

will be taken by Her Grace Adeline Duchess of Bedford. The Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, O.C., M.P., has kindly consented to speak.

Mr. Frank Steunenberg, the Governor of Idaho, has stated in unmistakeable terms his warm appreciation of the result of enfranchising the women of that State, he says:—

"Six years ago Idaho put in its Constitution and its statute books a suffrage law of the most absolute and sweeping character. It placed both sexes on an exact equality, not only so far as the voting is concerned, but also in holding office under the State, county or municipality government.

"A number of women were at once nominated and elected to county office. In some cases women placed in nomination were defeated at the polls, showing that they took the same chances of success or failure as the men. The only vital questions at the polls were those of merit and party. Our experience has been similarly satisfactory in the orderly conduct of polling booths, where everything is carried on in a most orderly and proper manner, and excites no more comment in the case of the women than it does in that of the men.

"The suggestion may be made that this activity of women in public affairs has operated to draw them away from their homes and from the usual domestic avocations, a suggestion that our experience amply disproves. In Idaho women are to-day the same loving wives, kind mothers and capable home managers that they have always been. Nor has there been the least belittling of the sex in the eyes of the men, nor any falling off in that tenderness and respect which men universally accord to women.

"There is not the slightest interruption of family ties. Husband and wife may vote the same way, or the husband may vote one way and the wife another. Whether they vote together or oppositely excites no interest and no animosity, although, naturally, families have the same party affiliations. As the system has not operated to take women from their homes, so, too, it has not tended to make them in any way masculine.

"Concerning the extent to which women in Idaho exercise the rights given them by the law, it has been found to be very general, and will probably increase until, in my judgment, the percentage of women voting will be as large as that of men. As to the character of the vote, it does not appear to come from any particular classes or places.

"In a general sense there can be no doubt that the participation of women in our public affairs has had a most elevating influence. All parties see the necessity of nominating the best individuals of their parties. The natural aim of women is toward the best good of the community and to secure the highest social conditions.

Instead of seeking extremes of reform, as had been predicted, they are interested in stable and conservative administration for the benefit of the homes and the children, and they avoid radical and excessive reforms.

In short, the objections which, in theory, have been urged against woman's participation in public affairs has been overcome by the actual application of the system in Idaho, and with this has come to us that elevating and ennobling influence which woman always exerts upon the affairs in which she has a part."

## A Book of the Week.

### "LOVE AND MR. LEWISHAM."\*

This story is in a style which Mr. Wells has not hitherto attempted, though his former work has always led me to suppose that he would do it well.

This is no scientific fantasy, but a pitiful little comedy of modern life and manners, in the great unsympathetic London of to-day.

It is the daily, common, unmentioned pathos of the struggle for existence, among that curious class which is daily growing larger in our midst; the educated class, without breeding, money, or position; yearning to have their portion in the inheritance of the good things of this life, but with nobody to help them, or to give them more than what will suffice for their barest necessities.

Mr. Wells evidently thinks—and very likely rightly—that this is the class which will revolt. Education has created in them a want which education cannot satisfy. They have learned to work, but there is no market for their labours; somehow they have learned the wrong kind of work; nobody wants it or them. Scientific students, type-writers, schoolmasters—they go hungry; if they had been taught cooking instead of dissecting, hairdressing instead of type-writing, they might have a future; but their education has unfitted them to be content with these pursuits.

Mr. Lewisham, the hero, is of this class. We find him as assistant master at a small school at a salary of £40 a year, with a mind crammed with facts, a heart innocent of emotions, and a great ambition for a Career. On this simple youth, Ethel Henderson, type-writer, smiles; and for a while they soar above this world into the fairyland which love can create even for the student of science. The author has succeeded most admirably in painting for us the glamour, the light that never was, which real genuine first love casts over all things; the all-sufficiency of the present moment, the incapacity to reckon with the future. The realities of everyday life, however, assert themselves, and they part. It is only when they meet again, when he finds the girl under the influence of a scoundrelly step-father who is a spiritualistic medium, that suddenly he resolves to fling to the winds his prudence and his career and marry her, sooner than that she shall be sullied.

So they marry—on a capital of sixty pounds or so, and a weekly salary of one guinea, out of which they pay eighteen shillings rent.

It is at this point that, in my humble judgment, the realism of Mr. Wells slightly fails him. Young people of this description know a good deal better than he seems to suppose, how to make a little go a long way. The school of want is a cruel one, but its methods are efficient. A girl like Ethel will and does make a shilling do things which would make Mr. Wells gasp with incredulity. But the main point is that he has faithfully depicted the bitterness and the unnaturalness of the barriers which poverty builds up against the young, full-throbbing with natural impulse, longing only for a small simple home with a woman they love.

"The world is against us,—against us! To you it offers money to cheat, to be ignoble. It offers you no honest way, only a miserable drudgery. And it keeps you from me. And me too it bribes with the promise of success—if I will desert you . . . We may have to wait for years—we may have to wait for ever,

\* By H. G. Wells. (Harpers).

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