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DEDICATION.

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

THE OUTLOOK.

Once again Mr. Asquith, protected by a force of police, has closed the door to a deputation of women, who have been arrested and imprisoned in consequence. In doing this he has proved clearly the absolute need of women to possess the vote in order to remedy their grievances. Since he has been Prime Minister, though he has received many deputations of men, he has invariably refused to receive a deputation of women.

Story of the Deputation.

The events which led up to the arrest and imprisonment of the women were as follows:—On Wednesday, March 24, at a great meeting at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, a resolution was passed forming a deputation to wait upon Mr. Asquith. Miss Christabel Pankhurst accordingly wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to fix a time to receive them. Mr. Asquith replied in his usual manner refusing to do so. But, in spite of this refusal, the deputation, which had since been joined by other women from other parts of the country, determined to proceed, and, taking all risks, to go to Mr. Asquith at the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon. This they accordingly did, and, being barred by the police, they then were arrested. On the following morning they

came up before the magistrate at Bow Street and were sentenced, in lieu of finding sureties, to one month's and one to three months' imprisonment—a term which they are now serving in Holloway. On the following day, as we went to press, a further deputation endeavoured to interview Mr. Asquith at the House of Commons, when nine women were arrested.

The Attitude of the Electors.

Though Mr. Asquith can meet the claim of women by confinement and imprisonment, he cannot check the door of resentment in the country, and the unprecedented defeat of the Government candidate in Croydon will bring home to him how rapidly he is losing the support of the electors. Liberals are in the habit of claiming that the Labour vote is responsible in a large measure for their defeat, but in Croydon the Labour vote was far less than at the General Election, and yet the majority against the Liberal was increased from 658 to nearly 4,000. In this defeat the women played a very large part. In the report which we give elsewhere our correspondent notes the intelligent interest that was taken by the electors in the women's position. Press extracts which we quote tell the same story, and even Mr. Raphael, the defeated Liberal candidate, was constrained to admit that his defeat in a measure was due to "outside agencies."

No Sacrifice Too Great.

In our issue last week we referred to the hearty welcome which was given to the women prisoners who were released from Holloway on Wednesday morning, March 24. At the dinner in the evening at the Inns of Court Hotel a crowded gathering came together to listen to the speeches, which were especially interesting. As one after another the prisoners related their experiences, and told how they were determined, at whatever cost, to press forward the agitation for the vote, the room rang with cheers, and everyone present declared that where these women had failed and done so much, no sacrifice could be too great and no work too arduous to be undertaken.

Arrangements to Welcome Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Before this issue is in the hands of our readers, Miss Grey, who has worked so splendidly for the cause on many occasions, of the deputation of February 24, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, in Holloway, and we have pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the arrangements which are being made for her welcome on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, particulars of which will be found on page 535. We trust that the procession on Saturday will be enthusiastically taken up, and a fresh demonstration provided of the determination of women to win the vote.

Women Law Agents.

One of the disabilities which women suffer under the present law is their exclusion from many important positions by which they might earn a livelihood. Among the restricted professions is that of law agent in Scotland, in the case of which it was decided by the Supreme Court in 1903 that only men were eligible. We are glad to see that a Bill is being introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Gulland to rectify this injustice, but we fear that until there are women voters to insist upon its enactment it has little chance of becoming law. We notice that two women, Miss McLaren and Miss Stuart, have just taken their J.L.B. at Edinburgh University, being the first women to obtain this distinction there.

Special Features.

Among the interesting features of this issue is the Suffragette play, written specially for this paper by Miss Beatrice Harraden, and entitled "Lady Geraldine's Speech." We take this opportunity of thanking Miss Harraden for presenting us with this most interesting comediotta, which we are sure will be of the greatest interest to our readers. Mr. Deane kindly contributes a cartoon dealing with Mr. Deputation, and also a special cartoon on the Croydon bye-election as a sequel to the one which appeared in last issue. Mrs. Lawrence writes on the militant methods, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst deals with Mr. Asquith and his refusal to see the deputation. We specially call our readers' attention to the fact that the issue next week will be published on Thursday instead of Friday, and that all contributions must reach the office not later than Monday morning, first post.