



Conducted by "ISOBEL"

WAIL OF THE WEST

With fingers picked to the bone,
With language unfit to read,
A bachelor farmer sat alone,
Plying his needle and thread.
Stitch, stitch, stitch,
Patching up sacks with rags,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
He sang "The Song of the Bags."

Patch, Patch, Patch,
Till yer can't tell patch from sack,
An' stitch, stitch, stitch
Till yer stiff in yer blooming back,
It's O! to be a Duke,
A Marquis or a Lord,
With never a bag to patch in a year
Nor a day to work for yer board.

Patch, Patch, Patch,
This un belong'd to Jim;
Stitch, stitch, stitch,
I got it last fall from him;
Patch it, an' cuss it, an' darn,
Darn, an' cuss it, and patch,
Till I almost think I'll marry this fall,
An' leave 'em as likes it to batch.

O! men with sisters dear,
O! men with mothers an' wives,
Give 'em the bags to patch an' mend
For the rest of their natural lives—
Stitch, stitch, stitch,
Pricking yer finger or thumb,
An' when yer cusses, they into yer pitch
An' wonder yer ain't struck dumb.

Patch, Patch, Patch,
This un belongs to Jones;
Stitch, stitch, stitch,
The only bag that he owns,
An' this un I found one day
When driving back home from town,
It's newly marked "T. A. C. SMITH;"
Done over "G. W. BROWN."

Stitch, stitch, stitch,
The farmer kept working alone,
Patching the bags from a dozen farms
An' not a bag of his own.
And it's O! for the sight of a bag
With my own name printed fair,
There isn't a bag in the granary left
Of the dozen I bought last year.

An' it's O! for one hour of rest,
For leisure to smoke one's clay;
By gum, I'll drop this needle an' thread
An' patch 'em with corks o' hay:
Stitch, stitch, stitch,
Patching his sacks with rags,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
He sang "The Song of the Bags."

HOMESTEADS FOR WOMEN

Dear Isobel:—Please send one copy of the petition re "Woman's Homestead," for men to sign, and one copy for women to sign.

WILFRED W. HIPPISEY,
Winnipegosis.

Dear Fireside:—Having seen one of the petitions regarding homesteads for women at a neighbors, I find it is not quite explicit as to married women living with husband and family getting homesteads. I should like very much if you would kindly furnish me with full information on this point.

THREE INTERESTED ONES.

Note. Any woman of British birth, a resident in Canada for at least one year, and being of the age of 21 years; or being of the age of 18 years and still living with her parents or guardian, shall have the right to homestead upon exactly the same terms as men. Any woman who fills the requirements mentioned above. Can a married woman fulfil the conditions named? Assuredly.

Dear Isobel:—I have been an interested reader of your Homesteads for Women page, also the discussion as to whether or not all women should be given equal rights.

I may say that I have signed one of your petitions and before doing so I took the trouble to read it, as I think all should do, and if it had not stated "women of British birth" I would certainly not have signed it, as I do not believe in giving the same rights to foreigners or Americans as I do to our "women of British and Canadian birth." I do not consider it selfish to say women of British birth in the petition, as every woman should, I consider, have a birthright in her own country; but can hardly see why "Ex-American" can expect to just step across the line and expect to have just the same right as a Canadian born. When the government gives the American man a homestead it demands that he shall become a British subject before he obtains his deed; but in the case of women we would have no guarantee that they would even become British subjects. I think it would only be just to have the provision made that all British and Canadian women be entitled to a homestead.

JAMES ALLAN.

Cordova, Man.

Note. Every woman whose father or husband is a British subject, becomes one also, by virtue of her relationship to him. Do you mean, Mr. Allan, that every foreigner, men as well as women, should be naturalized by a three-year residence in Canada and the oath of allegiance before he is allowed to homestead in Canada?

ISOBEL.

Dear Isobel and other Ladies:—Your Homesteads for Women petition is "a beaut." My neighbor, Jim Pool, and I would like to sign it.

This little note is just to say that there's lots of fine homesteads for women in our locality and Jim has a new little automobile and could show 'em (the girls) around and help 'em pick a good one.

Hoping those old blokes at Ottawa will give the fair ones a straight deal.

BACHELOR CHARLIE.

Whitlings, Sask.

July 1, 1911.

P. S.—I have a nice buggy and horse.

B. C.

Dear Isobel—Will you please send me petition blank "Homesteads for Women."

HENRY BOEMING.

Coblentz, Sask., July 21.

Dear Isobel—We have been taking the Grain Growers' Guide for some time and I think the "Homesteads for Women" petition is a fine thing; also the Sunshine Guild.

If you will please send me a petition I will certainly do my best to get it filled.

(Mrs.) M. A. BECKETT.

Wardenville, Sask.

Dear Isobel—Kindly send me one of those petitions, "Homesteads for Women," and I shall endeavor to get signatures. Please advise me as to who should sign.

E. M. ATRILL.

Heatherwood, Alta., July 25.

Note—Please do not get women signers. Any man who has got a vote in Canada—east or west—is desirable.

Dear Isobel—I am just going to peep into women's affairs. Please send me a petition for "Homesteads for Women," and I will get all the signers I can because I believe that it is right that women should have a chance with men to homestead.

JAMES HARDWICK.

Nesbitt, Man, July 29.

P.S.—I suppose men's names will do on the petition, as well as women's?

Note—Secure only the names of men. Women cannot vote, hence their signa-

tures will avail little, if anything—
ISOBEL.

Dear Isobel—Would you please send me about eight petitions for "Homesteads for Women." I can place that many to good advantage. All Western men that I have met favor homesteads for women.

(Mrs.) M. E. DALGLEISH,
Naisberry, Sask.

Dear Isobel—Please send me one or more petition blanks—"Homesteads for Women," and I will try to get as many signatures as possible. It certainly is only just that women should be allowed to homestead as well as men. They do on scrip land. Why the distinction?

OLIVER KING.

Wawanesa, Man.

THE FIGHT WORTH WHILE

The fight worth while on this good old earth

Isn't the fight for a hoard of gold!
It isn't the fight to increase your worth
In stocks and bonds and things to hold.
It isn't the fight for a higher place,
For a meed of power for a little while;
Or to finish first in the grinding race
And to bask in glory and pomp and style.

The fight worth while is the fight to be
Unfettered here by the cords of vice;
To set your soul from your body free,
To be unswerved by a yellow price,
To win the love of your fellow men,
To be a man that they all respect;
To lose a fight but to fight again,
With your shoulders square and your head erect.

This is the fight worth while today,
To have ideals and to cling to them,
To live your life in your own good way
In spite of scoffers who may condemn;
To be willing to fail if the victory
Would lower your standard of what is right;
To be poor in purse, if you have to be,
But rich in spirit. Here is a fight!

To ask no favors from any man,
To conquer yourself, and to face the strife
With courage born of your own-made plan
To do your best with your term of life;
To shirk no task that you find to do,
However bitter it seems to be!
And at last when the battle of earth is through,
To be ready to die, in victory.

—Detroit Free Press.

FREEDOM FOR MOTHERS

Dear Isobel:—A sentence in that letter of Mr. Horne's attracted my attention. Reading the same time-worn arguments rather tired me but when he said: "Ladies should confine themselves to the home and not dabble in politics," then I opened my eyes and got down my dictionary. I quite agree with him, as I find by my dictionary that "to dabble" means "to dip into or meddle superficially with anything."

Women should keep out of politics if they are going to be dabblers. It is enough to see our present legislators dabble without seeing their actions copied by women in the future. Better for women never to have a vote than to use it as a plaything or in the line of party politics. I must say I think it cool for a man to talk of "dabbling" in politics.

Think of that petition that went to the House last winter, a petition signed by twenty thousand electors and in the coldest time of one of the coldest winters of Manitoba! The largest petition ever placed before the House on any subject; signed by men, irrespective of party, some of them the most influential in the province, you would think it would get the most honorable attention, would you not? You are mistaken, my friends. That petition lay there for a month unnoticed by either party. Men and women worked hard during the cold weather about those petitions and our representatives (?) sat comfortably in the House and gave no more heed to them than if it were signed by twenty thousand dogs instead of twenty thousand men.

Men of both parties ignored it; not one spoke up for it. What do they care about the temptations our boys have? But—with the women's vote and the Referendum, the law asked for on that petition would be in force now, and like the women of Seattle, the women of Manitoba would clear the land of those

vile institutions which are ruining our homes.

One of the excuses offered for the insult given to the petitioners was the fact that "the party caucus of each side would not stand for it." Now, imagine a Parliament of women arguing this way! "We know this is a splendid thing for our homes and the nation, but we must consider our party." Much they would consider about their party!

I heard that one of the members told a reform councilman, with tears in his eyes, that he "would have given his right hand to have spoken to his electors before leaving for Winnipeg." Well, when I heard that, I thought that brother must have had an onion concealed about him, and as for "losing his right hand" there is no fear of his losing any limbs in the temperance cause. I am not afraid of his losing the paring of his little finger-nail. All he was afraid of was losing his seat in Parliament, for when it comes to a man being willing to lose limbs in a good cause he won't be afraid to stand up and speak for a petition which he knows is right and just.

No, Mr. Horne, it's not "dabbling" we want but "doing," and the sooner women get at it the better. They are not so party-bound as men. 'Tis true some women are party women now without the vote, but when the daughter of a rampant Liberal marries a hot Tory and vice versa, it is hard for her to see how father and husband can both be right, and if she takes any interest in it at all, she gradually settles down to the fact that they are both fine men, but as far as politics are concerned, "playing a game" like school boys play football; there must be sides to have a bit of excitement, and sometimes it seems strange to her that they should have the laws and constitution of a grand new country for a ball.

Decidedly "It is not that women need the ballot as that the ballot needs the women."

Mr. Horne's remarks about "women having less morality than men" is hardly worth mentioning, only to say that Mr. Horne is to be pitied. It is unnecessary to deny his assertion.

Among the noblest creatures of either sex who brightened this earth with their presence have been, and are (for they, being dead, yet speak)—Florence Nightingale, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances Willard—all suffragists. Thanking you in advance for space.

AVALON.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Ten thousand letters have been sent to the farmers of the State by the California Political Equality League of Los Angeles. The letter that follows gives the pith of the suffrage reasons, which, if enumerated, would be multitudinous: "MOTHERS, FATHERS, AND ALL GOOD CITIZENS—"

"A constitutional amendment giving the suffrage to women is to be voted on October 10, 1911.

"MOTHERS—Our duty is to take care of the home and the child, but we cannot raise good children unless we can control the conditions surrounding the home.

"The vote has to do with the cost of living, sanitation, food supply, education and moral conditions affecting our young people. Big organizations are making vast profits from commercialized vice. We and our children are the victims. Mothers, beseech the men you know to give you the vote to protect the home.

"FATHERS—Remember your daughters—they must make a living; conditions are hard for them—give the girl as fair a show as the boy. Protect your daughters by giving them the vote.

"CITIZENS—Put it into the hands of the many for it is just and it is progressive. It doubles the power for good. Thousands of women desire it and realize their need of it.

"Vote for the amendment giving women the suffrage and insure good government in California."

THE LITTLE RAIN PROPHECY

By Mary A. Wood

"Is that a bird singing, Jack?" little Bess called softly to her brother. It was late afternoon in August; the air was heavy with heat; the ground was dry, the flowers drooped; everything wanted rain.

Bessie stood on the doorstep, and Jack sat by the window reading. He did not hear till she asked again, "Say, Jack, is that a bird?"

"I hear nothing," he said, not lifting his head from his book.