

ABERDEEN WOMEN'S
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Editorial.

In bringing out this first issue of the Magazine of the Aberdeen Women's Social and Franchise League, the Editors wish to remind their readers of the circumstances which called the League into being two years ago. At that time no active organised work in the cause of Woman's Suffrage was being carried on in Aberdeen, and it was principally with the idea of keeping alive an interest in the question that the League was formed. Its aim during the two years of its work has been a modest one. Recruited from both militant and non-militant camps, its members have been at one in their recognition of the need for laying before the public, quietly and convincingly, the need of votes for women, and for considering the probable programme of social reform which enfranchised women would follow. Our work has been chiefly educative: some small amount of practical social work it has been found possible to undertake, but in regard to the question of how to get the vote, each member has been left free to follow her own conviction in joining either of the two great suffrage organisations which now have branches in Aberdeen. We have tried to make our work supplementary to the work of these, and in no way to enter into rivalry with them. In issuing this souvenir of the past winter's work, the Editors wish to take the opportunity of expressing on behalf of the Committee and the members of the Social and Franchise League, their debt of gratitude to the President, Miss Rhind, for all that the League owes to her.



One has heard so often of the Stronger Sex and the Weaker Sex. Why not the Fair Sex, and the Unfair Sex?

The hand that cooks the dinner, rules the world. Unfortunately so many women cannot cook.

**Messages from Suffrage Leaders to the
Aberdeen Women's Social and
Franchise League.**

The great safeguard of the Suffrage Movement in the present crisis lies, I believe, in the courage of its women. The handling of the question by politicians who have placed party before principle has been conspicuously opportunist and cowardly, and there is nothing that those who are cowardly in the fulfilment of their moral obligations dislike so much as courage in those whom they are trying to lure into dangerous entanglements. No Suffragist Member of Parliament who had the principle really at heart would hesitate to pledge his vote against the third reading of any Suffrage Bill which did not contain some measure of enfranchisement for women. Distrust absolutely therefore, nay, regard as dishonourable in their professions, all members pretending to be Suffragists who will not give that pledge; and measure by the absence of that pledge the merit to your confidence of any political party the bulk of whose members withhold it. If that pledge is not now forthcoming from the men who say they support your cause, whether they be Cabinet ministers or only private members, be independent and be courageous in your acts and your demands. The honour of every Suffragist M.P. unconditionally committed to the support of the Manhood Suffrage Bill (as all members of the Cabinet *are*) stands rooted in dishonour; and the sooner you can bring them back to an honourable standpoint the better for them and for the Cause.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

I desire to say how heartily glad I am to hear that you are keeping the flag of Democracy flying in Aberdeen. I say Democracy, for it is obvious that a Demos from which women are excluded is no true Demos at all; and the wisest people in the land are beginning to see that in the well-ordered state, as in the well-ordered family, man and woman must stand together in a true harmony of purpose and of service.

The moment is critical. I believe it is hopeful;