

A further resolution was then passed asking Mr. Faithfull Begg to receive a deputation from the National Union. This he appointed to do at his residence in Earl's Court Square, on January 31st.

The Deputation consisted of Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, Miss S. E. Hall, and Mrs. Charles Baxter, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss E. G. Roper, Secretaries to the Union.

Mr. Faithfull Begg gave the Deputation a most cordial assurance of his willingness to do them the service they sought at his hands, and entered at once with them into consideration of arrangements for summoning a Conference of Parliamentary friends of the movement, on the first day of the Session, in conjunction with Sir Edward Grey.

This is the third occasion on which acceptance of office has necessitated a change of leadership in the Women's Suffrage movement, the first occasion being when Mr. Courtney took office in 1881, and the second when Mr. Woodall took office in 1886, Mr. Wyndham himself taking the leadership in 1895 on Lord Wolmer's succeeding to the Earldom of Selborne.

II.—CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS.

Letters summoning a Conference of the supporters of the movement in the House of Commons were issued immediately, signed on the Unionist side by Mr. Faithfull Begg, and on the Liberal side by Mr. Charles McLaren, owing to Sir Edward Grey's inability to be present on the first day of the Session.

The Conference met in Committee Room 12, at 2.40, on Tuesday 7th, Mr. Faithfull Begg presiding. The following M.P.'s were present:—Colonel Cotton-Jodrell, Mr. B. L. Cohen, Mr. H. S. Foster, Mr. Hazell, Mr. Wm. Johnston, Mr. Charles McLaren, Colonel Mellor, Mr. E. P. Monckton, Mr. Morrell, Captain Norton, Mr. Skewes-Cox, Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Mr. J. Wilson (Govan), Sir James Woodhouse, Captain Young.

Those attending on behalf of the National Union were:—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, Miss E. Gore-Booth, Mrs. Gray Heald, Miss Louisa Stevenson, and Mrs. Charles Baxter, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss E. G. Roper, Secretaries to the Union. Dr. Beddoe and Mrs. Charles McLaren were also present.

It was understood that twenty-five M.P.'s were prepared to ballot for the Bill. A general agreement was arrived at on various points of procedure.

III.—THE RESULT OF THE BALLOT.

On the following day no less than 354 M.P.'s set down their names to ballot for days.

Only those members who are so fortunate as to come out in the ten or twelve first places have any clear chance for their Bills. The chances for any particular Bill, under such a pressure of numbers, are, therefore, very small. Mr. Faithfull Begg came out best amongst the Women's Suffrage friends and he stood thirty-sixth.

It is possible that, as the Session advances, other opportunities may be found to introduce the question in the House of Commons. Our Parliamentary leaders know best how to advise on this matter, and in their earnestness and their discretion the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have complete and well-grounded confidence.

A rumour is afloat that an attempt will be made to introduce the question in the House of Lords. It seems well, therefore, to state that the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies contemplate no such step. As Lord Salisbury pointed out repeatedly, on the occasions when the late Lord Denman pursued this policy some years ago, to introduce a question affecting the constitution of the Commons in the House of Lords is contrary to Parliamentary practice.

Day or no day it must not be forgotten that the Women's Suffrage question has now entered the stage when its supporters look to its becoming part of a Government measure, and much as a debate and division in the House of Commons should conduce to that end, work in the constituencies has a not less important part to perform in bringing about the desired result.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has signed a petition to the House of Commons in favour of Women's Suffrage.

A Book of the Week.

"THE VISION SPLENDID."*

THIS book has aroused considerable attention, not for its literary ability, for its style, if not faulty, is certainly without distinction; but for its subject matter, which, considering the immense interest taken by all classes now-a-days in the stage, and all things pertaining thereto, is of a nature to capture a very large class of readers.

The book is evidently, in many respects, a record of actual experience, and all actual experience is valuable, even if partial.

The view given of the stage is almost as terrible and as scathing as in that horrifying book called "Miss Tudor," reviewed in these pages some time back. The author of that book made you feel that the case of the young girl on what is known as "The Variety Stage" was hopeless—that if she struggled to keep virtuous, the doors of the "Profession" were closed against her, and that no man who tried to make friends with her could by any chance be respectable; or actuated by any but the worst motives towards herself.

This is the conclusion to which the authors of "The Vision Splendid" have also come; and their book should certainly be read by all young aspirants to the stage. Their colours are not so lurid as those in "Miss Tudor," but perhaps for that very reason they carry conviction. The horrible part of the matter is, that so much of the state of things is taken for granted. It is so; it can't be helped. Women who are fighting

* "The Vision Splendid." By Florence Bright and Robert Machray. Hutchinson and Co.

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