

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

No. 4. VOL. III.

DECEMBER, 1906.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

THE session of 1906-7 was opened on Friday, October 5th, when a large number of the Friars and their friends gathered together at dinner to pay their compliments to Friar Sir Francis Carruthers Gould upon his attainment of the honour of Knighthood. Friar Richard Whiteing, who occupied the Prior's chair, congratulated Sir Francis on behalf of the Brotherhood in a neatly turned speech. The toast of the evening was drunk with musical honours. In responding, Sir Francis said that one reason why he felt proud of the honour bestowed upon him, was that he regarded himself as a journalist quite as much as a draughtsman. He had high ideals in journalism, and his motto was that no man should do as a journalist what he would not do as a gentleman. The rest of the evening was devoted to entertainment. Mr. Montague Borwell sang two Shakespeare lyrics, Mr. Fred Upton told a series of amusing anecdotes, and Mr. Charles Bertram perplexed the Friars with a display of his cleverness in conjuring.

ON October 11th, the habitués of the Club luncheon table took the opportunity of felicitating Friar T. Heath Joyce, who, after thirty-seven years' connection with the "Graphic," had resigned the editorship in order to concentrate his attention upon private work.

AT the first House dinner of the session, October 12th, Friar Alfred H. Miles presided and led the conversation into interesting directions.

MR. C. B. FRY was the Club guest on October 19th. In proposing the toast of the evening, the Prior, Friar E. T. Sachs, referred to Mr. Fry's achievements as a scholar and an athlete, and quoted some examples of his prowess in football, cricket and

other sports. Mr. Fry then opened a conversation on "The Place of Athletics in National Life." He regretted that the popularity of sport was not made more practically useful. Cricket and football were good, but they were not of great use in a time of national emergency. He would like to see rifle shooting followed as a genuine sport. The problem of home defence would then be solved. It was a mistake for clever intellectual people in London to look down upon cricketers as mere sportsmen, however, because sport of any kind expressed the keen virility of the nation. It was the modern stay-at-home counterpart of the old fighting features of the race. The days of sea adventure had gone by. Cricket and football were the outward and visible signs of a very desirable trait in the national character.

FRIAR SIR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD, speaking of hunting, boxing, cricket, rowing, and running, objected that athleticism became too frequently gladiatorial instead of competitive. What he wanted to see was athleticism a little thinner and more spread out and physical training made compulsory among the poor. Next to drink, he considered football the greatest curse of this country. Professionalism had got into it and killed the whole business. The ideal soldier in emergency was not the specialised athlete but the farmer, who was used to the country and to horses, and whose faculties of observation had been cultivated from childhood. Mere excellence in games was of small value. The cultivation of brain as well as muscle was what was needed.

MR. EUSTACE MILES spoke from the point of view of a practical athlete, and laid stress upon the fact that games created the truest companionship between friends and enemies. The man who beats you at a game is regarded by you as a jolly good player, but a man who beats you in business is a brute. Friar Richard Whiteing regarded as the thorough sportsman the country squire who, when asked what he had for dinner, replied, "Soup, fish, a good big rump steak, poultry, plenty of vegetables, sweets, cheese, two bottles of port, a smoke, a big dose of whisky, and then I go to bed and leave the devils in my inside to fight it out amongst themselves." Others who joined in the conversation were: Friars the Rev. C. H. Grundy, Sir Ernest Clarke, William Senior, and Mr. Walter Mayers. Friar Grundy created much laughter when speaking of brain and muscle. He said if an angel came down and said

"Grundy, my boy, would you rather be tall and athletic, or small with plenty of brains?" he would reply, "Do what you like with my body, but leave my brains alone." A voice: "Was your prayer answered?" Friar Grundy, in quick retort: "Sir, if you had brains, you would know that it was."

"PARODY, Lawful and Awful," was the topic of conversation at the dinner on October 26th, when Friar F. Frankfort Moore presided, the guest of the evening being Mr Owen Seaman, editor of "Punch." Mr. Seaman referred to many of the celebrated parodies in literature and art. He said that the test of a good parody was that it ought to amuse the reader, even if he knew nothing whatever of the original, and if a parody, caricaturing style, was good, its merits should be felt and acknowledged by the victim. He then recited his own parody of William Morris's "Gilliflower of Gold"—"The Yellow Shin Pads," in which he described the modern muscular woman playing a game of hockey. Mr. Harry C. Marillier and Mr. Rudolph C. Lehmann, M.P., contributed amusing speeches. They were followed by Friar Helm, Mr. Walter Emmanuel, Dr. William Wallace, and Friars J. H. Hammerton, Haldane MacFall and Harold Spender.

THE Club guest on November 2nd was Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Friar Harold Spender occupying the chair. The subject of post-prandial talk was "How to Save Nature from Man." The interests of mountaineering and the preservation of Alpine beauties entered largely into the discussion. Mr. Freshfield was earnest in his denunciation of the desecration of Switzerland by unthinking tourists and too enterprising advertisers, and his instances and arguments were debated and supplemented in turn by Friars William Senior, Henry Frith, Dr. Norman Collie, Friar A. E. W. Mason, M.P., Mr. J. B. Atkins, and Friars Gilbert Coleridge, Keighley Snowden, McCallum Scott and Wilfred Whitten.

IN the unavoidable absence of Mr. Lionel Cust, F.S.A., who was to have opened an after-dinner conversation on November 16th, Friar Arthur Spurgeon undertook to occupy the position of Club guest. Friar H. Hamilton Fyfe acted as Prior. The subject

set down in the programme to be dealt with by Mr. Cust was the question, "Are we an Artistic Nation?" Friar Spurgeon appropriately adopted the more immediately interesting theme of the "Times" Book Club controversy. In a speech notable for its lucidity and logic he reviewed the whole position of the conflict between the publishers and the "Times" Book Club in relation to the sale of net books, and his statement of facts prepared the way for a sequence of vigorous speeches. Naturally Friar Spurgeon revealed his strong sympathy with the publishers' side of the controversy. Friar Clement Shorter took the opposite side, but was almost alone among the speakers in his argument that the publishers were in the wrong. Mr. John Murray made many important statements and produced facts drawn from his own experience in connection with the proceedings of the "Times" Book Club. He said that against the action of the "Times" the publishers of standing in the country had put their backs to the wall, and he believed they were going to win, because they had justice on their side. Friar Dr. Robertson Nicoll, in an earnest speech, urged "It must be war to the knife!" Others who joined in the discussion were Friar Robert Donald, Mr. Joseph Truslove, the Prior, Friar Wilfred Whitten, Mr. Byles, Friar J. A. Steuart and Friar John Lane.

WHAT appeared on the sessional programme to be a somewhat uninviting subject for after-dinner discussion, namely, "The Neglected Methods of the Feudal System," was introduced with lively humour by the Hon. Mr. Justice Darling on November 23rd. Friar Sir F. C. Gould acted as Prior in the absence of Friar Sir Gilbert Parker.

MR. JUSTICE DARLING began by speaking of the merits of the Feudal System, and went on to advocate a return to some of the old methods, as that nobody should have the right to citizenship who was not prepared to defend his hearth and home, ability to do so being periodically tested by an Assize of Arms. If the people had an idea of the excitements and pleasures of war, pigsticking and football would have no followers. Every member of Parliament knew that he had been elected by many constituents who had not the right to vote. The lodger franchise, for example, was an absurd fraud. But it was mainly on the light side of feudalism

that our guest touched, and many of the Friars felt that he had chosen his subject less for the sake of advocating reforms in registration and the administration of land laws than with the intention of proving that even one of His Majesty's judges could afford for once to engage in irresponsible speculation. Certain it is that although Mr. Justice Darling's speech was exceedingly enjoyable it left little to be discussed. Mr. Robert Pierce, M.P., added some serious remarks on the topic, Friar Lacy was prompted to speak on genealogy, and Friars Keighley Snowden, Robert Fairbanks and G. B. Burgin also joined in the conversation. There were some interesting observations from Mr. J. B. Atkins. But the one memorable sally of the evening came from the Prior, who declared that in spite of the glamour of romance, the Middle Ages were represented by a system that was "a mixture of Hooliganism and ironmongery."

ON November 30th, with Friar Dr. Robertson Nicoll presiding *virtute securus*, "The Stress and Strain of the Literary Life" were discussed with courage on a paper by Mr. Malcolm Morris, F.R.C.S. The guest assured the Brotherhood that without disease, or physical disability of some kind, there would have been very little literature. In the good old days, at all events, it was the weaklings who became monks, and they preserved the literature of the Middle Ages; taking the old days and the newer days together, Mr. Havelock Ellis had found that 15 per cent. of men of letters and 16 per cent. of poets suffered from a marked degree of ill health. The latter figure was received with some surprise. Coming to particulars, Mr. Morris associated great names with the whole pathological list—housemaid's knee, as Friar Pigott remarked, excepted. The literary disease *par excellence* is, it appeared, gout. The arthritic variety "has something of the effect which Falstaff attributed to sack," in making the spirits nimble. Stone bulks large. "The Hebrew prophets must have suffered severely from the livers." The late F. J. Nisbet found evidence of insanity in Swift, Johnson, Goldsmith, Southey, Shelley, Byron, Charles Lamb, and Poe; and there was mental unsoundness in the families of Shakespeare, Milton, Coleridge, Walter Scott, and Hugo. However, if records were available, it would probably be found in all families else. Mr. Morris was further merciful in an attempt to distinguish between disorders that conduce to literature, and literary effort that conduces to disorders. Gout was, possibly, to be ranked in both categories; but we ought to avoid such efforts

and habits as might be the determining cause of consumption, digestive troubles, neurasthenia, and sleeplessness. Three to four hours' work a day was enough for most men, and we needed holidays more than once a year.

THE Brethren found the liveliest interest in this subject. Professor Addison having said that he had written one book and hoped never to write another, personal avowals and suggestions were made by Friars Sir F. C. Gould, Foster Fraser, Mostyn Pigott (who was warmly welcomed as a novice), Clement Shorter, Sir Clarence Smith, Wilfred Whitten, G. B. Burgin and the Prior. Many amusing things were said ; but the evening did not pass without a note of tragedy.

FRIAR SPURGEON had to announce, at its close, the death that day of Friar Wood Smith from meningitis ; and a sincere vote of condolence with the wife and family of Friar Smith was passed in silence.

A VERY pleasant evening was spent at the House dinner on Friday, December 7th, when Friar T. Heath Joyce was in the chair. It was the annual general meeting of the Club, but the business transacted was merely formal. The report of the Committee and the Hon. Treasurer's very satisfactory balance-sheet (pp. 59-61) were accepted without discussion or objection. Friar W. N. Shansfield as Hon. Secretary, and Friar G. H. Perkins as Hon. Treasurer, were complimented upon their work in the year and unanimously re-elected to their respective offices. Only one alteration was made in the constitution of the Committee, Friar W. H. Helm being elected to serve in the room of Friar Kenrie Murray, retired. During the evening the loving cup was passed round, and Friar G. H. Perkins caused a diversion by taking a flashlight photograph of the company.

In the course of the evening Friar Heath Joyce referred in feeling terms to the recent death of Mr. John Hamer. From 1876, when he joined the Brotherhood, until his retirement a few years ago, Mr. Hamer was an honoured Friar who took an active part in the work of the Club and served for long as a faithful member of the Committee. He was a man of genial and engaging personality, who infused his always interesting conversation with considerable scholarship ; ever helpful to his fellows in the literary craft.

Annual Report.

THE Committee have again the agreeable duty of presenting to the Brotherhood a satisfactory report of the year's working of the Club.

Socially and financially our progress has been one of continued success and harmony.

The Committee have deeply to regret that, since the last Annual Report was issued, the Whitefriars have been deprived by death of three of their number; HARRISON WEIR, the eminent naturalist and artist, remembered with affection more especially by the elder members who knew him in by-gone years; WILLIAM BOUCHER, also an artist and at one period a helpful Committeeman; and CHARLES BRAID, who was one of the original members and, for a considerable time, the Father of the Club.

During the year six vacancies have occurred in the limited roll of one hundred town members, in several cases by transfer to country list. These vacancies have been duly filled, and the Brotherhood have welcomed into their midst the following new Friars:—F. A. Mackenzie, Sir Robert A. Hudson, Hamilton Fyfe, Walter Jerrold, F. Raymond Coulson, Alfred Gibson, Frederick Whelen, Mostyn T. Pigott, Desmond T. Coke, and John Lane.

There are at present sixteen candidates awaiting election as town members.

The Whitefriars are ever ready to congratulate brethren who have attained honour and distinction in their several spheres outside the cloisters, and they appreciate the honour which his Majesty has bestowed upon three of their number by elevating Friar Sir Alfred Harmsworth, Bart., to the peerage as Baron Northcliffe of Thanet, and conferring Knighthood upon Friar Sir Francis Carruthers Gould and Friar Sir Robert Hudson. They are proud, too, of the fact that Friar Sir William Treloar has succeeded to high dignity as Lord Mayor of London. At the General Election in January last, five Friars were elected or re-elected by their constituents to seats in the House of Commons, namely, Mr. Winston S. Churchill, Mr. Walter Runciman, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, and Mr. Cecil B. Harmsworth.

During the past twelve months the Committee have arranged in all 25 dinners. Six of these have been informal House Dinners, to which no Club Guests were invited. Our special guests at the weekly dinners have been Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., Mr. George Grossmith, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Prof. Joseph Wright,

LL.D., Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Halsbury, General Sir Ian Hamilton, K.C.B., D.S.O., Sir Algernon West, G.C.B., the Hon. John Collier, His Excellency the Hon. Whitelaw Reid, Mr. C. B. Fry, Mr. Owen Seaman, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Mr. Justice Darling, and Mr. Malcolm Morris, F.R.C.S. On October 5th, the proceedings took the form of a complimentary dinner to Friar Sir Francis Carruthers Gould.

Among the topics set down for post-prandial discussion have been "The Laying Out of London," "Is Humour on the Wane?", "Should Theatres be Subsidised?", "Should Dialect be Fostered?", "Has London a Soul?", "How is Life Influenced by Literature?", "What may be learned from Japan?", "Some Aspects of Thackeray," "Portraits and Portrait-painting," "The Place of Athletics in National Life," "Parody, Lawful and Awful," "How to save Nature from Man," "The 'Times' Book Club," "Some Neglected Interests of the Feudal System," "The Literary Life."

The Annual Dinner of the Club was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on March 2nd, when Friar A. E. W. Mason was Prior for the evening, the Club Guests being Field Marshal Sir George White, V.C., and Sir Spencer Walpole, K.C.B.

The Annual Ladies' Banquet was held at the same place, under the Priorship of Friar R. Newton Crane, when his Excellency the American Ambassador was the principal guest, and the late Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbes) made one of her last public speeches. His Excellency Dr. Fritjof Nansen also spoke.

The Annual Summer Pilgrimage was to Tennyson's country, under the genial chairmanship of Friar William Senior.

The subscriptions of all Town members have been paid for the year. Including a balance brought forward of £1 10s. 4d., the receipts for the year amounted to £498 3s. 1d. The expenditure amounted to £444 3s 2d., leaving a balance at the Bank of £53 19s. 11d.

The WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL continues to make its occasional appearance as a record of the Club's proceedings, edited by Friar Robert Leighton, assisted by Friar Algernon Rose.

The Committee desire to call the attention of the Friars to the Club Luncheons which take place in the Club Room every day, excepting Saturdays and Sundays, and they invite the attendance of Friars who happen to be in the neighbourhood of Fleet Street at the luncheon hour.

In tendering this survey of the year's work the Committee cannot refrain from referring to the unanimity and comradeship which continue to distinguish the Whitefriars Club.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1905-6.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	...	...	1 10 4	By Rent of Club Room	...	...	0 0 0
Interest on Investments	...	...	8 11 0	By Christmas Dinner	...	...	44 11 0
Members' Subscriptions for 1906	...	262	10 0	Annual Members' Dinner	...	...	25 14 6
Members' Subscriptions for 1907	...	...	6 6 0	Annual Ladies' Dinner	...	...	48 12 0
Entrance Fees for 1906	...	...	21 0 0	Summer Pilgrimage	...	...	73 3 6
Entrance Fees for 1907	...	...	6 6 0	Reporting	...	...	3 3 0
Christmas Dinner	...	...	42 14 0	Newspapers	...	...	1 9 0
Annual Members' Dinner	...	...	29 15 6	Cheques	...	...	0 6 3
Annual Ladies' Dinner	...	...	57 4 9	Refreshments for Artistes	...	...	2 9 9
Summer Pilgrimage	...	...	62 5 6	Toastmaster	...	...	3 3 0
				Artistes	...	...	45 7 0
				Club Guests	...	...	10 11 0
				Bouquets and Crackers	...	...	4 8 6
				Printing Club Journal	...	...	17 13 0
				Stationery (including blocks)	...	...	2 4 0
				Red Book	...	...	6 0 0
				Circulars, Dinner Cards and General Printing	37	1	6
				Special Programmes	...	9	19 0
				Pilgrimage Booklets, Time Tables and Menus	4	16	0
				Postage of Dinner Cards and Journals	...	1	9 1
				General Postage and Telegrams	...	8	3 1
				Gratuities to Hotel Servants, Waiters, &c. &c.	...	4	14 0
				Wreaths	...	...	2 14 6
				“Who's Who?”	...	...	0 7 6
				Hire of Pianos	...	...	3 3 0
				Walnut Wellington	...	...	3 0 0
				Balance at Bank	...	...	53 19 11
				TOTAL	...	...	£498 3 1

[The Club holds London County Council Stock, £300 nominal, purchased for £290 16s.]

Audited and found Correct,

G. M. FENN, November 17th, 1906,
ALGERNON S. ROSE, November 20th, 1906, } *Hon. Auditors.*

GEORGE HENRY PERKINS,
Hon. Treasurer.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER was enjoyed in "The Refectory" of the Trocadero on Friday, December 14th, under the Priorship of FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON. There was a large attendance, and the occasion was one of the most successful of the kind ever held by the Club.

The Friars and their guests were received by the Prior and the Prioress, in the Alexandra Hall. The tables were laid in the Empire Room, and appropriately decorated with crackers, and considerable interest was shown in the menu card, which was adorned with a portrait of the Prioress in conventional dress, drawn by Friar Sir F. Carruthers Gould. The company included:—

THE PRIOR—Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gorst, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rayner, Miss Edith Tattersall, Dr. Eric Bayley. FRIAR ST. JOHN ADCOCK—Mrs. and Miss Adcock. FRIAR H. BROWN—Mrs. H. Brown, Mr. Joseph Payne, Mr. H. W. Thomson. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. G. B. Burgin, Mr. H. R. Tedder, Miss Bennington. FRIAR MACKENZIE BELL—Mr. C. Norris. FRIAR J. BLOUNDELLE BURTON. FRIAR BENHAM—Mrs. Benham. FRIAR DESMOND COKE—“Rita” (Mrs. Desmond Humphreys). FRIAR RAYMOND COULSON—Mrs. Coulson. FRIAR EDWARD CLODD—Mrs. Edith Watkins, Miss Morrison. FRIAR PAUL CRESWICK—Mrs. Creswick, Mr. G. Morris. FRIAR F. J. CROSS—Mr. and Mrs. J. Colgrove. FRIAR C. D. CROSS. FRIAR CYRIL DAVENPORT—Mrs. Cyril Davenport, Mr. Charles Welch, F.S.A., Mrs. Charles Welch. FRIAR ERNEST FOSTER. FRIAR FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Johnstone. FRIAR L. H. FALCK—Mrs. & Miss Falck. FRIAR R. N. FAIRBANKS—Mrs. Fairbanks and Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Merriman. FRIAR LIONEL GOWING—Mrs. Gowing, Mr. James H. Osborne (Shanghai). FRIAR REGINALD GEARD—Mrs. R. Geard, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Harold Squire. FRIAR MOSTYN T. PIGOTT—Miss Lawrence-Prentice. FRIAR A. GIBSON—Mrs. A. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Gibson. FRIAR SIR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD—Lady Carruthers Gould and Miss Carruthers Gould. FRIAR DOUGLAS GANE—Mrs. Douglas Gane. FRIAR TOM GALLON—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Engelbach, Mr. Malcolm Watson, Miss Nellie Gallon. FRIAR PAUL HASLUCK. FRIAR HINKSON—“Katherine Tynan” (Mrs. Hinkson), and Dom. Gilbert Dolan, O.S.B. (a Black Monk of St. Benedict). FRIAR G. THOMPSON HUTCHINSON—Admiral and Mrs. Rolleston, Mr. and Mrs. Robert

Tennant, Dr. and Mrs. T. Iago, Mrs. Hutchinson. FRIAR ATHOL JOYCE—Mrs. Athol Joyce. FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE—Mrs. Heath Joyce, Miss Lilian Lovell, Mr. Edward Medcalf, Miss Dayrell Reed, Mr. Harold A. Joyce. FRIAR WALTER JERROLD—Mrs. Jerrold. FRIAR ANGELO LEWIS. FRIAR LACY—Dr. and Mrs. Dudfield, Miss D.



(Drawing by Friar Sir F. C. Gould.)

THE PRIORESS.

"And sickerly she was of great disport,
And full pleasant, and amiable of port,
And pained her to counterfeiten cheer
Of court, and be estately of mannér,
And to be holden digne of reverence."—*Chaucer*.

Garden, Dr. Allan, Miss Ortner, Mr. F. Treherne, Mr. A. Tibbits, Miss Lacy, Miss Ortner. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton. FRIAR F. A. MCKENZIE—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hodgson, Mrs. F. A. McKenzie. FRIAR G. H. PERKINS—Mr. and Mrs. Plowman. FRIAR PERCY PARKER—Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Meikie. FRIAR MAX PEMBERTON—

Mrs. Max Pemberton, Mr. Comyns Carr. FRIAR L. REES—Mrs. Rees. FRIAR ALGERNON ROSE—Mrs. F. Griffiths, Miss Wheldon. FRIAR A. M. SCOTT—Mrs. Scott, Miss Scott, Mr. and Mrs. William Hay. FRIAR KEIGHLEY SNOWDEN—Mrs. Keighley Snowden. FRIAR CLEMENT SHORTER—Mrs. Shorter. FRIAR SPENCER—Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Riddle, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lurcott, Mrs. Alfred Spencer. FRIAR WILLIAM SENIOR—Mrs. Senior. FRIAR JOSEPH SHAYLOR—Mrs. Shaylor. FRIAR W. N. SHANSFIELD—Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. J. Reavell. FRIAR TUOHY—Mrs. and Miss Tuohy. FRIAR AARON WATSON—Mrs. Watson. FRIAR WILFRED WHITTEN—Mrs. Whitten. FRIAR A. WHITE—Mrs. Ustick and Mrs. Groome

The Spirit of Christmas.

When the loyal toast to the King had been drunk and the musketry of crackers had subsided, Mr. J. Comyns Carr proposed "The Spirit of Christmas." He said: I have been trying to negotiate a change. I would like to have spoken about "Sovran Woman," but I find your Prior inexorable I have a pretty wit when speaking about women—(laughter)—and especially when they are present. I have often done well in speaking about them. Let me encroach as far as I can upon a toast which is not mine. (Laughter.) Let me say something about women. Personally I like them. I have very often been obliged to listen to speeches which seemed to imply that women could be improved. I doubt it. (Laughter.) I doubt it very much. But I am quite willing to listen to argument, and if they can be improved let them be improved. All I trust is, if they are to be altered and changed in any radical way, that the original business established in Eden years ago may be carried on as usual during the alterations. (More laughter.) Without woman Christmas could not have been, and, without Christmas, women would have lacked half the grace, in the record of all the arts, which has been theirs since Christmas first began. There would have been no presentation of woman, by the devotion of so many thousands of artists, as there has been, in those elemental duties—or pleasures shall I call them?—of woman. There would have been no such record in all the arts if it had not been for Christmas, and therefore without apology I may be allowed to include woman to some extent in my toast of Christmas. When I tried to make up my mind what I thought about the Spirit of Christmas, I found it was not so easy but this thing occurred to me—that whether I liked Christmas or whether I did not, I found it easy to decide that I did not like men

who did not like Christmas. (Hear, hear.) That I am confident of. They have beset me all my life, men who were anxious—and some women, but such a few—to rid themselves of this sentiment about Christmas. I have always found I did not like them. What is there about Christmas which makes it welcome to those who can think and feel? The point of it all is, how far is a man in sympathy with his childhood? How far is a man in sympathy with the childhood of others? (Hear, hear.) I do not believe myself that anybody can look upon Christmas with any sanity or sympathy of feeling who has not got in him something of what Shakespeare called "the boy eternal," and if he has that in him I don't believe there is anyone who wishes to part with this sentiment about Christmas any more than he wishes to part with his sentiment about love. (Hear, hear.) A time comes to vain men when they want to take off their coat and have a five-round contest with Shakespeare. There was a gifted dramatist and Mr. Bernard Shaw, and now poor old Tolstoi has taken off his coat and insisted on fighting Shakespeare in the market place. (Laughter.) It is always sad to see an old man fighting. It is always good to see a young man coming out of the contest, and I venture to think that Shakespeare always comes up. (Hear, hear.) And so it is with Christmas. You can batter him. You can make him look ridiculous in your little coteries if you will. You can beat him down, and say he is out of fashion, and bespatter him with all the mud of your modern cynicism, but while there are men, while there are women, but, most of all, while there are children, you won't spoil Christmas—(hear, hear)—and though there are no children here to-night I suppose most of us are looking forward to the occasion of Christmas itself when, for most of us, there will be children present. And we shall not grudge them their Christmas and they will not grudge us our emotions; and what emotions better? It is the fashion nowadays to believe that we are all superior to Dickens—as a matter of fact only two or three of us are, I won't mention them to-night—(laughter)—but Dickens, who, with that tremendous instinct of a man of genius, who, if he could not compel his generation to feel as he felt, with the splendid tyranny of genius created a generation to feel as he wanted them to feel—I say as long as Dickens lives so long will Christmas live. (Applause.) And I doubt whether any of us will live to see the time when Dickens is outlived. (Hear, hear.) Let us know and believe that among the most sacred sentiments is the sentiment—not the sentiment, but the many sentiments that group

themselves around this toast of Christmas, and if we can, and where we can, let us be thankful that we feel them. (Applause.)

The toast was duly honoured.

The PRIOR, giving the health of "Sovran Woman," said : I am sure I shall have the sympathy of all the men in this assembly in being so temerarious as to undertake the task of proposing this important toast. My path is strewn with pitfalls, but certainly I will not follow the example of another proposer by suggesting that the subject is as "old as the hills." (Laughter.)

In speaking to this toast I am happily free from the necessity of expressing any opinion concerning the vexed question of the hour. I believe Friar Sir Francis Gould, in one of his enquiring moods, once asked the question, "Why should women have a vote when, after experimenting for six thousand years, she has been unable to make a pocket, or, if made, be unable to find its precise location when wanted?" (Laughter.) I will not discuss this profound problem, but vote or no vote we must all admit that this toast is a very real tribute to the change which has come over public opinion concerning the opposite sex. In my early journalistic days I had to attend many dinners, and there were always two toasts—"The Ladies" and "The Press"—which came at the fag end of the post-prandial proceedings. "The Press" is still at the bottom, but "The Ladies" are now exalted to the post of honour. In these former days an old gentleman, with rubicund visage, with voice mellowed with mulled ale, wiping his perspiring brow with a blue or red bandana, would rise in his place and give the toast, "The Ladies, God bless them." If he were inclined to be humorous he would venture upon the old conundrum, "Where should we be without them?" and then sit down. A trembling young bachelor would rise to reply. He would declare he had had no experience of the ladies, an observation which would be sure to evoke cries of "Oh ! Oh !" Behold the change ! Instead of the old gentleman with rubicund visage you have the lineal descendant of St. Anthony, who, unlike his progenitor, bathes every day, and it will be responded to by Sovran Woman herself. Let me lift the curtain for a moment on a domestic scene which occurred the other evening in my little cottage home among the Surrey Hills. I was lingering over my coffee after dinner and thinking of the task I had to perform this evening when I suddenly startled my wife by asking if she would confide in me the real secret of woman's sovereignty. Wild horses shall not drag from me the reply she gave to that enquiry, but it set me thinking furiously, and I remembered that

George Meredith, the most distinguished member of our Order, has told us that the highest charm of woman is her womanhood ; not her gifts, nor her beauty, nor her virtues, but her womanhood. The gift of woman to the world is not a Pandora's box. Mrs. Poyser, who was an authority on many things concerning her sex, once declared, in a burst of confidence—"I'm not denying the women are foolish. God Almighty made 'em to match the men." (Laughter.)

I am brought back to the fact that the sovereignty of woman is due to her womanhood, and because she is woman we render her fealty and offer her our love. I came across a paragraph in the Chicago "Dial" the other day which announced that the following entry in some private papers had been discovered :— "Dr. Johnson and I had another *tête-à-tête* at the Mitre. Would you believe that we sat from half an hour after eight till between two and three in the morning? He took me cordially by the hand and said, 'My dear Boswell, I love you very much.' " We desire to emulate Dr. Johnson, and we take Sovran Woman by the hand and say, "My dear lady, we love you very much." Of course the reasons for our love vary. An aged Scotch minister, about to marry for the fourth time, was explaining his reason to an elder—"You see, I am an old man now and I canna expect to live verra long. When the time comes I would like to have someone to close my eyes." The elder nodded and said, "Aweel, meenister, I have had twa wives, and baith of them opened mine." (Laughter.) Thus one's experience varies of Sovran Woman. What did Rossetti mean when he said that the beautiful sonnets which he dedicated to his wife and to wedded love were written when Mrs. Rossetti was away from him and he did not know when she would return? (Laughter.) And what does the author of "Letters to a Daughter" mean when he says that the romance of love never survives the honeymoon? I leave it to Mrs. Gorst to answer these conundrums. I content myself by proposing the toast of "Sovran Woman," reminding the ladies that sovereignty, like property, has duties as well as rights. The right is to be loved, cherished, and honoured by Mere Man, and the duty to make man supremely happy in all the walks of life. We scatter roses in the pathway of Sovran Woman, and in return she bestows on us her love, and gives us a good dinner. (Laughter.) I associate with the toast Mrs. Harold Gorst, who, in herself, embodies all the graces of sovereignty. In her home she has her crown, and her kingdom, and her royal robes ; in the social circle

she holds acknowledged sway, and in the realms of literature she wears the laurel wreath of well-deserved success. (Applause.)

MRS. HAROLD GORST, in responding, told the comic sorrows of the public speaker in search of a theme. She said : I am deeply sensible of the honour, but when I glance round at those of my sex who are here to-night, I feel that not only nerve is required but audacity to enable me to become their mouthpiece. (Laughter.) No one could be more at a loss than I for a topic on which to speak, for, to make a highly discreditable confession, I have never listened more than I possibly could help to any after-dinner speeches. Confronted with the problem of preparing an impromptu oration I found myself utterly at sea. In my dilemma and ignorance I sought advice of friends. My first victim was a well-known actress, accustomed to speak twenty times a year. "You will help me," I said, "Of course I will, dear ; what are you going to wear?" (Laughter.) Her advice was to "say just what comes into your head on the spur of the moment." She proceeded to talk chiffon for the rest of the afternoon and we spent a perfectly delightful time. An ex-politician, defeated at the last election, told me the country was going to the dogs. He recommended me to expatriate on this theme. Then came the counsel of the well-meaning bachelor, who had neither sisters nor cousins. "Be terse," said he. My eloquent sex did not exist for him. (Laughter.) Then came a brilliant idea. I consulted the head-lines of the evening papers. They supplied me with "Women's suffrage." (Laughter.) It sounded attractive. I knew nothing about it. I determined to tap the brains of the person nearest at hand. "Should women have votes?" He did not think it would be fair. "Why not?" Because they already exercised in their quiet and aggravating manner more domestic and political influence than was good for them, and others. ("Oh," and laughter.) He had come to the conclusion after a comprehensive study of women in general!—as if any man had ever made a comprehensive study of women in general when it takes him all his lifetime to misunderstand a single specimen! (Laughter.) Personally I do not want a vote because I think politics horribly dull and very childish. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But I admit they have one redeeming feature. They keep men out of domestic mischief. (Renewed laughter.) That was my final search. I ought to have come to your Prior. His investigations into the subject have been of a very thorough nature. (Hear, hear.) But he propounds conundrums, and has the

audacity to suggest that I should answer them. How like a man to imagine that I should give my sex away to a gathering like this. We have our secrets, but we prefer to keep them to ourselves. (Laughter.) At last I am free to conclude with the only thing it was really necessary to say at all—and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of my sisters in



(From the Dinner Menu.)

thanking the Prior and the Friars for the almost reckless enthusiasm with which this toast has been proposed and honoured to-night. (Applause.)

At the close of the programme

FRIAR W. SENIOR rose, observing: In order that everything to-night may be done decently and in order, I have been asked to propose the health of the Prior, and as I have been asked to do it in one sentence I can only say that from the subject and the conditions I have never risen in my life to propose a toast with

such alacrity and pleasure as I do at the present moment. I might, in rivalry of some distinguished writers present, produce a sentence of two pages and a quarter in length—(laughter)—but in mercy I forbear. I merely beg our excellent Prior to be assured that we are all very grateful for a most delightful evening spent under his chairmanship, that we are delighted to see him after his severe illness looking better than he looked before it, and that we sincerely wish him, and the sweet and very demure Prioress who appears on our menu, many, many years of health and happiness, and everything good that will be good for them. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with great heartiness.

The PRIOR, in reply, said, amid laughter: This is positively my last appearance—to-night. I believe I have been a member of the Whitefriars Club for some eight years, and during that time I think I have made some eight speeches, so that I have not been one of the talking members of the Brotherhood, and I hope that if, possibly, I have not done the talking, I have done a little working. (Hear, hear.) I feel most grateful to-night that we have, as Hon. Secretary of this Club, Friar Shansfield, who has done so much to ensure the continued *camaraderie* of the Club and has worked so hard in bringing about the success of this evening. (Applause.) I have particularly to thank my old and good friend, Friar Senior, for the charming way in which he referred to me and also to my good wife—and here I shall only be echoing a sentiment, I am sure, when, in my wife's name, I thank Friar Gould for the very charming drawing he has made for the menu card. It was kept a profound secret, and I think the Prioress was very much surprised when she saw the programme to-night. I am sure she is very grateful to Friar Gould for his kind thought. Then I wish to thank you on my own behalf. The Whitefriars Club is very dear to all the Friars, but no one realises how dear it is until he has passed through some time of tribulation. Having had that experience I know how good the comradeship is. I have much to be thankful for to my doctor, on my left, Dr. Eric Bayley, for his skill and attention during a trying time. I am sure he has been looking on me with some pride to-night as the proceedings have progressed. (Applause.)

The Friars and guests then returned to the Alexandra Room, where tea and coffee were served, and at eleven o'clock the company joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," led by Friar Henry J. Brown.

A generous musical programme was provided after the dinner, to which Miss Carrie Herwin, Miss Patricia Plowman, and Mr. Albert Garcia contributed songs. Mr. Nelson Jackson gave a group of acceptable musical and humorous recitals. One of the guests, Mr. W. G. Rayner, at the request of the Prior—who explained that in days past Mr. Rayner had appeared on more than one stage—provided a capital dramatic recitation. During the reception and dinner, selections were played by the Imperial Quartet, under Mr. Arthur Crudge.

CLUB NOTES.

By the death of Friar Henry Wood Smith the Club has lost a loyal and warm-hearted member, though his residence in the country, coupled with the responsibilities of a large family and the exacting toil of editorial work, prevented him from being more frequently in evidence at the gatherings of the Brotherhood. His end has been an untimely one, following a brief illness of one month ; indeed, he was present at the meeting of the Club just a week before he took to his bed. Influenza, neglected perhaps in his devotion to his editorial duties, had resulted in trouble of the brain, which was finally diagnosed as meningitis, and, despite the self-sacrificing attention of his wife and the best medical aid, he passed away on Friday, November 30th, in his forty-second year. Friar Wood Smith entered the firm of Messrs. Cassell and Co. Ltd., on his fourteenth birthday, and remained at La Belle Sauvage until early in 1906, when he accepted the position of assistant editor of the *London Magazine* and acting editor of the *Penny Pictorial*. At Cassell's his most noteworthy work was the launching and editing of the *Penny Magazine* and “*Britain at Work*.” He wrote a good deal for young people, one of his works in this class, “*Wonderland*,” published by Messrs. Nelson, being particularly successful. Quiet and somewhat reserved in his nature, Friar Wood Smith was not one of those who make friends quickly, but all who knew him well esteemed him sincerely, and both at La Belle Sauvage and Carmelite House there are those to whom the sad news of his death came with the poignancy of a severe personal loss. He has left a young widow and a family of seven children, the eldest of whom is not yet seventeen. Three of the boys are aged 10, 12, and 13 respectively, and if any influence of the

White Friars could get these children of our late brother placed in some endowed school to complete their education it would be a worthy act in memory of one of the kindest-hearted of men, who until quite recently had scant opportunity of providing for such a catastrophe as that which has befallen his young family, and who has been cut off in the early days of his increasing success.

THE card for the Spring Session will be issued at the beginning of the year. The Session will start on Friday, January 11th. It is pleasant to be able to announce that Mr. Balfour has accepted the invitation to be the Club Guest at the Annual Dinner on Friday, February 22nd, and that the Lord Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, K.C.) will be the Guest of the Club on Friday, March 8th. Another visit of great interest will be that of Lord Fitzmaurice (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs), the brilliant biographer of the late Lord Granville and the friend of many men of letters.

W. N. S.

