

In the plays of Brieux those terrible matters are portrayed in a dramatised form for the stage. We cannot have the play performed in England—the Censor would not allow that—but you can read it in book form with a preface by George Bernard Shaw, who says “Decency is indecency’s conspiracy of silence.”

One more quotation from a woman always looked upon as the leader of the purity crusade of the last century, a woman whose name always evokes cheers—Josephine Butler. The opinion of a woman like that will do very much to support Miss Pankhurst and the Suffragette in this task which they have undertaken. She says that we should call each sin relentlessly by its right name; that we should reject any covenanting either with the sin or with the social prudery that would ignore it. And I might add to that the words of a still greater—of Christ Himself, when He warns His followers “to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” There is hypocrisy in prudery. “There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed and that shall not be known. What ye have spoken in the inner chamber shall be proclaimed upon the house-tops.”

While I was reading those words last time, and while I was thinking, and my wife too, of all these women suffering martyrdom in prison, my eyes went on to the very next verse, “Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have nothing more that they can do.” Does not that refer to those noble women martyrs who are in gaol today and are suffering for their faith? The martyr spirit is wanted in this movement.

Remember that God is on the side of the women. Why do I dare say that? Because God is always on the side of justice, and not on the side of the biggest battalions.

There are other things that I should like to ask you to remember. There is an old proverb which says that “You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs.” I leave that to be applied according to the conscience of everybody present. There is another old saying,

which is, “That the blackest hour of the night precedes the dawn.” I think that applies to us and our movement very clearly indeed. I should like to add to this the inspiring words of Russell Lowell:

“Truth for ever on the scaffold,
Wrong for ever on the throne,
But that scaffold sways the future;
And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch upon His own.”

ARE SWORN IN

Mrs. Clayards and Miss McDonald, Victoria’s new police women, were sworn in before Magistrate Jay last month and are now members of the force. They have been carefully instructed in their duties by Chief Langley, which will be chiefly of a preventive nature in regard to women and children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The usual fortnightly meetings of the Political Equality League will take place in the King’s Daughters’ Rest Room on December the 8th and the 22nd, when first-rate speakers will be present, and a very good musical programme will add to the attractions of these now popular affairs.

FOR SALE

9-room house and lots in Section
32, Cordova Bay.

4½-acre blocks near Durrant’s
B. C. E. R., nine miles from
Victoria.

City Property in Edmonton, Alta.

For particulars apply by mail
to C. R. MONTGOMERY, 1324
George St., City, or in person at
house, Cordova Bay.