

Lady
Geraldine's
Speech

A Comedietta

By BEATRICE HARRADEN

The Woman's Press

Price 1d.

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Lady Geraldine's Speech.

(A Comedietta.)

By BEATRICE HARRADEN.

CHARACTERS.

DR. ALICE ROMNEY	A Medical Woman.
LADY GERALDINE BOLEYN	...	...	Dr. Alice Romney's School Friend.
MISS GERTRUDE SILBERTHWAITE	...	...	An Eminent Artist.
MISS NORA BAILLIE	...	...	A Professor of Literature
MISS HILDA CROWNINSHIELD	...	...	A Famous Pianist.
MISS NELLIE GRANT	...	...	A Typist and Short- hand Writer.
JANE	...	...	A Maid.

SCENE : DR. ALICE ROMNEY'S *Drawing-room in Nottingham Place. It is her fortnightly Suffrage At-Home day. She is seated at her writing desk near the window. She is of middle stature, and has a strong, capable face.*

(Enter maid with card.)

MAID : A lady asks specially to see you. I said you were engaged until three o'clock. But she insisted.

DR. ALICE (looking at card and smiling) : Show her in, Jane.

(Enter hurriedly, shown in by maid, the
LADY GERALDINE BOLEYN.)

LADY G. : Oh, my dear, how good of you to see me. I hope I am not interrupting any operation. Not that

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DR. ALICE: Impossible! You've never done such a thing in your life!

BAILLIE: Shame, Dr. Alice! It's never too late to sin—I mean to think!

LADY G. (*smiling at her*): I should love to come to one of your lectures. May I?

BAILLIE: Of course you may.

LADY G. (*to GERTRUDE SILBERTHWAITE*): And will you really paint my portrait?

SILBER.: Of course I will. Full face. And when you're thinking!

LADY G. (*to HILDA CROWNINSHIELD*): The same language, votes or no votes?

CROWN.: Yes, yes.

LADY G. (*to NELLIE GRANT*): Will you let me have your last remaining copy of your paper?

NELLIE G. (*delighted*): Here it is, Lady Geraldine—a present from us all!

LADY G.: Thank you. Good-bye—all of you. Good-bye.

(She goes to the door. When she has reached it, she turns round to Dr. Alice. There is a roguish look on her face.)

LADY G.: Alice, how long do mumps take?

DR. ALICE: Oh, about two or three weeks.

LADY G.: Very infectious, aren't they?

DR. ALICE: Highly.

LADY G.: I believe I've got them already! Afraid I shan't be able to take that Chair. Good-bye!

(She goes out.) (They look after her for a moment.)

DR. ALICE (*fiercely*): Mind, if you betray my school chum, I'll never speak to you again.

NELLIE G.: Betray one of our own, Dr. Alice! For she is one of our own already. Before many weeks are passed, she'll be selling VOTES FOR WOMEN in a blinding snowstorm in the merry month of May!

BAILLIE (*raising her tea-cup*): Her health!

(They drink her health.)

CURTAIN.

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At present men who pay rates and taxes, who are owners, occupiers, lodgers, or have the service or university franchise, possess the Parliamentary vote. The Women's Social and Political Union claim that women who fulfil the same conditions shall also enjoy the franchise. It is estimated that when this claim has been conceded about a million-and-a-quarter women will possess the vote, in addition to the seven-and-a-half-million men who are at present enfranchised.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed immediately.

LADY GERALDINE'S SPEECH

BY BEATRICE HARRADEN

*Author of "Ships that Pass in the Night," "Katharine Frensham,"
"Interplay," etc.*