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"THE ALLIED CAUSE."
THE MEN WHO DARED TO STAND FOR RIGHT.
Fruit Banquet Last Night at Burgess Hill.

Yesterday (Monday) evening, in the Congregational Hall, Junction Road, Burgess Hill, a fruit banquet was held by the Pleasant Monday Evening Society. The tables were very effectively decorated with flowers and national colours; the Rev. W. C. CHISHOLM presided over a large company; and an interesting and happy time was spent with speeches and songs. The newly-established Girls' Club gave their first public performance, and their singing of such songs as "Rule Britannia," "The British Grenadiers," "Hearts of Oak," "Blue Bells of Scotland," "The Minstrel Boy" and "The Men of Harlech" was very creditable. Mrs. Horace Terry, Miss Payne, and Mrs. Homewood were in charge of the musical arrangements.

Having proposed the loyal toast, and said our King's position was assured in the hearts, affection, confidence and respect of his people, the CHAIRMAN eloquently gave "Our Army, Navy, Auxiliary Forces and the Allied Cause." He said there were a number of people who always seemed to be able to discover, before it existed, the dark side of things. To those who said "Look at our failures!" he replied "Look at the German failures!"—(Applause)—which were far greater than ours. So far as he was aware, the Germans were not yet in Calais or Paris, our ports were not yet blockaded, Petrograd had not yet been reached, and Constantinople, if not in the hands of the Allies, was not yet in the hands of the Germans. (Applause). Men had gone forth from Burgess Hill, from the broad county of Sussex, from every county in the United Kingdom, and from the far-scattered colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, and that night those present were delighted to honour them all for their fine bravery and for the magnificent spirit which they had shown and were showing under the most trying conditions and circumstances. (Applause). We had no

reason to be ashamed of our Allies, they were good, all of them, Belgium, France, Italy, Serbia and Russia, and they were learning to co-operate more closely and to understand one another better; the bonds of brotherhood were being more firmly forged and more closely bound around the hearts of the peoples of those great countries and nationalities. If he singled out one of them it would not be the one with the greatest territory, although we all admired what Russia had borne and done and we believed would yet do; we all admired the splendid heroism of the men of France, the dash of the men of Italy, and the sterling steadfastness of the men of Serbia; but our hearts went out to the people of little Belgium—(Applause)—for they dared first of all to stand for right and they were brave to meet the onrush of perhaps the most terrific foe which the world had ever seen. They dared to die for liberty, for our own liberty, for the liberties of the peoples of the world—(Applause)—and please God that nation would rise again—(Applause)—in all the majesty of a renewed and redeemed manhood, and because of what Belgium had done freedom would be established more firmly than ever on earth. (Applause).

Mr. HORACE TERRY, in reply, put our Navy first, and spoke of its wonderful achievements in sweeping the seas, transporting our troops, maintaining our food supplies, and rendering such a meeting as the present one possible, and coming to our soldiers he referred to the landing in France of General French's "contemptible little Army," the rallying of thousands to our flag from every quarter of the globe until the world had never seen "such a tremendous Army of men who went because they wanted to go"—(Applause)—and he said the predominant thought in our minds all along had been that of victory, which we hoped our brave men would get before long. The Allies were like brothers, with their hearts set on one thing: the triumph of right over wrong. (Applause).

Mr. W. H. POPLEY gave "Our Comrades at the Front." He said that from their Church and "Men's Own" men had gone out freely to work and fight for their King and country. Not only did we remember those on the battle field, but those on the sea, which was sometimes angry and rolling—he had been shipwrecked twice, so he knew—for they had made England free for our exports and imports, we were doing the trade of the world, and we were gradually hemming in Germany and Austria by our Fleet. He had had messages from men at the front, and their cheerfulness, hopefulness and courage would put to shame many of the pessimists in this England of ours. (Applause). We remembered our sisters who had gone out to nurse the sick, wounded and dying, women who had given up everything, some of them even, like Nurse Cavell, their lives. (Applause).

Mr. E. TERRY appropriately submitted "The Ladies," and Mrs. W. C. CHISHOLM made a graceful reply, remarking that women were showing more and more what they could do and were only too happy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the men when opportunity arose. (Applause).

Mr. A. H. HOMEWOOD effectively proposed "Our Kindred Societies." He thought the members of the Pleasant Monday Evening Society might congratulate themselves as a Society on being able, after several years' existence in the Grove Road Schoolroom, to meet in such a delightful room as that, and they must congratulate the Sunday School, Mr. Frank E. Cox (Superintendent) and the teachers on the nice premises in which they were now able to carry on their work. He trusted that the Sunday School in that building would go on and greatly increase in numbers and usefulness and be the means of bringing many into their Church as members and into the Church of Christ. Out of the Sunday School had come the Girls' Guildry, and next Monday evening they were to have a display by the Brighton Girls' Guildry. For their "Men's Own" they had a roll of 13 or 14 men who had gone out in response to the call of King and country, and their names reminded those present of what they had given up and done on behalf of their brothers and sisters and their glorious country. They had a splendid President in Mr. Chisholm. (Applause). Nobody could possibly take more interest in any Society than he did in the "Men's Own," and they were greatly indebted to him for all he had done. (Applause). They were also very grateful to the Choir, who gave considerable help to Mr. Chisholm in his ministry, and he trusted that they would go on from strength to strength and be a power for good in their midst. (Applause).

Admirable replies were made by Miss PAYNE, for the Sunday School, Miss DAVIES, for the Girls' Club, Mr. DOWNING, for the "Men's Own," and Mr. F. ROWLAND, for the Choir. On the motion of Mr. BRIDLE, seconded by Mr. COOMBS, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to "the ladies who have waited on us, who decorated the tables and who worked behind the scenes," and the proceedings ended with the National Anthem.