

VOTES FOR WOMEN

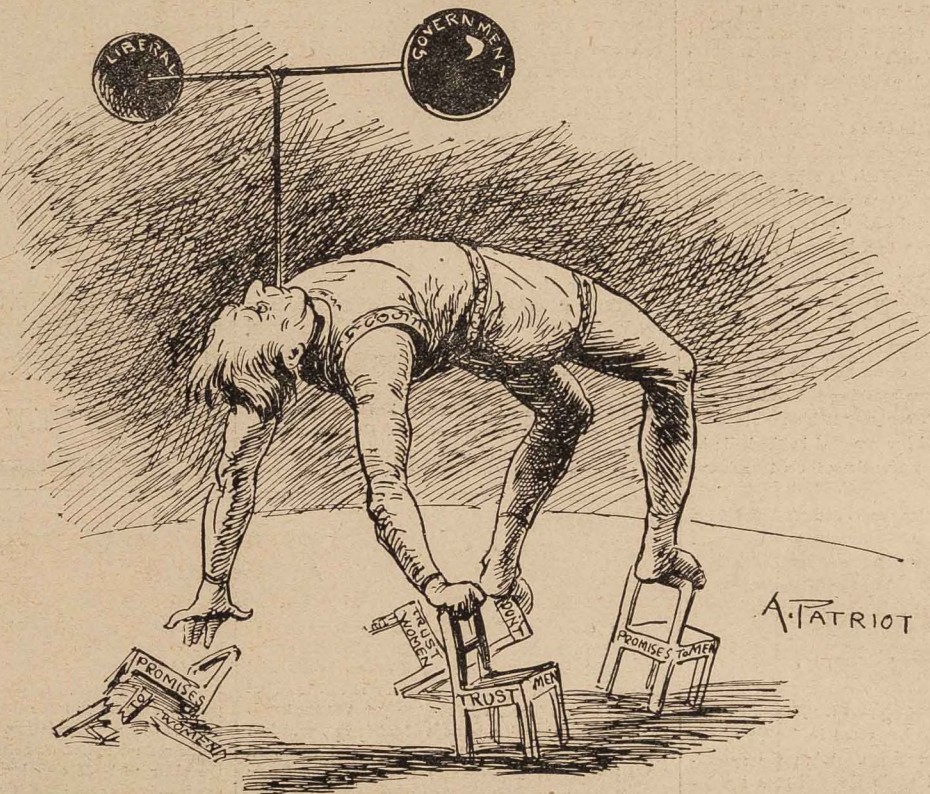
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THE ACROBAT



HOW MUCH LONGER WILL HE HOLD UP?

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

The startling political events of the past week have postponed any prospect of an immediate general election, but have substituted a wholly unexpected by-election in East Fife, where the Prime Minister is seeking re-election at the hands of his constituents on his appointment as Minister of War. A contest is expected and a vigorous campaign is being undertaken by the various suffrage societies. In our leading article we give facts which should be brought to

the attention of all the electors in the constituency before their vote is recorded.

Sir John Simon Defends the Government

Sir John Simon has been speaking at the Manchester Reform Club. After submitting that in his judgment woman suffrage was an essential part of Liberalism, he attempted to explain away the fiasco of the Government's Electoral Reform Bill as an honest misunderstanding. That is all very well, but it does not explain why, when the pledge for the Reform Bill broke down, nothing but an entirely worthless substitute was provided in its place. Assuming that Sir John Simon, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Asquith himself were entirely taken by surprise by the Speaker's ruling in January, 1913, they cannot be acquitted of breach of faith owing to this flagrant failure to make reparation in other ways. Had they been dealing with a pledge made to electors they would certainly have found it necessary to do so.

Issues Prior to Woman Suffrage

The most important part of Sir John Simon's speech was, however, that dealing with the future relationship of the Liberal Party to the question. According to the report of his speech in the *Manchester Guardian*, which we quote in full elsewhere, he said that—

one of the obstacles which confronted them was the preoccupation of the Liberal party—in other and older issues. He took the view that as long as they had the problems on which they were now engaged to

deal with and to solve, they had, in the circumstances of the case, a claim on the undivided support of the Liberal party which must be regarded as prior to the carrying out of their own women's suffrage proposals. But it was plain that the treating of other topics as having a prior claim could not continue indefinitely.

The suggestion is that when Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment, and perhaps Plural Voting, the Land Question, and one or two other matters are settled to the satisfaction of the Liberals, the Party will then be prepared, if Mr. Asquith is no longer Prime Minister, to put woman suffrage on its programme.

Putting Off the Day of Repentance

Our first answer to Sir John Simon is to point out to him that woman suffragists are not particularly enamoured of the promise of "always jam to-morrow but never jam to-day," and to remind him that their experience of Liberal pledges in the past does not justify them in placing much credence in the indefinite hypothetical pledge to which he now treats them. Our second answer takes the form of an admonition not to leave repentance till too late. If his Party keeps on putting off, one day the Conservatives will come into power, and, to the surprise of Liberals, will give women the vote. The effect of this will be to deal a blow at the Liberal Party from which they will never recover. To-day the Liberals have their chance, to-morrow it may be gone past recall.

Is P.W.W. Among the Prophets?

This salient fact of the injury to Liberalism involved in the continued refusal of woman suffrage

is set out very clearly by Mr. P. W. Wilson, the well-known ex-M.P. and political correspondent of the *Daily News* in an article in the April *Englishwoman*. After dwelling on the support now given by women to both wings of the Labour Party, and expressing his conviction that the Conservatives, if returned to power, would be likely to pass a limited measure of enfranchisement, Mr. Wilson says:—

There could be no greater imprudence than for Liberals to leave it as an asset for Labour and a gift for the Conservatives. . . . A party which has held office for nine years must renew its youth or suffer eclipse. It cannot afford to alienate its youth or to give the impression that it finds certain problems impossible of solution. With Lord Selborne pressing forward a Limited Suffrage Bill in the House of Lords, and with Labour setting forth Adult Suffrage, with equal right of sitting in the Commons, as a test measure for candidates in all constituencies, how can Liberalism remain voiceless, impotent, with a mind as yet to be made up?

He concludes by urging Liberals to have a sane progressive policy, something other than coercion for extremists, coupled with economic palliatives for working mothers.

Killing Woman Suffrage with Kindness

The *Times* is busily engaged in the amiable effort to kill woman suffrage with kindness. The proposal to open the solicitors' profession to women has already received its commendation, and it is even favourably disposed to the idea of creating a force of women police. We have a shrewd suspicion that the reduction of price of the *Times* to a penny, and its consequent desire to get more women readers, may not be wholly unconnected with this new move. Perhaps when it comes down to a half-penny it will be a woman suffragist organ!

Glasgow Magistrates and Mrs. Pankhurst's Arrest

In response to a request of the Glasgow Magistrates, the Chief Constable has reported on the arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst. He states that his instructions were to arrest her before reaching the hall or after her departure, but that, contrary to his instructions, the Superintendent had her arrested in the hall; he further states that the police drew their truncheons to protect themselves, though no order to this effect was given. (It will be remembered that the facts were that the police marched into the hall with batons drawn.) The magistrates appointed a sub-committee to consider the report and the demand by a deputation for a public enquiry into the whole circumstances.

Progress in U.S.A.

The Lower House in Massachusetts has lost no time in following the good example of the Senate in that State, and by 164 to 39 has voted in favour of the amendment for equal suffrage. When the amendment has been carried again through both legislatures it will be ready for submission to a referendum. Meanwhile Nebraska has used the "initiative" to put forward woman suffrage, and a referendum will accordingly be taken in that State in November next.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

We draw the attention of our readers to our special report of the Conference of Women Workers on the question of Equal Pay for Men and Women. The speeches delivered on that occasion by Miss Gore Booth, Miss Roper, and others, provide a storehouse of valuable illustrations of the way in which women are defrauded of their just remuneration by causes which are political in their origin, and which are not likely to be remedied until women possess the Parliamentary vote.

The Value of a Woman's Life

We comment elsewhere upon the scandalous refusals of the Court of Appeal to consider revision and of Mr. McKenna to amend the sentence of seven years' penal servitude passed upon Julia Decies by Mr. Justice Darling for her crime in shooting and wounding the man Piffard. In glaring contrast to this sentence we report the light term of nine months' imprisonment inflicted upon a man at Willemsden who was guilty of the diabolical outrage of having kicked his wife to death, the only provocation being that she had failed to get his tea! If this partial administration of justice is to continue, women will refuse to rest satisfied until there are

women judges sitting with men judges to try every case.

Delay of Justice

It is now more than a month since the Arnold case was heard before the Privy Council, and the judgment of the Council has not yet been given. Since cases are supposed to be decided on the facts before the Court, and not on extraneous facts obtained otherwise, we cannot conceive on what grounds the extraordinary delay can be justified.

The Penalisation of Marriage

An important debate took place at the L.C.C. on Tuesday last on the question of terminating on marriage the appointments of women doctors employed by the Council. Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett moved to omit this provision in the case of certain new appointments, and in the end the question was adjourned. We hope that women electors will take every means in their power to press home upon their L.C.C. members their opposition to the existing regulation, which not merely penalises marriage, but is a gross impertinence to women. The question of whether women are able and prepared to continue their public duties after marriage is one for themselves alone; it is certainly not to be decided by a cast-iron regulation of the public body which appoints them.

Items of Interest

We give on page 407 the text of Lord Selborne's Bill for enfranchising women, which he is shortly introducing into the House of Lords.

We congratulate the women of Victoria (Australia) upon their successful efforts in getting the age of consent raised from 16 to 18. This victory supplies a further proof of the value of the vote.

By the new Bankruptcy Act, which came into force last Wednesday, the so-called "privilege" of married women that they could not be made bankrupt unless trading apart from their husbands, has been taken away.

The First English Policewoman has been appointed in Liverpool in the person of Mrs. Hughes, who, as "police inspector," will have a commission to protect the interests of children in the city.

PRISONS AND PRISONERS

An Appreciation

By ELIZABETH ROBINS

Lady Constance Lytton's book purports to tell us of "Prisons and Prisoners." It does, indeed, tell us more of these than any book yet known to us. But its true theme is Liberty. Its story is of a soul set free—of how it found a way not only out of the bonds of physical incapacity, but out of a life well-guarded, out of a prison of Tradition, walled and bastioned behind defences impregnable since social defences were first set up.

One may say in all soberness that the book is a many-sided miracle.

A miracle in overcoming the remoteness of the writer from that knowledge she went to find; a miracle in assimilation of what she found; a miracle in the power to make us (the prepared and the unprepared alike) companions on this Spiritual Pilgrimage—and, most wonderful of all, to make us sharers, in some sort, in the attitude of mind in which the undertaking was carried through.

This is not only to have written a book, absorbing to the point of anguish—it is to have written a book which will not leave the world as the world was before. It is to wield the power of Conversion.

Two differences mark this record off from that of other spiritual pilgrimages.

Not to be measured by any words I know is the gulf between the deeds recounted here and those done by the excellent Elizabeth Fry, and all the Lords and Ladies Bountiful who from time to time have bent down from some safe place, out of abundance to succour the needy, and by the might of a better fortune to redress the wrongs of the obscure.

But to abdicate all privilege!—to get at the heart of these hidden ills, these obscure humiliations, these filthy and cancerous wrongs by demanding a share in them!

And to carry this purpose out, not once, not twice, four times over (with a steadfastness to make one weep and then give thanks for the unconquerable soul)—to do all this, as Constance Lytton did, not for sake of any accredited creed, nor satisfaction of personal vow, nor obligation of Leadership, nor

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for any urging under Heaven, but that of the pitiful and valiant heart!

If to do this is not to do a new thing under the sun, any similar deed is then so far behind us, so old and poor in honour or remembrance, that the world had need of the new Revelation.

The second difference between this pilgrimage and the older sort—fit complement to the new ideal of service—is the new ideal in the matter of reward.

No one needs be told outright for, implicit in every page of the book, is the fact that no gain, however spiritualised, would have counted with this Pilgrim unless such gain reached far beyond her own soul's good.

That old hope of the Saints, the White Robe and the Palm—how childish beside the guerdons demanded here! Not God Himself could reward so cheaply His new saint. She would let fall her palm to hold out both her hands to the nearest woman in trouble. The stains on other women's garments would make of her own whiteness only a reproach.

She has taught her generation more, I think, than any other being about the Oneness of Women—that necessary stage on the way towards oneness with all mankind.

Let those learned in Ecclesiastical history, uttering judgments in the quiet of libraries and the privilege of pulpits, let the doctors of Divinity proclaim the value of the writings, old and new, of the Fathers of the Church. For many of us, and for thousands upon thousands fighting the great fight down in the arena where Society has flung them to the wild beasts—the Gospel preached in "Prisons and Prisoners" comes as the most Christian utterance since Christ's own.

Fellows and other readers of the paper are reminded that they can purchase copies of this valuable book by Lady Constance Lytton from the Business Secretary, VOTES FOR WOMEN Fellowship, 47, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C., price 3s. 6d. each. It is particularly hoped that they will take this opportunity of obtaining it and sending it to other friends.

THE POLITICAL POSITION

Sir John Simon's Speech at Manchester—Suffragists Oppose Mr. Asquith's Re-Election in East Fife—Lord Selborne's Suffrage Bill

SIR JOHN SIMON ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Last Saturday Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P., was the guest of the newly-formed Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage at the Manchester Reform Club. Mr. William Barton, M.P. for Oldham, was in the chair. Sir John Simon spoke at some length on Woman Suffrage. We give his speech below, and comment upon it in our Outlook this week.

THE SPEECH

Sir John Simon said that this was a gathering of Liberal men who were all agreed in thinking that the creed of Liberalism led inevitably to a belief in the principles of women's suffrage.

Not as a Cabinet Minister

As a matter of precaution, he said at the outset that he came there not as a member of His Majesty's Government. That did not, however, abate him from declaring that he was a believer in the cause of women's suffrage, and that the time had come when some of them who were Liberals ought to admit they had been a little too much disposed to allow that belief to be treated as a kind of personal fad, as though it was an idiosyncrasy in an otherwise well-regulated mind. As practical people they ought to take the opportunity of reviewing the position in which they stood, and of seeing what were the immediate prospects of that cause.

In speaking of the recent history of the agitation for women's suffrage, Sir John Simon continued, he confined himself to the constitutional and Parliamentary agitation, which broke itself up into three periods. There was that in which a series of private bills were introduced in the House of Commons which more than once attained a second reading by great majorities—indeed, he thought, by majorities greater than that which had been obtained for any political measure, with the possible exception of the Plural Voting Bill. Nevertheless, these bills did not reach the Statute-book. There was the second period when all sorts of women suffragists in the House of Commons combined and produced the Conciliation Bill, which was put forward and assisted with some opportunities for discussion by the Government, and which also failed to reach the Statute-book.

The Reform Bill Failure

There was the third period when many of those who were sincerely attached to the cause had become convinced that it was by way of amendment to some Government proposal the chances of the movement would be found to be brightest. Therefore he felt in some sense a special responsibility that his name was on the back of the Government Franchise Bill. He made a speech in London to assembled Suffragists, in which he expressed a confident opinion as to the probability that that bill, which, like many lawyer's opinions, turned out to be wrong. That was a very great disappointment to him. It was a very great blow to the cause of women's suffrage, but it was not fair to treat it as being a proof of any want of good faith on the part of those who were endeavouring to provide this opportunity. He would never stand there, holding the position he did, and sharing, as he did, the responsibility of His Majesty's Ministers, unless he felt clear that the good sense of women suffragets was with the chief who had led them from victory to victory, and who, though not personally convinced of the justice of this particular issue, was, none the less, exerting himself to the utmost in order to provide the fullest and thoroughest opportunity of raising this question.

Prior Claim of Other Questions

Recent experience had convinced women suffragets that private bills for this purpose were really not likely to be effective—that they must organise themselves, and do all that they could to cultivate and promote public opinion, inside and outside the House of Commons, in order to secure that this question might be presented to the Legislature for them to vote upon in the name of the electors of this country in a way which was more likely to lead to a more successful issue than the promotion of any private bill. "That," added Sir John Simon, "I understand to be the opinion of those who have studied the tactics of this question very closely, and I believe the view which they entertain is the right view, and I subscribe to it."

What was the position, what were the difficulties and obstacles, in front of them now? In the first place, there was one

obstacle which consisted in the preoccupation of Parliament—he would go further, and say the preoccupation of the Liberal party—in other and older issues. Here again he wished to be perfectly candid and frank with his Liberal friends who were women suffragets. He took the view that as long as they had the problems on which they were now engaged to deal with and to solve, they had, in the circumstances of the case, a claim on the undivided support of the Liberal party which must be regarded as prior to the carrying out of their own women's suffrage proposals. But it was plain that the treating of other topics as having a prior claim could not continue indefinitely.

Militancy

In the second place, there was the tremendous and forbidding obstacle of militancy as "no one," said Sir John Simon, "can exaggerate the harm that is being done from day to day in disturbing the judgment and neutralising the enthusiasm of constitutional Liberals which is due to this fatuous and wicked policy. But let us denounce with all severity the attitude of any man who uses those outbursts of militancy as a reason for disavowing the faith that is in him. We regret it, we deplore it; we are convinced that it is undermining, for the time being, the natural policy which ought to attach to a reasonable cause which is sincerely advocated. But it makes no difference to the faith which is in us, and if any Liberal friend of ours who may not see this problem in the light in which we see it thinks otherwise, let us remind him of an analogy. We of the Liberal party have been convinced supporters of the cause of Irish self-government for a generation—"For two generations!"—"For two generations, perhaps. But we, and those who went before us, have done what we could to identify the Liberal party with that great cause. It is approaching fruition and realisation now. No obstacle can effectively prevent its triumph. Let me remember, while we rejoice on the near coming of its consummation, that if we and our forebears had listened to the arguments of those who now prevail, the Liberal party might have abandoned Irish Home Rule by exactly the same course of reasoning."

We have always insisted that force is no remedy, and by the same argument we are entitled and bound also to admit that militancy is no excuse. For men who realise the true meaning of the argument for women's suffrage, while they may be distracted by the folly of these proceedings, can never subscribe to the doctrine that the foolish and wicked extravagance of a few women proves that the greater half of the human race is unfit for exercising political functions.

The suffrage cause, continued Sir John Simon, went so deep and struck so much at the roots of many conventional ideas that even a Liberal might sometimes go wrong, and even a Conservative might sometimes go right. They had to face that as the third of the obstacles before them, bearing in mind what he had tried to say as to prior engagements, and to which they must make the best use of the time before them.

The Horns of a Dilemma

After a reference to the deputation which had asked the Lord Chancellor to promote a bill enabling women to become solicitors, of which he expressed approval, Sir John Simon called attention to an incident at the House of Commons on Friday, when the great majority of members left the House of Commons when the subject to be discussed was the feeding of school children. If every member had felt he had to go amongst an electorate and be answerable to mothers and wives who were devoting themselves to the children growing up, this bill would not have been discussed in an almost empty House. (Hear, hear.) Those who took the view that men alone could elect representatives who would discharge the work for men and women alike were constantly finding themselves impaled on the horns of a dilemma. In order to support their thesis that women's civic needs are just the same as men's, they had to say that the interests of men and women so closely questioned that when a member of Parliament was elected by men he was well and sufficiently qualified to represent the needs and desires and points of view of both. And in the next breath they told us that women had no claim to receive political rights, such as men enjoyed, because women were so different, because their point of view was so utterly diverse.

The Two Camps' Argument

The plain fact was that men and women in some matters differed fundamentally; in some matters they shared a common interest, and the real issue was on which side of the line political judgment and political action went. Passing by the argument, which seemed to him "detestable," that politicians are regarding and wronging whom take no part in them, Sir John Simon went on to the objection that if the revolution-

ary proposals of suffragets were put in practice men and women would be found in different camps, and, what was worse, that, as there were more women than men, the women's camp would be the bigger of the two. What a strange state of mind must be that of a person who thought that because women's suffrage became the law of the land no man would ever agree with any woman, and no woman would ever quarrel among themselves! Then we were told that the physical disabilities of women were an obstacle to their sharing political rights, and sometimes it was put in a dogmatic way by asserting that "force rules the world." "I make bold to say," continued Sir John Simon, "that force does not rule the world. A civilised community is not, and it never can be ruled by force. If it were, a civilised community would be ruled by the army, and by those who endeavoured to exploit military feeling in the interests of a particular party, which is absurd." The world was ruled by that combination of influences, that cooperation of influences, which was called public opinion. And every day we used the views of women to enforce and reinforce that very public opinion upon which government depended.

The Deduction from Liberalism

In concluding, Sir John Simon said they must do their utmost to see that women were no longer regarded as mere camp followers in the Liberal army, but that they should take their place, not as irregulars, or even as auxiliaries, but as fully enfranchised citizens, marching side by side with them in pursuit of causes which modern politics specially existed to explore, and the solution of which they were concerned in securing. It was a plain, obvious deduction from the principles of Liberalism themselves that the vote should be conceded to women.

BY-ELECTION IN EAST FIFE

Candidates
The Right Hon. Herbert Asquith, K.C., M.P. (Liberal).
Colonel Sprut (Unionist).
Mr. James Larkin (Ind.).

Figures at last Election (Dec., 1910).
Asquith (L.) 5,149
Sprut (U.) 3,350

Liberal Majority 1,799

At the time of going to press the Unionists had not finally determined whether to contest the seat or not. The writ for an election in East Fife, caused by the Prime Minister taking the post of War Minister and offering himself for re-election to his constituents, was moved in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon, April 15 is mentioned as a likely polling day.

Suffragists at Work

Suffragists are already at work in the constituency. The Northern Men's Federation will do their utmost to oppose Mr. Asquith's re-election, and the Women's Social and Political Union, with headquarters at Cupar, as well as the United Suffragists, Actresses' Franchise League, and Women's Freedom League (Scottish branch) are organising a strong anti-Government campaign. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies are

delaying a definite decision as to policy until the candidates are finally chosen, but we are informed that in any case they will expose the infidelities and broken pledges of Mr. Asquith with regard to woman suffrage.

LORD SELBORNE'S BILL

The following is the text of the Bill to be introduced in the House of Lords by the Earl of Selborne:—

1. Any women shall be qualified to be registered in a constituency as a Parliamentary elector, and whilst so registered shall be entitled to vote at an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for that constituency if she is a local government elector for the purposes of any local government election in that constituency.

2. This Act may be cited as the Women's Enfranchisement Act, 1914.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

We have received the following letter for publication from the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association:

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—May we appeal through your columns to all Conservatives who think that the demand of women for some representation in Parliament is not unreasonable to give their support to the measure which Lord Selborne is introducing into the House of Lords.

This Bill proposes to give the vote to those women who have already the franchise for municipal bodies. They have exercised this franchise with the general approval of their fellow countrymen for the last forty-five years, and there is no doubt that they would use further powers entrusted to them by Parliament with equal wisdom and moderation. They represent every class of the community. The majority of them are widows who have to face all the responsibilities of life. Their number will not permit them to exercise any preponderating influence in elections, but they are widely distributed, and will be able to put forward the alterations and amendments which women desire in the laws from a great many different points of view. For the satisfaction of those who are nervous about numbers, we may say that the women enfranchised by this Bill would number about 14 million, and there are now over seven million male electors.

It is much to be wished that the Conservative party could give some satisfaction to the desire so generally felt among women for a share in the choice of Parliamentary representatives, and allow the discontent and unrest which are such disquieting features of our time.—Yours, &c.,

Maud Selborne (President), Winired Arran (Chairman of Executive Committee), Sarah Bailey, Betty Balfour, F. Emma Bonham-Carter, Luce Boyd-Carpenter, Beatrice A. Cartwright, Maria Chadwick, Helen L. Craggs, K. Lawder-Eaton, Sophy G. Edmonds, Gertrude Worthington Evans, F. Jean Trustram Ewe, Josephine Gistrap, Amelia Guerne, S. H. Malmesbury, E. Mand McNeill, Eveline Mitford, Minna Rathbone, E. Kenyon Slaney, Amy E. Smith, Jessica A. Lindsay Watson, Isabella D. Wilson, A. M. Ware (Hon. Treasurer), and Louise Gilbert Samuel (Hon. Secretary).

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LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN

NEW POEMS AND A PLAY

MRS. WOODS' POEMS*
The goody volume of poems by Mrs. Margaret L. Woods may come as a surprise to those who know her chiefly as the author of "A Village Tragedy" and "Esther Vanhounrigh." But the poems will be read with added interest on that account. They deal with topics of widely varied interest, divided under the headings of London Poems, Peasant Poems, Oxford Poems, Child Poems, and Ballads and Lyrics. There are also two plays of strong dramatic interest, "Wild Justice" and "The Princess of Hanover." The latter is a tragedy founded upon the story of the Prince of Hanover (afterwards George I), his wife Princess Sophia Zell, and Count Königsmarck. It is difficult to quote, where there are so many delightful passages to tempt quotation. "Vale Atque Ave" gives the intellectual outlook of the author upon Life and Death very finely, so does the last verse of "Under the Lamp":—

The blind believing
Of the insect in her unknown progeny,
Her skillful, unerring preparation—
This is the first mystery.
And the last is the spirit of man that will aspire
To God, out of the dust from whence it came.

Contrast with this the simplicity in feeling of "The Child Alone," who dreams herself into all kinds of characters, and wonders—

What would they say
If they could know it was instead
A pirate that they put to bed?

and the dialect conversational tone in "The May Morning and the Old Man."

Probably Mrs. Woods will be best remembered by her prose, but her poetry is delightful reading. One more quotation from "March Thoughts from England":—

O that I were lying under the olives,
Lying alone among the anemones!
Shell-coloured blossoms they bloom there and scarlet,
Fat under stretches of silver woodland,
Flame in the delicate shade of the olives.

M. H.

"MAN, AND OTHER POEMS"†

The preface to Dr. Stopes' book is, in a sense, the most important part of it, since it contains a theory

* "The Collected Poems of Margaret L. Woods." Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Member of the Academic Committee of the B.S.W. With a portrait in photogravure. (London: John Lane. Price 5s. net.)

† "Man, Other Poems and a Preface." By Marie C. Stopes. (W. Heinemann. Price 8s. 6d.)

of which the poems are an illustration. The theory, shortly put, in the words of the author, is—"that the poet is not himself the creator, but is merely the tool in the hands of the poem."
The poems are always there, vibrating through the ether; the poet is the man or woman who can first perceive and then embody them in words; according to the perfection or imperfection of the instrument will be the beauty of the verse. Dr. Stopes' verses vary considerably in felicity of expression, but much of the poetry she has perceived is finely rendered as well as truly felt, as in these lines:

With sublimated lead the clouds were weighed
Sombred with heaviness that made them press
Black-purple, heaving sides towards the sea.

The last line, especially, has rhythm, music, gives a picture. There are other lines in other poems which are unmitigated prose; yet Dr. Stopes makes good her theory by the fact that in all her verses the idea is poetical, in all is the touch of the intangible, the sense of profounder truth, which can only be rendered in poetry; or, as she herself expresses it, "escape the stolid periods of prose." G.

THE PLAYS THE THING

Mr. Morse's play* is dedicated to "The unnumbered thousands of girls who have suffered through ignorance." It is propaganda, but the propaganda of the artist, not of the preacher. Life is not twisted to illustrate a truth, but truth is made patent by a mirror held up to life. The scenes reflected in the mirror have vitality and interest; the central one is intensely dramatic and would surely play well upon the stage. But upon the stage presumably, it will not, in England at any rate, be seen, since, as the dedication indicates, the subject of it is the enforced degradation of women, treated not with intendo or suggestive jokes, but seriously, nakedly, without varnish and without disguise. The trapping of a girl by the *Madame* of a white slave establishment, the selfishness which led her parents to desire to hide what had happened, the determination of the girl herself to be the means, at all costs, of warning other girls of the dangers she had been confronted with—these form the basis of a play which all should read, so graphically does it depict certain phases of an infamous system. G.

A CORRECTION.

Our review of "Father Stanton: A Memoir," was wrongly attributed in last week's VOTES FOR WOMEN to "J. C." The initials should have been "M. H."

* "Flesh Bloom." By Northrop Morse. (Sociological Fund, Medical Review of Reviews, New York. One dollar.)

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"DAMAGED GOODS" At the Court Theatre

Under the auspices of the Society for Race Betterment, the Authors' Producing Society gave a private performance on Tuesday afternoon of Brieux' play, "Damaged Goods" ("Les Avariés"), at the Royal Court Theatre. The subject of the play is a tragic one, and deals with the untold evil resulting from disease contracted by an unchaste life. Yet in the words of the author—

It contains no scene to provoke scandal or arouse disgust, nor is there in it any obscene word; and it may be witnessed by everyone, unless we must believe that folly and ignorance are necessary conditions of female virtue.

The play opens with the scene in which the doctor tells Georges Dupont he cannot marry for some years, unless he would endanger the health and safety of wife and possible child. After some persuasion on the doctor's part, for much of his worldly welfare hangs on immediate marriage, Georges consents to postpone it for some years. But all too ready to believe what he wants to believe, after getting into the hands of a quack, he thinks himself cured, and marries after six months, with the result that he infects his child, the truth leaks out, and his wife, Henriette, returns to her father's home with her baby.

The final act leaves us in uncertainty as to the ultimate fate of Henriette and her child, but not in the least as to M. Brieux' meaning. He has a terrible lesson to teach, and if he has used his characters only to voice his ideas, he has done so to good purpose. The whole play is one great demand that light shall be shed on the dark corners of our civilisation, and that men must be taught to realise what the heedless indulgence of one short hour may mean to innocent wife and child. There is nothing in the play to offend anyone; M. Brieux handles his subject with his usual skilful delicacy. While this fine piece of moral enlightenment must be played in private (it is not passed by the Censor) the musical comedy, with its too often coarse suggestiveness, is permitted everywhere. Great credit is due to both actors and producers for so sincere a performance, and special praise must be given to Mr. Fisher White for his excellent impersonation of the Doctor. K. D. S.

SHOULD WOMEN RIDE ASTRIDE? WHAT A RIDING-MASTER THINKS

Mr. W. A. Heap, of the Regent's Park Riding School, writes:—

In reference to strain accompanying the cross-saddle, I don't believe it. A woman astride a horse, with equal action for both her legs—the weight, of course, equally distributed on the horse's back—with her knees free from pommel or leaping-head, on a narrow horse with easy paces, will not be subject to so much strain as with both legs on one side of the horse. To all women who have seen thirty-five birthdays and ride side-saddle I say keep to it. If they attempt to ride astride, a great majority will be utter failures. The fashion of riding astride must emanate from the rising generation. Every little girl should commence riding astride—I don't mind how weak or how delicate and frail her back is. Keep her astride until thirteen years old, then bring her to the side saddle. The department of the body is quite different, but the management of the pony is practically the same. Give them both a turn in due course; it is a rest from one set of muscles to another.

Another important item is in case of being thrown, or on a runaway horse. The odds are largely in favour of the woman astride coming off best. If girls are brought up to the cross-saddle and kept to it there is no reason or doubt why they should not ride as well as men, and in many cases better; their light hands with horses win the day. And I consider the woman's position in the side-saddle is more tiring and cramping of the two. Don't think for one moment I am against the side saddle. My object in writing this letter is to demonstrate that if a good horsewoman rides astride with a suitable horse, I can see no reason for it to cause the displacement of vital organs. I know many doctors' wives who ride astride, and have done so for a long time now; also many women, mothers of families; and so far they have never in any way suffered from riding astride. After many years' practical experience I can say I have known no instance in which a woman has suffered from riding the same way as a man; on the contrary, it saves the rider fatigue and muscular strain.

To look sporting and up-to-date with their riding attire, women who ride astride should be dressed

VOTES FOR WOMEN. W. A. Heap

A HORSEWOMAN'S VIEW

I am much interested in the discussion as to whether or not women should ride astride. Having ridden a great deal myself on a side-saddle, I should merely like to remark that it is a very great pity that the two "Medical Correspondents" in the "Times" did not themselves give the side-saddle a fair trial before giving their opinions so freely. They have no idea of the discomfort and even positive pain little girls suffer who learning to ride sideways, and they must know how often spinal complaints arise from the cramped position. I remember to this day the horrors of my first day's hunting in a side-saddle (I may say I had ridden astride bare-back until it became "unladylike" to do so), but of course I became used to the side-saddle. I may say that both my sisters now ride astride, and much prefer it. I should do so but have had to discontinue riding. H. E. D.

PAPER-SELLING REPORT

Sellers Wanted for Ulster Demonstration!
Our sellers found that our poster last week, "A Lesson from Ulster," caused a quick sale. At the Ulster demonstration to-morrow (Saturday) London must not be allowed to forget that "Votes for Women" is a more important and urgent question. So we must have our sellers out all round the park and along the chief routes. There is also to be a big Protest-meeting against militarism in Trafalgar Square. Those who have never sold before should come along now and sell in the company of many others, at such a vital time as this. Come to the office for papers and directions as to where to sell; or, if you cannot do this, write or phone at once to the Paper-Selling Organiser, who will tell you of the nearest place to obtain papers.

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 FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1914.

MR. ASQUITH'S RECORD

Mr. Asquith, in undertaking the position of Minister of War, has decided that it is necessary to seek re-election at the hands of his constituents in East Fife. He is appealing for support from them as a champion of Liberalism, democracy, and constitutionalism.

As to how far he is entitled with regard to the issues which divide him from the Unionist Party to represent these three fundamental principles we do not express any opinion, but we assert categorically, and are prepared to demonstrate beyond possibility of dispute, that in his dealings with women he has proved himself to be not a Liberal, not a democrat, and not a constitutionalist.

It is of the essence of the Liberal faith that the foundation of Government is the people themselves, that there must be no taxation without representation, and no laws to be obeyed except those which the people by their duly accredited representatives have carried. Mr. Asquith has from the first set himself in direct opposition to this fundamental Liberal tenet in its application to women. He has stood rigidly against the right of women to the Parliamentary franchise, he has refused their claim to share in making the laws, he has rejected their demand to be heard in adjusting the burden of taxation. He has therefore proved himself to be not a Liberal.

Equally he is not a democrat, for trust in the people is of the essence of democracy, and Mr. Asquith has refused to trust the people. For years while women were holding purely peaceful demonstrations Mr. Asquith refused point blank to receive any deputation of women who desired to place their case before him. He would not see the N.U.W.S.S. (the law-abiding suffragists) after their great procession of June 13, 1908, nor the W.S.P.U. after they had organised the monster demonstration of June 21, 1908, in Hyde Park, which was admittedly the largest political demonstration in the history of the world. By this refusal he failed to place himself in touch with the growing spirit among women, and was largely responsible for the birth and spread of the militant

manifestations of that spirit which have since shocked the country.

Mr. Asquith has, it is true, since 1908 seen deputations of women on one or two occasions, but he has rejected some of the most important, preferring to call out the police to drive them back with brutality and insult. Not only so, but he has also refused to see influential deputations of men who desired in the current year to place the case of woman suffrage before him—notably the delegates of the Northern Men's Federation, including representatives sent by the Corporation of Glasgow, and the representative deputation from Labour organisations in England promoted by the N.U.W.S.S. and that from seventy-eight different bodies in Scotland, promoted by the Scottish Federation of Woman Suffrage Societies.

In his opposition to woman suffrage he has withstood the expressed wish of every organised body of women throughout the country—doctors, nurses, pharmacists, headmistresses, teachers, University graduates and women co-operators; he has run counter to the petitions sent up to him from practically every Municipal Council of importance throughout the country, including the Councils of Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Dublin, and Cork. How can a man who sets himself against this universal expression of public opinion of men as well as of women continue to pose as a democrat?

But Mr. Asquith claims to be not merely a Liberal and a democrat, but a constitutionalist, on the ground that he champions the supremacy of the House of Commons over the prerogatives of the Peers or the discretion of the Army. How has Mr. Asquith respected the views or the votes of the House of Commons in the past few years with regard to woman suffrage? In 1903, a measure, introduced by Mr. Stanger, to give votes to women, passed its second reading by the overwhelming majority of 271 to 92; Mr. Asquith showed his respect to this vast body of opinion by refusing time for the further progress of this Bill. In 1910, and again in 1911, when the "Conciliation" Bill had been carried by the tremendous majorities of 299 to 190 and 235 to 88 on second reading, and there was notoriously plenty of time for dealing with it, Mr. Asquith repeated his former refusal and fobbed off its supporters with a promise of time in 1912, which he knew was already overloaded with the promised Bills on Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment. Nevertheless, this promise of time and Government neutrality in 1912 (to be fulfilled, as Mr. Asquith said, "in the spirit as well as in the letter") was accepted. It was then that Mr. Asquith stooped to his greatest humiliation of the House of Commons. By a *volte face*—the announcement of the Government's Manhood Suffrage Bill—he completely broke up the possibility of passing the Conciliation Bill; in Mr. Lloyd George's expressive language, he "torpedoed" it, thereby nullifying the pledge that he made.

The events that followed are fresh in public memory. Mr. Asquith gave a solemn promise that the Government's own Electoral Reform Bill should be so drafted as to be capable of amendment to include women, and that neither he nor his Government would interfere to prevent this being brought about. Every one of these promises was broken. The Bill was drafted in such a way that the Speaker ruled it incapable of amendment to include women. But before this decision was given members of the Government had diligently circulated the report (which Mr. Asquith refused to deny) that the passage of a woman suffrage amendment would bring about the resignation of himself and the break-up of the Government; by this manoeuvre a solid Irish vote was secured in advance against woman suffrage, and the amendment, even had it been in order, was foredoomed to defeat. When the fact was brought home to Mr. Asquith that his promises had not been kept, he made no adequate reparation, he only offered a substitute which everyone who knew anything about it recognised from the first was absolutely worthless. In face of these well-known facts, Mr. Asquith's claim to be a champion of the Constitution is seen to be without foundation.

It rests therefore with the electors of East Fife to express their verdict upon him with no uncertain voice. If they are Liberals they ought not to support a man who denies the essentials of Liberalism. If they are democrats, they can only prove their democracy by voting for his defeat. If they are supporters of the Constitution and upholders of the rights of the House of Commons, they must reject him for the degradation which he has brought upon that House by his continual disregard of its opinions.

Those who would preserve a child-like belief in a "Man-made World" have many awkward facts to explain away, slur over—or ignore. The average male writer on modern journalistic developments, for instance, may find room for reference to *Tit-Bits* or *Ally Sloper*, or the sporting paper known as the *Pink 'Un*, but carefully ignores one of our most notable developments, namely, the number of papers edited and published by women, and in some cases sold in the streets by organised *corps* of women.

Still less do these writers note that the very establishment of a daily paper—two hundred years ago now—and the adoption of the modern method of presenting news apart from comment were both due to the initiative and enterprise of a woman.

The first daily paper in the world was the *Daily Courant*, a London journal established and edited by Elizabeth Mallet, daughter of a Yorkshire physician. Copies of the paper are to be seen among the Berney collection in the British Museum newspaper-room, and there are a few copies in the hands of private individuals.

I have fortunately come across something like a genealogy of Elizabeth Mallet's family. Present representatives of the family—now split Mallet—have their records from the day of David Mallet, grandfather of Elizabeth.

WOMEN AND JOURNALISM

How the First Daily Newspaper in the World was Established by a Woman.

By S. D. SHALLARD.

In later issues of the paper appears the following "Advertisement," which one may surmise to be a vigorous reply to adverse criticisms on the part of rivals:—

"It will be found from the Foreign Prints, which from time to time, as Occasion offers, will be mentioned in this Paper, that the Author has taken care to be duly furnished with all that comes from Abroad in any Language. And for an Assurance that he will not, under pretences of having Private Intelligence, impose any additions of feigned Circumstances to any Action, at the beginning of each article he will quote the Foreign Paper from whence 'tis taken, that the public, seeing from what country a piece of news comes with the Allowance of the Government, may be better able to Judge of the Credibility and Fairness of the Relation. Nor will he take upon him to give any Comments or Conjectures of his own, but will relate only matters of fact, supposing other People to have Sense enough to make Reflections for themselves."

The paper, as it first appeared, was a single page of two columns on a sheet about the size of the *Daily Herald*. Considering its defiance of the powers that be—politicians, influential patrons, gossips, sensation-mongers—it was obviously handicapped as to advertisements or other extraneous aid. After trials and struggles lasting over six or seven weeks, Samuel Buckley, a well-known printer, came to the rescue, a number of publishers' and other advertisements began to appear in the paper, and it was increased to two pages. It is said to have lasted until 1714.

The earlier issues bear the imprint: "Sold by E. Mallet, next door to the King's Arms Tavern at Fleet Bridge." From April 22, 1702, the imprint

News at Breakfast Time
 Here is a quotation from a statement made by Mr. Daniel T. Mallet, direct descendant of David, who publishes a leading trade journal on Broadway, New York. He writes:—

"On March 11, 1702, the good people of London saw the first daily newspaper. Heretofore the news had been dispensed weekly, with an occasional semi-weekly issue. The title of the innovation was the *Daily Courant*, published by Elizabeth Mallet against the ditch at Fleet Bridge."

The writer adds humorously: "So it was the imagination of a woman who first conceived the idea that man would want to have news every morning with his breakfast!"

Nor was this idea of daily publication the only respect in which Elizabeth Mallet's venture was revolutionary, for she also achieved two other revolutionary changes in journalism. In the first place, by producing a paper which would satisfy something like jealousy for accuracy of facts; and in the second place, by abstaining even from comment on these facts. The importance of both these innovations can only be estimated if one remembers not only that the already existing papers were primarily party organs, and none too squeamish at that, but also that the general body of readers, in addition to accepting all printed news as "gospel truth," were not able to distinguish clearly between "news" and comments on news.

The principal of these publications were the *Post-Boy* and the *Post-Man*, Tory organs, published twice weekly, and the *Flying Post*, a Whig organ, published three times a week. In many ways they are quite good journals, but not good enough for Elizabeth Mallet, nor indeed good enough to meet the growing demand for reliable information. With the increase of the coffee-houses as social resorts and centres of discussion, it had become important for men to be not only well informed but accurately informed, and especially with regard to the Continental wars then raging. The *Daily Courant* entered the field to supply this need with scrupulous accuracy and austere brevity of phrase. From this time, too, more distinction was made by the Press between news and comment.

A Militant Advertisement
 Here is the somewhat provocative "Advertisement" appearing in the earlier issues:—

"This *Courant* (as the Title shows) will be published daily: being Designed to give all the Material News as soon as every post arrives; and is confined to half the compass, to save the public at least half the Impertinences of ordinary newspapers."

is: "Printed and sold by Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin at Little Britain."

It is not uninteresting to note the pedigree of this woman pioneer of daily journalism. She came of sound Huguenot stock. The Malets were a Normandy family of Scandinavian origin. David Malet, of Rochelle, born early in the seventeenth century, became Commissary to the French Army under Louis XIV. and had five sons in the Army. All the Malets were stout Protestants, and after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes were either broken on the wheel for contumacy or fled their country. David, after a sojourn in England, crossed to America, taking with him his journal, which was continued up to his death in 1691. As I have already noted, it still exists, together with the subsequent records of the family. One of his sons, the first to fly to England, had settled in Yorkshire as a physician. Elizabeth Mallet was his daughter.

Other Women Newspaper Proprietors
 In the history of the American colonies, and in other circumstances where more equality of conditions has obtained for woman than now, there are many instances of successful newspaper enterprise by women. The first papers in Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and other colonies were established and carried on by women, some of whom became official printers and publishers to their colonies or to the Government. One such carried on her work with the aid of two daughters and a maid-servant. Another set up her type as she thought. The only Massachusetts paper to come out during the siege of Boston was published and edited by a woman. Both the Virginian papers, *Royalist* and *Colonial*, were established and carried on by women. Clementina Reid, Penelope Russell, Anna Greene, Margaret Draper, Mary Goddard—these are but a few of the many American women who have established and carried on leading newspapers.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF?

A Political Satire
 BY LAURENCE HOUSMAN

The following extract is taken from the *Babylonian Budget*, a paper that flourished during the time of the Jewish Captivity, 570 years B.C.:—
JEWISH OUTRAGE AT THE PALACE
 Practical Joke Played on the King!

All loyal subjects of the King will learn with deep disgust of the latest outrage perpetrated by the children of the Captivity in their mad and insensate campaign for so-called "emancipation" from slavery. If common sense could not be expected to enter into their councils, one would have thought that decency at least might have indicated the point beyond which, even for their own sakes, it was advisable not to go. But no! In this savage and treasonable herd of maniacs decency is dead. A vulgar and tactless insult has been levelled at the Crown in person; and to-day the nation stands shamed by the latest excess of those who, styling themselves "pioneers in a 'movement'" for racial liberty and enfranchisement, abuse the hospitality of the country which shelters them.

The incident to which we refer took place at a late hour last night during the State Banquet held in the spacious and magnificent "Hall of Peacocks," to which over a thousand guests sat down.

Between the fifteenth and sixteenth courses some of the guests seated at the lower tables observed with surprise a hand, armed with a big paint-brush, emerge through the balustrade of the gallery set into the wall above the Royal tables, and proceed to write in large red letters on the wall space below some text or motto, the meaning of which they were not able to decipher.

In spite of their growing astonishment, etiquette forbade that they should show it; and the dastardly character of the demonstration failed possibly to reach their post-prandial understandings. Whatever may have been the cause, the miscreant had almost entirely carried out his fell purpose before His Majesty's attention was directed to what was going on immediately above him. By that time the whole breadth of the wall above the dais had undergone disfigurement, bearing the imprint of words which (though without meaning to the bulk of those present) were found afterwards to be of a scurrilous and offensive character.

Very naturally the King's displeasure at such an occurrence taking place on a State occasion, and in the Presence itself, was very pronounced, and His Majesty expressed himself in no uncertain terms. The banquet abruptly terminated, and steps were immediately taken to discover and apprehend the perpetrator.

Before search could be made, however, the vile interloper had—prudence being the better part of valour—made himself scarce. But the thing had been done! Apart from the damage to the superb decorations, which, though considerable, can be repaired, the insult to the Head of our Gracious Sovereign remains. How great that insult actually was we will now inform our readers.

Mr. Daniel, the eminent professor of Hebrew, summoned to the palace at a late hour, made a report to the King as to what the words were intended to convey. Will it be believed that every one of them was a direct insult? We print them here in their unvarnished vulgarity—they speak louder than any words of our own for the condemnation of those whose "cause" they were intended to forward.

"Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin," is how this precious lucubration runs in its native form. The meaning is as follows:—

"Mene: 'You are only a back-number; your time is up.'"

"Tekel: 'Short weight; you have been found out.'"

"Upharsin: 'The country is all to pieces and going to the dogs.'"

Whether these were intended as witticisms or as political utterances we know not. The act was the act of an imbecile, and the language is merely in accord with it. How anyone can think that scrawling rude remarks upon a wall is going to further a political movement passes understanding. "Those whom the gods would destroy they first drive mad."

In consequence of this outrage the Royal Palace will be closed till further notice, while the Banqueting Hall will at once be put into the hands of the paper-hangers and decorators for the removal of all traces of this most regrettable occurrence.

We are glad to be able to inform our readers that, in spite of what took place, His Majesty retired for the night in his usual health.

ON EQUAL TERMS

WOMEN AS SOLICITORS

Last Friday, the Lord Chancellor received a deputation from the Committee for the Admission of Women to the Solicitors' profession. It was introduced by Mr. J. W. Hills, M.P., and included amongst others Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. G. Radford, M.P., Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Lady Selborne, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Dr. Jane Walker, Miss Violet Markham, Miss Mary McArthur, and the four plaintiffs in the recent test action brought against the Law Society.

Women's Present Position

Mr. J. W. Hills pointed out that all the universities in England admitted women to the Law Degree except those of Oxford and Cambridge. For thirty years they had practised as lawyers in the United States, and he believed there were 20,000 of them there. They also practised as lawyers in various countries, and in several British colonies. Also, they could be doctors and accountants, and two women had been appointed under the Lunacy Acts by the Lord Chancellor himself. They could institute prosecutions as factory inspectors, and they were Commissioners under the Mental Deficiency Act. He urged Lord Haldane to use his influence with the Government to secure time for the discussion of their one-clause Bill.

Mrs. Fawcett pointed out that women wanted to be solicitors not only because it afforded them the opportunity of exercising their talents, but also because of the advantage that would accrue to other women in being able to consult a member of their own sex in times of distress and difficulty.

Lord Robert Cecil having said there was no conceivable reason why women should not practise as solicitors, Lord Haldane replied:

Lord Haldane's Reply

Speaking for himself, Lord Haldane said he was entirely in favour of the principle of the Bill. The most important statement in his reply was that he had consulted the Prime Minister and the Law Officers of the Crown, and they were all in favour of the measure. He then went on to say that he could not make any promise about Government time, because it was not in his power, but later in the session it very often happened, when there was a Bill about which there was an approach to general agreement, that the conditions got easy, and if they watched that situation, and kept in communication with the Attorney-General, he was sure they would find a sympathetic ear.

OPPOSITION OF LONDON SOLICITORS

At a meeting last Monday of the City of London Solicitors Company, which consists of 200 solicitors all practising in the City, it was resolved to request the Law Society, "in the interests of the profession as a whole," to take all necessary steps to prevent the passage into law of the Solicitors' (Qualification of Women) Bill; and we understand that this the Law Society had already determined to do on its own account. An official of the Society, interviewed by the *Standard*, after delivering himself of half a column of the dear old platitudes concerning the disabilities of women, revealed the real reason of his hostility in his concluding remarks that the profession is already overcrowded.

So women who hope to become solicitors before they have won the political power with which to bring pressure upon Parliament are likely to find themselves up against the same blank wall of economic excuses that faces women bookbinders and other women trying to enter trades and professions hitherto monopolised by men.

POLICEWOMEN

First Woman Police Inspector

Although policewomen have not yet been appointed in this country, the movement in their favour goes ahead. The Liverpool Watch Committee, last Monday, appointed Mrs. Hughes, matron of the main Bridewell, to be an inspector in the Criminal Investigation Department of that city. Her duties are not yet clearly defined, but it is understood that they will deal mainly with charges concerning women and children. We have no information regarding her salary, but we hope Mrs. Hughes has insisted on being given the salary of a man inspector of her grade now receives.

WOMEN TEACHERS

Under a woman school superintendent in Rowan, County Kentucky, the number of illiterates in two years has been reduced from 1,152 to 23, and these are physically incompetent. One of the great dangers of equal suffrage is that women might aspire to hold office!—Judge.

out that at the present moment there are 40,000 women members of the Union who pay exactly the same amount as the men members each year towards direct Parliamentary representation, though they are deprived of the power of choosing that representative. Of course! Women are always placed on an equality with men when there is something to pay.

The writer further comments:—"The National Union of Teachers refused to pass a resolution in favour of granting votes for women because the resolution was not considered 'legitimate business'—yet it is considered 'legitimate' to spend £6,000 of the National Union funds each year on direct Parliamentary representation, the greater portion of which is subscribed by the women members!"

We have pleasure in announcing that next week's *Votes for Women* will contain a special article on the position of women teachers and its relation to their voteless condition.

A WOMAN ENGINEER

London now possesses a woman consulting engineer in Miss C. Griffin, who has had extensive workshop and testing-room experience and means to specialise in mechanical and electrical departments that have bearing upon activities such as farming, house-lighting, the equipment of dairies and laundries, and the equipment of motor-cars. Housewives who have had to run domestic occupations with man-designed machinery and appliances should welcome this new and enterprising woman consultant in such matters.

WOMEN AVIATORS AND CHAUFFEURS

Why the earth should be "Anti" while the air is Suffragist, it would be difficult to say—except for the fact that aviation is slightly more modern and certainly more rapid than motoring. But the fact remains that while many prejudices obstruct the path of the woman chauffeur, they seem to be given the freedom of the air. The aeronautical correspondent of the *Standard* states, for instance, that the number of women aviators is steadily increasing, and that they are not merely taking it up as a pastime may be seen in the fact that Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, who, with her partner, M. Blondeau, has an aeroplane factory in South London, has recently sold four of her machines to the Government—two for the Army and two for the Navy.

It has been stated freely just lately, on the contrary, that there is no opening for women taxi-cab drivers—because they cannot pass their tests or repair their engines as well as men, but simply because of public prejudice. As private chauffeurs they stand much more chance, though, here again, it is advised that they should combine the duties of a secretary or cook. "We fail to see why," says the *Pall Mall Gazette* in reference to this last suggestion. So do we.

WHY NOT?

In a curious communication from the New York correspondent of the *Standard*, evidently designed to underline the advantages expected to accrue from the recent enfranchisement of women in Illinois, a woman is mentioned as acting as deputy-judge of elections, "while her husband remained at home taking care of their four-year-old daughter."

Why not, we ask? If the woman made a more suitable deputy-judge than her husband (which must be the case, or she would not have held the appointment), why should we not conclude that he made a suitable nurse for the baby? It seems to us an excellent instance of labour, opposing both parents to possess the necessary requirements.

The Physical Force Argument

The same correspondent tells the story of a man and his wife who, having been separated for some time, met at the polling station as supporters of rival candidates.

"They began to argue," says the shocked *Standard* correspondent, "and Gottlieb hit his wife on the nose. She grappled with him, threw him down, and sat on him until the police arrived."

This is not the form of argument anybody would advocate for those who have won their constitutional weapon, the vote. Personally, we should not choose, as an example of discussion in the home caused by the woman's vote, a married couple that had already separated for other reasons. But, what surprises us most is that an anti-Suffrage organ like the *Standard*, presumably of opinion that women should not vote because they have not the physical force to back up their political opinions, should record this instance of a woman who clearly showed that she could reinforce her constitutional weapon with a physical one, if necessary!

SOMETHING FOR THE "ANTIS"

Under a woman school superintendent in Rowan, County Kentucky, the number of illiterates in two years has been reduced from 1,152 to 23, and these are physically incompetent. One of the great dangers of equal suffrage is that women might aspire to hold office!—Judge.

QUALITY AND VALUE
A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent Street, London, W.—convince one that purchasers of Gem Jewellery and Gold and Silver Plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.—[ADVT.]

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Please give some idea of your requirements so that a suitable selection may be sent.—
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SUFFRAGIST WRITERS AND IMMIGRATION LAWS

The recent detention of Mrs. F. A. Steel, the well-known author, and a contributor to *Votes for Women*, by the Immigration authorities at New York, has roused the executive of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, of which Mrs. Steel is President, to write to President Wilson, the British Ambassador at Washington, and the American Ambassador here, demanding a public apology, and pointing out the insult offered to a woman of her world-wide reputation as a writer and as a Government Inspector of Schools in India. A reply has been received from Dr. Page, the U.S.A. Ambassador, to the effect that he had only seen the newspaper reports of the occurrence, and was sure that the matter would receive proper consideration.

In a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the W.W.S.L., Mrs. Steel gives her own humorous account of what occurred. Though she makes light of it, the insult offered her is plain throughout.

Mrs. Steel's Account

A misty morning. Statue of Liberty looming large out of the river; most impressive. Bell rung for passengers to attend inspection. A crush worse than the worst pit crowd. Half an hour ere one could get into the saloon where the medical inspection was held. Then a speciated German doctor looked at my passage ticket—not at me in any way. He asked if I was making any stay in the United States. I replied, "I am going on to Jamaica to-morrow." He then asked my age. I told him, sixty-seven.

"Have you any money?" was his next question. "A hundred pounds," said I, "and more if required." He asked: "What is your profession?" I answered "An authoress."

Then he told me to wait. I did so for half an hour, after which he took me to another official with a medical certificate which read: "This is to certify that this person is afflicted with senile debility, and is unable to earn her own livelihood."

It is hardly credible, but it is true! A reference was then made to the form all passengers have to fill up, and which had been twice sworn to by me. In it I had answered every question, including one which inquired whether I was a polygamist.

I did not lose my temper a bit, for I even offered to run a race with the fat German doctor, to show him I was as fit as he was.

At last, after half an hour, I protested again, mentioning that my nephew, who had gone to send some cables for me, would stand sponsor for me—which he did—he, who never did a hand's turn in his life! But he was a man; I was a woman.

BANKRUPTCY ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MEN

Another "Anti" Outpost Gone
The "Antis" have always been eager to cite, as evidence that woman is the "spoilt darling of the law," that a wife cannot be made bankrupt in law unless she trades apart from her husband, and they instance this as one of the "privileges" that she ought to lose if she gets a vote.

But apparently she has lost it without winning the compensation of the vote; for by the provisions of the new Bankruptcy Act, which has come into force this week, all married women are made subject to the bankruptcy laws on the same terms as men. Now, where is that vote?

"WOMEN DO NOT WANT VOTES"

Like Agricultural Labourers in 1884!
Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, the well-known American Suffragist, had an interesting article in a recent issue of the *Women's Political World* on the campaign for the agricultural labourer's vote in the 'eighties, at which period she was in England. In the following passage she describes an "Anti" banquet held in Basingstoke, in 1884, at which agricultural labourers protested, like some women to-day, that they did not want votes.

"The keynote of all the speeches," she writes, "was opposition to Gladstone's programme to enfranchise the farm labourer. At a table modestly placed below the speakers' table sat a group of men, all in their characteristic smock-frocks, with the exception of one, who was in his Sunday-best, shop-bought clothes." The toastmaster called on this one to speak for his class; and "the farm labourer rose, and with the motion indicative of pulling the forelock, the gesture then commonly made by the peasant in approaching a superior, said that such as he knew nothing of government, and the interests of the agricultural labourers would be best looked after by leaving the vote in the hands of the gentry. This

was the first time I had ever witnessed self-abasement in any class, and the argument I had with myself as to the cause and cure of the slave spirit in humanity helped me to understand the meaning of anti-suffragism when it developed ten years later in the movement for the political enfranchisement of women."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

At the annual meeting of the Women's Freedom League last Saturday it was decided by an overwhelming majority that the policy to be adopted at by-elections should be purely anti-Government, supporting no candidate.

Resolutions were passed unanimously protesting against women's matters being dealt with in the Government programme before women are directly represented; and against the action of the Parliamentary Labour Party in supporting the Government after the Prime Minister's definite refusal to provide for the true representation of the people, men and women.

THE LEGAL PARENT

An evening paper stated last Saturday that a tailor of Ahlbeck, on the Baltic, was received in audience by the Kaiser, who gave him a fifty-mark piece, clapped him on the shoulder, and said, "Just keep up the good work, Eginski!"

What had Eginski done?
He had married two wives, the first of whom bore him twenty-four children, while the second had eleven children.

When the status of the mother has been made equal to that of the father, which will never be until women are enfranchised, we do not think that an incident, unpeppery insulting to all mothers, like the one recorded above (if it be true) will be possible.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS

A crabbed old misogynist said to Ethel Barrymore at a dinner in Bar Harbour: "Woman! Feminist! Suffrage! Bah! Why, there isn't a woman alive who wouldn't rather be beautiful than intelligent."

"That's because," said Miss Barrymore calmly, "so many men are stupid while so few are blind."—New York Tribune.

COMING EVENTS

"Votes for Women" Fellowship Meetings
Will Fellows make an effort to respond to the appeal of the Iford Group for goods for a Jubilee Sale to aid the local funds. Parcels should be sent to Mrs. Crouch, 132, Wellesley Road, Iford.

Lancashire Centre

Organiser: Miss Phyllis Lovell, Wingate House, Ainsdale, Lancashire.

Weekly meetings will be held every Monday at 8 p.m. at 15, Houghton Street, Southport; admission free. The Lancashire Organiser will be at home to Fellows and friends every Thursday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30 in Miss Malochorpe's Studio, The Albany, Old Hall Street, Liverpool.

A "Household Necessities" Sale will be held at Rowntree's, 5, Southport, on April 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. All gifts (which should take the form of articles necessary to a household) should be sent to Miss Williams, 23, Scarisbrick Street, Southport; or Miss Lovell, 16, Delamere Road, Ainsdale.

Other Meetings

The New Constitutional Society will hold meetings at the N. C. Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, on April 6, at 8.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Cecil Chapman, Miss Zoe Hawley, and Miss Jean Foreyth, and on April 7, at 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Douglas Knocker and Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE

The Free Church League are anxious largely to extend their work, and for this purpose they must raise £1,000. They have arranged a large meeting to be held at the Caxton Hall on April 30, at 8 p.m., at which they hope to raise a substantial sum towards the £1,000. The speakers at this meeting will be Mrs. Philip Snowden and the Rev. R. J. Campbell, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Stricklands. Tickets, numbered and reserved, 2s. 6d.; unreserved, 1s. and can be obtained from the F.C.L., 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, and from the International Suffrage Shop; there will also be free admission.

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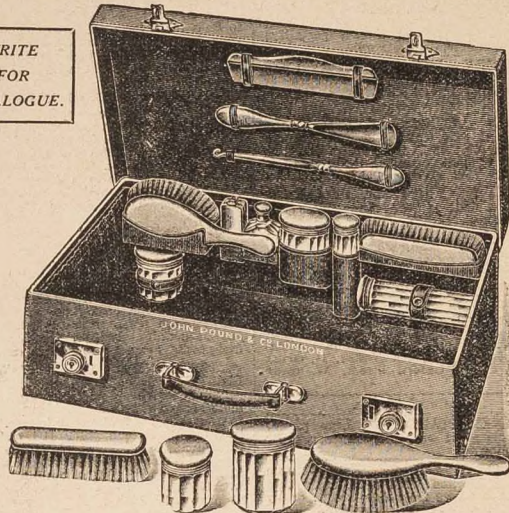


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V78.—A Useful Knitted SPORTS JACKET for present wear. Two pockets and strap at back in square or round corners. Perfect fitting in Brown, Grey, Navy, Saxe, Purple, Emerald, Sand.
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