

Women's Franchise.

No. 51.

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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.

'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.

Notes.

WITH the glow of the magnificent success of last Saturday's Demonstration and Mass Meeting suffusing all our minds, it seems to the Editor of this paper that a note of warning is wanted. The changed attitude of the crowd on Saturday may constitute a danger to us if we are beguiled into the belief that all the men in the street have at last become reasonable. To judge from the notices in the Press one might also imagine that at least two-thirds are now enthusiastic supporters. To speak of the latter first, we feel it necessary to warn Suffragists that almost as much latitude for exaggerated wording must be given to the Press now that they are our declared friends as we were forced to give them when they were our enemies, and, with the public, we must remember that conviction must now be induced in minds recently converted to reasonableness. Let not the reaction of success after years of seeming failure prevent us from taking full advantage of Saturday's enlightenment.

The greatest regret we ourselves felt on Saturday was with regard to the placing of our paper in the hands of the public—the harvest was so mighty and the labourers so few. We can speak from personal experience of the way in which club-land held out its hands when it found that copies could be obtained. It was evident that the time of jeering among these people had gone past, and the need for knowing something of the movement was felt. We were able to give some measure of information by the free distribution of our paper to something over 5,000 people—we ought to have helped 50,000 people to knowledge, but where voluntary labourers should have been obtain-

able the few that kindly offered had to be strongly augmented by paid servants.

We rejoice that the greatness of our cause and the hearty appreciation of the few prevent the want of consideration from the many damping our ardour; but unfortunately wishfulness alone will not print and publish a paper, and our sphere of usefulness is being most seriously curtailed by the want of money.

WE have growing evidence that a specially useful and, to the general public, *impressing* feature of this publication is the gathering together under one cover of societies differing in method but united in aim. From time to time, however, complaints are received at headquarters as to isolated paragraphs or phrases appearing under the heading of either one of the societies herein represented. The general editor takes this opportunity of reminding our readers that the widest possible latitude is allowed to each of these societies, and that the Editor is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

THE publisher would be glad to receive orders from those among our readers who would care to have the year's issue of *Women's Franchise* in a bound volume. Our preliminary issue was published on June 27th, 1907, so the birthday anniversary is now close at hand. The volumes may be obtained at 6s. each, bound in plain blue cloth, bevelled edge, gold blocked. Though some of the contents of the volume are naturally of merely passing interest, we feel satisfied that in its pages are to be found a host of valuable contributions, literary, pictorial, and poetic, which together form—not only an interesting record of the phase through which the Movement has been passing—but also an excellent medium for propaganda. Friends of *Women's Franchise* may like to take this opportunity of 'Presentation Copies' for introducing the paper to a wider circle still—not only to the converted, but more especially to the unconverted.

MISS MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES reports an important vote in favour of Women's Suffrage at the Co-operative Congress representing two-and-a-half million members, held at Newport, Mon., during Whitsuntide. By a very large majority, the Congress (attended by 1,500 delegates) passed the following resolution, which was moved by Mr. Tweddell (Vice-Chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society):—

"That this Congress, believing that the best interests of the country would be served by granting the Parliamentary vote to women, calls on the Government to bring in a measure to enfranchise women, and urges all co-operative organizations to give the suffrage movement their hearty support."

This expression of opinion from a great working-class movement is of the utmost importance, as showing the way the wind is blowing. Some years ago it is extremely doubtful whether the subject would have been included among the resolutions submitted to Congress, in spite of the position women hold in the Co-operative movement. By their recent vote Co-operators have maintained their reputation for recognizing the rights of women, and have been true to their democratic principles.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN MILAN.

MISS HARGRAVE has kindly sent us the following notice:— Following close on the Women's Congress in Rome, but on different lines, there has been an important Women's Congress in Milan, the First Congress of the Unione Femminile Nazionale, which has its seat in Milan and aims at practical organization in every branch of woman's work. The Congress (May 24-28) was closed by an address from Ellen Key in person. Many admirable papers were read on all subjects connected with women's activity, nor was the Suffrage question omitted, for the vote is naturally desired by the Unione Femminile. Especially interesting were the addresses of the Sottoressa Montessori, who is Professor and Lecturer at the University of Rome, besides being eminent in philanthropic work in that city, one on nursing by Anna Celli, the able speeches of Signora Ersilia Maino, Linda Malnati, &c. The two following days (29-30) were devoted to the question of the White Slave Traffic, at which Mr. W. A. Coote assisted. In spite of (or probably on account of) the ability and enthusiasm shown by members of the Congress, the Press as a whole shows itself hostile to the women's movement here, reporting in many instances unfairly, ridiculing the speakers, and rehearsing at great length the old worn-out arguments about the neglect of home-life and children on the part of the "Congressiste," woman's small brain, which runs her into foolish exaggeration, the "abnormal" character of the emancipated woman, &c., &c.

NORWAY.—Quite recently Prof. Urwick, of the School of Sociology, in discussing the question of women's wages, stated that the only place where, as far as he knew, men and women received equal pay for equal work was one of the American states where women exercised the franchise. The close connexion between wages and the vote receives further illustration by the recent decision of the Norwegian Storting to pay women in the post office at the same rate as their male colleagues. The telegraphists are now demanding a similar measure of justice. They ask that the same standard of efficiency should be required of women and men telegraphists, and the same professional education at the school of telegraphy at Christiania. At a meeting recently convened by one of the women's associations, an inspector of telegraphy, who has been over fifty years in the service, stated that the work of the women was quite up to the standard of their male colleagues. Indeed, they had helped to raise the standard of efficiency, since they generally belonged to a more educated class than the men. The meeting decided to petition the Storting, who will doubtless pay some regard to the views of those who now can help to influence elections.

A special meeting has been convened by the Norwegian Suffrage Association, to be held at Lillehammer on July 3rd

and 4th. The object is to discuss the use that women should make of their votes at the forthcoming elections. For July 5th a historical procession has been arranged, and in the evening a "Saga play" will be performed. A. ZIMMERN.

Correspondence.

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

MADAM,—Would it be possible, after the Demonstrations are over, to arrange a joint Exhibition of all the Banners? Those just shown in the Caxton Hall were most interesting. As the general public will only catch glimpses of them in the Processions, they would probably come in numbers to see the Exhibition, if it could be well advertised.

I am, yours &c., G. C. HAY.

[We understand that many of these banners will be on show in the towns of their origin.]

SIR,—An invitation was sent to Mr. Asquith to be present at the great Mass Meeting, held in the Albert Hall, on Saturday, June 13th, on behalf of Woman's Suffrage, and an answer was received to the effect "that the invitation cannot be accepted, as the meeting will be held at the week end, which is so precious as his only opportunity for rest."

A great issue is before the country—one which is very precious to the women of the country—an issue which involves the happiness of millions of working women, and an issue which has cost the Suffragists many years of toil and labour, much suffering, and many thousands of their hard-earned pounds. The Premier has asked for the "undoubted support of the women of the country," and

now that they are prepared with it—now that the mandate is at hand, he declines to be a witness to it. Personally, I think it a deplorable thing that our rulers and legislators cannot sacrifice two hours of their rest or recreation when such a vital issue is at stake. It is their duty to face the Truth in order to arm themselves with Facts when next the question comes before the House.

Yours obediently,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE SENNETT.

[We believe that the few words of the answer quoted here-with rob the reply of its very courteous tone. Still, there is so much to regret in that the Prime Minister was not present at the great Demonstration that we feel bound to insert the letter.—Ed.]

[Owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over some Correspondence, Reviews of Books, and other Articles.]



Macquith. Fear not till Suffrage-Banner Wood Do come to Dunsinane.

[With apologies to Shakespeare.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

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

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

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

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAREN.

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

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

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

LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

As the Editor of our pages is attending the International Congress at Amsterdam, we are holding over our account of the Procession and meeting at the Albert Hall until next week, when we hope to give details which will be of interest to our readers. The daily papers have described our demonstration at such length that it is hardly necessary for us to say more than that it was a complete success in every way. We appreciate the universal chorus of praise from the Press regarding the excellence of its organization, and we feel that the educational effect on the thousands who witnessed the pageant will be invaluable. It was also an object lesson which members of both political parties will do well to bear in mind when our opponents say that only a small and insignificant section of women demand the Franchise.

The Cardiff Women's Liberal Association sent us, through their secretary, Miss Milner, a message of strong approval of the Demonstration in support of Women's Suffrage, and heartily wished us success; and many other friends, prevented by various causes from joining us on our march and in the hall, wired to us their remembrance, sympathy, and hearty goodwill.

The Daily Graphic of the 15th contains a series of excellent illustrations of our Procession and meeting in the Albert Hall. Copies can be obtained from the National Union offices.

We would remind our readers that a large number of the seats in the Albert Hall are private property, and we are most grateful to the owners who placed theirs at our disposal. In some cases, however, the use of them was refused and this accounts for the unoccupied boxes and seats. Every seat in the Hall which we were allowed to dispose of was sold, and requests for tickets, to the value of many hundreds of pounds, were obliged to be refused.

As a strong desire has been expressed in various quarters that the banners designed by the Artists' Suffrage League, and exhibited in Caxton Hall, should be shown by the National Union in some of the principal towns that took part in the Demonstration last Saturday, secretaries of constituent Societies and others are informed that they will shortly receive a communication on this subject, and are asked to give it their careful consideration.

The following further sums have been received for the 5,000 Guineas Fund: Mrs. Stansfield, 2l.; Mrs. Marshall (per Miss E. H. Ford), 10l.; Leeds Women's Suffrage Society (collecting cards), 5s.

The Success of the Suffrage Shop.

TO-NIGHT, at 7 o'clock, the Suffrage Shop will be a matter of history. We began with a mid-day meeting on Saturday week, and since then we have been holding three and four meetings a day. From the first hour a kaleidoscopic crowd has gazed at our posters and derived instruction and amusement from them. Where should we be without our Artists' League who has made this method of conversion possible? We reached

the climax of our success on Thursday afternoon, when Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Abadam addressed the meetings, and chairs had to be borrowed in all directions from our friendly fellow shopkeepers. No small part of the educative value of our effort lies in the conversations which we hold on our doorstep. The mistaken ideas which we are able to correct are amazing, and show the need of further propaganda. We feel that the necessary heavy outlay is fully justified, especially as the collections we have taken go far towards paying expenses. Dozens of copies of Women's Franchise, and a good deal of literature, have been sold, some dozen members have been enrolled, and many new sympathizers promised to swell the Procession. We held two open-air meetings, when we had large audiences; we met with much opposition, but we feel that this also did good work.

Our hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Hylton Dale and our other speakers and helpers, those who have borne the brunt of the work, and without whose assistance our scheme could never have been carried through. I must just add two opposite experiences: one secretary, whilst distributing bills, had a shilling pressed into her hand by an earnest-faced working woman, who murmured, "Please take it for the expenses," while another of our helpers, who was also distributing bills, was told that she should be burnt at the stake.

B. M. GRAVES, Hon. Sec., S. Paddington.
F. GLADYS WRIGHT, Hon. Sec., N. Kensington.

Activity in Fulham.

In the general effort to ensure the success of the Women's Suffrage Procession and Albert Hall meeting, on June 13th, Fulham took its part. On May 20th, by kind permission of Mrs. Mitchell Templeton, P.L.G. (a Fulham member of the Society), a small meeting was held at 43, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington. It was attended by Fulham members and associates, who all undertook to help in some way or another. On June 1st an evening invitation meeting took place in the West Kensington Lecture Hall, to which were asked Fulham members and associates, and also those signatories of the Women's Franchise Declaration whose addresses were within the constituency of Fulham. The meeting was very well attended, and several of those present took tickets for the Albert Hall meeting, put down their names to join in the Procession, and bought literature, and three new members joined the Society. The speakers were Mrs. Percy Boulnois, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, and Miss A. Lorrain Smith, F.L.S.; Miss Jenner took the chair. The following well-known artists most generously gave their help on this occasion: Miss Howell-Hersee, who sang and Madame Rose Hersee (who is a Fulham Associate of the London Society), Miss Elaine Limouzin, and Madame Adey-Bruner all recited.

Further Donations to the Procession Fund.

Miss Palliser and Miss Paine, M.B., B.S. (collected by)	£1 1 0
Mrs. Hobhouse (collected by)	1 19 6
Sir James Williamson	0 10 0
Mrs. Roberts	0 5 0

Anon.	£0 5 0
Miss M. V. Dunlop	0 5 0
Mrs. Kinsman	0 5 0
Miss Shillington (collected by)	0 10 0
Mrs. A. Clements	0 3 0
Mrs. Fry	0 1 0
Mrs. Mason	0 1 6
Miss E. Jacomb Hood (collected by)	1 3 0
The Misses Birt	0 5 0
Mrs. Westlake	1 0 0
Miss D. Hollins	1 1 0
Miss McGregor	1 0 0
Mrs. S. Florence	1 1 0
Miss Stone	0 1 0
Miss Hartnel	0 2 6
Mrs. Lucas	0 4 6
H. Durran, Esq.	0 1 6
Mrs. Marshall	0 2 0
Mrs. Fox Reeve	0 10 0
Miss G. Leakey	0 2 6
Mrs. H. Thompson	5 0 0
Miss M. C. Morant	0 5 0
Miss Staley	0 1 0
Mrs. S. M. Foley	1 0 0
Miss A. M. Dobell	0 2 6
Mrs. Meyerstein	1 0 0
Miss Stawell	0 2 6
Miss Reynold	0 2 6
Miss C. Jacob	0 5 0
Miss E. Stewart	2 0 0
Miss Anderson	0 10 0
Miss M. Hickman	0 1 0
Miss M. E. Andrews	0 5 0
Miss McDougall	0 5 0
Miss C. A. Magness	0 2 6
Mrs. Garrod	1 1 0
Mrs. C. E. Reed	0 1 0
Mrs. Rintoul	0 10 0
Miss E. Thomas	0 10 0
Mrs. Morton	0 5 0
Mrs. Briscoe	0 2 6
Mrs. Ramsay Laye	1 0 0
Miss Amy Hughes	1 1 0
Mrs. Binnie	1 0 0
Miss E. D. Gibb	0 1 0
Miss P. Stansfield	0 1 0
Miss Peacock	0 19 0
Nurse Corthorn	0 2 6
Mrs. John Blackburn	0 10 0
Danvers Power, Esq.	0 10 6
Miss B. McGregor	0 10 0
Mrs. T. R. Pugh	0 2 0
Mrs. Everett	0 2 6
Miss A. Mocatta	1 0 0
Miss R. Bell	0 10 0
Mrs. Chilleott	0 2 6
Miss Dixon	0 1 7
Miss E. McCeverty	0 1 0
Miss McGregor	0 17 0
Mrs. Bromley	0 5 0
Mrs. C. Meyer	2 2 0
Mrs. Lovibond	0 3 0

£36 13 1

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

June.			
24th	London, Uxbridge, Garden Meeting, 59, St. Andrew's, Uxbridge. Tickets, 2s. 6d., from Messrs. Lucy & Birch, High Street.	Hostess and Chairman, Mrs. Davidson.	P.M. 3
		Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., the Hon. Claude Hay, M.P., Miss Edith Palliser.	
25th	Sunderland, Garden Party, "The Poplars," Ashbrooke Road.	Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Mr. Stuart, M.P.	

Two New Books.

Poets and Poetry of the Nineteenth Century. (Routledge.) 1s. 6d. net.

LOVERS of poetry will welcome a new edition of 'The Women Poets of the Nineteenth Century,' which is now issued in two vols., instead of one, and which includes several names omitted in the last. The short biographies, many from the pens of well-known writers, which preface the selections, are of value in enabling the reader to learn something of the lives of the women whose works have influenced English life and thought during the last hundred years. The difference in the outlook between the writers of the early and later part of the century is very marked. Acquiescence in things as they are, and a serene faith in the power of love, religion, and duty, are replaced in many cases by a passionate protest against the wrongs and sorrows which so many women needlessly endure. This is particularly noticeable in the poems of Augusta Webster, and in the beautiful 'Song for Women,' by Annie Matheson. As we turn over the pages, we meet with many old friends, and we gladly welcome new ones; among the latter we would specially mention Ada Bartrick Baker's charming 'Triplet,' and 'The Heart's Winter.' These volumes prove—if proof were needed—that women can well hold their own among our poets and thinkers.

The Women of Florence. By ISODORO DEL LUNGO. Translated by M. Steegman. (Chatto & Windus.) 7s. 6d. net.

IN spite of the somewhat patronizing attitude adopted by the author towards women in his introductory chapter, we welcome this English version of Prof. del Lungo's interesting account of the life and habits of Florentine women in the later mediæval and Renaissance days. He studies his subject from the three standpoints of historical reality, legend or tradition, and poetical idealization, and he is eminently successful in each. None the less, we miss the modern note in his work. He is a frank admirer of the domestic women and as such he depicts the Florentine lady, very sympathetically, we admit, but we want something more. In a chapter devoted to a cinque-cento matron we get a delightful picture of the high-born Florentine woman, with her keen interest in her crops and fish-ponds, hills, and fields, and in her commercial transactions in wine, oil, and wood. We admire her sound judgment and her practical common sense; but what of the other women of the city? What of the women whose lines were not cast in pleasant places? There must have been many, for we read that "the women suffered already from civil inferiority, being subject to laws which enforced not only subordination of their legal personality, but submission to the will of the procurator set over them by law, without whose permission, not only could they neither make nor break a contract, but could, in fact, take no legal steps whatever."

We know that the women suffered acutely from legal and family restrictions, and it is a significant fact that the only example of credibly authentic feminine thirteenth-century poetry which has come down to us are three sonnets, written by a Florentine lady, who wishes to conceal her name; they are a lament for a youth sacrificed to tyranny. Prof. del Lungo tells us that Florence has no heroines; but it does not seem to occur to him that heroines are rarely found under these circumstances. He sees no tragedy in the fact. He cheerfully denies women the right to an individual existence. The woman he extols is she "of the hearth and home, the life-comrade, who shares joy and sorrow alike with the man who is her love and pride, who guards his possessions, brings up his children, upholds him in success, renders him worthy of it, encourages him in adversity and peril, sustains him in defeat, restrains him in victory, and gives him a peaceful and quiet home in order that he may be a worthy citizen of his native place" (the italics are ours). Nevertheless, the book will be found interesting by those who desire to learn more of the lives led by the women of former days, and these should be studied by all who wish to get a clear understanding of the trend of the world-wide women's movement of to-day.

EVELINE MITFORD.

The Procession.

MADAM,—I write as your paper goes to press to offer, on behalf of the Procession Committee, their warm thanks to all those whose hard work and enthusiasm combined to make last Saturday's demonstration the undoubted and impressive success we know it to have been.

The Committee recognize with sincerest gratitude the magnificent work done by the various societies which took part in the procession; they can only inadequately express their thanks for the many hours of unremunerated labour, for the donations, for the hospitality, for the help of every description so generously given by supporters of the cause. They wish to acknowledge the most kind help received on Saturday from members of the Men's League and other men, and in particular they desire to pay a tribute of warmest gratitude to the police for their excellent management and courteous attention on the route.

Yours, &c.,

P. STRACHEY, Secretary.

Messages of Sympathy.

OUR President has received many messages from friends and supporters who were unable to be with us on Saturday. We have much pleasure in publishing a few of them.

Our Treasurer, Miss Bertha Mason, sends "warm greetings to my colleagues at the Albert Hall."

"Hearty good wishes for early triumph."—Hardie.

Nurse Suffragists at Meyringen wish Cause all success.

Regret, through accident on Thursday, inability to join Procession. Kindest of wishes to you all. Woman's right shall equal man's might.—Charlotte Mansfield, Author.

The Women Students at Ashburne House Hall of Residence of the Manchester University are wishing all success to the cause, and regret that more of their number are not able to be present.

From Freiburg—May success be ours!—Greenlees.

Desire to express sympathy with movement on Saturday. Work deprives me of pleasure of sharing in Demonstration.—Mary Salmon, Training College, Swansea.

Two mothers at Torquay wish you God-speed.

Hearty greetings from some Bournemouth Home-Makers who cannot be with you to-day. God speed our Woman's movement.—Nina Hume.

Members of Executive Committee of Bristol Suffrage Society unable to be present send heartiest greetings and best wishes for success of your splendid meeting this afternoon.

Not well enough to join Procession to-day. I send cost of journey to town towards expenses of meeting.—Jessie Kentish Wright.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—One type of woman has so far been unrepresented at this great gathering to-day. May not the *invalid* who cannot join in the march yet send a message of encouragement and greeting to the brave, undaunted hearts now gathered together at the Albert Hall?

The opponents of Woman's Suffrage urge that home is our sphere. Invalids must, perforce, stay at home, but they can still watch the progress of the world. In the quiet bypaths of disability or of suffering there must be hundreds of women rejoicing to-day, as I rejoice, at the strenuous work of our more active sisters in the cause of freedom—freedom to use all our God-given powers.

I enclose a few lines of greeting.

Permit me to express my deep sense, dear Mrs. Fawcett, of all that every cause for the good of women owes to your life and to your work. It is more than fitting that you should preside at the Albert Hall to-day.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours very faithfully,

(Miss) LOUISA FLETCHER.

Just before starting for the Procession on Saturday, June 13th, Mrs. Fawcett received the accompanying letter with the names of 150 Head Mistresses:—

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I think you will be interested to have the enclosed list of names of 150 Head Mistresses of public Secondary Schools, Members of the Head Mistresses' Association, who are in sympathy with the constitutional efforts you are making to further the political enfranchisement of women.

Yours sincerely,

E. WOODHOUSE.

Nearly a hundred and forty medical women marched under their beautiful banner. The accounts of the Procession which have appeared in the papers show us the deep impression that the presence of the doctors made, both upon the press and upon the public. The fact that so many of them appeared in their robes, and under a special banner, added greatly to the dignity of the pageant, and impressed onlookers to an extent which would have been impossible had they walked under another banner and "in mufti."

We noted with great pleasure that the London County Council Schoolmistresses' Union, of which Mrs. Morgan Dockrell is President, took part in the Procession.

Banner Exhibition at the Caxton Hall.

THE exhibition of banners which was held at the Caxton Hall, on the 11th and 12th, was a great success, and attracted large numbers of people. Enthusiastic remarks were heard on all sides upon the beauty of the banners and the originality and artistic skill which were displayed, both in the designs and in the colouring. The excellence of the needlework was also generally recognized, and disposes for ever of the taunt that Suffragists do not care for womanly occupations. The Artists' Suffrage League is to be congratulated upon a veritable triumph. We wish we could reproduce all the flattering accounts which have appeared in the press on the Exhibition, but as want of space renders this impossible, we will content ourselves with a few extracts from a long and appreciative paragraph in *The Times*:—"The collection is worthy to rank as one of the art exhibitions of the year. Both in character and in quality the banners are something agreeably new to the eye that has kept watch over the methods of popular demonstration. They are almost too bright and good for agitation's daily food, with their velvet, and satin, and silk, the delicacy of their design and the richness of their embroidery.... The members of the Artists' Suffrage League have exercised both taste and imagination.... London will have a new experience; and if it be true that who wins the eye wins all, the Artists' Suffrage League will not have laboured in vain."

Greeting to Suffragists.

COME down, O Woman, from your pedestal
Where men would keep you on a lonely throne,
With powerless sceptre and a tinsel crown—
Come down into the thronging fields of Life!
The world is waking, and the children call,
Children who must be trained for good, not ill,
As founders of a nobler race to be;
The world is waking in the dawn of Love
To roseate hopes of universal good!
The days of chivalry are not all dead,
And where knights-errant tilt at moral wrongs,
These ask not now your colours or your faith,
But crave your help and nearness in the fight,
Hand clasped in hand, as side by side you march—
Brothers and sisters, comrades for the right—
Marching with faces turned towards the Dawn!

L. FLETCHER.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

Notes.

ALIENS.—It is a pity that Mr. Asquith's health prevented him witnessing the great Suffrage Procession on the 13th. It would have afforded him an opportunity of comparing the aliens of the Empire who formed the procession with the British citizens who turned out in thousands to witness it. What his conclusions would have been is not for us to say; but it has been suggested—and it was not a feminine suggestion—that he would discover in this march of women demanding the vote, one of those "accidents" which would prevent the Government from withholding opposition to that amendment which might be moved in favour of women's claims, on a Bill which may be introduced to give men more votes, if this Parliament does not die a violent and unnatural death before this remarkable sequence of events has time to occur. Everything is possible to the mind of the politician; but a simpler solution of the difficulty—and one which should appeal to the legal mind—would be to argue that, as the British Constitution does not recognize the existence of women (except for punishment and taxation), and as the procession was composed of women, *i.e.*, non-existent persons, therefore the procession did not take place. The politicians, however, may be safely left to deal adequately with the extremely awkward fact that 10,000 women, representing many more thousands, turned out into the streets demanding enfranchisement, when it is very well known that *women do not want the vote.*

CITIZENS.—A more serious thought is one which must have occurred to every member of Saturday's procession who observed carefully the faces and demeanour of a large proportion of the men who were massed together in the watching crowds. They belonged to a degenerate type; to men with mental and physical weakness stamped upon them, undersized, with receding chins, low foreheads, light shifty eyes, indefinite colouring and features, decayed teeth, hoarse uncultured voices, foolish and purposeless expressions—young, alas! with none of the grace and charm of youth, and all of its folly; the product, these, not of the slums—for they were mostly well-dressed—but of a soulless and insufficient education. This is the type of British citizen that we are turning out by the thousand from our schools. Into the keeping of men such as these is entrusted the political power denied to women! This must have been the thought which occurred to the thoughtful woman who first gazed with pardonable pride upon the ranks of earnest, purposeful, and intellectual outcasts, gathered together to protest against the degradation of their position, and then turned her eyes upon the citizens whose sex was obviously their sole qualification.

It may be argued that it is unfair to compare the thoughtful of one sex with the degenerate of the other; but as long as the most intelligent woman is put below the least intelligent man, it is fair and necessary to compare the two. We have to point, for instance, to Miss Fawcett—whose unfeminine exploit of outdistancing the gentleman who was mean enough to allow himself to be styled Senior Wrangler, will be remembered—and demand whether the criminality of her sex really cancels her intellectual ability to the extent of making it necessary, for the sake of the nation, to disfranchise her; and we have to point at the same time to the larrikin of twenty-one, of the type described above, and demand whether the virtue of being male really fully makes up for the fact that he knows nothing about politics, and is ready to sell his vote to the highest bidder. Dishonest politicians, we are aware,

prefer an ignorant and docile electorate; they would, of course, desire to preserve the *status quo*; but the patriotic are beginning to perceive that if this country is to go forward and escape the internal decay which threatens it, the ideal of citizenship must be raised. To be male is not enough. To be female is no bar.

FIREGUARDS.—The children's charter—as the measure is grandiloquently called which deals with matters closely affecting mothers, but upon which no mother in the land has been consulted—is a non-contentious measure, we are told. Most Bills are non-contentious, we observe, which affect no financial or political interest. This Bill has a fine ring about it; it appeals to sentiment; but apart from sentiment, and viewed from a feminine standpoint, it is crammed with contentious matter. The fireguard itself might well occupy a session (at the rate Parliamentarians go) if justice is to be done. There are fireguards and fireguards, as every person knows who remembers her youth. Which is to be the legal fireguard? The one that topples over backwards when the infant climber balances on the top rail, or the one that is cruelly fixed to the fire-place, but which allows of the insertion of small arms between the bars? Is the fireguard to be removed when the dinner is being cooked? If so, is the "ignorant and unnatural" mother to be sent to prison if the child gets burnt during her absence for potato peeling purposes? The mother having been sent to prison, will matters have been made any better? Will the State step in and take care that the other children do not get burnt in her absence? The question bristles with difficulties. How many of our legislators have studied the conditions of a working woman's life and home? What do they know of the mental and physical strain involved in bearing and rearing a family in the midst of incessant toil and hardship? If they do not know, what right have they to frame laws penalizing these conditions? How long are the women of this country going to tolerate this ignorant interference with their affairs? Motherhood with the policeman ever hovering in the background! If this is all that Liberal legislation can do for us, we have had enough of it. Men have ordained that working-class mothers shall cook, wash, iron, sew, scrub, scour, mend, nurse the sick, rendering it impossible for them to perform their maternal duties, and now men are to ordain that mothers shall be punished for the consequences. Not till women come into their own will the children's charter be made possible. A child's best fireguard is its mother.

Caravan Campaign.

The first meeting at Bognor was held on the Esplanade on Friday at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Hicks and I spoke to a large audience which was fairly friendly. At the end of the meeting we took seats, presumably to enjoy the sea air, but really our intention was to prevent the audience from accompanying us to the caravan and our respective lodgings. But the crowd grew and hemmed us in. The only alternative was to invite the police sergeant to take a walk round the town with us, which he did. The crowd accompanied us, and gave Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Mitchell, and Miss Ibbotson the chance of going home. On Saturday afternoon a meeting was arranged by Mrs. Mitchell at the house of Mrs. Delaforce. This was most successful, and a number of women attended. Another open-air meeting was held on Saturday night, and the crowd was well-behaved and sympathetic. Mrs. Delaforce offered her house for another meeting, which was held on Sunday afternoon, at which the chair was taken by Lady Russell, who made a delightful speech. Miss Cowen also spoke. A good collection was taken. One lady gave a sovereign which she had intended to send to the clergy

fund, but hearing how rude and unsympathetic a certain Chichester clergyman had been to us and our cause, she decided to give her money to the "Suffragettes" instead. A great deal of literature was sold, and many converts were made. Our last meeting in Bognor was held mid-day on Monday, at the close of which a gentleman in the audience mounted our vacated chair, proposed a vote of thanks to the campaigners, and called for three hearty cheers. The audience responded cordially. Much help was given by Miss Brightwell, an indefatigable worker, Miss Levy, and Miss Ibbotson to make the Bognor visit the great success it undoubtedly was. We came on to Littlehampton on Monday afternoon. The preliminary open-air meeting was held at night. On Tuesday, at eight o'clock, a successful meeting was held in the church school-room with the vicar in the chair. The speakers were Mrs. Hicks, Miss Cowen, and myself. The afternoon meeting, for women only, was arranged by Mrs. Mitchell. It was held on a piece of meadow, and the women came in goodly numbers and appreciated the speeches immensely. Of course, being a meeting for "women only," it naturally attracted a number of men, who came and leant across the rails to hear what we had to say. They enjoyed themselves very much, we could see. Yesterday we visited Yapton, a small village with an enlightened vicar, but the opposition was unintelligent and most offensive: eggs and flour. But one can never tell where seed has taken root. To-night we held our last meeting in Littlehampton for women and "guaranteed" men. This precaution is necessary owing to the unruly element which, like the poor, seems to be always with us.

Friday.

Our farewell meeting in Littlehampton last night was most successful. Miss Brightwell made her maiden speech, and left a very good impression with her audience. The sympathy and peaceful spirit prevailing was most encouraging. We asked for show of hands in favour of "Votes for Women," and there was not one against, although many had come to the meeting undecided. A member of the audience described the meeting and the atmosphere thereof as "like a beautiful Cathedral service."

MURIEL MATTERS.

THE Caravan Campaign still continues. The van had two days' rest at Littlehampton after its work there was done, and Miss Matters and her helpers came to London for the ever-to-be-remembered procession of June 13th. On Monday, the 15th, it journeyed to Finden, and Horsham will be reached by the end of the week. A meeting at Crawley on Monday next (22nd inst.) promises to be a great success, for Mr. Prelooker has organized it for us, and Mrs. How Martyn has promised to come from London to speak.

The milestones ahead are:—Horsham, June 19th–22nd; Crawley, June 22nd–24th; E. Grinstead, June 24th–26th; Hartfield, June 26th–29th; Tunbridge Wells, June 29th–July, 2nd; Pembury, July 2nd–4th; Cranbrook, June 4th.

LILLIAN M. HICKS.

The London Council.

The Supper given by the Council on the 11th inst., in honour of our recently released prisoners, was in every way successful. Our members turned up in large numbers to do honour to yet another batch of women who have suffered prosecution and imprisonment for the cause; Mrs. Despard, who occupied the chair, gave the only toast of the evening—"The health of our guests"—which was received with much enthusiasm. Mrs. Fenwick Miller followed with a stirring speech, eliciting frequent outbursts of applause. Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. How Martyn also spoke, and then came Dr. Knight and Miss Irene Miller, who replied on behalf of the prisoners. As Mrs. Despard remarked, the entertainment was one of those pleasant social occasions which occur but rarely in the strenuous lives of the militant Suffragists.

The Open-Air Campaign, inaugurated by the London Council, is being vigorously carried on in various parts of London. New ground has been opened up at Wandsworth Common, where meetings are now being held every Sunday morning. At the first meeting, on May 31st, the writer had the pleasure of taking

the chair, and the speakers were Miss Mary Smith, Miss Alice Milne, and Mr. Duval. On Whit Sunday Mrs. Nevinson and Dr. Thornett were the speakers; and on Sunday last Mrs. Worthy, Mrs. Aekroyd (Croydon), and Mr. Duval.

"Why don't you come oftener to Brockwell Park?" That was the first question put to us at our meeting there on June 7th. Unheralded—if not altogether unknown—Mrs. Toyne opened the meeting, and soon had a very large audience. Mrs. Toyne was followed by Mr. Duval and the writer; and a resolution—calling upon the Prime Minister to afford facilities for the passing of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present session of Parliament—was carried by an overwhelming majority. At the conclusion there was a formal vote of thanks to the speakers, proposed and seconded by two local gentlemen, Mr. Nightingale and Mr. Cornish.

On Sunday last we held our first meeting of the season at Finsbury Park. Mrs. How Martyn, Dr. Thornett, Mrs. John Brindley, and Dr. Lewin being the speakers. Mrs. Martyn and Dr. Thornett will speak again at the Finsbury Park meetings on the 21st and the 28th inst., supported by other members.

The Lewisham meeting, fixed for June 4th, had to be abandoned owing to the downpour; but a meeting will be held at Hillyfields to-day (Thursday). Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson and Miss Cox.

The Scouts.—Miss Helen Levy, 6, Flanders Mansions, Flanders Road, Bedford Park, W., has been appointed Hon. Sec. to the Cyclists' Corps. The first run has been fixed for the 27th inst., and will be advertised in next week's *Franchise*. In the meantime Miss Levy will be pleased to hear from London members willing to join. A Saturday afternoon ride, with an open-air meeting at the end of the run, is a way of combining business with pleasure, which we hope will commend itself to our cycling members.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

The Campaign in East Fife.

MONDAY, 8TH.—LADYBANK.—The meeting here was small, whether due to the bitterly cold night or the lack of a well-known speaker, I know not, but it was very orderly except for a militiaman, who was more than "half seas over," persistently asking what I thought of Mr. Haldane's "Terrorials." I said if he was a sample I did not think much of them.

TUESDAY, 9TH.—CUPAR.—A very good meeting was held at the Cross, and a number of interesting questions were asked, most of them by a leading Liberal, who quite admits our right to the vote, but entirely disagrees with our tactics. Oh! those tactics.

The *Courier* and *Fife Herald* gave reports. I was rather amused to see a description of myself in *The Herald*, with this addition, that as a speaker I lacked the humour of Mrs. Billington-Greig. Well, after all, that means our speakers are not all after one pattern.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH.—In the quaint and pretty village of Aucthermucty I had one of the pleasantest meetings of the series. I could get no questions, but I sold more literature there than I have done at any other meeting. A gentleman in the audience was very curious to know where I belonged to; he shook his head very doubtfully when I said I was born in Fife. I met some interesting women who I think may yet be brought into line; they have promised to go and hear the other speakers.

One gentleman said he would ask Mr. Asquith on the first opportunity if he would urge his Cabinet to adopt the Women's Bill should the majority of his constituents and also the women of East Fife desire it. This gentleman is the leader of the Prohibition party, which is strong in the district.

THURSDAY I went on to Strathmiglo, where we held a good meeting, both in tone and point of numbers. One old man replying to my repeated call for questions said: "We've naething to ask you, lassie; we're weel pleased wi' a' ye've said."

Here also I met some interesting young women, a few of whom are teachers, who recognize the importance of the question. I think it will be possible to form a branch. One very pleasing feature in the work is the interest that women are showing in the meetings.

And wherever I go I am always told of the fine meetings Miss Billington had when she was here first. Some of the older people describe her in the vernacular of Fifeshire as being "a rare yin yon."
J. DONALDSON.

Great Britain and Russia.

It is a matter of surprise to many people that the present Government should cultivate friendly relations with Russia. A short time ago the Cabinet decided to send British warships to Russia, and only a great national outcry prevented this visit being made.

Then came the alliance with Russia, the publication of which was postponed until after Parliament had risen, thus preventing any proper discussion of such an alliance.

Now the King pays a visit to Russia, and the Government accepts full responsibility for the action. It would almost appear that the Government is eager to show its approval of tyranny, and its gratitude to Russia for keeping it in countenance in its war with liberty. Nowhere outside Russia within recent times have there been so many imprisonments of the fighters for freedom as in Great Britain. Nowhere else, except in that unhappy country, are political prisoners treated as felons and with the refined cruelty which is meted out to the Suffragists in this so-called land of freedom.

It may be a source of satisfaction to the Government to know that there is another country with a still blacker record than its own, another country in which also the fighters for liberty, after the barest mockery of a trial, are thrown into prison. It may be that the British Government will be encouraged to take much more severe measures to put down the Suffragists and crush the spirit of freedom rising in women which is so embarrassing to it, pledged as it is to representative government on democratic principles.

International Conference.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, there will be a special social at 7 P.M. in the large Caxton Hall to welcome our delegates on their return from Amsterdam, when they will have many interesting things to tell us about the Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. The fraternal delegates are: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Benett, Miss Mocatta, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Manson, and Miss Neilans.

Scottish Council.

The Edinburgh Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a meeting in India Buildings last night. After a short discussion as to methods of propaganda for the summer months, Miss Wood gave an address on the 'Worries and Humours of a By-Election.' Miss Wood, who took part in the Kincardine by-election, described in a lively fashion committee-room work, the getting together of meetings by pavement-chalking, bell-ringing, and parading as sandwichmen, or rather sandwich-women, the latter a painful ordeal. Speaking to fishermen from piles of fish boxes on the windy quays, or to farmers in market places crowded with live stock, with few exceptions they got sympathetic and attentive audiences. Opposition, apart from party feeling, she said, was not serious, and good spade work had been done in the constituency.
H. H. F.

The account of the very successful Sale in Edinburgh was received too late for insertion.

It was a great success financially—nearly 24l. being taken, and the names of seven members were added to the list.

Dundee Branch.—At our meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, Miss Smart in the chair, it was resolved to approach several well-known women in the town with a view to running a Women's Freedom League candidate at the municipal election in November.

An open-air meeting was held in Guthrie Street on Thursday evening. The speakers were Miss Husband, Mrs. Paterson, and Miss Emily Brown. The audience, which consisted of men and

women of the poorer working class, was greatly interested, and listened attentively. We should like more of our members to attend our out-door meetings to give out bills, to sell post-cards and literature, and, above all, to give moral support to the speakers. Next Thursday Mrs. Donaldson from Dunfermline is to speak at the High School Gate.

On the evening of July 11th an open-air performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will be given in the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, by "The Elizabeth Bessie Comedy Company"—the performance to be in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Tickets, price 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. 6d., can be obtained at 18, Buckingham Street, Strand. Arrangements have been made for the performance to be given in the Conservatory in case of rain.

A Woman's Banner.

Bring a Banner like the sky,
Just as blue and just as high.

On it set the morning star,
Rising o'er a mountain-scar.

Fling around a ring of red,
For the blood that heroes shed.

Next, an annulet of gold,
For the martyrs, crowned of old.

Now the cirque of living green,
That's a ring of fairy sheen.

Now, the round and purple ray,
For the woman-down-to-day.

Last of all a cirque of light;
That's the wedding-ring of white.

On this Banner, that shall wave,
O'er a world of women brave.

On this Banner like the sky,
Just as blue and just as high.

E. M. H.

Mesdames, the Suffragists, Aberdeen.

[The following came by post to the W.F.L. Committee Room in Torry.]

Men talk about a woman's sphere
As though it had a limit.
There's not a place on sea or shore,
There's not an office, shop, or store,
There's not a spot beneath the sun
Where aught is done worth being done
Without a woman in it.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. From June 18th to June 28th.

			P.M.
Thurs. 18.	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mr. Thos. Haslam of Dublin	3.30
	18, Buckingham St., Strand	Miss Cicely Hamilton	8
	Hillyfields, Lewisham	Miss Clementina Black on 'Sweating'	6.30
Sun. 21.	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Nevinson	3
	Battersea Park, S.W. Gate	Miss Cox and others	3.30
	Finsbury Park, N.	Miss Mary Smith and others	3
	Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Duval and others	11 A.M.
	Brockwell Park	Mrs. How Martyn	3
Tues. 23.	Special Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Thornett	7
		Mrs. Despard	
		Mrs. Billington Greig	
		Mrs. Sanderson	
		Miss Benett	
		and Mrs. Fenwick Miller	
		Mrs. Despard	3.30
Thurs. 25.	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster		8
	Hyde Park	Central Branch Members	
Sun. 28.	Hyde Park	Mrs. Winton Evans	3
		Miss Aphra Wilson	11 A.M.
		Miss M. Smith	3.30
	Brockwell Park		3
	Wandsworth Common, S.W.		11 A.M.
	Battersea Park, S.W. Gate		3.30
	Finsbury Park, N.		3
		Mrs. How Martyn	
		Miss Thornett	

* * * 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.

Editorial.

WE remind our readers that next Saturday, June 20th, is the last day for sending in verses for the epigram competition. The subject is the new Anti-Suffrage League, with which we dealt last week. Epigrams are to consist of one four-line rhyming verse: all four lines may rhyme, or there may be two rhymes arranged at the competitor's discretion.

The prize is 5s. Competitors must send name and address, but may use a pseudonym for publication. The Men's League Editor, whose decision is final, reserves the right to publish the verses of unsuccessful competitors. The name of the winner and his or her verse will be published in these columns in the issue of Thursday, June 25th. Address, "The Editor, Men's League for Women Suffrage, 38, Museum Street, W.C."

Notes and Comments.

THE first of the two great Women's Demonstrations took place on Saturday last, June 13th. It was an unqualified success, and the thanks of all those interested in the cause are due to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, represented especially on this occasion by the Central Society, and to the Women's Freedom League. The procession itself was admirably organized. The promoters had to face, not only the usual difficulties which beset any big London procession, but also the problem of making it striking as a woman's procession, without at the same time robbing it of its political significance.

Many, no doubt, among the spectators were prepared to scoff at political women for their presumed lack of womanly grace. Such expectation was entirely unfulfilled. The banners, thanks in great measure to the Artist's League, were not only beautiful in workmanship, but admirable in conception and entirely appropriate.

Others, equally lacking in foresight, expected the graceful, the refined, the picturesque, but did not expect the business-like, sober capacity which was the key-note of the whole. We noticed many men observing respectfully the contingent of University women in their academic robes, the symbol of intellectual attainment in the equal struggle of the class-room. There were, no doubt, many men in the balconies of the Piccadilly Clubs to whom the cap and gown brought recollections of scholastic triumph or disappointment. And these were some of the women graduates (not, alas! from Oxford or from Cambridge, where the women may pass their examinations, and are refused their hard-won degrees), who had come forth to protest against being classed politically with criminals, infants, and idiots.

Mrs. Fawcett in her doctor's robes, Sarah Grand, Mrs. Despard—marched, and there was a man in the balcony of a Piccadilly Club (which shall be nameless), who, to show his superiority, threw down pennies to the procession, as the Emperors of Rome flung doles to the proletariat. The club to which the British elector apparently belongs is an expensive one, rather distinguished in its way, though, perhaps, not primarily in respect of intellectual attainment. He may have confused the procession of British women with a march of the unemployed—fair game, to him, for such an ebullition of humour. In any case, the thousands of men and women who watched the procession from the less exalted position of the pavement must have taught him a lesson.

All along the route, from the Embankment to the Albert Hall, the crowd showed great respect. Ridicule was rare, hostility was hardly noticeable, even among the harassed

drivers and motor-men—those chartered libertines of outspoken comment—whose vehicles were stopped time and again.

It was a remarkable scene; ten thousand women quietly responding to Mr. Asquith's challenge. We trust he postponed his week-end holiday in order to see it. After what he said in the House and to Mrs. Fawcett's deputation, he was in honour bound to do so. He is an old enough hand in politics to know that for every one who joins in a national procession there must be hundreds who are unable to do so; one hundred times ten thousand is A MILLION.

Sunday, June 21st.

NEXT Sunday is the great day of the National Women's Social and Political Union. Every Suffragist, whatever the policy he or she prefers, should join one of the seven processions to Hyde Park. Policy is much, tactics are much, but it is the Cause which matters. A Hyde Park demonstration, to be successful, NEEDS NUMBERS; it is a perfectly recognized political move, in which all can join. We hope that all our readers will be present to swell this second great demonstration.

All information from the headquarters, 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.

The Anti-Suffrage League.

(EXTREMELY EXTRA SPECIAL.)

My business was with Mr. Ivor Guest, M.P., secretary of the new Anti-Suffrage League; but he was not to be found at the League's Offices, and I had to put up with his representative.

"I want you to tell me all about this new League," I began.

"Certainly," replied the courteous official. "First of all, we've got no less than seventeen ladies of title on our committee, and the Duchess of X— is a secret sympathizer."

"Why secret?" I inquired.

"Well, you see her daughters don't approve of the League, and then the Duke himself won't join, so her position is difficult. The husbands, in fact," he went on confidentially, "and, between ourselves you know, are rather a stumbling-block, and most of the ladies of title are dowagers. It's the widows and spinsters who are our mainstay—especially the widows. We've only got three members of the House of Lords so far. I don't know what's come to the gentlemen of England—they aren't rallying to us as they should."

"Perhaps they are using more forcible means to oppose the Suffragists," I suggested. "I see in the papers that several Suffrage meetings have been broken up."

"No, that's not it. Indeed, it's my belief these Suffragette women engage people to come and break up their meetings in order to win public sympathy. Why we've had a score of letters from gentlemen of position declining to join our League, on the ground that the treatment the Suffragists have received, and the courage these women have displayed, have convinced them of the justice of the women's claim—the justice of the women's claim—those are the very words used in a letter we had this morning. Of course, you and I know this so-called courage is nothing but a craving for notoriety, but it's not encouraging to find what you may call the real gentlemen of England siding with the Suffragists."

"To return to your supporters," I said. "I suppose it's the dowagers and spinsters who have started this League, and are its chief backers?"

The official shook his head. "No," he said slowly, "I can't say that even the ladies of title, and the others who have

joined are really very enthusiastic; they certainly wouldn't have started the League on their own account."

"Oh!" I said inquiringly.

"No, it's the Liberal M.P.s who really run the show. You see they started this League, these Liberal Members—there are only six of them, and two Unionists—because, being against Women's Suffrage themselves, they knew they would have the Suffragists in their constituencies working against them for all they were worth; and so these Members of Parliament started this League so as to get what help they could to counteract the Suffragists. They reckon, you see, that a lady of title canvassing and speaking for them will count for a good bit."

"So the League is to go down into the constituencies and work for anti-suffrage candidates?"

"Why, of course. What else do you suppose it was started for?"

"But," I said, "your League says in its programme that it desires to recall woman to her true sphere, the home. How can it do that if its members are canvassing in the constituencies?"

"Ah! well, it will be a sort of 'home away from home,' like some of the hotels advertise, I suppose. The League is all for the home—for Hearth and for Home, for Altar and for Throne—that's our motto. To defend the home the womanhood of England—that is as far as it belongs to our League—must, if needs be, journey to the Orkneys—certainly we hope at least one Countess will be found to do so."

"It's a long way," I said; "and why the Orkneys, of all places?"

"Because its M.P. is one of our strongest champions. But of course there are other seats nearer London where the League expects to make itself felt."

"Then the Anti-Suffrage League isn't for excluding women from politics altogether?"

"Dear me, no! Why, haven't I explained that it's been started to help certain M.P.s to keep their seats. All the League's Parliamentary supporters are for women taking part in elections, canvassing, speaking, and all that: a lady can do a good deal in that way—more than some men can. The League only objects to women having the vote. Let woman be content to use a woman's influence at elections."

"But won't that take her away from home as much as if she went to vote?"

"Well, after all, the true womanly woman won't mind leaving her home to help her husband, or her brother, or even her friend, or her party, to win a seat. But, I don't mind admitting there's some difference of opinion amongst our members on this point. Miss Rosa N. Carey and her followers are afraid that women will lose their charm if they leave the hearth for public life, while Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mrs. Arnold Toynbee think that social work and local elections won't do any harm to women so long as they don't exercise the parliamentary franchise. Our League is broad-minded enough to include both sections."

"And what about the sinews of war—is the money coming in well?"

The gentleman in charge of the office shook his head.

"No; I can't say it is. The noble lords think it's enough if we have their names. Our members of Parliament have only given a guinea each. Most of our titled lady members are content to send half-a-crown—when they send anything. We get small sums. Here's 6d. from 'True Woman,' and 3d. in stamps from 'Man's Helpmeet'—but we are hampered for want of funds. The biggest donation so far is 5l. from an anonymous friend, who signed himself 'The Old Adam.' The cheque was signed A. Smith, and unfortunately the bank refused to honour it, on the ground that Mr. Smith had a joint account with his wife, and that the signatures of both were necessary. That's what we've come to. A man can't even spend his wife's money now without her consent."

"Never mind," I said, encouragingly; "we look to the Anti-Suffrage League to stem the tide."

"We do our best, but it's uphill work. Here are three letters, for instance, received only this morning from people

we invited to join us. Colonel A. writes that our League is 'damned nonsense,' and 'confounds our impudence' for writing to him. Dr. B. writes that we are 'faddists'—he actually calls anti-suffrage a fad. Mrs. C. sends a long letter explaining that she would have joined us a year ago, but having heard Mrs. Pankhurst she is now entirely in favour of votes for women, and with her friends hopes to give what time and money she has got to the cause of Women's Enfranchisement. So you see what work there is for us, and the need of such a League as ours."

"Indeed," I replied, "it is a big job before you."

And with that a bell rang, and we parted.

J. C.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—As an average member of the general public without the fold, I venture to commit myself in black and white for the good of your cause and the information of its promoters. I do not suggest that my views are of any intrinsic value—the views of the average man seldom are (ask the average woman)—but I put them forward on the ground that, rightly or wrongly, they do represent the mental attitude towards Woman's Suffrage and Suffragists of a large section of the middle class. And in the first place let me confess that we do not take you seriously. Very rude of us, no doubt; but is it surprising? Do you yourselves believe that the shrieking sisterhood of two or three dozen enthusiasts, with whose doughty deeds we are all familiar, really represent the great heart of English womanhood? "But," you will say, "we are not all of that kidney. They are only a section of our workers. We, the moderates, do not agree with them or their methods."

"Very likely," I reply; "but we, the unenlightened middle class, don't make fine distinctions in our likes and dislikes. You are all hopelessly, irretrievably, associated in our minds (let it stand for the moment) with those misguided maidens and their works, and they have alienated from themselves our sympathy, or even our serious consideration."

"But why?" you justly retort. "Why condemn a cause for the tactical errors of a few of its supporters? Besides, they have been forced into it. It is the only way in which they can get publicity."

But, my very dear Sir (or Madam), I humbly submit, "Fancy expecting logic of the British public!" Condemn a cause for the errors of its supporters? Of course we do—always have and always will. And this publicity you speak of. "Well, we had to get it somehow," you urge, "and we have got it. Besides, remember Wat Tyler's rebellion, Hampden and the ship money, the Chartist riots—"

"I know, I know; but there's a vital difference. By all means break the law for the good of the law—it is a first principle; but don't be FUNNY in doing it—that's fatal. What does it amount to, this publicity of yours? Scare headlines in the halfpenny press in some such order as this: 'Peckham Rye Murder: Unprintable Evidence.' 'Suffragettes Howl Down a Cabinet Minister.' 'Suffragettes invade a Church Bazaar.' 'Major's Divorce Case: What the Housemaid Saw.' You supply the humorous flavouring in that unsavoury hodge-podge of fact and fiction that is daily devoured by the cheaper suburbs on their subterranean way to or from 'the office,' or the sixty minutes of cheap cigarettes and indifferent coffee which pass with them for 'lunch.' Now these people have been taught to regard you as a joke. They do not see a joke easily, and when they do they cling to it with an infinitely touching fidelity. Wherefore a joke you are, and a joke you shall be so long as the halfpenny press continues in office.

Yours, &c., WALTER DAVIDSON.

[We print this letter not because we attach to it an importance which the writer himself disclaims, but because it expresses forcibly the views still held by a surprisingly large number of people who ought to know better. It may, therefore, serve as a useful reminder to us of the complicated difficulties which still beset our path, and of the importance of adopting our propagandist methods to the work which remains to be done. We invite replies.—ED., M.L.W.S.]

Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

Organizing Secretary: MISS HELEN FRASER.

COCKBURN BUILDINGS, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.

Telegraphic Address: "SUFFRAGE, GLASGOW."

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VOTES FOR WOMEN.

We demand the Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

Editorial.

THIS week we have many of our members going to the Hyde Park Demonstration. The Scottish Contingent will march in Victoria Embankment Procession—which forms up east of Westminster Bridge, leaving 1.30. The seven processions will meet in Hyde Park about 3 P.M., and the crowds will be grouped round twenty platforms, from which about eighty women will speak. At 5 o'clock the resolution will be put from every platform simultaneously, and after the bugle sounds, there will be the shout "Votes for Women!" These two great demonstrations, the Procession on the 13th and Hyde Park Meeting on the 21st, should finally dispose of the "numbers" argument and should make the enthusiasm greater still.

The Edinburgh and Midlothian Branch are having a campaign at present, which so far has been very successful. Their offices in Albert Buildings, 24, Shandwick Place, are proving very helpful, and the Wednesday afternoon "At Homes" are drawing in many new members. A special "At Home," giving details of the Hyde Park Demonstration, will be held at 141, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Saturday, the 27th, at 4 P.M., when Miss Fraser and others will speak.

The Ayrshire Campaign was also very satisfactory, and final arrangements for coast work, in July and August are being made.

Protest at Wick.

RIGHT HON. JOHN SINCLAIR addressed a meeting at Wick on Friday, the 5th, at which several Suffragettes were present, who voiced relevant interjections during his entire speech. The interjections were pertinent and pointed, and the delightful feature of the meeting was the way in which the audience behaved. They laughed at every point made by the Suffragettes and applauded their best points vigorously. There was no excitement and no cries of "Put them out!" and *The Northern Ensign*, a local Liberal paper, says "The Suffragettes quite won the sympathy of the audience."

The final interjection, when Mr. Sinclair said, "What could be done next Session to carry these measures into effect?"—"Give votes to women!"—brought down the house.

At the close of his speech, Miss Fraser was invited to the platform to ask questions. Her second question, "Would Mr. Sinclair state what right a Government had to call itself Liberal while it denied representation for taxation?"—he showed a disposition not to answer; but the audience insisted on an answer being given—when he stated that he was afraid he could not answer the question on the grounds of right—the Government was *not* perfection, but Mr. Asquith had made a clear and explicit statement. An open-air meeting, to which the entire audience came, was held outside and every one was intensely interested and sympathetic. Miss Fraser promised to return later and hold a campaign in this hitherto untouched country.

Ayrshire Campaign.

MEETINGS were held at Darvel, Auchinleck and Muirkirk, the two latter places never before having heard a Suffragette. All the meetings were successful, badges and literature sold well, and the splendid feature was the way in which the women turned out.

HELEN FRASER.

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