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VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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DEPUTATION REFUSED.

CHORUS OF CABINET MINISTERS: "Do you think we have got enough policemen to keep them out?"

ELEMENTS OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEMAND.

By F. W. Pethick Lawrence.—Chapter VI.—Militant Methods.

"I come not to bring peace on earth, but a sword."

No one idea has done more to retard the progress of the human race than the exaltation of submission into a high and noble virtue. It may often be necessary to submit, it may even sometimes be morally right to do so in order to avoid a greater evil; but submission is not inherently beautiful—it is generally cowardly and frequently morally wrong.

This view is, of course, contrary to the teaching which has long prevailed. From time immemorial the misers of men have demanded of their subjects submission, and have enforced it with their armies and their police, and their prisons. But not content with this, they have instigated the teachers and preachers of the people to extol it as a great moral and religious principle—a symbol of obedience to God Himself. This teaching has done incalculable evil. It has hindered the exercise of the real faculties of the human body, it has destroyed the liberty of the human will, it has clipped the wings of the human imagination.

Particularly have those whose natures are peaceable and loving, who place the good of others before that of themselves, been led astray by this false doctrine. Not content with sacrificing themselves and their own true development entirely to the wishes of others, they have yielded even where their duties as guardians and protectors of the weak should have compelled them to stand firm. They have not seen that to give way under such circumstances is to surrender all the will to provide the protection required, was a serious breach of trust to be resisted at all costs and with the strongest power which it was possible to exert.

Serious as have been the consequences of this doctrine in other fields, it has had nowhere more fatal than in the case of women who have been led in large numbers to believe any other rule of conduct unwomanly. As a result, a whole set of ideas necessary for the proper evolution of the human race has been crushed out of existence, and the man's point of view has held exclusive sway.

Nothing in life is more painful than the relationship of the mother to the child, by which she gives freely and unhesitatingly of all that she has to the young life. This devotion is in accordance with the natural and highest instincts of her nature, but to transfer this devotion into submission to the will of others, even when such submission implies renunciation of the guardianship and proper care for her own children, is to pervert the primal instincts of woman into wrong and improper channels. In allowing her ideas to become subservient to those of men, she committed a breach of trust. To-day she has to recover her lost position.

The adoption of militant methods by women in this fight for the vote is the outward sign that they have at last abandoned this false and pernicious doctrine of submission. It is the recognition that they have duties to perform, services to render to the State and to one another, to men and to children, which they cannot and will not any longer leave undone. For centuries men have usurped the domination and treated women as an inferior and subject race. When women sought to obtain their proper place by methods of argument and entreaty, they were tricked and humbugged by politicians. To-day they have decided to submit no longer, and, realising that persuasion has failed, they have determined to use coercive means.

This awakening of women to the stern realities of life has not to be regretted; it cannot be good for any section of the human family to live their lives in artificial surroundings cut off from actuality. Moreover, for many years women who have suffered under stress of the laws of conflict and struggle which form part of the daily round. It was full time that their more sheltered sisters should no longer be deceived.

So far I have dealt with facts of universal application, true not merely of the fight for the vote, but of other conflicts in human life. In dealing with the actual militant methods adopted by the Suffragettes, the opposition of a new set of ideas of duty has to be met. They are perfectly aware that, in their social intercourse, in their business transactions, in their deal-

ings with their tradespeople, persuasion and courtesy are not enough, and that some form of pressure must be applied, but they say that they never have occasion to adopt methods more similar to those used by the Suffragettes against their political opponents. They put a case in somewhat the following words:—

If one of my friends does things to me which I do not like, or says things to me which are disagreeable, I do not get his doorstep or send my children to annoy him or snoop at him when he goes outside his house. If my landlord raises my rent or refuses to abide by the conditions of the lease, I do not make myself personally unpleasant to him. If my baker sells me bad bread or my fishmonger bad fish, I do not thereupon bring a body of customers together round his shop and force him to protect himself and his goods by a pose of police. I know quite well these are the wrong ways to get the matter put right, and if I adopted them I should not only make myself extremely ridiculous, but I should fail entirely of my object. Why, then, do you adopt these methods in trying to get the vote?—

The Unique Character of a Franchise Struggle.

The answer to this question lies in the fact that the struggle of a votesless section of the population to wrest for itself the franchise from the Government is a unique struggle, differing in essential attributes from any other struggle to obtain redress in the ordinary affairs of life. If your friend behaves badly to you in any way, it is always open to you to cease to have him for a friend; you will at once feel the withdrawal of his presence, and the knowledge that your friendship may be terminated by either of you at will serves always (if no higher consideration prevails) to deter him from saying or doing anything to you which might be a cause of offence. If your landlord fails to abide by the terms of the lease, you have the remedy of the law against him; if he raises your rent unduly, you can leave his house untenant. If your fishmonger serves you with bad fish, or your baker with bad bread, you have the remedy always at hand in your ability to transfer your custom to other shops; and the knowledge that you can take this action if things go too far gives weight to your words of remonstrance which they would not otherwise possess.

But in the case of a Government you have no such means of redress. So long as you remain in the country you are constitutionally subject to the control of the Government, and under the direct jurisdiction of the laws of the land which they enact and enforce. You cannot refuse to recognise the Government as a Government. You cannot if you are votesless bring constitutional pressure to bear to change the Government of the day. You cannot bring the law into action to enforce your rights, for the simple reason that you have no rights.

Faced with this position in the past, votesless men resorted to physical violence—they rioted and damaged property, they inflicted physical injury on those who stood in the way of their enfranchisement, and even did not stop at murder itself. The women who are fighting today for their rights have adopted methods which, though far more restrained, are equally effective in bringing direct pressure to bear upon the Government. They are methods which are essentially political, and their political effect is rapidly becoming understood.

It will be the object of future chapters to explain in detail and justify these methods. Meanwhile, the account next week will be devoted to the story of the inauguration of the militant policy in the autumn of 1905.

Among the names of women who were prominently associated with the political action which followed that week, the name of Miss Wetherill-Bony, the former of whom is now Mrs. Wetherill-Bony, is prominent. She was at the time of the election a member of the Franchise Committee which she formed for the purpose of assisting in the election of a member of the Franchise Committee, and was, as an active worker for the suffrage today, and a member of the Council of the Women's Social and Political Union.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

Sweden and the Suffrage.

Some of the American papers recently published a report that the suffrage had been granted to Swedish women. It is amusing to find that report arose out of a misapprehension. Whoever sent the dispatch that "all inhabitants" over twenty-four years of age in Sweden had been given a vote evidently forgot that Sweden was inhabited by women as well as men. It is significant of the changed attitude of the public mind that all inhabitants" was generally taken to mean all inhabitants, and the dispatch has called out from the leading American dailies elaborate editorials on the full enfranchisement of the women of Sweden. Unfortunately, the news was premature.

Woman Suffrage in Jamaica.

In the Kingston Legislature, on March 25, a motion was submitted by an elected member to the effect that women who own property should be voters. Although the motion was lost, all the Government members voting against it, it was supported by eight out of the elected members present.

Women's Votes in Action.

Referring to the recent municipal elections in Denmark, the *Manchester Guardian* says:—"The old objections that the woman's vote would cause dissension in the home, that the women would not use the vote, that they would use it detrimentally, of course have all fallen to the ground. All day one saw a procession of married couples driving or walking together to the polling-booths, and although there was no disturbance of any sort, more than usual attention was displayed over the elections, the streets being crowded all night by those waiting to hear the results. Out of 12,561 persons on the register 95,319 used their votes. The programme of the women candidates seems to have given great prominence to the necessity for improving the laws relating to abandoned children, and to the management of hospitals and creches and of public charities generally."

The Bulgarian Women's Suffrage Association has a membership of about 5,000 persons, its president being the wife of the Prime Minister.

Improving Womanhood.

Three hundred young women of Chicago who are intending to be teachers have been examined and reported physically perfect. This is a large proportion that has ever before stood the required test. The New York Normal School conducted a series of inquiries, which showed that nine-tenths of the girls present are taller than their mothers. With our young men deteriorating as they are in size and physique, says the *Woman's Tribune* (Oregon), nothing can save the race but this improving womanhood.

Miss Ellen Ball is the first woman to take the degree of Bachelor of Divinity at London University. She passed through the course with distinction.

Woman Head of Hospital.

Dr. Mary Merrit Crawford is the first woman to become head surgeon and chief of staff in a Brooklyn hospital. She has just entered upon her duties as house surgeon of the Williamburgh Hospital. Dr. Crawford will have entire charge for four months and a half, directing the work of four men. After that term of office will expire, and then she intends to become a practising surgeon in Kings. Dr. Crawford took her B.A. degree from Cornell in 1891, and then entered the Cornell Medical College. Two years ago she took her M.D. When examinations for hospital service were held, in January, 1908, she and thirty-five men applied for the post. Dr. Crawford and two of the men were the only ones who passed.

Women as Sailing Masters.

A correspondent who read our paragraph on "Women Navigators" recently sends us the interesting story of Miss Hannah Miller, who died some years ago. Miss Miller's father was a shipping merchant at Saltcoats, became bankrupt, and died leaving a family of three girls and a much mortgaged estate. Betsy, the eldest daughter, determined to retrieve the honour of her family and clear off her father's debts. The chief asset was the brig

Citrus. This she got fitted out with a small crew, consulting herself as "sailing master," and carried on for many years a most successful trade with the Irish ports, clearing off the paterfamilias' debts, and keeping herself and sisters in comfort. On Betsy's death, Miss Hannah Miller took over command of the brig, and for many years did the quarter-deck and braved the perils of the Irish Channel.

Courageous Woman Telephoneist.

The courage of a woman telephoneist has been applauded in the Italian Press. As recorded in the *Triestino*, a disastrous fire broke out on March 8 in the Central Urban Telephone Office in Paris. It destroyed the fittings and furniture in the communication-room, and would have spread irreparably over the whole building had it not been for Signorina de Rossi, one of the operators, who, with the fire-braking round her, telephoned to the fire office and brought fire-works and papers and preserved the substantial portion of the telephone apparatus, although she arrived in time to save the company's books and papers and preserve the substantial portion of the telephone apparatus, although she arrived in time to save the company's books and papers and preserve the substantial portion of the telephone apparatus.

Acting the Courageous Part.

A woman who withheld her name was thanked by the West London magistrate for helping the police by seizing a whistle and blowing for help. "It is frequently a woman who acts the courageous part," said Mr. Barker, the prosecuting solicitor. The man with whom the police were engaged was said to have been a champagne boxer in the Army.

Women Councilors in Denmark.

One of the women elected to the Copenhagen Municipal Council is Mrs. Hoff, a surgeon by profession, who has learned in her professional career how the health of children is undermined for life by poverty. Her object in filing her name was for the improvement of poor children. Another, Mrs. Salicath, is matron of a home for women and babies, and believes in practical philanthropy as a remedy for social ills. Miss Cross, a liberal socialist candidate, is a Socialist politically and a typist by calling, and says that she has been elected because she was in the closest agreement with the programme of her party. Of the seven women elected three are Conservatives, two Socialists, and two Radicals.

Swiss Women in Council.

A correspondent in Geneva sends us a report of a meeting held there recently, under the auspices of *l'Association pour le Suffrage Fémmin*, when the Vice-President of the Association, M. de Messier, president, and Dr. Marc Dufour, of Lausanne, lectured on "Justice and the Rights of Women." The hall was lent by the Department of Public Instruction. There was a large audience, and the lecture was evidently a most interesting one. In many of the Swiss-German Cantons women's rights are nearly equal to men's, and in Vaud women have the right to vote in all matters concerning the church.

Women Pastors.

The Rev. P. T. Wells, secretary of the Congressional Union of England and Wales, would a recommendation at a meeting on March 11 that the Sociologists and Removal Committee should consider jointly, and report on the advisability of admitting women pastors into the recognized ministry of the Congressional Union of England and Wales under the conditions applicable to men. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Women Dentists.

A correspondent who read our note on women as dentists writes upon her return from Geneva commending us on our occupation for women and on the small number of women who have taken advantage of this particular opening. It is evident that opportunities exist, of which women have not yet availed themselves, and an instance in point has just come under my notice. I have been employing one of the very few women dentists in practice in London. She found it necessary to apologise to me for the sex of her assistant, saying, "I am sorry I cannot introduce you to a female assistant, but there are no qualified women to be had." Here is the opening, and women are wanted."

Miss N. Adler is to be one of the candidates for Central Hackney at the next London County Council election. Miss Adler is well known in connection with the L.C.C. Trade Schools.

Mrs. Temple has been identified as honorary member of the Yarmouth boat of the Legion of Frontiersmen in recognition of the interest she has shown in the troupe.

LADY GERALDINE'S SPEECH.

(A Comedietta.)

By BEATRICE HARRADEN.

(DRAMATIC AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS RESERVED.)

CHARACTERS.

DR. ALICE ROMNEY	... ..	A Lady Doctor.
LADY GERALDINE BOLEYN	... ..	School Principal.
DR. ALICE ROMNEY'S	... ..	School Friend.
MISS GERTRUDE SILBERTHWATE	... ..	An Eminent Artist.
MISS NORA BAILLIE	... ..	A Professor of Literature.
MISS HILDA CROWNSHIELD	... ..	A Famous Pianist.
MISS NELLIE GRANT	... ..	A Typist and Short-hand Writer.
JANE	... ..	A Maid.

SCENE: Dr. Alice Romney's Drawing-room in Nottingham Place. It is her fortnightly *Suffrage At Home* day. She is seated at her writing desk near her window. She is of middle stature, and has a strong, capable face.

(Enter maid with card.)

MAID: A lady asks specially to see you. I said you were engaged until 8 o'clock. But she insisted.

DR. ALICE (looking at card and smiling): Show her in, Jane.

(Enter hurriedly, shown in by maid, the Lady Geraldine Boleyn.)

LADY G.: Oh, my dear, how good of you to see me. I hope I am not interrupting any operation. Not that I suppose you do perform operations in drawing-rooms! But I had to see you instantly, whatever you were doing. I've dashed up purposely from Eastbourne. The fact is, Alice, I've got myself into a most awful hole. You'll help me out of my difficulties. You always have helped me out of my difficulties. Nothing more than you ought to have done considering how I used to come to your rescue over your French compositions in the dear old Cheltenham College days. My word, you were lad at French, weren't you?

DR. ALICE (nodding): Yes. And I'm not much better now. Languages were always a trial to me. I used to think you were a perfect wonder over them.

LADY G.: So I was. So I am still. Don't let there be any mistake about that! Well now, to business. As I told you, I've got myself into a most fearful scrape. The worst in my life—absolutely the worst.

DR. ALICE (reproachfully): Geraldine, Geraldine, what on earth have you been up to? Are you never going to learn discretion?

LADY G.: Apparently never. There's no doubt that I have committed a terrible indiscretion. I've compromized myself with—well, I hardly like to tell you with—the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League.

DR. ALICE (brightening up): Is that all?

LADY G.: Isn't it enough, in all conscience? I'm at my wits' end. I haven't slept for nights, for years. Look how drawn my face is. If I'm not careful I shall begin to look clever. Yes, I've got into the toils of the National Anti-Suffrage League. I've been made into a

president or vice-president, or honorary secretary, or supporter, or something of the sort, and I have to take the chair at a large meeting at the Imperial Hall next week and make a speech, and use all the anti-suffrage arguments on this wretched sheet of paper—oh, where is it? (Looking for it in her bag and satchel.) Ah, here it is—it's like a nightmare to me. Every time I try to look at it, all the letters seem to chase each other off the paper, and there's only a blank left—like my brain. If you won't help me, I shall perish. I know I shall.

DR. ALICE: But my dear Geraldine, I'm a Suffragist, a Suffragette, a militant. You've come to the wrong person.

LADY G. (coaxingly): I've come to my old school chum. As if being a Suffragist or an Anti-Suffragist could make any difference to that eternal fact.

DR. ALICE (laughing): No, you're right! Well, what do you want me to do?

LADY G.: I want you to write my speech for me, and coach me up in it. There! Don't look so disagreeable. You're so handsome when you're pleasant. And so hideous when you're cross. Ah, that's better. Now, here are some of the arguments. As I told you, I tried to glance at them, but failed. So I haven't really gone into details. I haven't really gone into the matter at all, between you and me. But (suddenly recollecting herself) I felt strongly, on general lines, that it was impossible for me to take the responsibility of being in favour of Woman's Suffrage.

DR. ALICE: How well you roll those words out. Someone has made you learn that sentence by heart. (Repeats it.) "But I felt strongly, on general lines, that it was impossible for me to take the responsibility of being in favour of Woman's Suffrage." I must say I wonder you dare take the still greater responsibility of being against it.

LADY G. (waving her hand in dismissal of Dr. Alice's remark): Come now, Alice. Do begin. We're wasting time. Allow me to conduct you to your desk. Here's the paper. And here's your style. And here are my notes on you as usual. Oh, you can make as much fun of me as you like, and lecture me as much as you like. I was always good-tempered, wasn't I? I don't mind what you say to me, so long as you help me with my speech.

DR. ALICE: Why don't you go and get an Anti-Suffragist friend to do this for you?

LADY G.: My dear girl, don't be ridiculous. With a few notable and unexceptional exceptions, all the Anti-suffragists have my sort of brains. How can we possibly help each other? Do begin. I'm losing patience with you.

DR. ALICE: But you have heaps of splendid men amongst you. Go to them.

LADY G.: Certainly not! It's one thing to sing small about your sex, but quite another thing to sing small about yourself—except to a dear old school chum who used to be a regular old brack but who evidently isn't any longer (plaintively). I never dreamed that you

would fail me. What on earth shall I do? I shall make an awful fiasco, and disgrace myself and my Cause, and it will be your fault. You wouldn't wish to see me humiliated, would you? And surely you wouldn't wish my Cause to be disgraced. You've always said Causes saved one. Those have been your very words, Alice. Causes saved one, it did not matter what they were.

DR. ALICE (laughing): Nothing could ever save you. You're spoilt through and through. Here, give me the precious arguments. Sit down with the fire, and don't chatter for a minute or two, and I'll see what I can do for you.

LADY G. (taking up her skirt and dancing round a little): A—ha! I know she would come round. These grim people are always the easiest to deal with. Be sure and write clearly, dear. I never could read your handwriting.

(She dances into a chair and sits primly up, twiddling her fingers.)

(A pause.)

DR. ALICE: I think you might begin in this way: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am here to-night to explain to you some of the weighty reasons which have decided me after much anxious thought and study, to become a determined opponent of Woman's Suffrage."

LADY G.: Excellent! Sounds as if I'd studied the question for untold centuries, doesn't it?

DR. ALICE: Then I think you'd better touch at once on the "unwomanliness" of the whole movement, and the danger to the home. And you might enlarge on the "barren" theme.

LADY G.: The barren theme? What's that? I don't remember that on the list. Not that I remember anything.

DR. ALICE: It is not called that. It's called "The immense indirect influence now possessed by women." To me, personally, a most degrading influence. After that, you might best the Imperial Drum.

LADY G.: The Imperial— (The door opens. ENTER, unannounced, MISS GERTRUDE SILBERTHWATE, an eminent artist. She is charmingly dressed, and has an engaging personality.)

SILBER: Ah, busy, I see, Dr. Alice. I'm rather early. Shall I go away and come back in half-an-hour or so?

DR. ALICE: No, no. Sit down by the fire with my friend—an old school friend. I'm throwing together a speech for her. She's a new hand. I don't mind you talking as long as you don't talk to me.

(LADY GERALDINE and GERTRUDE SILBERTHWATE, who have already greeted, settle down together.)

SILBER: Dr. Alice has a most enviable gift of concentration. She can study the most abstruse subject under any conditions whatsoever. So she is helping you with your first speech? Well, you couldn't have anyone better to help you. She's so splendid at arranging the arguments in their most forceful fashion. Shall you be nervous?

LADY G. (uneasily): Yes.

SILBER: Ah, well, we all have to go through that. But it's worth while for the sake of the Cause, isn't it?

LADY G. (sorrowfully): Yes.

SILBER: I'm just painting Dr. Alice's portrait. A difficult task. So handsome when she's pleasant! And so ugly when she's disagreeable!

LADY G. (delighted): That's exactly what I say. My very words a few minutes ago! Then you are an artist, a portrait painter? May I ask your name? I'm so interested in pictures.

SILBER: Silberthwaite.

LADY G. (enraptured): Getrude Silberthwaite! You don't mean it. I am proud and delighted to see you. I've always wanted to meet you. But one never comes across you anywhere. I always heard you were a recluse.

SILBER (smiling): I'm not by nature a society-bird. And moreover I haven't much spare time—none in fact. But the Suffrage Movement has brought all its professional women out of our libraries and studios and all our other hiding places. We had to take our share in it, or else be ashamed of ourselves. I really do think it is a wonderful movement, don't you? And quite apart from anything to do with the vote itself, it is so splendid coming in intimate contact with a lot of fine women all following different professions or businesses. That's one of our advantages over the Anti-Suffragists, isn't it? They have no means of understanding personally the inner meaning of the whole Movement. I'm sorry for them, aren't you?

LADY G. (reverently): Yes, for some of them.

SILBER: Do you know I'm planning to paint a Suffrage Picture for next year's Academy, a group of representative Suffragist Women. Ellen Terry for the Drama, Mrs. Garrett Anderson for Medicine, Mrs. Ayrton for Science, Miss Elizabeth Palmer for Literature, Christabel Pankhurst for Politics, and—

(Enter Miss Nora Baillie, a Professor of Literature and a brilliant lecturer. She is particularly fresh-looking, and has a fine enthusiastic face, with eyes far apart.)

BAILLIE (gaily): What, Dr. Alice, busy, making out prescriptions? Ah, no, I see you haven't the prescription book on your face! A letter to the Prime Minister perhaps! A love letter to the Home Secretary! A Valentine to the Governor of Holloway! Who can tell? Anything may happen in these days.

SILBER (laughing and beckoning to Baillie): Don't talk to her, Miss Baillie, she's concealing a speech. Come and talk to us instead. You do look in splendid form this afternoon. What have you been doing?

BAILLIE: I've just given the best Chancery lecture I've ever given in my life. And the class was magnificent. Heavens, what a difference it makes when you know you have your class with you!

LADY G.: Chancery! How interesting! I haven't heard his name mentioned since I was at school. Do tell me something about him!

BAILLIE (quoting with animation): His stature was not very tall. Leone was, his legs were small. Hosed within a stock of red. A buttoned bonnet on his head. His beard was white, trimmed round. His countenance blithe and merry fount."

I wonder whether Chancery would have conceded us the vote, I have my doubts. But I have no doubt about Shakespeare. None. I can't conceive it possible that he who gave us Portia, Hermione, Cordelia, Rosalind,

* 1922. Unknown. Greene's Vision.

Beatrice, Imogen, and all his other splendid women of brain, education and initiative, would have withheld us grudgingly the rights of full citizenship. I intend to die in the belief that he would have been on our side. I'm sure he's on the platform at all Suffrage Meetings called off inaudibly: "Votes for Women!" (*Turning to LADY GERALDINE.*) Don't you agree with me?

LADY G. (*glly*): I've never thought of it.

SILBER: Nor have I. But I darsay she's right.

BAILLIE: Of course I'm right! What a pity the Prime Minister hasn't Shakespeare's mind! There's no denying he hasn't, is there? (*To LADY GERALDINE.*)

LADY G. (*generally*): I suppose there isn't.

SILBER (*gaily*): You appear to be in some doubt.

LADY G. (*laughing*): Oh no, not about that! But I was just wondering—

(*Enter Miss HILDA CROWNSHIELD, a famous pianist.*)

SILBER: Ah, here's Hilda Crownsfield.

CROWN. (*greeting them all*): Here I am. Just back from a concert at Manchester. Good afternoon, Dr. Alice. Busy, I see. (*Turning to SILBERHEARTWATE.*) What is she doing? Shall I disturb her if I try the piano.

BAILLIE: Oh! dear no. She's only writing a speech. As long as you don't talk to her, you may introduce the whole of the Queen's Hall Orchestra into this room, and she won't turn a hair.

CROWN: Good. I want to run through the two little Brahms pieces I promised to play this afternoon. If the piano is very much out of tune, and there are more than five or six notes broken, I shall have to choose some other things, that's all!

(*She sits down at the piano. LADY GERALDINE, who has been exceedingly stirred by her arrival, goes up to her.*)

LADY G. (*excitedly*): Miss Crownsfield, I must speak to you. I cannot tell you what your playing means to me. I'd rather hear you than anyone in the world! I don't know what you do to me. When I hear you play, I feel myself capable of everything great and good.

CROWN. (*greatly pleased, and touching her gently on the hand*): Thank you. Then you must be passionately fond of music?

LADY G. (*Passionately*): It is the language I understand.

CROWN. (*beginning to touch the notes*): Ah, not so bad! And I declare Dr. Alice has had it tuned! I never expected such luck. Yes, I can play one or two of Brahms's Intermezzi, and perhaps a Chopin Waltz. Perhaps even a bit of Grieg. (*She addresses herself to LADY G.*) Yes?

LADY G. (*delighted*): Yes, yes! How good of you to come and play at Dr. Alice's.

CROWN: Good? Why, I love playing to my Suffrage comrades. I'd do anything for them! Play the trombone, if they wanted it fearfully!

(*She begins Brahms's First Intermezzo. After she has been playing for a little while, enter*

NELLIE GRANT, a typist and shorthand-writer. She carries along over her shoulder,

a bag with one remaining copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN. She looks extremely fatigued.

HILDA CROWNSHIELD glances up and leaves off playing and joins the others.)

CROWN: Why, my dear child, you look worn out.

Thoroughly at the end of yourself. Let's ring for tea for her immediately. (*They ring for tea.*)

NELLIE G.: Tired, but very proud, Miss CROWNSHIELD. I've had a most successful day. Sold all my VOTES FOR WOMEN except one solitary copy, and had some useful little talks with lots of people. One man bought six copies. He said he had been an Anti yesterday, when he went to an Anti meeting and that converted him! (*Laughter.*)

CROWN: Bravo. (*Hints to the piano and plays a few bars of the exit from "The Merry Widow." They laugh and clap.*)

BAILLIE: I really do think the Antis are our best friends, LADY G.: Why? I don't quite understand. I should have thought they were very formidable foes.

SILBER: Oh! dear no. You needn't have any fears about that. You see, with a few exceptions, they can't speak—they haven't had the practice—they haven't learnt how to hold an audience.

LADY G.: But when they have learnt, what then?

BAILLIE: Even then they can't be formidable. Remember, for your comfort, that they haven't got an irremissible champion as we have.

LADY G. (*entirely mystified*): An irremissible champion?

CROWN: She means the Spirit of the Age.

LADY G. (*smiling blankly*): The Spirit of the Age?

BAILLIE: And lots of them haven't "gone into it"! I know they haven't. One of them brought me the Anti-Suffrage Petition to sign, and told me quite frankly, when I advanced some arguments in favour of Woman's Suffrage, that she had not "gone into it," but that she wanted to get so many signatures as quickly as possible for that petition which was sent in yesterday, you know—seven miles long or seven feet high—I forget which! They may get signatures—whole villages of signatures—but they can't really hope to influence people if they haven't taken the trouble to influence themselves, can they?

LADY G. (*uncomfortably*): No.

SILBER: Don't give them one anxious thought. They'll soon "fold their tents, like the Arabs, and as silently steal away!"

CROWN. (*who is still at piano, improvises and sings softly*):

"The night shall be filled with music, and the cars which beset the day,

Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs, and as silently steal away."

(*Tea is brought in.*)

LADY G. (*who has been slowly gathering herself together for a declaration of faith*): I have something to tell you all. You've been taking it for granted that I'm a Suffragist. Well, I'm not. I'm an Anti-Suffragist.

SILBER: Great heavens! How delightful! I've been longing to meet one face to face. No one brought me the Anti-Suffrage petition.

BAILLIE: Do tell us your name. Who are you?

LADY G.: Geraldine Boleyn.

BAILLIE (*turning to the others*): Why, of course! Lady Gerald Boleyn. She's going to take the chair on the 15th at the Imperial Hall. Surely I'm not mistaken.

LADY G. (*frankly*): Yes, that's quite right. And as I couldn't manage my speech, I came to my old school friend in my distress. I know it sounds absurd, but it's true.

Dr. ALICE (*looking up for the first time from her desk*): Idle! Why did you give yourself away? I could shake you.

LADY G.: Alice, I simply couldn't have held out for a moment longer. I couldn't have gone on pretending by my silence that I was one of them.

Dr. ALICE (*getting up from her desk, and turning fiercely to her comrades*): For worlds I betray her. I wouldn't have her betrayed for mine. She's very dear to me. She has always been wonderfully good to me, though she has been a great nuisance at times and has given me a lot of trouble, and has always made the most unreasonable demands on me—and—well—I've liked it. She's my oldest and dearest school friend, and we plotted all sorts of mischief together in the happy old days. And if that isn't a sacred bond, then nothing is. Nearly all the pleasures I had in my holidays came through her—I should never have known all the sweet pleasures of the country but for her—joys which abide with one for ever, when other things have passed out of one's life. I can't and won't have her humiliated. If I hadn't helped her over her speech she would have probably made herself ridiculous—and I couldn't have stood that—I had to help her—and I shall always have to help her—if she becomes an anarchist and takes the chair at an anarchist meeting I shall have to write her speech for that too. I . . . (*She breaks off suddenly.*) Promise me you won't give her away.

ALL FOUR TOGETHER: Of course. Our word of honour. (*They all stretch out their hands to Lady Geraldine, and make a charming group round her.*)

BAILLIE (*gaily*): There's nothing, however, in our oath to prevent us from laughing a little, is there? Oh, and to think I shan't be able to go and heckle you! I can't heckle Dr. Alice's old school friend. And I'd bought a ticket surreptitiously and with the utmost difficulty!

SILBER: As I told you, I've never seen a real Anti-Suffragist before. Do let me paint your portrait! Side face would be best, I think. I'm not quite sure, though. No, it must be full face. Yes, full face.

NELLIE G.: Do tell me if it's true that there's going to be a "No Votes for Women" paper, with a Union Jack on the cover. I shall be jealous.

CROWN (*taking LADY GERALDINE'S arm*): Don't you dare tease her any more! Votes or no votes, she and I speak the same language, don't we?

Dr. ALICE: Well, now for the speech, Geraldine. I've quite enjoyed this little job. I'm rather pleased with it. I think I've brought in all the points. Degradation of womanhood. Degradation and disintegration of entire Empire. Dominant female vote in all matters concerning the Army and Navy, our relations with foreign Powers, with our Colonies, and with India. Physical force argument. Women have to safeguard the past all the future, and it is the men's work to look after the present. I don't myself know what that means, but it sounds well. Absolute denial that the vote will improve the economic position of women—indirect influence of women quite sufficient. Emphatic, my passionate, insistence on your own brainlessness—that is very important. A few passing allusions to us Suffragists as obscure vulgararians. I think you might almost call us uneducated. That also sounds well. And as there's so little to say it must sound well my dear girl,

or else the cause perishes. Ah, yes. And you mustn't forget to refer to yourself as "so-called brainless" to the sex, so-called survivors of the Dark Ages," because that will elicit respectful sympathy. And be sure and mention that you have joined the Territorial Nursing Corps. I forget its name, but that's near enough. Have you joined it, by the way?

LADY G. (*who is standing all this splendidly*): No.

Dr. ALICE: Then do so at once, because that's a piece of subtle cleverness. You distinguish physical force, and yet are preparing indirectly to defend your country. There now, haven't I been a brick? Haven't I wiped out for ever the obligation of those French compositions?

LADY G. (*with spirit but good temper*): No, that obligation could never be wiped out. And besides, this service doesn't count. Do you know what I'm going to do with this speech? Look.

(*She throws it into the fire.*)

Dr. ALICE: Well, of all the ungrateful, aristocratic little wretches—

LADY G. (*with increased spirit and charm, turning to the others*): Do you know what I'm going to do next? I'm going home to think.

Dr. ALICE: Impossible! You've never done such a thing in your life!

BAILLIE: Shame, Dr. Alice! It's never too late to sin—I mean to think!

LADY G. (*smiling at her*): I should love to come to one of your lectures. May I?

BAILLIE: Of course you may.

LADY G. (*to GERTRUDE SILBERHEARTWATE*): And will you really paint my portrait?

SILBER: Of course I will. Full face. Full face.

LADY G. (*to HILDA CROWNSHIELD*): The same language, votes or no votes?

CROWN: Yes, Yes.

LADY G. (*to NELLIE GRANT*): Will you let me have your last remaining copy of your paper?

NELLIE G. (*delighted*): Here it is, Lady Geraldine—a present from us all!

LADY G.: Thank you. Good-bye—all of you. Good-bye!

(*She goes to the door. When she has reached it, she turns round to Dr. Alice. There is a quizzical look on her face.*)

LADY G.: Alice, how long do mumps take?

Dr. ALICE: Oh, about two or three weeks.

LADY G.: Very infectious, aren't they?

Dr. ALICE: Highly.

LADY G.: I believe I've got them already! Afraid I shan't be able to take that Chair! Good-bye!

(*She goes out.*) (*They look after her for a moment.*)

Dr. ALICE (*fiercely*): Mind, if you betray my school chum, I'll never speak to you again.

NELLIE G.: Betray one of our own, Dr. Alice! For she is one of our own country. Before many weeks are passed she'll be selling VOTES FOR WOMEN in a blinding snowstorm in the very month of May!

BAILLIE (*raising her tea-cup*): Her health!

(*They drink her health.*)

CURTAIN.

CROYDON BYE-ELECTION.

RESULT.

Sir R. Hermon-Hodge (C)	11,989
Mr. J. E. Raphael (L)	8,941
Mr. F. Smith (Labour-Socialist)	886

Conservative majority over Liberal... 3,948

The figures at the last election were:—Sir R. Hermon-Hodge, 10,400; Mr. J. E. Raphael, 8,000; Mr. F. Smith, 1,000.

The great campaign of the Women's Social and Political Union at the Croydon bye-election was brought to an end on polling day, Monday last, and resulted in a magnificent victory for the women over the Government, Mr. Raphael, the Liberal candidate, being defeated by no less than 3,900 votes, as compared with the majority of one thousand by which the Conservative had been returned at the General Election.

During the whole of the previous week signs had not been wanting of the coming result. Wherever members of the W.S.P.U. had been present they had been received with enthusiastic cheers, and the electors of Croydon had shown themselves particularly ready to understand and appreciate the bye-election policy of the W.S.P.U.

Friday and Saturday, the last days of the active campaign, were well spent. The Suffragette colours were everywhere in evidence, and at all the meetings considerable interest was evoked.

The arrangements for Saturday afternoon were carried out with great success. A procession of members drove through the constituency, including the women recently released from Holloway, and also members of the deputation which subsequently went to the House of Commons on the following Tuesday.

The route was from the Clock Tower at Thornton Heath to the Empire Theatre at Croydon, and as the procession passed along the street cheers were raised again and again for the women who were fighting for their enfranchisement.

At the Empire Theatre so great was the interest that every seat was filled long before the time for the meeting, and though the theatre holds no less than 2,000 people, a further 1,500 waited outside in the hope of an overflow meeting. Inside the

hall the great banner of the Union, bearing the motto "Strong souls live like fire-hearted sons to spend their strength," attracted special attention. Prominent on the stage were the ex-prisoners, and the audience was addressed by Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Miss Gawthorpe, and others, who dealt with the political situation, showing how persistently Mr. Asquith had refused to listen to the claims of women. The points of the speakers were listened to with great attention, and it was evident that with every word that was uttered the prestige of the Liberal Party was being weakened. A resolution calling for the immediate enfranchisement of duly qualified women, and demanding that Mr. Asquith should receive the deputation on Tuesday, was carried with few dissentients. Outside the hall speeches were also made, and at the close a running fire of questions elicited ready answers from the speakers.

[A sequel to our Cartoon of last week.]



Mr. Asquith: "We have lost our recruit! And I fear the waves may drown us ere we reach the ship!"

On polling day members of the Union stationed themselves outside the polling booths, and as every elector went in he was called upon to "support the women and keep the Liberal out," advice which in the great majority of cases he gladly followed.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

"THE DAILY MAIL."

The Suffragettes made a brave show with their procession on Saturday afternoon. The latest batch of martyrs, liberated from Holloway, and the band of Lancashire women, who are determined to see Mr. Asquith to-morrow or go to prison in the attempt, assembled at the Clock, Thornton Heath, with brakes and bands and banners. Lady Constance Hayton, the most distinguished member

of the Holloway batch, who says she wrote her thoughts in blood during her incarceration, did not appear. But Mrs. Pankhurst was doing her utmost to get the women in the street, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Mrs. and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, were seen to get out of the theatre at Croydon, their hands playing "The Marseillaise." Great crowds watched them pass. They had an entirely successful meeting in the theatre. It was packed to the roof, and there were no interruptions.

"THE TIMES."

The women Suffragettes, of course being for the most part cultured women, are above criticism as speakers in the street, or anywhere else. In the Empire Theatre Mr. Gray, they speak with a pleasing quietness, and invariably have attentive audiences.

"DAILY GRAPHIC."

"Where Women Excel."

Below leaving the speaker's elements of this contest the observer who deprecates the sight of women in the very thick of the strife may yet remark with admiration upon the striking ability of the women speakers. It is a feature which has impressed Croydon audiences, even Croydon "men in the street," without distinction of party. Though the "Voice for Women" brigade has certainly a monopoly of the power, these members have, perhaps, a trick of more effective platform manner than other sections. A young man on the outskirts of a crowd interrupted an advocate of the vote with what was intended to be a crushing rebuke to her audacity. "Don't you wish you were a man?" was what he called to her. Quick as a shot came the reply: "Don't you wish you were a man?" This is an example of the style that talk. The fact should be recognized by men that in sheer intellectual mastery of speech and argument the women in this contest have, on the average, excelled the men. The more skilled in self-expression they regard themselves; they are all the arts and wiles of plausible speech they are superior.

"THE STANDARD."

Suffragists Active.

During the afternoon the Suffragettes held a great demonstration in the local municipal hall, the principal attraction being Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst, and a number of women recently liberated from Holloway Prison. The hall was packed from stalls to gallery, and the women speakers were listened to with marked attentiveness. When I arrived it was impossible to obtain a seat in the house, but from a corner in the gallery, high up against the ceiling, I could just catch a glimpse of the stage. The speaker, looking none the worse for her incarceration in goal, were flanked by an imposing organisation's whole argument—"By the great mothers have the goal zone, therefore."

"THE MORNING POST."

Processions and Oratory.

Throughout the day and far into the night propagandist work was carried on yesterday (Saturday) by all parties with prodigious energy. Numerous processions and parades took place, the most important being that of the ladies of the National Women's Social and Political Union, who marched with banners flying and drums beating to the Empire Palace Theatre, there to deliver impassioned speeches from the text, "Keep the Liberal out."

"MORNING ADVERTISER," March 23.

The most conspicuous feature of the election yesterday was provided by the militant Suffragettes, who paraded the town in motor-cars and wagnettes, gaily bedecked with the familiar purple, white and green, announcing that Miss Christabel Pankhurst was to address a meeting at night. The same proclamation was also made by "Sandwich Suffragettes."

"EVENING NEWS," March 29.

What the Women Have Done.

A notable sign of the times is the part that women have played in this election. When the fight started the Suffragettes attracted a few hundred women to their meeting, many of them hostile.

On Saturday afternoon they filled the Empire Theatre with about 2,000, and there was scarcely a single interruption. This does not mean that Croydon is converted to "Votes for Women." Croydon's approval is for the cry, "Keep the Liberal out." All the same, the conspicuous part which the women of all long politicians, that they are not afraid of the work it involves, and that they understand their vehicle. Women now undertake nearly every branch of committee-room work. Women canvass in the rain and engage in competitions for prizes. Women draw up lists of speakers and look after the arrangements for vehicles. They borrow motor-cars from their own women friends. They carry sandwich boards, they distribute

leaflets, they wear through megaphones, and they look up all the vacant dates at all the meeting-rooms they can find.

It may not be "womanly," but it is done, and no Parliamentary candidate can afford to ignore the fact.

"CROYDON CHRONICLE," March 17.

Now about the Suffragists. They are in the fray and are to be reckoned with. They had already opened an office in Croydon—before there was any likelihood of an election—and they are making their presence felt. What with open-air meeting, chalking announcements on the pavements, distributing literature, and other methods, they have entered into the battle in earnest.

"CROYDON CHRONICLE," March 23.

Then there are the Suffragettes. They certainly lead a new colour to the election in Croydon. As the 1906 election they were not to be seen. They have sprung themselves upon the country since that time, and have helped to enliven many a dull moment in our national life. Newspaper readers would have felt annoyed did they not find something about the "Votes for Women" agitation in their daily paper during the past year or so.

They are here in Croydon assisting in no small measure to make things lively. Their gay-colored flags—purple, white, and green—fly from motor-cars as they flit about the town visiting this and that open space and seeking to address the crowds, often provoking the greatest merriment by their ready responses to interruptions. They do not mind adopting many a method. Some parade the streets with sandwich boards and others rush about screeching with chalk on the pavements announcements of meetings and telling the electors for whom they should vote. They are not moved by the taunts and jeers to which they are subjected. Do them they are firm, not masochist.

"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," March 26.

(and a letter).

The Sentences on Suffragists.

A good deal of attention is being directed to the disparity in the sentences of imprisonment passed upon Mrs. Depard and Mrs. Petrick Lawrence. Both were arrested while seeking to make their way into the House of Commons with petitions. Both were ringleaders in these enterprises, both were convicted of the same offence, and in both cases there had been a previous conviction; yet Mrs. Depard was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and Mrs. Petrick Lawrence to two. No doubt the distinction with which Mrs. Petrick Lawrence is connected is by the much more active and formidable, and no doubt also its demonstrators, being on a larger scale, give more trouble; but these seem hardly adequate grounds on which to inflict a double sentence on one of two individuals who, as individuals, committed precisely the same offence. That, at least, is a feeling widely entertained among all ranks of suffragists, and it is thought that Mr. Gladstone, if approached on the subject, might very properly remit a portion of the heavier sentence. Should he do so he would receive a somewhat acute sense of injustice.

"HERFORD TIMES," March 27.

From the first militant act, so-called, three years ago, up to this hour, we have not only recognized the splendid courage and devotion of these women, but have admitted that their methods (though they do not always approve themselves to more men) have advanced the cause farther and quicker than the combined efforts of the last three centuries.

"MANCHESTER COURIER," March 28.

When the history of the agitation in Great Britain comes to be written the chapter dealing with the imprisonment of delicate women in goal for conscience sake will be one which will puzzle and disgust the nation.

EAST EDINBURGH BYE-ELECTION.

Committee Rooms—64, Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh.

The Agents at last election were:—Mr. George MacCra (Edin. G.D.), 6,667; Messrs. Deacon (Edin.), 3,435.

It is stated that owing to the appointment of Sir George MacCra, M.P., as Vice-President of the Scottish Local Government Board, a vacancy has been caused in East Edinburgh. Mr. John Cowan has been mentioned as the possible Liberal candidate, and it is said that the Unionist party has also a candidate ready to take the field. Preparations have been made for the election to conduct a vigorous campaign, committee rooms being under the charge of Miss Cecilia and Miss Evelyn Haig.

The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

Telegrams—"WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone: HOBSON 2714 (three lines)

Bakers: Messrs. BACILLY & CO., Fleet Street.

Colors: Purple, White, and Green.

Mrs. PANKHURST, Founder and Hon. Sec.	Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Hon. Treasurer.
Mrs. TUKÉ, Adm. Sec.	Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST, Organizing Sec.

The Women's Social and Political Union are NOT asking for a vote for every woman, but simply that sex shall cease to be a disqualification for the franchise.

All present men who pay rates and taxes, who are owners, occupiers, holders, or have the service or university franchises possess the Parliamentary vote. The Women's Social and Political Union claim that women who fulfil the same conditions shall also vote.

It is estimated that when this claim has been conceded, about a million and a quarter women will possess the vote. In addition to the seven and a half million men who possess the vote.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed.

A LETTER FROM PRISON.

HOLLOWAY PRISON, March 26, 1909.

My dear Friends and Fellow-members of our beloved Union, I send you greeting and love. I am with you constantly in thought and spirit and desire. Very soon I shall be with you in the flesh. I have left, and I still feel, the support of your thoughts and good wishes. You must know that I have not seen a newspaper since I came here. I am very ignorant as to how the world is wagging. In Holloway "nobly knows nothing," so it would be quite useless to ask questions. Knowing nothing can be carried to a fine art. But across this night of oblivion glorious flashes of good things have come to me. One was the report sent for my signature. Great was my satisfaction to know that we had raised the whole £20,000 during the year. That we should be very near to our mark I felt sure before I came here, but

"Oh, the little more, and how much it is; The little less and what worlds away!"

In our Union we pride ourselves on attaining our standards. Another great joy to the heart of your Treasurer was to hear the sum raised in donations and promises during Self-Denial Week. Eight thousand pounds is a good start at the beginning of the new financial year towards the fifty thousand we mean to realise when we get the vote before the end of next February. I seem to hear some of you gasp. "Fifty thousand pounds!" I will tell you how it is to be raised. We have proved, have we not, that we ourselves are good for £20,000? We gave our utmost last year; we shall go on giving our utmost. The remaining £30,000 is to come from a public not yet touched. And what we have to do without a moment's delay, every one of us, is to go about everywhere preaching the gospel of Votes for Women, and bringing as many people as we can into the movement. Especially must new people be brought by all our members to our great meetings.

And now I come to the main point of this letter, which I write you from my prison cell. I have a great, great wish. And if I tell it to you I know that you will fulfil it. The success, the most magnificent triumph, that our agitation has ever yet achieved. I beg every member in London to make the success of this meeting her individual responsibility, and to concentrate from now all her energies upon it. Take the tickets and sell them to friends. Let each one be responsible for a certain number and for their calls in cash. If you cannot sell them all in the usual way, persuade some wealthy friend to

purchase tickets which can be given to those who cannot afford to buy for themselves. But shake up your mind that you will dispose of six, ten, twenty, or fifty tickets, as the case may be.

The occasion is a particularly significant one. Women Suffragists from every civilised country in the world will be representing their respective organisations at the International Suffragist Congress in London. And this Albert Hall meeting is to give them welcome in the name of the Women's Social and Political Union. They have most cordially accepted our invitation to be present, and a certain number of seats have been reserved for them. It is also a demonstration in honour of all our members who have suffered imprisonment for the sake of woman's emancipation. They will come from the North and the South, the East and the West, to the centre of resistance, the Albert Hall. They will wear their prison dress. Seats immediately behind the speakers will be reserved for them. Many interesting developments will be revealed as time goes on. It is to be a field day of the Militant Movement. I am allowed only one sheet of paper for this, my one monthly letter. I would say more about this matter, but space forbids. Will you, dear women in the Union, read into my brief words all that my heart would say, and will you carry out all and more than all that my heart could wish?

I want to tell you how delighted I am that the paper—our paper—is developing so rapidly. I hear it has reached 20,000 already. I hope it will reach 25,000 before I come back. That will be another joy for my Three Wishes! How splendidly they have been carried out. With all my heart I thank you all. Oh, to see our flag again! To salute the colours! My eyes yearn for them, to comfort myself with their sight. My prison dress is grey, my prison cap is white. Would that my prison dress were purple. My library card is faintly purple! But one lives on small things holloway. And how one's perceptions and appreciations are intensified. How one knows the meanings and the values of the ordinary blessings and beauties of life which one is so apt to take for granted. Colour, music, sun, and stars, and, above all, human friendship and social intercourse. Wear the colours always; if not for your own sake, then for the sake of those who are in prison. I am convinced that wearing the colours is one of the best ways of attracting strangers to this movement. Curiosity and interest once stimulated, you know how quickly the rest follows. A large number of the deputation who went to prison with me were quite novel converts, who a few short weeks ago would have scouted the possibility of going to prison. Ours is such a wonderful movement. Nothing seems too much to hope, to great to believe and expect.

I must say goodbye to you. When you read this letter of mine there will be only two more weeks to pass before the joy of reunion is ours. Meanwhile, as I sit here in my prison cell, I know that in the world outside it is spring-time. Life is pushing its way through the clouds. Life is rising like a tide through stem and branch, soon to overflow and bring a flood of beauty over the face of the earth. And, especially, the dawn of new life in the heart of the human race, and especially in the heart of the world's womanhood. I feel it in our movement. I see the blossoming of new hope, new faith, new love, new courage, new energy, in the eyes of our women. A new life, a new spring is coming—has, indeed, come. This knowledge is my great joy. It is the joy which all share, and which none can take from us. We will go on and on, to accomplish the purpose to which we have been called. Years in the strong bond of fellowship which unites us all in this movement.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

RELEASE OF THE TREASURER.

Before the Albert Hall meeting comes the welcome to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, the arrangements for which are described on page 505. The Public Breakfast at the Criterion on the morning of her release, Friday, April 16, the Great Procession, and the Albany Theatre meeting on the following day, must be dear and glowing memories to every woman who has been a clear leader and comrade and our enthusiastic co-workers. Will those who wish to make this a record welcome write at once to Clements Inn—C. H. P.

THE OPPOSITION OF THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

Just before the Women's Parliament of Tuesday last the following correspondence took place between the Women's Social and Political Union and the Prime Minister as the result of a letter requesting him to receive a deputation from the Women's Social and Political Union, on Tuesday afternoon, the 30th inst. I am desired by Mr. Asquith to say that, so far as he is aware, no new facts have been adduced in respect to the controversy on Woman Suffrage, nor has there been any change in the Government's view of the expediency of any change in their stated intention with regard to this question. Under the circumstances, the Prime Minister is of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by receiving the deputation in question.—Yours faithfully,

H. H. ASQUITH.
(Signed)

4, Clements Inn, W.C.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith.

I am in reply to your letter of the 27th inst., and we respectfully request that you will receive the deputation which we have the Women's Parliament at the Caxton Hall to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon. In the course of your letter you say that, so far as you are aware, no new facts have been adduced in respect to the controversy on Woman Suffrage. Let me point out that it is wrong to say that the deputation seeks to introduce new facts.

I am further glad to state that as you have never, since becoming Prime Minister, received a deputation from any of the Woman Suffrage societies, you have had the opportunity of examining the case for the immediate enfranchisement of women fully stated.

In the hope that you will be moved by these considerations to accept the deputation, we beg to present ourselves at the House of Commons to-morrow afternoon.—Yours faithfully,

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

From this it will be seen that Mr. Asquith advances as his excuse for refusing the reasonable request that he should receive a deputation his ignorance of those very facts which it was the desire of the deputation to lay before him. Naturally the Women's Social and Political Union decline to allow the Prime Minister to settle matters in this arbitrary and unconstitutional fashion. As we have before pointed out, to relinquish the attempt to lay the claim for women's enfranchisement before the Prime Minister would mean the collapse of the living movement for Woman Suffrage.

Speaking in the Name of Womanhood.

The women who time after time have gone forth from the Caxton Hall determined that, unless they are forcibly prevented from doing so, they will see the Prime Minister, are in very truth the representatives of all women who claim political enfranchisement. In them is personified the whole woman's movement, and when they demand admission to the House of Commons and audience of the Prime Minister, they are speaking with the voice and in the name of every woman who has released from political bondage.

Realising to the full the meaning of their action and the responsibility of their position, the deputation of Lancashire women, with their colleagues from London and elsewhere, left the Caxton Hall on Tuesday, March 30, resolved that no weakness or hesitation on their part should obscure the failure of their political mission. They made repeated attempts to gain admission to the House, until finally they were overcome by physical force. Some were arrested, and the others resolved to renew their efforts to see the Prime Minister on the following day. Confidence in woman's love and admiration for them, are the source of the enthusiasm felt by members of our Union, and they have been intended to show the bravery and devotion shown by every member of the deputation.

The action of the Prime Minister in deliberately causing the arrest of these women by the unwarranted refusal to receive them, will still further improve his position in the country. It is now generally admitted in political circles that the militant campaign of the Women's Social and Political Union is a far more powerful and growing movement than the Government's constitutional methods which are destroying the Liberal cause in the constituencies.

come various explanations of the severe defeat suffered by the Liberal party, but undoubtedly a major cause of that defeat was the unpopularity of the Government's present Suffrage policy. A recognition of this fact is betrayed in Mr. Raphael's assertion that outside organisations impaired his chances. Just before the election took place the Daily Chronicle, in a leading article, attempted to correct the fact that the Women's Social and Political Union had obtained a strong hold on the constituency, by saying: "If we may judge by the popular reception of the women who are opposing the present Government Suffrage in the obvious interest of the Conservative candidate, their unpopularity is apparent, the absurdity of this propaganda offends the commonsense of the electors," and again, "Whatever else the Crodon contest may have left undone, it has side-tracked the militant Suffragists from serious politics."

But the real fact of the case is that the people of Crodon understand perfectly well that the Women's Social and Political Union opposed Mr. Raphael because, having accepted the leadership of Mr. Asquith, he had to all intents and purposes deserted the women's cause. The Daily Chronicle's assertion that our speakers had an unfavourable and discourteous reception is directly contrary to the truth, as can be proved by abundant evidence gathered from the columns of other newspapers. In this connection it is interesting to notice that the Daily Chronicle, while suggesting that the Union did not win the favour of the public, omitted to inform its readers of our great meeting in the Empire Theatre on the eve of the poll, which attracted in numbers and enthusiasm a larger audience of political parties during the whole campaign. Far from "side-tracking the militant Suffragists from serious politics," the Crodon contest has confirmed our position in the political world.

The article in question is significant because of the implied admission which it contains that our power is recognised by official Liberalism. Never before has Woman Suffrage held this commanding place among political issues. It is the anti-Government policy which has worked this transformation. Women, because they lack the constitutional weapon, can oppose the Government only by means which, though essentially moderate, are yet unconstitutional. It is the desire of the Government policy which has worked this transformation. Women, because they lack the constitutional weapon, can oppose the Government only by means which, though essentially moderate, are yet unconstitutional. It is the desire of the Government policy which has worked this transformation. Women, because they lack the constitutional weapon, can oppose the Government only by means which, though essentially moderate, are yet unconstitutional.

—The Vote. These two popular forces, the unfranchised women and the enfranchised men working together, must necessarily succeed in securing the enactment of a Bill for Woman Suffrage. By resisting the inevitable the Government are doing more injury to themselves than to the women's movement. Delay in settling this question means that the Woman Suffrage forces are becoming so strong and united, that the day which brings Votes to Women may also bring to the Government the destruction which, if they acted now, might be averted. Moreover, the spirit of revolt against the Liberal Government which took rise among the women is spreading. The example set for the women has not been lost upon the men who seek legislative change. The Welsh party are rejecting a policy of confiding palliatives for one of a more militant character, and are forcing the Government nearer and nearer to the point of action on the thorny question of Welsh Disestablishment. Even more formidable to the present Administration is the prospect that the Irish party may again resume the policy which twenty-five years ago made them the arbiter of political destinies.

The present Government made their first great mistake when they refused at the outset of their career to recognise the power, then latent, in the women's agitation. Already that mistake has cost them dear, in direct loss of support from women, and in the general disillusionment and disintegration which has been produced in the Liberal forces throughout the country. Many are the enlightened and far-seeing Liberals who know this to be the case. It is for them, if they care for the honour—for the existence even—of their party, to express to the Government their disapproval of the Government's constitutional methods which are destroying the Liberal cause in the constituencies.

Christabel Pankhurst.

DEPUTATION TO MR. ASQUITH.

THE LANCASHIRE SUFFRAGETTE. A PARODY.

After "The Lancashire Parody," see Chapter's "Popular Musician Resigns His Post," p. 232

When I was down in Manchester, in Farners Lancashire,
I worked hard in a factory for more than seven year.
Oh! I took up w'it 'Suffragette' quite quickly here—
Oh! we've tried in vain the vote to gain for more than forty year.

As no and my companions were going to Westminster
We uped a big poleman, though for him we did not care;
For we were in the night, my girls, and had no thought of fear—
Oh! we've tried in vain the vote to gain for more than forty year.

As no and my companions were walking straight along
Towards the House of Parliament, don't nothing that was wrong,
We all were then arrested. Arrested! Do you hear?
Oh! we've tried in vain the vote to gain for more than forty year.

They took us by the shoulders and marched us all to jail;
Although the prison life was hard our courage did not fail;
For one long dreary month, my girls, they kept us locked up
Here—

Oh! we've tried in vain the vote to gain for more than forty year.
Success to every Suffragette that lives in Lancashire!
Success to every woman who to have a vote would care!
Bad luck to the Liberal Government and transits everywhere—
Oh! we've tried in vain the vote to gain for more than forty year.

C. G. A.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

On Tuesday last, when another deputation was sent to lay before Mr. Asquith the claims of women to citizenship, another black page was written in the history of the struggle for liberty against a Liberal Government. The proceedings began at three o'clock in the Caxton Hall, which was entirely filled with a most enthusiastic gathering of women. At the back of the platform was the banner of the London City branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, with its inspiring words, "Thoughts have gone forth whose powers can sleep no more," and as Mrs. Pankhurst and the delegates filled in to the stirring strains of the "Marseillaise," the enthusiasm was tremendous, applause and cries of "Bravo!" greeting each arrival.

From the gentle, dignified elderly lady who was chosen as leader, to the sweet-faced girl who proudly carried the banner, the members of the deputation showed by their faces their pride and happiness in their mission.

Mrs. Pankhurst explained that women would show the Government that they would not be deterred by bad treatment from working for the principles which a Liberal Parliament did not put into practice. Mr. Asquith had once more refused to receive a deputation, and it would be their duty to go again and yet again to lay their claims before him. (Cheers.)

She then read out the names of the twenty-nine women who had volunteered to go on the following day to see Mr. Asquith and Solomons, who had been chosen as leader, to make the resolution, which was as follows:—

"THAT THIS PARLIAMENT OF WOMEN expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the Prime Minister's recent declaration that, while the Government wish to see a further extension of the Franchise to men, they are not prepared to carry a measure for the enfranchisement of women."

This Parliament calls upon the Government to abandon their present unsatisfactory policy, and to carry into law, without delay, a Bill giving votes to those women at present disqualified solely on the ground of sex.

A deputation is hereby appointed, to whom is entrusted the duty of forthwith conveying this Resolution to the Prime Minister at the House of Commons and eliciting his reply."

(Signed) **EMBELINE PANKHURST.**

Chairman.

Mrs. Saul Solomon first called for an ovation for Mrs. Pankhurst on account of the Croydon election result, and then expressed her pride at being chosen to lead the deputation. It was a terrible thing that the Liberal Ministry should be so illiberal as to refuse citizenship to women; and they were going to urge the cause of women before Mr. Asquith.

Mrs. Eates (Keenings), Miss Margaret Smith (Birmingham), Mrs. Morris and Miss Patricia Woodcock (Liverpool), Miss Rosa

Robinson, and Miss Dora Marsden (Manchester) also spoke, each laying great stress on their pride and pleasure in representing in this deputation the views of those who could not speak for themselves. Miss Marshall evoked cheers by her Caxton Hall, only to be held the colors she would not turn back.

To the strains of the "Marseillaise," mingled with the cheers of their comrades, the little band of women left Caxton Hall, only to be stopped by a long line of police and led through gradually in pairs to Victoria Street. From here to the very portals of the House of Commons progress was easy, the police being apparently underestimated the determination of the women. Mrs. Saul Solomon was allowed to enter the House, and on being told that Mr. Asquith was not in, she called Cal. Seely, who, however, refused to carry a message to a Cabinet Minister.

Montague, just outside the door of the House, there was a struggle of more than an hour's duration, which the *Globe* calls "amusing," and which those who saw and understood found unexpectably shameful.

On the occasion of the previous deputations, the grievous act of disturbing the sanctity of Westminster was speedily punished by imprisonment. But imprisonment was bravely borne by the women, it strengthened their cause, and went of all led to embarrassing questions in the House. Therefore the order had gone forth not to arrest the women, with a result which might have been foreseen. The brave members of the deputation advanced again and seek a way through the close rows of police guarding the doors of St. Stephen's; again and again they were flung back to the roadway, until they were at the doorway of the mounted police. In such a struggle violence was unavoidable, arms were wrestled, women fell down, bruised and panting for breath. Faint and out of breath they were not to be deterred; they pressed forward in the hopeless attempt; they tried to pass unnoticed behind the crowd of spectators; their wonderful bravery, their endurance, their self-forgetfulness will never be forgotten.

Among the cheers of the crowd, winning even the admiration of those who had come to see "sport," these women, disbelieved and muddy, made a picture of nobility and heroism, enduring the sake of a great cause treatment such as surely no Government ever before meted out to the daughters of England. Sometimes a cry rang out that could not be repressed when one of them suffered more than usual. The police was evicted, hated the job, but, of course, had to obey orders, and orders not to arrest but to keep the way clear were equivalent to orders to use violence.

And on this scene of heroism and shame, bravery and ignominy, the members of our House of Legislators looked on from the windows, one even saying to another: "The women speak like rabbits." It is nothing wanting to complete the tale of abuse of the first Liberal Government of the twentieth century. As an eye-witness throughout, I cannot refrain from a personal expression of scorn for the members of the Government who allowed such things to be, and of admiration for the incredibly plucky behaviour of the colour-bearer, Miss Dora Marsden, Miss Rosa Robinson, Mrs. Eates, and the other women.

Eleven women were arrested and charged with obstruction and mud; the ignominy of this device compels admission; the Government will now be forced to say that women were arrested not for seeking to interview the Prime Minister, but for common and disgraceful assault! Even this, however, will not make the women give in.

In all twelve arrests were made, including one man, a journalist, who made a chivalrous protest against the treatment of the women.

Miss Alice E. Burton has passed most of her life on the stage, from which she retired about fifteen years ago to devote herself to the cause which she pursued so ably. She describes herself as a "long-rebel against the idea of women's intellectual inferiority," and joined the W.S.P.U. in September, 1898, after attending an open-air meeting.

Miss Emily Wilding Davidson has taken an active share in the London campaign, and is a valued worker in the cause.

Mrs. Florence Farmer, of Irish parentage, is the wife of a retired warant officer, who is healthily sympathetic with the movement. Mrs. Farmer believes that the vote can only be obtained by persistent agitation.

Miss Dora Marsden took her B.A. degree at Manchester University. She has been a most loyal and ardent speaker and worker with Mrs. Mary Gawthrop in the Lancashire Campaign for many months.

Mrs. Bessie J. Morris is an active worker in the Lancashire campaign.

Miss Kate Noh! is a worker in the Birmingham movement with Miss Gladie Keovil, where she has done much valuable work.

Miss Rosa Robinson is a B.Sc. of the Manchester University, and is well known as a writer and speaker in Manchester, where she has worked under Miss Mary Gawthrop.

Mrs. Julia Scott comes from Chertsey. For the sake of her children she feels that she is bound to take an active part in bringing about women's political enfranchisement.

Miss Margaret Smith is the daughter of a clergyman, formerly master at Rugby and Eton. She was educated at Bedford High School, and took her degree at the London University. After holding a post as teacher for seven years at King Edward's School, Birmingham, she became a Socialist lecturer. In November she succeeded in polling a large number of votes as a candidate for the Birmingham City Council. "The day when I felt women's position most keenly," she writes, "was when I received a communication from the London University inviting me to become a member of Convocation, and informing me that only male members of Convocation were eligible to vote for the University member."

Miss Helen Tolson left school at seventeen, and took two years' training in household management at the Manchester School for Domestic Economy. She joined the W.S.P.U. after hearing Mrs. Pankhurst speak at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, in 1903.

Miss Patricia Woodcock has been three times imprisoned for her share in the "Rent" issue. When released after her second imprisonment she was only free for two or three days before being again arrested and sentenced to one month's imprisonment without option of a fine. She has been described as "a great trait to (abstinent) Unionists." Miss Woodcock is one of Miss Mary Gawthrop's most untiring workers, and a brilliant speaker.

Mr. William Hutcheon is a journalist, and was arrested while making a protest against the treatment of the women.

AT BOW STREET.

The cases came up before Sir Albert de Rutzen at Bow Street on Wednesday morning. Mr. Manktel, who conducted the prosecution, did not make any opening statement, but called at once upon Superintendent Walls to give his evidence, which was to the effect that on the previous afternoon there had been scenes of considerable disorder, and that he had found it necessary to call out the reserves of police, both on foot and mounted, and that owing to the inaction of the women the footway became blocked and the roadway was obstructed. For a considerable time the police had endeavoured to persuade the women to desist, and had pushed them back into the crowd, but after about fifty minutes it had been found necessary to arrest some of them, and this was accordingly done. As a result there was no restraint on the part of the women.

The first prisoner to be put in the dock was Miss Davidson. A constable proceeded to give evidence against her to the effect that she had been very prominent in her efforts to get into the House. Before he had arrested her she had assaulted him. Miss Davidson did not question the constable, but stated that she felt it to be her duty to try and get into the House; what she had done had been with the intention of getting to see Mr. Asquith. She had no quarrel with the police, and if she had assaulted the constable it had been accidental. She added that she had been disgusted at the behaviour of members of Parliament, who from behind the police barrier jeered at the action of the women.

Sir Albert de Rutzen said that although he could not put it to admit the courage of the women, yet there was no doubt that they were deliberately breaking the law, and as they had failed to take warning by what had happened before, he had no option but to call upon Miss Davidson to give an undertaking not to repeat her offence. She also declined to do, and the magistrate ordered her to be bound over with two sureties of £25 for six months, or go to prison for two months, and also at once selected the latter alternative. Subsequently the magistrate reduced her sentence to one month instead of two.

The next prisoner was Miss Patricia Woodcock, against whom it was said that she insisted upon forcing her way and creating an obstruction. Asked whether she had any statement to make to the said she wondered how long it would be necessary for her to go on with this distasteful work. The Magistrate said it was incumbent on her to know that as she had taken the law into her own hands she was liable to be prosecuted, and that she was liable to be sent to prison for three months' imprisonment, in default of finding sureties.

The remainder of the prisoners each received one month, in default of sureties, everyone of them saying that it was impossible for them to enter into their recognisances.

Miss Dora Marsden stated she had been specially sent from Manchester to carry the petition to the House of Commons, and that she considered that she had done her duty and was to

no way disorderly. As to the charge of assault that she had made against her, when she was being pinioned by the police her banner which she was carrying struck the constable. She had no quarrel with the police, but she was engaged upon a political errand.

Miss Rosa Robinson spoke of the necessity of the enfranchisement of women, and claimed that she was engaged upon a perfectly constitutional mission of petitioning to the Prime Minister. The authorities, by means of their agents—the police—had placed every obstacle in the way, but she felt the necessity of proceeding with her mission.

All the prisoners were ordered to be placed in the Second Division, and several of them protested against this treatment, as they were political offenders, but the magistrate paid no attention to their protest.

After the women had been dealt with, the case of Mr. Hutcheon, who was charged with assaulting the police, was called for hearing. The constable stated that Mr. Hutcheon had seized hold of him. The evidence of the prisoner was to the effect that the constable had knocked a woman down, and had pushed him away with a view of protecting the woman. Evidence was called for the defence in the person of Miss Carwin, who stated that the policeman had knocked her down, possibly unintentionally. The magistrate, for some reason utterly incomprehensible to any one present in court, held that Miss Carwin had contradicted the evidence of the prisoner, and gave instructions for the prisoner to be bound over, or in default to go to prison. He was bound over.

A FURTHER DEPUTATION.

As we went to press on Wednesday afternoon, the remaining members of the deputation of the previous day endeavoured to seek an interview with Mr. Asquith at the House of Commons.

News were made of the following nine women:—

Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Rennie, Miss Foster, Mrs. Eates, Miss Broughton, Mrs. Wiseman, Mrs. Hilton, Miss Martin, Miss Streetfield.

THE SUFFRAGETTE BAND.

In connection with the W.S.P.U., a drum and fife band has been recently organized. The services of an instructor have been secured, and about twenty members are in training. There is still room for more recruits, who should be able to give Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings to practice. When fully trained the band will be asked to perform from time to time, and will, it is hoped, be a regular feature on official occasions. Miss Dalke has been appointed Secretary, and all inquiries and communications should be addressed to her at 4, Clements Inn.

PRESS EXTRACT.

"DAILY NEWS," APRIL 2, 1909.

Women Who Don't Want Votes.

The Women's Anti-Suffrage League held last night a largely attended meeting at the Queen's Hall, and decided as we shall soon be told that its success is a new proof that women resent the suggestion that they are fit for political power. For our own part, we cannot but admire that irony of circumstances which is drawing women into public life by the very act of reviving their disapproval of the movements by which their enfranchisement is to be effected. Many and many a good woman who has delighted all her life in husband, home, and children, and who dreams that in the "unknown way" the "Suffragettes" will deprive her of those joys, finds herself, through the anti-suffrage movement, making speeches and helping to organize meetings, and doing all those things so well that she thereby also unconsciously and in her own despite gives proof of her fitness for political enfranchisement. A prominent politician, who is not an adherent of women's suffrage, declared the other day that the ability shown by the ladies of the Anti-Suffrage League almost converted him to their very views which the League was organized to oppose.

But the ability displayed is not hard to understand. The women who are at the back of the Anti-Suffrage movement are those who are at the front of the English upper classes and relatives of prominent men of the remainder of the aristocracy each received one month, in default of sureties, everyone of them saying that it was impossible for them to enter into their recognisances.

Miss Dora Marsden stated she had been specially sent from Manchester to carry the petition to the House of Commons, and that she considered that she had done her duty and was to

THE TREASURER'S NOTE.

It is a very great pleasure to publish again, after an interval of five weeks, the contributions to the fund, which has mounted up during this time to no less than £3,500, bringing the total up to close upon £53,000. When I visited the Treasurer last week in Holloway, I was able to tell her the total amount of the Self-denial Fund and promises, and her pleasure at hearing that over £3,000 had been raised, could well be imagined. She asked me specially to express to all the members her hearty appreciation of what they had done.

F. W. P. L.

Contributions to the £50,000 Fund.

Table listing names and amounts for the £50,000 fund, including categories like 'Already acknowledged', 'A Cowardly Sympathiser', 'A Disgraced Liberal', etc.

Table listing names and amounts for the £50,000 fund, including names like 'Mrs. Miss J.', 'Mrs. Miss K.', 'Mrs. Miss L.', etc.

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LOCAL NOTES.

Barnes W.S.P.U.—We held an At Home at Hyfield Hall on Friday last, when Mrs. Mansel-Monkton spoke, and Mrs. Whittaker, of Putney, took the chair. Mrs. Whittaker briefly explained the objects of the Society, and then announced that she had spent a portion twenty years ago, and until the militant method we were no more getting the vote than this. Mrs. Mansel-Monkton, in her speech, said the best life was one lived for the community, and women could attain to their homes and children and yet have time for helpful or reform. A special appeal was made to all women to come forward and help. Mrs. Whittaker's resolution, "The Premier and the Suffragettes" caused much amusement.

Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U.—Our home meeting on Friday, March 26th, with Miss Brian Weston, M.A., as principal speaker, and Miss Hall as chairman, was the event of the week. We had a capital audience, and good deal of literature. Several of our members went to Exeter last Saturday. Our Saturday afternoon meeting on the Frost was most interesting by the presence of Miss Turner, formerly secretary of the W.L.A. Miss Elizabeth Parkhurst is coming in May, when we celebrate our second anniversary at a local house. Today (Friday) we shall have our meeting as usual at 8 p.m., at North Street Quadrant. Operatic meetings, Wednesday and Saturday, 1.30. Western Brigade, Othello, Monday according to weather. Members who would like to take part in these, please contact the office at 7.30 p.m. "Vote Corps" will meet at 8, North Street Quadrant at 11.30 a.m. Saturdays.

Chelsea W.S.P.U.—Will members and friends make a point of being present at our weekly At Home on Wednesday, 8.30 p.m., at 20, Oakley Street. We want to make definite plans for our opening meetings, and it is at these At Home that we decide upon our speakers for the next few days. It would be a great convenience and help to the secretary if anyone free to speak or take the chair would then give in her name so that just before we are asked for insertion in the Programme of Events. We are hoping that Dr. Christine Marshall will speak at one of our At Home after the Easter holidays. The week we have asked for the number and size of pictures that are being sent to the M.P. at the Education Committee, will be opening the space. We wish it to be clearly understood that Miss Downing will arrange for all pictures on that subject to be sent to the M.P. at their value. We are now asking that those members who have not yet written to us with proposals of gifts will send full details, with the approximate money value, and also promise of help for our shop that we hope to open in the Easter, to Miss Blacklock, box Exhibition secretary, 21, Beaufort Mansions.

Forest Gate and Wanstead W.S.P.U.—We are holding an open-air meeting (Friday), at the corner of Saxon Road, at 7.30, and hope many members will come to help to distribute handbills and sell literature. We are meeting at Forest Gate Station on Saturday, at 11 o'clock, to advertise the meeting in Earlham Hall, on Tuesday, April 6. I hope everybody who can possibly come will do so, as we shall need a lot of workers for handbill distribution.

Hendon W.S.P.U.—Our next work in Hendon is to make a survey of the 41 Homes given by Mrs. Bondhead and Mrs. Wyatt, at the General Office, on Wednesday, April 7, at 4 o'clock. It will be a reception in honor of our released prisoner, Mrs. Kelly, to whom a presentation will be made. Miss Miss Stafford Bagshaw will be the principal speaker. We hope that all our members and friends will jet nothing being their being present.

Horsey W.S.P.U.—There are still tickets to be had at 5d. (2c. in advance) for our work at the Assembly Rooms, Millers Lane, Crook Road, on Saturday evening, April 3. Every ticket sold now will be sent forth for the Exhibition Fund. We hope that the money given will be doubled by friends undertaking to make up for our small materials we shall buy. Will every Horsey member try to get promises of work, and also let us know how much time they can give. Will members send any special orders for goods which they would be willing to buy from our stall, Miss Hilday, of 46, Orchard Hill, has kindly undertaken to do any jewelry repairs; putting in new brooch pins, etc., and give all the proceeds from new till May 15 to our fund. Local members are asked to give their jobs to her to do. At our meeting on Friday last Miss Wyatt took the chair, and Miss Dagdale made an excellent speech.

Hull W.S.P.U.—On Saturday last Miss Little and I again visited the Special Council with Yvonne WOODS, and though the work was not so rapid as the previous week, we disposed of double the number of copies. Receipts for the work are greatly needed. Hull members desire to express their warmest appreciation of the noble services of Lady Constance Lytton and other members of the N.W.S.P.U., and other heartiest congratulations on their release from prison.

Lewisham W.S.P.U.—On Monday, March 22, Miss Smith, of Streatham, addressed a large meeting in the Market Place, Lewisham. A large number of "Votes" were sold. Our Broochy meeting on the 25th ult. was most successful. Miss C. Townsend, from Boleyn, was presented with an illuminated address and a bouquet, both in the colors of the Union. Miss Campbell spoke on the militant tactics. Several new members were enrolled, with whom Miss Campbell will start the Birkbeck Ward. A collection of taken of 41 s. 6d.

Marplebone W.S.P.U.—On Tuesday, Miss Agnes Kelly addressed a well-attended drawing-room meeting, organized by Mrs. Fry, and two more drawing-room meetings have been arranged for next week. We are making preparations for a home-borne canvas, which we hope to carry out soon after the Easter holidays. Will any members living in Marplebone, who can afford to do any other way, kindly communicate with Mrs. Nourse, 26, Weymouth Street, W., or with Miss Gail Sheppard, 11, Upper Berkeley Street, W.

Nottingham W.S.P.U.—On Thursday, March 25, members met at the Midland Station to welcome Miss Helen Watts after her month in Holland. In the evening there was a large meeting at the supper table in her honor. Mrs. Smith presided, and Miss Watts herself gave a graphic account of her prison life. Miss Storerham, Rev. A. Ward gave a graphic account of her prison life. On Friday our leader, Mrs. Parkhurst, spoke to a large and enthusiastic audience in the Mechanics Hall, Miss Dorothy Pollard took the chair. It was the best meeting ever held in Westminster. The motion was carried out with great enthusiasm. We owe many thanks to the speakers for the work done by our members in working up the meeting and in giving us statistics, and to the men at Nottingham who generously volunteered to attend for these public meetings.

Putney and Fulham W.S.P.U.—Several of our members were waiting at Church at the end of last week. Will all those willing to help as literature sellers, chairmen, etc., make a special effort to attend the meeting at St. Charles's Mansions, West King's Road, this Friday (April 2), at 8 p.m. A very successful open-air meeting was held in Waverley Square, Putney, on Friday last week. Miss Taylor was the speaker, and Mrs. Davin took the chair. Tickets for the school-drive can be had from the Putney office, Miss Catten, 46, St. Mark Road, Fulham. Prospectuses for the Exhibition will be supplied by Miss Levaton, the Exhibition secretary.

THE SUFFRAGETTES "MOTHER."

In opening the Hampstead Garden Suburb on Saturday, Queen Bess had all diluted any sort of crowd there. It was wrong of Bess to let the crowd door, and generally be thought Bess was quite right to open the Sub, at any rate was the mother of all Suffragettes.

WATCHING THE FUN.

From behind police protection the Members watched the fun—The Paper. When a score or so of women, armed with their own caps, and when (without police protection) to the makers of our laws, To ask that right and equity and justice should be done, From behind police protection the Members watched the fun.

Had those gentlemen (I) forgotten the deeds, so true and brave, Done by women in past times their fellow-men to save? Did they think of Florence Nightingale, to mention only one, When behind police protection they stood and watched the fun?

When they think of all the sport they've missed, lived in this snidling age, I'm sure they'll swear and stamp their feet, and gnash their teeth. Had they lived when Joan of Arc was burnt, no doubt they would have run.

Behind police protection, and have stood and watched the fun. They might have seen Jane Grey, so wise, and Mary, Scotland's Queen, Lose their heads upon the block—grand times those that must have been. They might have seen Hyppata torn to pieces by the mob—Oh! the fun they've missed, and the sport they've lost! I almost fancy me old!

Could the Suffragettes be burnt alive, in any Trafalgar Square, And Parliament have an "evening off" so that Members could be there, I'm sure the thing quite thoroughly and properly would be done, And behind police protection they could stand and watch the fun.

Now, each gentleman (I) had a mother, who, if she's living still, Must glow with admiration, and with pride her heart must thrill: When she reads how brave and chivalrous was the behaviour of her son,

When, behind police protection, he stood and watched the fun.

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Whatever may be felt about some of the methods of the militant section of the Suffragettes, no reasonable person can doubt their earnestness, their self-sacrificing industry, or the absolute purity of their motives. The intimation so frequently heard that these devoted women are seeking notoriety, that they love the cheap notoriety of Holloway Gaol, and of police-court appearances are entirely without foundation. . . . It was impossible to listen to Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Geyther, and Miss Mary Phillips at the Women's Parliament on Wednesday night without feeling that they have before them the loftiest ideals. They are labouring for the amelioration of the lot of the working woman. They honestly believe that the best, if not the only course, is to make woman of importance politically, and that can only be done by giving women the vote on the same terms as men. . . . The Suffragette claims will have to be dealt with legislatively, and that very soon. The movement cannot be ignored. Mr. Asquith is making the greatest mistake in declining to receive a deputation and hear a statement from the leaders' own lips in defence of their methods, and in explanation of their policy and aims. The desire to lay their case before the Chief Minister of the Crown is reasonable and in harmony with the Constitution, and Mr. Asquith's persistent refusal to accede to their wishes is wholly without justification. . . . Why should he not receive them? Mr. Asquith receives deputations of men, who lay before him all kinds of grievances and demands. As a simple matter of fairness and equity, if for no other reason, he ought to receive the Suffragettes. They are citizens, if they are not voters. His refusal to see them is the root cause of all the trouble in London, and has led to the imprisonment of women whose only offence is that of seeking to secure the rights of citizenship. . . . Incidentally, Mr. Asquith's attitude is a very strong argument for the concession of votes to women. The Premier would not refuse to receive a deputation of women if women had votes. . . . We do not know how far, if at all, the anti-Suffragette movement was represented on Wednesday night. If any "antisl" were present, they must have had a cold time in the presence of the ardent and affectionate for the Suffragette leaders and devotion to the cause displayed by the audience.

—Manchester Weekly Times, March 27.

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