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## EDITORIAL.

### THE FREEDOM AND LIBERTY OF THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND.

"It is not my case alone," Charles I said at his trial, "it is the freedom and liberty of the people of England. And—do you pretend what you will—I stand more for their liberties. For if power without law may make laws, may alter the fundamental laws of the kingdom, I know not what subject he is in England that can be sure of his life or anything that he calls his own."

Surely it was for the freedom and liberty of the people of this Realm that during the recent Election they rose in their millions and sent an overpowering National majority to Westminster.

The English people have always abhorred a caucus, and the action of the Trades Union Congress in attempting to usurp the authority of Parliament, and coerce Ministers of the Crown to act contrary to their convictions, has been requited by the crushing verdict at the polls, a verdict so unanimous that it astonished the world at large, and should convince it that confidence and national solidarity have been restored. We, of course, were never in doubt as to the result of an appeal to the country when in difficulties—of course they had to be faced and overcome, it is a little way we have. And we had absolute faith in the woman's vote. She would vote in her thousands for home and England. And she did. We watched her at the polling station. The sprightly granny, the serious mother, and the clear thinking maidens, old and young. There was purpose in their every movement, and that purpose was inspired by keen patriotism and good, sound common-sense.

"They'll be hearing," they appeared to murmur—alluding no doubt to the world at large—as they inscribed the voting papers, folded them neatly and slipped them into the box.

Yet we need eternal vigilance. Let the people see to it that no power without law may make laws, and that every subject in England can be sure of his life or anything that he calls his own.

And let him earn what he owns, realising that strenuous work is the greatest gift of God.

To quote from Milton's *Areopagitica*:—

"Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle renewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam."

### HOW NURSES CAN HELP THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

We have before us a letter from an eminent Member of Parliament, whose majority in the recent Election was, we believe, the largest in the London area. In it he writes: "I hear from my various Committee rooms what an important part Nurses have played in swelling the majority."

So far good, but now the question arises. How can Nurses help the National Government? We take it that the majority of Nurses are humanitarians before they are politicians, and it is well that it should be so; but as citizens we cannot divest ourselves of responsibility for the welfare of the Nation at large.

Our National Duty can best be done, by eliminating self as far as possible from our scheme of existence, let others be considered first; what we can give of service, skill, consideration, and cash, if we can spare it let us offer to those in need. That way true happiness is found, and we Nurses as a class might well take count of our mercies in these hard times.

We do not think that any class of professional women have received greater blessings than trained Nurses during recent years. Let us recall a few of them. (1) Political enfranchisement; the greatest inspiration to self-respect, and a practical lever in promoting a high standard of living. (2) Legal Status through the Nurses' Registration Acts, which provide for a statutory standard of Professional Education, State Examination and Registration.

To carry the provisions of the Acts into force the majority of Training Schools for Nurses are making every effort at great cost to meet the Rules and Regulations. For all these advantages, costing the public thousands of pounds in voluntary subscriptions and municipal rates we owe gratitude, our only financial responsibility being the inclusive fee paid for Examination and Registration to enable us to rank as professional persons. Under these privileged conditions let there be no further self-seeking; this is not the time for less work and more pay, but for self-denial and generosity. Let these virtues have full play in our efforts to help the National Government to restore the happiness and glory of this our England.

The restoration of Great Britain to her unique place amongst the Nations is not only a national but international duty. Do not let us forget that she has been for centuries the foremost civilizing force on earth, and that the fine qualities of our people as proved in the recent contest are those upon which the future welfare of the world depends.

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