

themselves, because they realize that men have not understood the problems of women and have made laws for women which are neither fair nor suitable. They want it for what it will enable them to do for children and for men and for the country as a whole; they see that while men have made marvellous progress during the last century in machinery and invention and in business organization, the human side of progress has been lamentably neglected, and they know that women understand this side better than men and will bring about far-reaching reforms when they get the power to do so.

But the feature of the present situation is that women not only want the Parliamentary vote and all that it implies, but are quite determined to have it. And whether some influential men in the country are opposed to it doesn't really make the least difference, except to the nature of the struggle and how long it will take to win the victory. As to the defeat of the recent Bill in the House of Commons, anyone who knows anything about the working of the British Parliamentary machine—and the women who are fighting for the vote have learnt a wonderful lot about it lately, more even than some of us who are enfranchised citizens—knows how beautifully it was all arranged beforehand. The first thing was the production of a mock Bill.

What women are asking for is, that the sex barrier in the franchise laws should be swept away, that in view of the fact that certain qualifications are necessary to enable a man to become a voter, the same qualifications should enfranchise women. That proposition is both logical and moderate and resolutions in its favor have been passed by nearly all the local elected bodies throughout the United Kingdom. So an altogether different Bill was prepared, one to give a "fancy" franchise to women on a different principle altogether. No one had asked for this fancy franchise, no one wanted it; no one really supported it; that is why it

was chosen! Then there was the mock debate in which the most prominent supporters of woman suffrage in the Cabinet, "by arrangement with Mr. Asquith," refrained from speaking. Then there was the mock division in which Mr. Balfour and most of the Unionist supporters of woman suffrage abstained from voting because of the terms of the mock Bill, and when 55 of the official Irish Party under John Redmond—30 of whom were pledged to support woman suffrage—voted against it to please Asquith!

And the reason women are laughing to-day is because they know that the tremendous struggle which lies before them will make the final victory all the more important. Had men given women the vote as an act of justice seven years ago it might have been comparatively little used. Had they yielded to the demand put forward to-day it might not have affected many other countries besides our own. But if women take the vote as the result of a further period of fierce conflict, then that victory will bear fruit in every part of the civilized world.

F. W. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.

#### VOTES FOR WOMEN.

There are two ways with measures brought before the House of Commons. Either they are hustled through almost without discussion and before you have time to think, or they are discussed and discussed and discussed until you are quite tired of thinking. If the Government had meant to pass the Suffrage Bill they would have taken the first alternative; as they mean to kill it if they can they have taken the second. And had not the militants made everybody so jolly uncomfortable the Government trick would be certain of success.

As a matter of fact any further discussion is superfluous; our minds are made up. The democrat is, and must be, in favor of women's suffrage; the anti-democrat is, and must be, against