

Registered
Leading Article
MAY 1924

WOMAN OR LADY?

"Did you see," asked the reader of the Police Court news, "where the lady bit the policeman?" The casual enquiry, apart from suggesting speculation as to whether a real lady would indulge in such cannibalistic practices, illustrates the modern tendency to substitute "lady" for "woman" whenever a member of the more or less fair sex has to be designated. There would appear to be no mere women nowadays. All are ladies, from the "refined ladyhelp"—a regrettably rare type—to the "lady of the house," for whom the ingratiating canvasser enquires, and inclusive of the ladies addicted to biting policemen. It is a democratic age, and the language has to be democratized along with everything else. The candidates who are rebuked in the current issue of the "Manual of the Public Examinations Board" for the excessive use of the word "lady," only followed the conversational usages of their elders. "In some quarters," comment the examiners, "an impression seems to prevail that 'woman' is an impolite word or hopelessly out of date, and that it must in all cases make room for 'lady.' 'Madame Defarge led her band of murderous ladies' (her lady recruits!); 'The Pied Piper was followed by a throng of men and ladies,' and similar incongruities are of frequent occurrence. That the word 'woman' has grown unfamiliar is shown by the fact that more than 60 candidates have written 'a women!' The fact that it offers no pitfalls to the inexperienced speller may have helped to popularize the word "lady" with the students!

Like the "grand old name of gentleman" the word "lady" has been "soiled by all ignoble use," and applied so promiscuously that it has lost its distinctive character. It is now simply a synonym for "woman," and threatens to become a substitute for that term. Its etymological decline has been gradual but far-reaching. Originally "lady" was employed exclusively as the feminine designation corresponding to "lord," but, as the lexicographer explains, "it was, like its synonyms in all European languages, early widened in application," and was used to connote "a woman of superior position in society, or to whom such a position is by convention or courtesy attributed." Such a person, of course, was not necessarily a "lady," as George Eliot interprets the term in "Silas Marner"—"She had the essential attributes of a lady—high veracity, delicate honour in her dealings, deference to others, and refined personal habits." Still less, however, can the foregoing definition be applied to "ladies" who bite policemen! In modern use, to quote Murray again, "lady" is the recognised feminine analogue of 'gentleman,' and is applied to all women above a loosely defined and variable, but usually not very elevated, standard of social position. It is often used as a more courteous synonym for 'woman' without reference to the status of the person spoken of." It is, indeed. But why should the word "lady," now that it has been corrupted by a spurious courtesy and divested of all social or other significance, be allowed to usurp the place of the "grand old name" of "woman" in the language? At the present rate of substitution, literature will have to be revised for the benefit of examination candidates grown unfamiliar with the very word "woman." Congreve may then read thus:—

Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned,
Nor hell a fury like a (lady) scorned!
Or Goldsmith—
When lovely (lady) stoops to folly
And finds that (gentlemen) betray—
Or Scott—
O (lady!) in our hours of ease
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please—

Browning's "Men and Women," altered to "Gentlemen and Ladies," or, better still, "Ladies and Gentlemen," would read like the introduction to an election address! Seriously, there is much to be said for the discarding of a term which has lost its original significance which is often used in the most grotesque contexts, and which at best lacks the dignity and simplicity attaching to the word "woman." When "ladies" bite policemen, other "ladies" rather more entitled to the honorific will perhaps prefer to be known simply as women! As the poets have been appealed to, a poet may be permitted to have the last word on the subject—

"Woman" must ever be a woman's highest name,
And honours more than "Lady," if I know right.

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MUSIC IN UNIVERSITIES.

AUSTRALIAN EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

MELBOURNE, Friday.
Delegates from the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music and the universities of other States met to-day, when the annual conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board was opened. Professor E. H. Davies, of Adelaide, was elected Chairman for the year. The board decided to request the Sydney University to create a Chair of Music. After discussion it was resolved to recommend to all the universities of Australia that music should be incorporated in the arts course.

The Daily Herald

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, MAY 5, 1924.

DIRECT TAX

FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES

"He had also contemplated a direct education tax, instead of the present method of raising taxation, and each department taking its quota from the one pool" Mr. L. L. Hill Minister of Education.

The suggestion of the Minister of Education, Mr. L. L. Hill, that a direct tax be imposed, for the purpose of raising money for educational purposes, is one that seems worthy of full and favorable consideration. It is lamentable to find, as the new Minister has found, an empty exchequer, and such pressing needs as those put before him by the members of the deputation that waited on him on Saturday.

Those needs are sufficient to warrant some extraordinary steps being taken to raise the funds necessary to place the education system on a better basis in this State, even though those steps may be considered by some people, in the nature of a desperate remedy. It is quite evident, from the remarks passed by members of the deputation, that the position in regard to education is desperate. Therefore desperate measures are quite excusable to meet a desperate situation.

But the Minister's proposal need not be regarded as desperate, or unfair in any way. In fact it is quite a legitimate plan to meet a pressing need. There is much to be said against an important branch of the State estimates, like the Educational Department, being left to pick up the crumbs of what is left after other public expenditure has been provided

ed for. Such a system must inevitably result in the education system being starved, as it is at present, and the development of the youth of the nation into useful, self-reliant and intelligent citizens retarded.

Such retardation can have nothing but harmful results on the community. Such a state of affairs must be remedied at all costs. The unenviable reputation this State possesses of being the most parsimonious in Australia in this respect must be removed. If it is at all possible, to remove that unenviable reputation it is certain that it will be done by the present Labor Government, and its Minister of Education, who has already shown such a earnest appreciation of his responsibilities and difficulties.

He must, however, have the ungrudging support of the people, if he is to carry out the reforms he has in view. The people no doubt gave the Labor Government a mandate to overhaul and improve the educational system, when they gave it a majority at the recent polls. Labor is quite sensible of and grateful for the support. But the support must not stop there.

Labor in the schemes that it has in mind requires not only the support, but the practical and enthusiastic sympathy of the community in placing education in this State in an unassailable position, of the leading activity in hand. To leave the matter in the hands of the Government, just because it is known that its intentions are in the right direction is not sufficient. If the people mostly concerned determine to help themselves, as far as they can, and at the same time help the Government in whatever schemes are propounded for meeting the exigencies of the time, the crusade against the backward condition of educational requirements in this State will have been half won.

Therefore the appeal for help of the Minister to the association of school committees that waited on him, was quite justified. The idea of the Minister to hold an education week for the purpose of bringing the needs of education more prominently under public notice, is also an excellent one which should be acted upon as soon as convenient.

Once the public conscience was thoroughly aroused in regard to the pitiable condition of this State, with regard to education compared to conditions existing elsewhere, some plan would soon be evolved for effecting improvements. A direct tax may possibly be distasteful, from some points of view. But whatever disadvantages it may contain would be more than compensated for by the undoubted gain that would accrue in the cultivation of a more highly educated State of citizenship than that which we now possess.

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LATE MR. FREDERIC CHAPPLE.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT KENT TOWN CHURCH.

There was a large congregation at the Kent Town Methodist Church on Sunday evening when an in memoriam service to Mr. Frederic Chapple, C.M.G., B.A., B.Sc., formerly head master of Prince Alfred College, was held. The President of the Methodist Conference (Rev. W. A. Langford) officiated, and was supported by the minister of the church (Rev. Brian Wibberley, Mus., Bac.). Representatives from the University of Adelaide, the college, the Prince Alfred College Old Collegians' Association, the Y.M.C.A., and O.B.I. were present.

Mr. Langford said he spoke as an old scholar of the college, in behalf of many former scholars. To his students Mr. Chapple had been a master and a friend, and throughout his long term as head master had retained the spirit of his youth, which was manifested within the school and on the playground. When the scholars left the college he had ever held a feeling of affection for them, which expressed itself in the great interest he took in their after life. Among the boarders he had exercised a thoughtful and gracious influence, and many could trace the beginnings of their religious life to the kindly advice given by him.

Speaking from the text, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen?" (II. Sam. iii., 38), Mr. Wibberley said that they had gathered under the shadow of a great loss. It was no ordi-

ary life that they thus commemorated. Mr. Chapple had filled a large place in the activities of the city and State, and in the affection of the community. Endowed above the average with a strong personality, educational genius, organizing capacity, administrative ability, and facility of persuasive speech, he had offered ungrudgingly his rare, rich, ripe fruit to his generation, which remained his debtor. For a long period of years, Mr. Wibberley said, he had known Mr. Chapple as comrade, mentor, and friend. To those who met him in his home he was a charming and lovable man, always thoughtful of others, generous to a fault, a devoted husband and an ideal father. A moral idealism, an intuitive insight, and a steadfast purpose, had marked him for greatness and leadership. Above all, he was devoted to God, and rejoiced in the extension of His Kingdom. The preacher then paid a tribute to Mr. Chapple's work as an educationist, citizen, and churchman.

The choir rendered the anthem, "Crossing the Bar," and the organist (Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac.), played "Marche Funebre et Chant Seraphique."

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

Visitors from abroad and from other States are always loud in their appreciation of the musical activities evident in Adelaide; but no movement has attracted more attention than the South Australian Orchestra, which has become a permanent institution in our midst. It is well known that Melbourne and Sydney are envious of the stable foundations upon which this great musical achievement is built, and of the warm public support accorded it. The phenomenal progress and musical attainments of the orchestra have been commented upon by visiting artists who have attended rehearsals for the concert in the Exhibition Hall on May 10. Much of this has been attained by the unflinching loyalty and enthusiasm of the players and their readiness to respond to every suggestion of their gifted conductor. To Miss Syllia Whittington much credit must be given, and her powerful qualities as a leader have been a great asset to the orchestra since its beginning. There has been little change in the personnel of the orchestra during its existence, although there is always a long list of players waiting for possible vacancies. The few additions made have been to strengthen its quality. This long unbroken period of work together has resulted in a musical unanimity that has built up an ensemble never before reached in Adelaide. Dr. Harold Davies (Chairman of the executive) is a great believer in training listeners as well as performers, and has arranged with Mr. Savery (the concert manager) to reserve blocks for students in the cheaper seats of application. Group tickets and ordinary tickets may also be obtained at Savery Pianos, Limited, where the boxplan now open.

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5 MAY 1924

Professor W. Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide), returned by the Orvieta on Saturday from a four months' trip to Britain. During his stay in the Motherland he visited a number of institutes for agricultural research, with the object of securing information for the University of Adelaide in the matter of establishing similar work at Urrbrae. One of the visits included Rothamstead, in company with Sir George Brookman. There he spent an interesting day. The professor will present his report to the University next Friday. His family have remained in England.

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6 MAY 1924

Mr. W. R. Bayly (head master of Prince Alfred College) is about to leave South Australia on a recreation trip to California, and other parts of the United States. He will proceed to Sydney, where he will get a steamer to New Zealand, and will depart from Auckland by the Tahiti, on May 12.

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Professor McKeller Stewart, of the University of Adelaide, has consented to become President of the Kindergarten Union. Sir Langdon Bonython has accepted the Vice-Presidency, rendered vacant by the death of Lady Bonython.