak for the Primrose League, and Lady Z, one of our strongest supporters, says that it's the duty of every true-hearted woman to support the Tariff Reform League. Our Secretary, Mr. Ivor Guest, and the other Liberal M.P.s who started this Society believe, most strongly too, that women ought to join the Women's Free Trade League, and they maintain that no woman loses her true womanliness by helping to get a man elected to Parliament. It's only when women take part in politics to get the vote for themselves, or to agitate some question affecting the position of women that they become unsexed and lose their natural charm. Anyone, who isn't prejudiced, can see it's right enough for women to take part in politics so long as they aren't wanting anything for themselves out of it."

"The only thing is," I said in conclusion getting up to leave, "it doesn't seem to me this Anti-Suffrage League is going to do much to keep women at home." And the only answer I got was a wink—a deliberate wink of the left eye! J. C.

Liverpool.

FOLLOWING on the open-air demonstration of June 13th, a second was held on June 21st. Mr. Tattersall, acting secretary for Birkenhead, took the chair, and the speakers were Messrs. Taylor, Nathan, and A. R. Allerton, the energetic Liverpool secretary. The usual resolution was carried in a large meeting with only six dissentients. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Allerton had chalked the flags in advance.

The next meeting is to take place in Waterloo (a suburb of Liverpool) on Wednesday, July 8th.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

SIR,—Mr. W. Davidson's "smart" letter amused and interested me. I regret that I cannot aspire to his crispness of style, but, unhappily, I am logical rather than "funny."

Mr. Davidson does not take our cause seriously. Neither did Mr. Asquith a year ago. He "had never given the question one moment's serious consideration." I quote his own words.

That the question is a "serious" one is shown by the fact that, though the iron has not entered into the Prime Minister's soul, it has pierced his flesh; he only moves when prodded, but he does move, and that in "consequence" of our action; therefore the matter is "serious" if you give full weight to the word.

Mr. Davidson does not belong to "the few" who are in the fold. This is a thousand pities, for the fold can scarcely be said to contain "a few" when its numbers run into thousands who would welcome him in while there is yet time for repentance. On Saturday, June 13th, all the available seats in the Albert Hall were insufficient to enfold our flock, and many perforce were left outside. The happy "few" who entered were, of course, only delegates and representatives of a huge mass of public opinion, which month by month moves with increased momentum.

"The Law is only changed to better the Law." Of a truth, Sir, it should be so, and this is why we want it changed. Are we not professedly a democratic country? Do we not claim to be governed by the mass of public opinion? That mass is moving, Sir, moving in a whirl which is drawing into its vortex all the fair-minded men of the electorate who, because they are fair-minded, are ready to acknowledge that "your interests are never so well guarded as when you guard them yourself."

Women have learnt to think for themselves, they can no longer be governed like "driven cattle," they demand the vote for the same reason that men demand it, and there is no argument to gainsay them.

It is true that the majority of mankind is illogical, so I have little hope of convincing Mr. Davidson by logic; if he had kept an open mind he would have been convinced long ago. That our Militant Section should from time to time resort to tactics which the man in the street deems "funny" is to me regrettable, but their earnestness of purpose has been amply demonstrated by their willingness to suffer for their cause. The average man likes to be amused, and it is the business of the halfpenny press to cater for that amusement. It is therefore but natural that such papers should stretch "terminological inexactitude" to its fullest limit to produce "funny copy" for their customers.

If Mr. Davidson possessed a sympathetic imagination there might be hope for him, for he would then be able to put himself in our place and see things from our point of view. Where both logic and feeling are wanting the case is one for despair!

I am, Sir, yours truly, EMILY TOMLINSON, M.B.Lond.,
Girton College, Cantab.

[In spite of your correspondent's assertion that he is not "of the fold," I have a lurking suspicion that though he may not as yet be within the fold, he is knocking at the door.]

SIR,—May I through your columns protest against the articles against women suffragists and their supporters that have been appearing in *The Academy* (which describes itself as "a weekly review of literature, science, and art," and is, I believe, edited by Lord Alfred Douglas), culminating in last week's issue, in an article in which the anonymous writer expresses his approval of past, and virtually advocates future, grossly indecent assaults on women who dare to ask questions on Women's Suffrage at public meetings. If this advice is accepted, there will be need not only for "the woman with the dog-whip," but for strong body-guards of members of the Men's League and other sympathizers to protect all women that attend meetings with the intention of making protests and putting questions. Yours faithfully,

"Samanala," 20, Beech House Road, DONALD FERGUSON.
Croydon. June 26th, 1908.

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