

VOTES FOR WOMEN!

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

(Concluded.)

The Passing of Old Traditions.

It is a most unfortunate thing that this question should have become so critical at a time when some of England's oldest political traditions are dissolving in pangs. It has become part and parcel of a general breaking-up movement. Undoubtedly the two great issues before the electorate are Tariff Reform or Socialism, and each, in itself, spells revolution on a large scale. The suffrage question may rival them in interest at the next election, although I hardly think so. The time is too close upon us. I do not intend to disparage the efforts of the women when I say that their cause is more likely than not to be swamped at election-time by the two other topics. The suffragists have placed Mr. Asquith in a very tight corner. If the principles contained in the present Budget, for instance, were likely to carry the polls, he could safely go to the country with them, and at the same time ask for a mandate on the Votes for Women movement. But it is by no means clear that the country is prepared to favour "advanced" legislation, and the Liberal Government, at the present juncture, cannot afford to champion two revolutionary causes. We seem to be in a political, as well as an administrative deadlock, so far as Female Suffrage is concerned, I mean, of course, in regard to its immediate settlement. The position is also complicated by the fact that there is a powerful Anti-Suffrage Society at work, and that the vote-seeking women have split into two camps, those who desire the general extension of the franchise and those who want it applied on a limited scale. The latter seem to be holding the field. Doubtless Mr. Asquith thinks that it is hardly worth his while just now to put the Liberal Party in jeopardy for the sake of a limited extension of the franchise, and would prefer to deal with the question of Adult Suffrage as a whole. I think that the supporters of the Limited Bill have the most logical backing, because, at a time when so many male voters have but the dimmest idea of what is required of them, it seems absurd to talk of flooding the country with another mass of ignorant voters.

There seems to be a well-founded impression that the Liberals are more favourably inclined to the Votes for Women movement than the Tories. At first blush this would appear to be unreasonable, as I think that the average woman is even more inclined than the average man to support those things which are essentially Conservative, such as the monarchy, the Church, Society, and the aristocracies of hereditament and wealth. But the average woman's horizon has hitherto been much more limited than the average man's and, as her interest in public matters grew, I believe that she would tend more and more to ally herself with the "domestic" side of politics, and those projects which are essentially Liberal. Toryism, in the Imperial sense of the word, appeals more to a masculine than a feminine imagination.

There is a small point in this interesting discussion which should not be overlooked. There is no doubt that the militant suffragettes are thoroughly enjoying themselves, and a certain amount of sympathy with them for the painful indignities and inconveniences which they have brought upon themselves may be justifiably withheld. The intoxication of fierce joy is in all their public utterances.

Martyrs from Choice.

The gusto with which they shriek the word "martyr" is unmistakable. It would be an error to take their statements about prison treatment too seriously, as they are obviously beside themselves with excitement. Whatever may be the feelings of women generally, one has only to read between the lines of such organs as "Votes for Women" to see that the militants are engaged in a sex-war. It is not openly declared and it crops up in many different ways—the turn of a phrase, the particular use of a word, or a sudden, illuminating point of view. In their hearts they are filled with the direst animosity, something which has broken out into uncontrolled riot, after much bubbling and seething in secret. This, for instance, from one of the street-sellers of the W.S.P.U. journal:—

"Will you buy this week's 'Votes for Women'?" I asked.

"He came close up and hissed in my ear, with a gleam of malignant teeth, 'I'm not such a fool!'"

The incident may or may not be exaggerated, but there can be no doubt as to the state of mind of the lady who described it. The militant suffragettes have started on this crusade with a sense of high adventure. They are banded together against the common enemy. Their nerves are strung to the highest possible tension. They want the fight more than the vote, and they are revelling in every turn and phase of the combat. The bottled-up wrath of years has been suddenly uncorked and they would be the most disappointed people in the world if these glorious days were abruptly to cease. It is they who have forced the pace. Imprisonment, rough treatment, forcible feeding, are risks which they willingly invite for the satisfaction of coming to grips with their foe. Not

for the sake of their professed object would they keep the struggle within honourable limits; in fact, most of them are honest enough to admit that they never had any intention of fighting fairly. They commit offences for which men would be punished severely, and complain of unchivalrous treatment when they are not given first class hotel accommodation at the expense of the State. They are not inconsistent in this; it is quite in keeping with the mean spirit which has actuated them throughout. It would be an insult to their intelligence to say that they are illogical in making such a use of the advantage of sex. It is "part of the game." At any rate, to take an entirely impartial view, however humiliating and disagreeable may be the spectacle of women engaged in such tactics, one cannot but admire the pluck and hardihood with which they have flung themselves into the arena. There are certain bulldog fighting qualities which we have always recognised as essentially typical of the Anglo-Saxon male, and if, on occasion, our women exhibit like qualities, it is only what we should expect from them. They fight as only Anglo-Saxon women can, and their courage and tenacity throughout have been worthy of, dare I say...men!

G. A. A.

DISCOVERERS' DISPUTES.

That Cook and Peary are not the only explorers who have quarrelled over the genuineness of their discoveries is shown by the rival claims of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci as to the discovery of America, and also as to whether Verrazano or Hudson first discovered the Hudson River. Likewise the fight between Speke and Burton as to the discovery of the source of the Nile embroiled the scientific world for many years. It would, indeed, seem the irony of fate that though Columbus discovered the continent it was not named after him instead of Vespucci.

Another notable instance of a real discoverer failing to receive credit for his achievement, is that of Giovanni Verrazano, the Florentine navigator. That he really discovered the Hudson River in 1524, proved by his log and by letters which are still extant, would seem to be conclusive. But how far up the river he sailed has always been a matter of doubt. That he did sail into New York Bay sufficiently far to see and describe Manhattan Island is certain. Hudson explored the river that bears his name 85 years later, in 1609. The reason that Hudson received the credit for it is to be found in the fact that the early settlers were Dutch and English.

They knew all about Hudson, few if any of them had ever heard of Verrazano. Eager to claim credit for a man of their own race, historians dismissed Verrazano with a line, while they told in full the story of Hudson's discovery. Therefore, while the Italians of New York are disposed to give Hudson credit for all he did, they resent the manner in which their compatriot's fame has been neglected. Consequently, they propose to give expression to this feeling by presenting to the City of New York during the present month a monument from the hands of Ximenes, the famous Italian sculptor, in honour of Verrazano.

LATEST AMERICAN MAIL NEWS.

TO THE UNITED STATES

November 27.—Neckar, from Bremen, mails due in New York December 9. Mark letters "Via Bremen" and post not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Friday, November 26.
 December 1.—Majestic, from Southampton, mails due in New York December 9. Mark letters "Via England," and with name of steamer, and post not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Monday, November 29.
 December 5.—Campania, from Liverpool, mails due in New York December 11. Mark letters "Via Colon—Queenstown per Cunard Line," and post not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, December 2.

TO CANADA.

For the information of Canadian readers it may be mentioned that a fast mail steamer of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company leaves Liverpool for Quebec and Montreal direct every Saturday. Letters intended for Canada by this direct route should be posted in Berlin and Dresden not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Thursdays, and be marked: "Via Liverpool by Empress steamer." At the same time it should be remembered that Canadian letters can also be sent by one of the New York steamers, and that if mailed by steamers direct from German harbours they obtain the benefit of the 10-pfennig rate for 20 grammes.

NEXT AMERICAN MAILED IN BERLIN AND DRESDEN.

On Saturday, November 27, by the S.S. La Lorraine, left New York November 18.

On Monday, November 29, by the S.S. St. Louis, and the S.S. Kaiserin Auguste Victoria, both left New York November 20.

As there are many of our readers who still appear to believe that letters despatched to America under the new cheap rate—10 pfgs. for 20 grammes, only by steamer sailing from German ports—are not forwarded by the express steamers, but are kept back for transference by "any old tub," we may state that, on the contrary, such letters are despatched by the first steamer on the schedule, be it an express or ordinary mail steamer. No distinction whatever is made, and full advantage of the cheaper rate may therefore be taken. Such letters may be sent by every steamer sailing from a German harbour (Hamburg or Bremen) which appears in our daily mail list.

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