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Notes.

MRS. DESPARD'S words in her letter to *The Daily News* of July 15th, where she says, "I cannot myself feel that the women in our movement who have come before magistrates have any reason to be satisfied with the judgment of men," find a strong echo in the House of Commons, where questions are frequently being asked by men of all parties as to the treatment now being meted out to several Suffragists who are in prison.

The justice of it is felt to be so questionable that approval is rapidly gaining ground for the Political Offenders Bill introduced last Monday by Mr. Robert Pearce to enact that "every girl or woman undergoing imprisonment in consequence of an offence of a political character shall be detained and treated as a first-class misdemeanant only unless such offence has been committed with damage to property, or grievous bodily harm to some person."

WE would advise our readers, whatever their feeling may be regarding the wisdom, or otherwise, of the Militant Suffragists, to read Miss Beatrice Harraden's letter to *The Daily News* of July 16th. After alluding to the "stimulating comradeship which is now the portion of the Suffragists," she appeals to all in these words: "We must press on, loyally united, whether we are so-called Suffragists or so-called Suffragettes. What should it matter? Hundreds of us are both. The militant party owes a deep debt to the older societies for their fine endurance through the long years of discouragement. The older societies owe a deep debt to the militant party for their initiative and pluck..... Whether we put on our robes and walk in academic dignity, whether we jostle in the crowds and cry 'Votes for Women,' whether we stand outside the danger zone and help to swell the huge gathering, whether we fight the Government at the by elections, whether we give our hundreds of pounds or our half-dozen pence, according to our means.....we all mean the same, and are making for the same end."

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,  
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

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

IN one of the papers of a town in the North of England, a local pressman contributes a daily column under the *nom-de-plume* of "Whist." The question of Votes for Women causes him, metaphorically, to foam at the mouth. He does not condescend to reason. Recently he has been writing on an agricultural show held at the town in question, and in his usual discursive style held forth on the resemblance he professed to see between the animals and their attendants.

An irate Suffragist saw her opportunity and addressed to him the following lines, which, needless to say, were not reproduced in his column:—

If it be true, as some declare,  
That man grows like the beast he tends,  
The ass must be "Whist's" daily care,  
For with its bray his utterance blends.

A HOLIDAY maker at Hythe has undertaken propaganda by means of distributing copies of our paper, and getting it taken up by newsagents, &c. Margate also is provided for we think—we are anxious for the welfare of other seaside places, and look forward for further offers.

WE shall be very glad to accept the services of Suffragists, who are taking part in next Saturday's procession to Hyde Park, for the Demonstration in favour of the Licensing Bill, to distribute copies of this paper. The section will form up at the entrance to Aldwych near St. Clement Dane's Church at 3 o'clock, within five minutes' walk of this office, and small parcels of papers will be ready for any who are kind enough to call and offer to distribute the same.

THE expenses incident to organizing the Suffragist section spoken of in our last paragraph have been in inverse ratio to the time at disposal for so doing. An urgent appeal is therefore made for monetary help, which should be forwarded to Mrs. Corbett, 75, Victoria Street, S.W.

WE congratulate Mrs. Merton Russell Cotes, who, with her husband, has been made an honorary *Freeman* of the County Borough of Bournemouth.

We are told by Mrs. C. C. Stopes in her book 'The Sphere of Man,' that "when women became Freemen they became electors too."

IN view of the "force" argument so constantly brought forward by men as a reason why women should not have the vote, it is interesting to read that in the presence of a hostile crowd, a woman was the only person who had the pluck to go to the assistance of a police constable who was being violently assaulted. One wonders how many of the spectators were voters? We are glad to be able to report that this

courageous lady was publicly thanked by the magistrates at Enfield Police Court.

THE Earl of Meath, in appealing to British women to help him in arousing interest in the Empire Movement, points out that the training of children in the virtues which tend towards the creation of good citizens, should be undertaken by the mothers, rather than by strangers, which is only to say that women should be allowed the *rights and responsibilities of citizenship*, when they will be able to do far more in training children in the virtues which are so sadly lacking in many of our citizens to-day.

WE are glad that the Geological Society are inviting an expression of opinion from Fellows non-resident in the United Kingdom concerning the admission of women to Fellowship or Associateship.

THE Correspondence columns of *The Outlook* should be interesting reading to anti-Suffragists this week, but, alas! very few care to hear the "other side" ably stated.

MISS LILLIAN GILCHRIST THOMPSON sends her copies of the *Women's Franchise* to the Library and Institution at Sevenoaks. Miss M. S. Johnston is posting her copy of this paper on to the Wimbledon Public Library; Mrs. L. Cooper and Mrs. M. Aldersley have subscribed for one quarter for the paper to be sent to the Nelson Free Library, and Miss C. S. Batchelor has sent a subscription for six months for the Reading Room, Wantage.

#### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

DENMARK.—A new Suffrage Society has just been formed in Denmark, whose aim is "on the foundation of the Christian faith to encourage men and women to take an active part in promoting the political franchise of women; and by means of lectures, reading-circles, &c., to enable the women to use the Franchise

in the right way, when the time comes." It is hoped that this Society will bring into the Suffrage movement many persons from circles hitherto untouched. Many of the members are workers in home and foreign missions and temperance associations. The President is Pastorin de Blauenfeldt, and among the Committee is Pastor H. F. Poulsen, the founder of the Danish Y.M.C. movement. It is interesting to learn that one of the Church papers, *Kristeligt Dagblad*, published a series of five articles on the Amsterdam Congress. Has any English paper done as much?

SPAIN.—The Suffrage movement is not very old here, but it does exist. A few weeks ago we mentioned in this column the amendment proposed to the Local Administration Bill, which would have conferred the municipal vote on "adult



My Love shall be a Lady fair;  
My Love's to me beyond compare;  
My Love shall know nor Want nor Care;  
My Lady shall go bravely dight;  
My Lady is my Heart's Delight;  
My Lady charms both Mind and Sight.  
I lay my riches at her feet,  
I reverence her as it is meet,  
She's wise and good as she is sweet.

She to Him—John! Is the money you offer me the proceeds of the sweated work of my Voiceless Sisters?

independent women." This amendment, though rejected by 65 to 35 votes, called forth some sympathetic speeches, and the President of the Cabinet, Señor Maura, who is at the head of the Conservative party, declared himself personally in favour, but thought it would be premature to incorporate the principle of Women's Franchise in the Bill, in view of the present consensus of public opinion in Spain. "The opposition against the enfranchisement of women," says the Spanish correspondent of *Jus Suffragii* comes principally from two sides: from some reactionary elements opposed to all that means progress, and from a fraction of progressive politicians who fear that the reform would only benefit the clerical party. In the Senate Women's Suffrage would be sure to obtain a majority. The Count of Casa-Valencia, ex-ambassador in London, the Republican Senators, Sarda, De Buen, Labra, &c., would surely vote for a law which would give votes to all women without restriction, and perhaps also some other Senators of the Liberal and Democratic parties would support an amendment similar to that proposed by Mr. Pi y Arsuaga."

FRANCE.—The Congress on Women's Civil and Political Rights was held in Paris at the end of June. It lasted four days, of which the last was given to the subject of Women's Franchise. Madame Vincent traced the history of women's political rights before the Revolution, when, she maintained, they differed but little from those of men. A sympathetic address was given by M. Louis Marin, a member of the Chamber of Deputies. A communication was received from M. Buisson, announcing his intention of reporting favourably on M. Dussaussoy's Bill, which would confer Municipal Suffrage on women. The Congress passed a vote of thanks to him, and expressed the hope that he would deliver his report as soon as possible. It also decided to petition the Parliamentary Committee on Universal Suffrage to hasten the presentation of its report.

A. ZIMMERN.

#### The Home is her Sphere.

A WOMAN may travel, if she is inclined,  
It is even believed it may broaden her mind,  
Spend the spring in Biarritz, and the winter in Rome,  
But she never can vote, for her place is the "Home!"  
If poor, she may work for a very small hire,  
Leaving her children to play with the fire;  
While if she is rich, custom clearly allows  
A visit to Ascot, to Goodwood, and Cowes;  
It is all very well for "the wife" to be seen  
Looking "chic" in a "dainty confection of green,"  
But give her a vote, and "the Home" will be wrecked,  
And her husband and children will pine from neglect.  
She will spend every minute she has, it appears,  
In recording one vote in, say, four or five years.  
When a man is enfranchised, I note with surprise,  
That he keeps up his business and family ties,  
But men are remarkably clever, you know,  
If women had votes, it would never be so!  
Now let my appeal strike a different note;  
No womanly women is anxious to vote,  
Although, if the franchise were hers, as I say,  
She would study the subject for twelve hours a day.  
Let her pay all her taxes, a simple affair,  
It is plain there is nothing unladylike there  
So long as the woman who pays is content  
Not to decide how the money is spent!  
The true wife is gentle; "the Home" is her sphere;  
She trills little songs for her husband to hear;  
She is playful and loving, and jealous but nice,  
So devoted to dress, and so frightened of mice!  
I have read this description; it is not my own,  
And it doesn't describe all the wives I have known;  
It is but an ideal; yet, perhaps, if we try,  
We may all attain that ideal, by and bye.  
So let us read fashions, but never read news,  
And let us avoid all political views;  
Let us go to our husbands, and say, with a kiss,  
"You, darling, of course, understand about this!"

How I wish I were clever and brilliant like you,  
And could look at these things from a man's point of view!  
And I hope that your side will do splendidly, dear,  
But I don't want a vote, for the 'Home' is my sphere!"  
G. M. GEORGE.

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

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Branch, Mrs. L. . . . .	0 13 6	Brought forward . . . . .	3 18 0
Deane, Miss L. . . . .	1 0 0	Wright, Miss . . . . .	0 5 0
Tennant, Miss C. . . . .	0 2 6	Wrightson, Miss M. . . . .	0 2 0
Thompson, Miss L. Gilchrist . . . . .	2 2 0	Total . . . . .	£4 5 0
Carried forward . . . . .	3 18 0		

#### Correspondence.

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

#### Saturday Procession.

SIR,—I have been asked for the benefit of your readers to draw your attention to the fact that there will be a contingent of Suffragists supporting the demonstration in favour of the Licensing Bill who will walk in the procession under their own banner and with their own following. This contingent has been officially recognized by the organizers of the demonstration, and I would strongly urge all the women who can possibly do so to join the procession, in order to dispel the suggestion that has been widely and falsely circulated that Women Suffragists are working in support of the "trade" against the Bill.

The section of the demonstrations on the 25th, for whom I am making this appeal, has been organized by the "Forward Suffrage Union within the Women's Liberal Federation" of which I am chairman. And we hope by this means once again to show that the women who are asking for the vote are anxious to help forward any legislation that makes for the increased happiness and well-being of the community by every means in their, at present, limited power.

I am, your obedient Servant,

AGNES GROVE.

#### Municipal Franchise.

SIR,—Since the passing of the Women's Qualification Act of last autumn, I have taken it for granted, like many other people I have spoken to on the subject, that married women, who are properly qualified, are no longer excluded from the Municipal Franchise. This appears to be a false assumption on my part. I am a married woman—I rent a house of 300l. a year—I apply in due course to be placed on the register for the Municipal Franchise. The Registrar refuses to take my name. Why? because I am a married woman. "But," I say, "the wording of the new Bill is 'that neither sex nor the state of marriage shall debar a woman from being elected a Councillor or Lord Mayor.'" "That is true," replies the Registrar, "but it does not give you a vote. The Bill of 1882 says that the married woman is merged in her husband and cannot have a municipal vote." "Then," I ask, "how can I be elected a Councillor, if I have no vote, for that is against the law? No person without a vote may be elected Councillor, Alderman, or Lord Mayor." "It is not my business," replies the Registrar, politely, "to elect you in any of those capacities; it is only my business to enter the names of duly qualified persons on the municipal registrar. I cannot enter you because you are married."

Will you, or any of your readers, give me advice as to what my next course should be? I cannot let the matter rest here. Is the Qualification of Women Act a dead letter as far as married women are concerned? Did the House of Lords forget to repeal the Act of 1882, or is a woman to be punished for marriage by the forfeiture of the Municipal Franchise?

What is the use of saying that marriage shall not prevent a woman from being elected a Councillor, if she has no vote, and if only enfranchised persons may be members of Councils?

Faithfully yours,

AGNES M. DIXON.

Westbourne, Edgbaston, 20th July, 1908.

## 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, L.L.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.  
 Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS WARD. Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON.  
 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 MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P. MRS. BROADLEY REID MISS WARD  
 THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR MISS EDITH DIMOCK HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL LADY STRACHEY  
 MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE MISS I. O. FORD MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN And the Hon. Officers,  
 MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S. MISS LOWNDES *ex officio.*

### Current Topics.

THE report of the Amsterdam Congress will be ready this week, and can be purchased from the National Union office for 1s. 3d. It contains the reports of all the auxiliaries, and in addition those of Austria and Bohemia; the proceedings; the programme; lists of officers and committees; a history of the Alliance; an account of the social features of the Congress; the address of welcome by Dr. Jacobs; the President's address, &c. The evening speeches are not included in the Report. All manuscripts of these which were sent in will be placed in care of Miss Kramers, who has been instructed by the Board of Officers, to loan them upon request to the officers of any of our auxiliaries, who may desire to use them.

*The Woman's Journal* (Boston) for July 4th gives a long and detailed account of our Procession, and the remarks of the Press upon it. We learn that Mr. W. D. Howells, the novelist, who was in London at the time, witnessed it. He says: "It was an impressive and dignified demonstration, and I was much struck with the effect that it produced. I did not hear a single disrespectful comment. The demonstration represented a growing feeling among the English people. In my opinion, Suffrage for women is bound to come. There are many arguments against it, but no reasons."

Miss E. A. McArthur, Litt.D., Head Lecturer in History at Girton College, who wrote an interesting letter to *The Times* on the historical aspect of women's rights, is preparing a fuller account of the earliest phases of the movement, and has found some valuable material in some of the early books and pamphlets.

Mrs. Clara Bewick Colby, editor of the fortnightly paper *The Woman's Tribune*, Portland, Oregon, will be very pleased to speak at meetings in support of Woman's Suffrage during September. Letters addressed to 21, Bessborough Gardens, London, S.W., will find her.

In consequence of the Hon. Michael Hicks Beach, M.P. for Tewkesbury Division, having joined the Anti-Suffrage League, Miss Hutchinson Wright, Primrose League Warden of Prestbury, has sent in her resignation, as she declines to work for an active opponent to woman's enfranchisement.

### Further Donations to the Procession Fund.

Mrs. Darroch .. .. .	£1 1 0
Mrs. Cooke .. .. .	0 2 6
Mrs. Lane .. .. .	0 2 6
Mrs. Nixon .. .. .	0 2 6
Miss L. Gomm .. .. .	0 5 0
Miss M. Crofton .. .. .	0 2 6
Mrs. S. Edwards .. .. .	0 5 0
Mrs. Lavaraek .. .. .	1 0 0
Mrs. W. Haslam .. .. .	5 0 0
Mrs. Burton .. .. .	1 0 0
Miss Gunter .. .. .	0 5 0
Dr. Kentish Wright .. .. .	1 1 0

£10 7 0

### Caravan Tour.

MISS COSTELLOE, Miss Gardner, Miss Williams, and I started in our caravan on July 2nd from Beattock, and held our first meeting in Ecclefechan at 8 o'clock in the evening. The whole village turned out to hear us, and we had an attentive and very good-natured audience. Since then we have had meetings at Silloth, Maryport, Workington, Cockermouth, Keswick, Ambleside, Windermere, Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, and Ingleton. In all of these places we have been very well received. We have had no disturbances, and everybody has been kind and hospitable.

At Silloth we invited a clergyman, who was an anti-suffragist, to speak from our platform after our speeches; when he had finished we did our best to refute him. He at last admitted that we had logic on our side, but that his instinct was against it. After the meeting a young man came up to me and said "I'm a Cumberland lad myself, but I've been to Lancashire, and I know the world. That parson doesn't know what he is talking about."

Everywhere we have carried our resolutions, and everywhere we have found that the most intelligent of the crowd have been our supporters. At one place, however, the village idiot was so warmly on our side that he quite embarrassed us!

Six times our meetings have been held in the rain, but the audiences have been no smaller for that. At Keswick, when we said that the rain would make us brief, all the umbrellas went down instantly, and every one tried to pretend that it was a sunny day.

At Ambleside we held a large meeting in the Assembly Room, and while we were talking a Salvation Army band passed outside. Many of the men and boys at the back of the room rushed out to see what was going on. To our intense surprise they all came trooping back again in a few minutes, bringing more with them.

The van is a great attraction, and helps us to collect our audiences. It gets much admiration and attention, and when it is covered with posters and planted in the middle of a marketplace it is really a wonderful sight. We speak from the front, which is a very good platform. In Bowness a crowd of small boys followed us yelling for votes. Their enthusiasm was not very serious, but for all that they pushed the van up a long steep hill, and we told them they had helped forward the cause. We have met so many kind friends everywhere that we are inclined to believe that the North is quite filled with ardent Suffragists. Certainly we have proof enough to satisfy Mr. Asquith many times over.

Our two most successful meetings were held at Keswick and Kendal. At Keswick we were received with open arms by the committee of the Women's Suffrage Society which has recently been started there. Everything was made easy for us by them; our meetings were advertised in the local press, reporters were warned that we were coming, and every kind of hospitality was showered on us.

At Kendal the crowd was very large and very interested. We raised a large sum of money when we sent the cap, and when we left the town the people surrounded our caravan and cheered and clapped us. E. RENDEL.

### Mrs. Fawcett at Edinburgh.

At the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Suffrage Society, Mrs. Fawcett made a magnificent speech, which want of space prevents our reporting more fully.

Mrs. Fawcett said that one answer to Mr. Asquith was the demonstration of June 13th, which was immediately followed by the International Congress at Amsterdam. Women's Suffrage has been brought before 22 national parliaments and 29 state legislatures. Wherever representative institutions exist women are asking to share in them, and even the women of the East are seeking a wider life. At Amsterdam two countries not only sent official representatives, but paid their expenses.

With regard to the frequent statement that no influence would be produced on the wages of women by the fact of their having votes, Mrs. Fawcett pointed out that, merely in anticipation of the women of Norway voting at the next election, the Norwegian Government had raised the wages of women in telegraph and postal services to be equal to those of men. She then proceeded: "We are privileged to take part, perhaps a leading part, in a great world movement which is extending the bounds of human freedom all over the world. It is a solemn but an intensely exhilarating thought... as to the anti-Suffragists, the women have all been born with silver spoons in their mouths, and have never had the education of 'going without,' while some of the men, as Meredith said, 'have not even rounded Seraglio Point, and none of them have doubled Cape Turk.'

"Both Mrs. Creighton and Mrs. Sidney Webb have withdrawn their former opposition to our movement. A lady having seen our beautiful procession, has written to withdraw her name from the anti-Suffrage manifesto.

"Regarding Mr. Asquith's pronouncement of May 20th, hailed by the entire press as an important concession, What does it amount to? He promised a Reform Bill to improve still further from his own point of view the representation of men, while promising nothing whatever for women. Represented men shall have more representation, unrepresented women shall have nothing; but if an amendment is brought forward to include women—provided it is on democratic lines and is supported by an overwhelming majority of men and women—the Government as a Government will not oppose.

"Mr. Asquith is more Tory than the Tories. This is no more than what a Tory M.P. did forty-one years ago. When pressed in the House of Commons to say what he means, Mr. Asquith declines to be drawn, and says 'An honourable friend had asked him a contingent question on a remote and speculative future.' He may mean anything or nothing; probably nothing, for he refers contemptuously to the subject at the Bar dinner."

Mrs. Fawcett continued: "I have no faith in him, but I have faith in forces which are stronger than he: in the powers of progress and in the love of political liberty which is planted deep in every British heart, and in the courage and steadfastness of the strong Suffragists among the Liberal women. It was a very strongly worded resolution from the Women's Liberal Federation which really drew from the Prime Minister his concession, such as it was.

"I have heard with the utmost satisfaction that the Women's Liberal Federation are planning an active Suffrage campaign for the autumn. We who are for Suffrage, first, second, and third, must put no obstacles in their way. This I feel the National Union, a non-party body, can do. We do not oppose the Government candidate as such in by-elections; we go into every by-election prepared to support the best friend of Women's Suffrage. That is a sound and intelligible policy, making it difficult for anti-Suffragists to get elected, or even to get accepted as candidates. It is to the Liberal women above all to whom we must appeal at the present juncture. They are the largest, best organized of any body of political women. The success of our movement in the immediate future is very much in their hands. Let us wish strength of purpose, courage, and persistency to all the women wherever they are who are working for Suffrage, and may good luck attend their efforts.

"Lord Morley received a deputation of the 'Votes for Women' Society at his inauguration as Chancellor at Manchester, and he

received them with courtesy and kindness. The name of Lord Morley encourages me to touch on a rather difficult subject. There have been some incidents in the Women's Suffrage campaign which the majority of Suffragists regret and deplore; they have been foolish rather than criminal, but such as they are, they have been among the things which almost every one would feel were harmful to distinctive womanhood: mere nothings in comparison with the blood-stained annals of man's fight for freedom, still to be deplored, and I have hope, in future avoided."

Mrs. Fawcett concluded her speech as follows: "These are Lord Morley's words, 'We are in India in the presence of a living movement, and a movement for what? For objects which we ourselves have taught them to think are desirable objects, and unless we can somehow reconcile order with satisfaction of those ideas and aspirations, the fault will not be theirs; it will be ours; it will mark the breakdown of British statesmanship.' I apply these words not to India, but to our own movement here and now. We have here a living movement, no one can doubt it. We Suffragists of all the societies are striving for objects which every English statesman has taught us to believe are desirable objects, citizenship and political freedom. Unless the Government can reconcile satisfaction of this demand with order and good Government the fault is not ours, it is theirs. British statesmanship is on its trial, what will be the issue?"

### Pembrokeshire By-Election.

THE election is over, and Pembrokeshire has sent up a member of the Men's League, pledged to do all he can to support the Women's cause. There can be no question that the general feeling in the county is emphatically in favour of our demand. To the majority of the people here the idea was practically new, but the strong sense of justice and love of freedom of the Welsh has made them particularly quick to acknowledge the righteousness of the Women's claim.

Last Saturday we had a splendid meeting at Milford—many hundreds of fishermen eager in their response and applause. "The Suffragettes," said the local paper, "have captivated Milfordians." This week we have held two meetings every day, ending on Thursday night with one of the most pleasantly characteristic of all, at Waterton.

Our meeting was not timed to start till 8, but by 7.45 so many people had arrived that we were advised to begin. We learned that we were the first Suffragists who had penetrated to Waterton (though it was important enough for both candidates to have had meetings there), so curiosity brought many country people through the rain.

On Friday, Mrs. Peerless of Tenby, whose kindness and support has been unfailing, held a drawing-room meeting at which a Pembrokeshire Society was inaugurated, Miss Voyle, of Penally, consenting to become Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*

It is pleasant, looking back, to be able to record that in Pembrokeshire we have received nothing but kindness and courtesy, a fair hearing and sympathy, wherever we have been. MARGARET ROBERTSON.

### 5,000 Guinea Fund.

Miss Crosfield .. .. .	£0 10 0
Miss Julia Kennedy .. .. .	1 1 0
	£1 11 0

### Correspondence.

#### "Where is the Man?"

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see that attention had been drawn in the last number of *Women's Franchise* to one of the many interesting points in the circular issued by the Anti-Suffrage Society. Here is another equally amusing and instructive. The signatories of that document assure their

readers, that they (the Antis) are in no wise opposed to women having the local franchises, and wish us to know that they gave their cordial blessing to the Bill which enabled women to sit on Town and Borough Councils. We are, of course, delighted to be assured of this, but I note that Lord James of Hereford has signed the document. Now Lord James was the most ardent opponent of that Bill. He spoke and voted against it in the House of Lords. Where, said Lord James, is the man who will be able to argue against Women's Suffrage if this Bill becomes law? In commenting on the debate at the time I ventured to predict that Lord James would be that man, and therefore naturally feel a little elated to see my prediction come true so quickly. I am now anxiously awaiting Lord James's first attack on Women's Suffrage—since his recent conversion. That it will be very subtle and very ingenious I have no doubt, for did he not despair of arguments against Women's Suffrage if once women became town and borough councillors?

I remain, Madam, yours truly,  
EDITH PALLISER.

### County Campaign Fund.

In their appeal Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Bertha Mason ask for 15l. from each county in Great Britain. This is the response up to date:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Cambridge.</i> —Mrs. Bateson .. ..	10	0	0			
<i>Cheshire.</i> —Mrs. Tomlinson .. ..	1	0	0			
G. B. Dalby, Esq. .. ..	1	1	0			
<i>Cumberland.</i> —Mrs. Kitchin .. ..				2	1	0
<i>Devonshire.</i> —Miss B. Greswell .. ..				0	5	0
<i>Hampshire.</i> —Mrs. Hervey .. ..				1	0	0
<i>Herefordshire.</i> —Mrs. Sargant-Florence .. ..				2	0	0
<i>Lancashire.</i> —Carried forward .. ..	1	1	0			
Mrs. Weiss .. ..	1	1	0			
<i>London.</i> —Carried forward .. ..	9	13	0			
Mrs. Tapson .. ..	2	2	0			
Mrs. Wallis Chapman .. ..	0	5	0			
Miss H. Nicoll .. ..	1	0	0			
Mrs. Luff .. ..	5	0	0			
Mrs. Boyd-Carpenter .. ..	25	0	0			
Mrs. J. S. Turner .. ..	0	2	6			
Mrs. Binns Smith .. ..	2	2	0			
Hon. Mrs. Whittuck .. ..	5	0	0			
Mrs. Earengy-Aylett .. ..	0	10	0			
F. Faithful Begg, Esq. .. ..	1	1	0			
<i>Middlesex.</i> —Miss Coles .. ..	2	0	0			
Miss Raleigh .. ..	10	0	0			
<i>Suffolk.</i> —Miss Clayden .. ..				12	0	0
<i>Surrey.</i> —Carried forward .. ..	1	3	0			
Mrs. Pilcher .. ..	10	0	0			
Miss Crossfield .. ..	1	0	0			
<i>Warwickshire.</i> —Miss Floyd .. ..				12	3	0
<i>Wiltshire.</i> —Carried forward .. ..				2	0	0
				0	10	0
Total up to Saturday 18th .. ..	£102	7	6			

### Branch Societies.

**FLEET.**—By kind invitation of Mrs. Benson, a delightful garden meeting was held on July 6th. About 120 people were present, including four factory girls on a visit from London.

The Fleet banner was on view, and was much admired. Mr. Clavell Slater, K.C., M.P., who voted for Mr. Stanger's Bill, sent a kind note of regret for absence. Mrs. Alderton gave a capital speech, and was seconded by Dr. Cruickshank in an admirable little speech. The Rev. J. Mortimer, an enthusiastic supporter, also spoke.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—On July 13th, during a holiday at the Spa Hydro Hotel, Askern, near Doncaster, Miss Charlotte

Kilburn read a paper on Women's Suffrage to a large gathering of visitors.

Mrs. Bell, a resident at the Hydro, presided over the meeting, after which leaflets and copies of *Women's Franchise* were distributed. Several men spoke, and many people confessed their previous ignorance of the real necessity for and the justice of woman's claim to a Parliamentary vote. Miss Kilburn was listened to with great interest and attention, and cordial votes of thanks were accorded to her and to Mrs. Bell.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—On Saturday, July 4th, a garden meeting was held at 61, Oxford Street, at the invitation of our Hon. Sec., Mrs. Foster Welch, when about 100 members and friends were present. Mrs. H. Stevens presided, and introduced Miss Jenner, one of our Vice-Presidents, who said the vote was a protection to the voter and his property, and with a more expansive franchise there must come better conditions. She appealed for hearty support for the Society, and urged every one to study the subject earnestly, and not to attempt to convince other people until they themselves were "well grounded" on all aspects of the question of Women's Suffrage.

Mrs. R. Andrews also spoke, and said they were going to interest the women in the great questions affecting the working classes and the industrial position of women. When all questions were discussed in the home, politics would become sweeter and cleaner. The Rev. W. Garwood also spoke, and said the only thing to be done was to keep "pegging away." Miss Spencer proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Welch for so kindly lending their garden, which Mrs. Walter seconded.

**WARRINGTON.**—An interesting garden meeting was held on July 9th at Penketh House, where, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Jaines Dodds, quite a goodly number of people prominent in the cause of Woman's Suffrage assembled. The chair was taken by our President, Miss Massy, and Miss Ashton of Manchester gave a very spirited and instructive speech. Mrs. Dodds proposed, and Mrs. C. Parker seconded, a vote of thanks to Miss Ashton, which was carried very heartily. Mrs. Dodds, Mrs. Parker, and Mrs. Carruthers, with other ladies, discussed the future work of the Society, and many new members were enrolled.

**WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.**—On July 8th Mrs. Hill took the chair at St. Bees for the most successful drawing-room meeting ever held by our Society; rather more than fifty people listened to a pleasant, thoughtful speech by Miss Evans of Reading, and passed the usual resolutions. Then the audience rose, as it were, and demanded a big meeting from the Committee. We pleaded for funds, and immediately came promises of help from all parts of the room. This liberality was quite unprecedented in our annals; 6l. 10s. was given in money and promises before the close of the meeting.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

	July.	P.M.
23rd <i>London, Bermondsey,</i> Debate "Temperance and W.S." Christ Church Branch of Church of England Total Abstinence Society	Opener, Miss Swankie Cameron	8.30
<i>Marylebone</i> Garden Meeting	Hostess, Miss Hallowes	8
24th <i>Bournemouth,</i> Public Meeting, Garden Tea House, The Square	Speaker, Mrs. Wilson	4
<i>Surbiton,</i> Garden Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Horner	
25th <i>Cheltenham,</i> Garden Party, Sandford Lawn, Bath Road	Speaker, Mrs. Corbett	3.30
<i>London, Barnes</i> Tennis Club Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Swiney	
25th <i>Paddington S.,</i> Garden Meeting	Speakers, Mrs. Bewick Colby, and others	8.30
50, Porchester Terrace, W.	Chairman, Miss F. G. Wright	4.30
27th <i>Reigate,</i> Open-Air Meeting	Speakers, Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Hylton Dale, Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, and others	
29th <i>London, S. Kensington</i> Debate	Speakers, Miss Hammond, Mrs. Richmond	
	Hostess, Miss Murray	
	Chairman, Mr. Mackenzie Bell	

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

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG

### Notes.

**LAW VERSUS NATURE.**—Right-minded people agree with Suffragists in their indignation at the attitude the law takes up with regard to parenthood.

When a child is legitimate—i.e. desirable—the father is the sole legal parent; when the child is undesirable—i.e. illegitimate—the mother is the sole legal parent. This is the practical manner in which lawyers enforce their decisions that legally women have no right to benefits but are liable to all penalties.

In *The Daily News* of July 17th we read: "At Newcastle County Court to-day, it was held that an illegitimate child is not a blood relation of its father." Apparently the judge is unable to distinguish between natural laws and man-made laws, and imagines that the laws of heredity have been cancelled by an Act of Parliament in certain cases.

The judge did not make it clear what penalty a woman was liable to whose child under these circumstances inherited diseases through the father. Such a decision is an emphatic proof of the injustices suffered by women under our present system. A mere Suffragist would have imagined that a judge who cannot distinguish between natural law and a legal enactment ought to be relieved of the necessity of giving any more such judgments.

**POLITICIANS OR BRAWLERS?**—Our friend Mr. Robert Pearce, M.P., on Monday last introduced a Political Offenders' Bill to ensure that Suffragettes shall be imprisoned as first-class misdemeanants only. A political offence is again defined as an offence incidental to, and part of, a political disturbance. These terms are those used in the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1891. The discretionary power of the magistrate, wielded by him with even unusual licence in many instances during the last three years, is thus limited.

Mr. Robert Pearce has as backers of his Bill such members as Mr. Thomas Burt, Mr. Felix Cobbold, Mr. Philip Snowden, Mr. Stanger, and others.

We welcome this Bill as making a distinct advance in the Parliamentary support of Women's Suffrage. If it succeeds in becoming law, it puts an end, at one fell swoop, to any semblance of reason in those statements, so constantly cropping up even in what should be well-informed quarters, that we of the Militant Suffrage Movement are but rowdy females, never happy save when drawing public attention to our own objectionable selves.

We thank our friends for this fresh proof of their desire to help us to carry on the fight, and more especially as it demonstrates their acceptance of the inevitable continuance and development of those tactics from which some of them, in the kindness of their hearts, would fain dissuade us.

Criticism just now seems unkind, or we might remind our Parliamentary supporters that we should have been still better pleased, if, instead of introducing a new Suffragette Bill at the present time, they had brought that amount of pressure which resides in 420 pledged members of the House to bear upon His Majesty's Government, and continued the consideration of the Suffrage Bill, moreover we strongly object to any special leniency in dealing with women political offenders as distinct from men who break the law in similar ways and for political reasons.

After all, first class prisoners make up in monotony for what they lose in discomfort, and the heavy heart grows no lighter because the shoes fit.

### 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and Votes for Women.

THE performance of Shakespeare's beautiful play, given in the Botanic Gardens by the Elizabeth Bessie Comedy Company in aid of our funds, was wonderful and inspiring.

Not until I saw the play performed in the open air against a background of natural beauty in one unbroken scene, with no curtains, drop-scenes, or other artificial aids, did I realize its strength and magic loveliness. Begun at the close of day, with a blue sky overhead, the gradual fading of the light as the play proceeded gave an illusion of reality, which deepens and strengthens the power which the poetic visions and the love scenes have over our minds. All the lovers: Theseus and Hippolyta, Hermia and Lysander, Helena and Demetrius, Titania and Oberon, Pyramus and Thisbe illustrate Lysander's remark to his disconsolate Hermia that "The course of true love never did run smooth"; but we are not saddened by their troubles—for the bewitching surroundings, the presence of the fairies, and the irresponsible mischievousness of Puck throw an air of fantastic dreaminess over the whole, and we have a subconscious feeling that in such elements all will work out right in the end. This fairy-like spell is heightened by the contrast which Bottom and his friends present to the rest of the characters in the play.

My mind was abruptly recalled to our political agitation on hearing Bottom say:—

"I grant you, friends, if you should fright the ladies out of their wits they would have no more discretion but to hang us." For "ladies" read "powers that be," and for "hang" "imprison," and the train of thought is obvious.

What an inspirer, too, is Shakespeare to an ardent Suffragist! How he delights to take the conventional customs of the world and turn them topsy turvy! He cuts the shackles from women and gives us pictures unexcelled for loveliness, truthfulness, and grace, and yet with no dire consequences. Custom has decreed that the man must woo and pursue the woman, yet, Helena, wooing Demetrius with an ardour and ravishing persuasiveness any man might envy, is so far from appearing unsexed and unwomanly (as she ought to do by all the canons of Mrs. Grundy), that she never appears to better advantage, and the scene is the most touching of the whole play. Though very pathetic, too, are the lines in which Helena upbraids Hermia when she thinks her friend has joined with the men to scorn her:—

And will you rent our ancient love asunder  
To join with men in scorning your poor friend?  
It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly:  
Our sex, as well as I, may chide you for it,  
Though I alone do feel the injury.

Words which the women in the Anti-Suffrage Association might ponder on with advantage.

We have a glimpse in this picture of the poet's fancy, that though women may be free to develop unhampered, save by nature's laws, they will still be women. How refreshing is Hermia's determination to defy her father's will and to assert her right to marry according to her affections, and how interesting and charming she at once becomes to us.

How inspiring and delicious is Titania's defiance of her lord, and though Oberon wins in the end he has to employ the wiles and trickeries of Puck to do so. Most beautiful, too, is the reconciliation, with no loss of independence or dignity on either side, no false whining for forgiveness from Titania, no arrogant domination from Oberon—but as comrades who can give and take they disappear from our view.

Space will not allow me to dwell on the delights which crowded into my mind during the performance, but it has left me with the impression that the representation of many of Shakespeare's plays and of other scenes from the works of dramatists and novelists given in simple fashion and surroundings would make us better Suffragists. We should learn to appreciate how much nobler men and women will be when able to develop freely. Remove the disabilities which shut women out of politics and the wider life, alter the customs which allow men to treat their marital and fatherly obligations lightly and their domestic life as though it were a personal concern instead of the most vital part of our communal life, and the race must benefit.

I have read the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' many times, I have seen it in theatres many times, but I have to thank the Elizabeth Bessie Comedy Company for making it a more living reality to me than it ever was before.

The music fitted in so beautifully, and was rendered so well that one was in danger of forgetting that it had not the same source as the gentle breeze which stirred the trees, the birds that twittered in their branches, and the moths and gnats which fluttered in the air.

To Miss Bessie, to all the members of the company and the orchestra the warm thanks of the Women's Freedom League are gratefully tendered.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### Cheltenham Pageantry and Suffrage.

CHELTEHAM has undoubtedly had the time of its life during the last week, with the Pageant and the Suffragettes!

"A double infliction!" as the local superintendent said pathetically. "There's not a man available, and Cheltenham doesn't approve of 'Votes for Women.'" We explained politely, but firmly, that that was why we were there, and that we hoped before we left that Cheltenham would have seen the error of its ways.

At any other time but pageant week, I suppose the sight of a little band of women wearing "Women's Freedom League" buttons would have created quite an embarrassing amount of interest—but pageantry, like misfortune, makes you acquainted with strange sights. An ancient Briton, brandishing a battle-axe, hurrying to the place of meeting on a bicycle, did not even provoke a smile; while the delightful incongruity of an Elizabethan milkmaid, collecting pennies in a milk-pail, decorated with "Votes for Women—Women's Freedom League," seemed to be quite unappreciated by every one but ourselves. The visit of the National Executive Committee to Cheltenham spurred the local branch to heroic efforts. A shop was taken in a good position in the High Street; the striking Holloway banner, well-known posters, and literature were put in the window, and it at once became one of the centres of attraction. Many speculations were overheard as to which of the little group of women inside had "done time," and the fervent hope from some occasional "intelligent objector," that the whole lot of them would get six months, was expressed with extraordinary vigour.

Mrs. Sproson conducted the first open-air meetings of the campaign. A good deal of rowdiness was displayed, and one meeting at least came perilously near causing a riot. The interest was intensified by the serving of a summons on Mrs. Sproson for chalking the pavements with a notice of the big meeting in the Town Hall, in defiance of a by-law—a by-law, it may be said in passing, that had been broken with consistent and beautiful regularity ever since its formation by other bodies, without causing any trouble, but which, of course, assumed a quite remarkable sacredness and importance as soon as it was broken by a Suffragist. Sympathizers turned up in full force to hear the case when it was brought before the magistrate, and the authorities, with a lively recollection of our police-court demonstration, drafted in every available man, and left the arrangements for the pageant to look after themselves. Nothing more terrible happened, however, than a loud burst of applause when Mrs. Sproson refused to acknowledge the authority of that court to try her. The fine of 5s. inflicted by the magistrate was paid into court by a well-known local sympathizer.

The open air campaign was kept up during the whole of the Pageant week. Mrs. Holmes, assisted by Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, Mrs. Earengay and Mrs. Swiney, held meetings every day. The hooligan element, strong at first, gradually subsided. Several times irate Liberals came around with bells, motor horns, &c., intent on breaking up the meeting, but were disarmed by the palpably peaceable appearance and intent of the speakers. Question time, of course, was invariably a lively time, and the inevitable query, "Why didn't you begin on the Conservatives?" was met and answered a dozen times.

But the good seed has been sown in Cheltenham, and it only remains now for the splendid local sympathizers, the men and women who are doing such fine work on the Town Councils and Local Boards in bringing this question to the front, to carry it on, and to see to it that Votes for Women is kept one of the burning questions of the day until it is settled.

M. H.

### Women's Suffrage Caravan.

WE are still wanting money for the van. In addition to the 18l. 11s. acknowledged last week I have received 17. 1s. from Mrs. Arthur Leon. But we do want the 30l. by the end of next week, when the Committee meets! Wherever the van goes, we get splendid reports of its work. Many letters have gladdened my heart. One from East Grinstead says, "The cause has made strides since the arrival of the van."

From Southborough, "You have given us all a splendid and lasting lesson."

From Petworth, "You have made many converts here."

From Midhurst (where they are thinking of forming a branch), "We, the family, are all for the W.F.L.!"

From Chichester, "I am afraid you did not have very joyful times here, but you did good work in these three days. Please think of us as a little more enlightened than in those days."

From Tunbridge Wells, "I must congratulate you on your success."

The van is now paying its own way, but we still have the expenditure of the first few weeks. Please send donations.

MARGARET S. CLAYTON, Hon. Treas. Van Committee.

### Scottish Council.

#### WEST COAST CAMPAIGN.

OUR meetings were stopped for a few days by heavy rain, but whenever the weather was favourable very large meetings have been held. The audiences have been very much interested and sympathetic.

Last Friday at Dunoon, where the meetings are held on the slope of the Castle Hill, we experienced our only unruly gathering. Mr. Moffat and Mrs. Sclanders made repeated attempts to induce the youths who were singing nursery rhymes and popular choruses to wait until we had finished. I managed to give short speeches, but the danger of the roughs rushing down the hill, and causing a panic and catastrophe was so great that we abandoned the attempt.

When we reached the foot of the hill a still larger crowd was waiting, so I tried to continue the meeting. I had not been speaking long, however, before the upholders of "men's rights" again made it impossible to make oneself heard. Our next stand was against a wall. Here a truce was called, and we were allowed ten minutes, which was made the most of. The police then forced a passage for us, the crowd following. How to get rid of them now formed a serious problem. Eventually we procured a boat, landing further round the bay in the darkness. Our subsequent meetings have been very large and attentive, the episode having done a great deal of good, illustrating the unreasoning prejudice against our cause.

This week I also visited Carnoustie, the east coast centre, where Miss Farquharson, M.A., Miss McNeil and Miss Nilson are doing splendid work.

ANNA MUNRO.

### Scottish Summer Centres Fund.

Already acknowledged	£15 18 0	Edinburgh Branch	£5 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Pollokshields	3 8 0	Mrs. Kennedy, Helensburgh	0 5 0
Misses Whyte, Partickhill	2 0 0	Miss M. Allan, Dundee	0 10 0
Secret Suffrage Society	0 5 0	Miss M. Grant Norwell	0 10 0

### East Fife Campaign.

It was my pleasant duty on Saturday, the 11th, to take over the work in East Fife, which had been so efficiently carried on for the past seven weeks by Mrs. Donaldson.

Our first meeting at Ladybank was fairly well attended. Mrs. Sanderson gave a stirring address, and the people on the whole were sympathetic. The "stale old joke" of bell-ringing was again repeated. A short account of the meeting was given in *The People's Journal* and in *The Fife News*.

### Branch Notes.

**Hampstead Branch.**—Tuesday afternoon at Hampstead was damp, but not dismal. Sixty guests accepted Mr. and Mrs. John Russell's invitation to tea and speeches at their Garden Meeting; enthusiasm ousted rheumatism, eloquence banished ague.

Mrs. Margaret Clayton was in the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Hicks, Miss Aphra Wilson, Mrs. Stopes, and Mr. John Russell. Most of the guests were chosen because they were unconverted, but the speeches were so earnest, and so convincing, that it is unlikely they will be invited again for that reason. "Comrades," will describe them next time! E. T.

**Western Branch, Glasgow.** desire to note that in last week's notice of a public meeting to be held October 8, in Partick Burgh Halls, the name of Miss Cicely Hamilton was omitted to be mentioned as one of the speakers. A. C. M.

**Manchester Branch.**—The "At Home" held on July 15th in our new room was a distinct success, about seventy guests being present. The opening remarks were made by Mrs. Nidd, to whom our thanks are due for kindly consenting to act for Mrs. Rose-Hylands until her arrival, later. Miss Hines, the secretary, then gave a resumé of the work done by our branch. This was followed by a speech from Mrs. F. T. Swanwick on "The Suffrage." Mrs. Mitchell, of Ashton-under-Lyne, in proposing the vote of thanks, which was cordially seconded by Mrs. Redfern, applauded the good work done by "Militants." Mr. S. Brooks spoke on the "Men's League." The proceedings closed with a short but earnest appeal for funds.

We hope to have a large attendance on Wednesday next, when Miss Kirkman will read a paper, "Woman as State Creditor." M. B.

**Maida Vale Branch.**—The first out-door meeting of the Maida Vale campaign was held at the corner of Brondesbury Road, on Friday evening the 17th. Mrs. Nevinson, who was briefly introduced by the Branch Secretary, spoke for over an hour to an attentive audience. Leaflets were distributed. Several passers-by enquired the speaker's name, expressing great sympathy with the Suffrage movement. A Social meeting will be held at 134, Portsdown Road, on Saturday, July 25th, at 8 p.m. Dr. Thorne has kindly promised to speak—members of other Branches invited. E. H. B.

### Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—Having come across a few members who deplore being unable to do much for the cause, may I, through your columns, point out a few ways in which nearly every woman can help—other than the obvious one of talking "Votes for Women" in season and out?

1. Wear a badge, and always have a spare one to sell.
2. Invite every one to contribute to the Million Penny Fund.
3. Get some leaflets—preferably by buying them—from the office, and besides giving them to people, leave one in every waiting-room, railway carriage, and tramcar.
4. Procure a stock of Suffrage literature, so as to have some ready for the newly interested to buy. The larger books make nice birthday gifts. A friend recently sold over four shillings' worth of pamphlets during about three weeks' holiday.
5. Make a note of the name and address of any one interested, and send it to the office.

Perhaps some of your readers will suggest other ways.

Yours faithfully,

ONE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

### Summer Seaside and Caravan Work.

Volunteers for Caravan work during August and September should send their names and addresses to the Hon. Sec., W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

Miss Woodall will be at Paignton from August 1st to 8th, and at Bournemouth from the 8th to the 30th, and will be glad of help. Address, Ellenborough House, Cheltenham.

Miss Schofield, 15, Woodville Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, will be at Weston-super-mare during August, and will need the help of speakers, canvassers, and literature sellers.

More volunteers are also wanted to help at Eastbourne and in East Fife. Please send names and available dates to the Hon. Sec.

### London Council.

**The Music-Hall Campaign.**—The good work begun at Islington was continued last week at the Grand, Clapham Junction, where Miss Dorothy Molony appeared twice nightly. Supported by four of her colleagues, bearing the W.F.L. banners, Miss Molony explained the aims and objects of our League and the methods we have adopted to further those objects. Nothing could have been more encouraging than the courtesy with which our speaker was received on each occasion, and we have to thank our theatre-going friends in Clapham for an absolutely fair field. I also acknowledge gratefully the help given by members of the local branches. During the last fortnight our speakers have addressed twenty-four "houses," and have had the ear of some thousands of people.

**Open-air Meetings.**—The Park meetings continue to draw large audiences. On the 12th inst. our meeting at Brockwell Park was addressed by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Winton-Evans, and Miss Molony; and at Finsbury Park Miss Irene Miller was the principal speaker. Last Sunday Mrs. Toyne spoke at Finsbury, supported by Mrs. Bewick Colby, Madame Mirovitch, and Miss Ridler (chair); and Herne Hill was visited by Mrs. Holmes, Miss Cecile Molony, and Miss Taplin. The Council will be pleased to hear from members willing to speak at these meetings.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

**Cycling Corps.**—Members will please note that the meeting for the 25th inst. will be at Duke Street at 2.30 p.m. and the run will be to Harrow. All communications to E. M. Buckland (Captain) 18, Buckingham Street.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. July 23rd to August 2nd.

Thurs. 23.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mr. Joseph Fels Mr. Frederick Verinder Mr. Lewis Berens Mrs. Despard in the chair Miss Alice Baxter will sing	P.M. 3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Toyne	8
	Katharine Street, Croydon	Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. Winton Evans Mrs. Heasman	8
Fri. 24.	Cricklewood		6.30
Sat. 25.	Harrow		6.30
Sun. 26.	Battersea Park Clapham Common	Miss Underwood Miss Neilans Miss Ridler Miss Molony Mrs. Purdie Mrs. Duval Miss Neilans	3 12
Wed. 29.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. J. Brindley Miss Molony	7.15
Thurs. 30.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Fenwick Miller Miss Dorothy Holmes will recite	3.30
Sun. 2.	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Holmes, and others	

\* \* \* 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.

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

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

### Notes and Comments.

IN the eyes of those to whom every Government success is a blow to the cause of women's enfranchisement, the election of Mr. Walter F. Roch for Pembrokeshire is necessarily a disappointment. At the worst, however, it is satisfactory that the successful candidate is not only in favour of votes for women, but has been for more than twelve months a member of the Men's League. This is the first occasion on which a member of the League has been elected to the House of Commons—although, of course, a number of Members of Parliament have joined the League—and we cannot help feeling that all that a private member can do to forward the cause we have at heart will be done by Mr. Roch.

The heavy demand for copies of Mr. Russell's 'Sex Symphony,' and the growing interest which is being taken in the verbatim report of the speeches delivered at our Queen's Hall meeting in December last (W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Lord Russell, the Rev. R. J. Campbell—his speech known as 'Women and the Social Evil'—Israel Zangwill, and Canon Hicks), makes it necessary that those who still desire copies should write without delay to Mr. Morris, our Literature Secretary. The success of these two pamphlets has encouraged the Literature Committee to make further efforts to provide pamphlets on special aspects of the women's question. We are glad to announce that before the end of this month we shall have on sale a short statement of Women's Suffrage in relation to the economic status of women, written by Dr. C. V. Drysdale, a member of our committee. Dr. Drysdale is well-known as an authority on this and cognate questions, and we are convinced that our friends will find Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet of great value. Advance orders can now be booked.

Incidentally we have heard from Tonbridge that the 'Speeches' pamphlet has been very favourably received. Though it is now, in a sense, out of date, the character of the speeches gives it a permanent value as dealing with very different aspects of the cause in the hands of eminent men of very different interests and activities.

### 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.]

DEAR SIR,—If the men are desirous of helping the women's cause I believe it would help very much if they could let it be known through the length and breadth of this land that they, as men and the inheritors of rights for which men had to suffer, can respect, understand, and honour the motives which have driven the women to sacrifice all, to defy public opinion, to endure shame and imprisonment for a cause which they believe will benefit not only themselves but the nation and world at large.

There are many men and thousands of women still who are absolutely incapable of understanding the motives which actuate these women. They still believe women go to prison and riot for the sake of notoriety, and I as a worker, in spite of the two big demonstrations, have constantly dinned into my ears "I" (with a very capital I) "do not approve of the methods," and I really believe if the men who understand the movement and the motives were to organize some mark of public respect to these self-sacrificing women, we, who work on constitutional lines, would hear less, at any rate from women, of the sins and

iniquities of those whose motive and sacrifices they seem incapable of understanding. When it comes to approving or disapproving of methods, I ask any fair-minded man or woman, which is the most to be respected, the tricks and methods of party politicians or the tactics of outraged justice?

Yours truly,  
N. O'SHEA.

The Cottage, Cosham,  
July 14th, 1908.

### Literature and Women's Suffrage.

DEAR SIR,—The puerile indecencies of *The Academy* on the subject of Women's Suffrage seem to attract more attention than they deserve.

*The Academy* was once a literary paper, written by men of letters, and widely read—a paper of influence.

To-day, while professing to be an organ of literature and art, its main concern is, apparently, the abuse of Nonconformists and Suffragists, and the opinions of *The Academy* on religion and politics are equally impertinent and absurd.

It is to the credit of literature in this country that our authors of repute, on the whole, are not by any means opponents of Women's Enfranchisement.

George Meredith and John Morley, the two most famous names among our living men of letters, are old supporters of the Women's cause.

Edward Carpenter, Augustine Birrell, Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, I. Zangwill, Cunninghame Graham, H. W. Nevinson, John Galsworthy, H. Belloc, Laurence Housman, Stephen Gwynn, Jerome K. Jerome, Granville Barker, Gilbert Murray, G. K. Chesterton, and A. E. W. Mason, to name a few writers of various gifts are all avowed believers in Women's Suffrage.

Of contemporary women writers who are Suffragists, Olive Schreiner, Sarah Grand, Beatrice Harraden, "Vernon Lee," Elizabeth Robins, May Sinclair, Evelyn Sharp, and Cicely Hamilton can be counted.

Who are the talented authors on the other side?

Is there a single male writer of note to be found associated with the editor of *The Academy* in his attacks on the Suffragists?

True, there are one or two women novelists against the Suffrage—in especial Mrs. Humphry Ward, Miss Rosa N. Carey, and Miss Marie Corelli. These three, and probably Mrs. "Frank Danby," Miss Eleanor Glynn, and Miss Victoria Cross make up the little band of writers in whose company Lord Alfred Douglas upholds the banner of the ideal, and shrieks aloud in defence of the purity of womanhood and the sanctity of family life.

No one would grudge the lordly editor and proprietor of *The Academy* his female companions of the pen, but it would be difficult to find literary men in England to-day to follow him on his inglorious crusade.

An unmannerly child, an ill-trained dog, or even a flea can cause annoyance and disgust; but it is not customary to bring out weapons of war to deal with such troublesome animals.

It may be a matter of regret that a paper with an honourable past, a paper that once held a creditable position, and spoke with authority on literary subjects, should now make a deplorable exhibition of its want of intelligence and want of manners; but it can't be helped. And if any more of such nonsense appears in *The Academy* it need not disturb us greatly. Common-sense is not dead, let *The Academy* do its hysterical worst.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH CLAYTON.

Prospect House, Hampstead, N.W.

### Sonnet.

ON THE PROCESSION OF JUNE 13TH, 1908.

Rise and unfurl your banners to the breeze,  
And let the sunlight kiss them till they glow,  
And wave on wave of coloured splendour flow,  
A shimmering sea of radiant tapestries!  
Hold them on high; bear them aloft with ease  
And joyous hope—march on to crush your foe  
Blind Prejudice, who staggering 'neath the blow  
Which you have dealt him, sinks upon his knees.

And o'er you watch the souls of those asleep,  
Who never saw the dawn; whose patient eyes  
Are closed in peace; women, who sought to rise  
On wounded wings, then crept into the deep  
Dark shadows of the earth, where they could weep,  
Yet turn their tear-stained faces to the skies.

HERBERT JACOBS.

### An Open Letter.

DEAR SIR,—For three weeks I have been in possession of a letter signed by, or on behalf of, thirty-one distinguished persons (at least fifteen of whom are members of the British aristocracy, for which I have a profound respect). These thirty-one gentlemen and ladies invite me to join, and if possible, subscribe to a society which they "propose to form" under the title of "The National Women's Anti-Suffrage Association," or "some such title." I have read the letter thirty-one times, and now propose, with your approval, to send the following reply:

My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—In reply to your letter (undated) I beg to state that I am lost in admiration of the lucidity and fulness with which you put your case. As I have been, however, pronouncedly in favour of Women's Suffrage, there are a few minor questions on which I am somewhat doubtful, and desire further enlightenment before I can feel able to join your union.

The preamble of your letter, setting forth your fundamental principles, states that you "deem it of fundamental importance for the national welfare that the spirit of sex antagonism, which is being aroused by much of the Women's Suffrage propaganda, should be combated by recognition of the fact that the respective spheres of men and women are neither antagonistic nor identical, but complementary." Now I am not clear about this statement, and as it is your opening sentence it must contain the kernel of your case. Do you mean that men, as a sex, disapprove of women's claim to citizenship? If so, how do you account for the formation of a Men's League to demand the enfranchisement of women? More than 400 out of 670 M.P.'s are in favour, and they, I believe, are all of them of the male sex. Many of these even speak on the women's platforms, and have voted in the House for Mr. Stanger's and Mr. Dickinson's Bills. Evidently you do not mean this. Do you mean that Women Suffragists attack the male sex as a whole? If so, you cannot have heard Mrs. Fawcett or Mrs. Despard speak. You cannot know how gladly the Suffrage societies welcome the assistance of men workers, how cordial are the relations between men and women in our cause. Still less can you be aware of the fact that in countries where Women's Suffrage exists there is no sex hostility in the sphere of politics. If you mean merely that some men dislike the idea of sharing political power with women, then it seems to me that you are putting an affront on a great number of decent men by suggesting that they cannot bear to treat their mothers and sisters as equals—a feeling which, no doubt, exists among a certain class of men. Will you please tell me exactly what you mean?

Secondly, you state as an admitted fact that the idea that "franchise depends upon property" is "worn out." This shows me that you are advanced Liberals or Socialists. Do

you think it is quite wise to make this quite so obvious? Most of your leaders are against you on this question of Women's Suffrage. Besides your "worn out" system is at present the law of the land, and surely until it is changed it must be recognized. You really ought to work for Adult (Manhood) Suffrage, and not waste your time on preventing justice from being done on the present franchise system. But you say that if any women obtained the vote now, all women would logically have it under a system of Adult Suffrage, and then there would be more women voters than men. Passing over the case of yourselves, among whom women outnumber the men by 20 to 11, I fail to see precisely what catastrophe you expect to follow from this result. You cannot argue that all the women will vote solid against all the men, partly because men will not stand together on any conceivable question (imagine Mr. Balfour, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Keir Hardie holding the bridge against Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Fawcett, Marie Corelli, Lady Warwick, and the whole force of the Primrose dames!). Moreover, you yourselves state on the second page of your letter that "in the majority of cases women would simply echo the views of their male relatives." What precisely do you fear? You are too vague.

You go on to point out that the possession of the vote would imply eligibility for "Parliament and the various offices under the Crown," and you say: "Practical people will at once perceive that such a logical result is inconsistent with the physical conditions of female life, and will, therefore, conclude that the basis of this logical result, the claim to political equality, must be unsound." The difficulty which you raise has not escaped attention, but what is its importance? Admit that the logical result of the women's claims is their eligibility for Parliament and office under the Crown. At least six of you are eligible for the latter honour, but you have not yet been called to enjoy it. Why? Because the present and preceding Governments have not thought you pre-eminently qualified. If women were tried as Cabinet Ministers and were found to fail for the reasons to which you allude or for others, they would have to give place, as many men have done and will do. Absence from the House owing to illness is not uncommon among men. Moreover, it is a physiological fact that at the age when Members of Parliament are ordinarily called to ministerial rank, women are not peculiarly unfit for continued physical exertion. Lastly, if women were elected to Parliament—well, the occasional indisposition of a member is neither uncommon nor very deplorable.

And apart from all this, do not women, in many walks of life, successfully occupy positions of responsibility and earn their living under conditions which demand strenuous and prolonged physical exertion with practically no holidays?

Once again I cannot follow you!

"Though partners in law-making, they could not be partners in law-enforcing"—well, admit that women are muscularly inferior. But what about those men who are blind, lame, over seventy years of age, paralyzed? On your theory these ought to be disfranchised in a body. You do not suggest this? Why? Because, as a matter of fact, your theory is flatly opposed to facts. The force which protects the law is, firstly, the consent of the governed (who, therefore, do not want to break the law), and, secondly, the organized soldiery and police which society hires and trains to protect itself. The average Member of Parliament living an ordinary life would be practically no use in a scrap with the average hooligan. Lord Rothschild, no doubt, hires gamekeepers, just as Dr. Massie would call a policeman, where physical force is needed for his protection. No doubt the muscular poacher would like to "treat the laws with disregard and contempt," and would find no serious hindrance in Dr. Massie personally; but society (including Dr. Massie) protects Dr. Massie by lusty constables and strong cells. Women have all along shared in the provision of these guardians of society, and would continue to do so, were they to share the burden of legislation with the eleven men who go to form your committee.

(To be continued.)

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