

comfortable people do not see; they read only their own papers which repeat their pet prejudices and tell them comfortable lies. Our apparently happy and careless security is like the security of the smiling vineyards and villages I saw some years ago on the slopes of Vesuvius, which a few years later were buried under the fierce lava and ashes vomited from the mouth of the volcano. To-day we can govern only by consent. The day for compulsion has gone by. **If men and women can't respect the law, they will break the law.** If the Government is not worthy of respect they will defy the Government. Men are ceasing to believe in constitutional Government; they have lost faith in politicians and in Parliament. They have lost faith even in Labour Members. Do you wonder? What sort of a constitution are we living under? We have learned only to pull down, but not to build up. We have reduced our King to the level of a Royal Penman, whose main duty is to affix his Royal autograph to official documents. To present him with a petition is to be put in prison. We have practically abolished our Second Chamber. **We have gagged and throttled the House of Commons and reduced its members to rival flocks of sheep-like voters, led by those gentle shepherds, the Party Whips.** We have made an old gentleman who stopped thinking thirty years ago the dictator of the country. No law can pass, even if there be a majority in the House in favor of it, unless this old gentleman graciously permits, that is, unless it fits in with his party game. Was it worth while cutting off King Charles's head for this, and giving up the Divine right of kings for the Divine right of Cabinets, Coalitions and Prime Ministers? Who respects the Constitution; who respects the law, when we are forcibly fed with the legislation we don't want, and are dodged and tricked out of what we ask for? Who believes the will of the people is prevailing to-day? If I am not profoundly mistaken, we are going to see much more Militancy before we come to a right mind.

The Militant Women are only the little cloud, no bigger than a man's hand, which foretells the coming storm. But things are worse even than I describe. The police are now called in to suppress free speech, and the freedom of the press. All honor to "The Manchester Guardian" for the stand it is taking. It seems as if Mr. Bodkin is the supreme member of the Cabinet. He stands not in the House of Commons, but on the floor of a police court, and fulminates his commands and threats to all and sundry. He tries to terrify people from doing what it is perfectly legal to do, and he denies rights won for us, at a great price, by the sacrifice of our fathers; **and in the meantime men go on getting and spending, watching football matches and looking at picture shows, and, incidentally, denouncing every honest man who tries to speak the truth.** One good thing may come out of the present confusion caused by the Militant Women. It may rouse us from our torpor and set us thinking, and at least give us an opportunity, before it is too late, of setting our house in order. The only safeguard for law is a contented people. **Have we no great man among us who can lead us into the green pastures and beside the still waters?**



EQUAL SUFFRAGE REDUCES CRIME

California Finds It Lessens Ignorance Which Is Bulwark of Bad Government

The extension of Suffrage to Women has resulted in a reduction of crime. That epitomizes a speech made by Chief of Police Sebastian of Los Angeles before the National Association of Police Chiefs in Washington.

Chief Sebastian is an excellent authority upon the practical relation of Women's Suffrage to the crime problems of the American city. His is a first hand knowledge based on actual experience.

In his speech before the Association of Police Chiefs, Mr. Sebastian in-