

Mrs. Phillp, Miss Blackburn, Miss Cozens, Miss Edith Palliser, and Miss Gertrude Stewart.

The announcement was made by Mr. Wyndham that, among the Members who had balloted for the Women's Franchise Bill, the best place had been secured by Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P. for the St. Rollox Division of Glasgow. He had obtained the twelfth place out of over 400 Members who had balloted that day for numerous Bills, and it was subsequently announced that a first place on Wednesday, May 20th, had been secured.

*Committee Notes.*

It is most important that every woman interested in Women's Suffrage throughout the country should, shortly before May 20th, exercise whatever influence she may have on Members of Parliament to induce them to be present, and to vote for the Bill. Among the ways in which this may be done is by writing or speaking to any Members, the success of whose candidature she may have worked to promote.

Memorials from influential constituents or residents in their constituencies are most useful means of informing Members, especially newly elected Members, of the views held by their constituents. The Central Committee regard it therefore as highly desirable that Memorials be presented before May 20th, by deputation or otherwise, to Members whose support is not assured. Such Memorials might be signed on behalf of organised bodies, or yet more effectively by members of Town and County Councils, Poor Law and School Boards, and other well-known persons, especially representative women in the constituency.

The following form of Memorial is recommended, subject to such alterations as local circumstances may render advisable:—

"Your Memorialists would submit that the principle of Women's Suffrage, as established by common and statute law in all local elections should be extended to parliamentary elections.

They therefore learn with great satisfaction that a Bill entitled the 'Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill' has been introduced into the House of Commons, by Mr. Faithfull Begg, Mr. George Wyndham, Mr. Jebb, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Maclure, Mr. C. B. McLaren, Sir Albert K. Rollit, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Rankin, Colonel Cotton-Jodrell and Mr. Macdona.

They earnestly trust that you will be able to give your support to the second reading of this Bill, which is set down for a first place on May 20th."

A conversazione will take place on May 18th, invitations to which will be issued by the Central Committee, and the Central National Society, to their friends and supporters, including those who helped in working for the Appeal from women, and at the time of the General Election. It is proposed that the Appeal be placed in one of the rooms for inspection by the guests before it is sent to the House of Commons.

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In sealed packets and tins only, of Grocers, everywhere.

## A Book of the Week.

### CARDINAL MANNING'S LIFE.\*

IT is almost impossible to take up a newspaper or a magazine at present without finding articles or letters therein about this Biography of Cardinal Manning. It has excited a great deal of notoriety, and, in consequence, those people who disagree with the ultimate impression of the great Cardinal left upon their minds after reading through the two thick volumes, find themselves constrained to rush into print, and express their dissent in letters and articles to the daily, weekly, and monthly press. But whatever conclusion each individual may come to (guided in their opinions, or their friendship and admiration for the Cardinal), I think every one must acknowledge that as a work of literature, this biography of Mr. Purcell's is a decided success. That the general public is of this opinion is shown by the sale of the book, and by the strange manner in which the columns of the *Publisher's Circular*, and other journals of that type, are filled with advertisements wanting *first editions* of the volumes—a sign that in the eyes of many lovers of books, the biography is considered to be a modern classic.

It is a brave book, for Mr. Purcell has had the courage, from first to last, to describe the Cardinal not surrounded with that halo of sentimental romance (which so often in the average biography obscures and blurs all personality out of a portrait), but he depicts the man as he really lived, and thought, and wrote.

The result to a great many superficially-minded people will possibly be very disappointing, for such people like to have their heroes idealised for them—they do not want to know the man as he really was, but as they would have liked to believe him to be. It is this pandering to the taste of the general public that makes the ordinary biography of great and famous men so very colourless, and so very unedifying. I think myself that Cardinal Manning has shown his real greatness in trusting his papers, letters, and diaries to Mr. Purcell, and in leaving him to deal with them as he thought fit for the purpose of writing his life. It was evidently the Cardinal's intention that full use should be made of these papers, or else he would have destroyed and suppressed many of them, and not left for the perusal of posterity the record of his mistakes and errors in judgment. Of course, the result of a biography truthfully compiled from such materials must inevitably be disappointing to those people who, as I have said before, like to imagine that Cardinals and other famous personages are exempt from the temptations and failings that average flesh is heir to. But though much will be found in these pages to surprise and grieve those people who believed that Cardinal Manning was a Saint, and a Saint only, yet I venture to think that if they will look below the mere surface of things, they cannot but acknowledge, after reading the truthful, unexaggerated life of this ambitious ecclesiastic, that he was a great and good, and unselfish, and above all, an honest-hearted man.

If any one doubts this, let him study carefully

\* "Life of Cardinal Manning," by Edmund Sheridan Purcell. 2s. 6. (Macmillan, 1895.)

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