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JOHN COBBE, LTD., The Cash Mail Order House, FEILDING

Gipsy was too absolutely astonished to speak. At length she gasped, "Mr Morton, I am very new to the work; my heart is certainly in it, but I fear I am sadly lacking in technical knowledge."

"Perhaps so," he replied, "though I am by no means sure of that. This is a period of reconstruction, and I want to reconstruct my Cabinet on broader lines. Old customs must give way to the needs of this time. As Minister of Health and Education you will have largely in your hands the care of the rising generation, and that, you will agree with me, is woman's work. Inexperienced in the administrative details you are, but the Chief Health Officer and the Commissioner of Education are there to advise and instruct you in any way you require."

"But, Mr Morton, I fear I am too much of a Radical to enlist under so conservative a banner as yours."

"Kindly note that I bear a Reform banner. You desire reforms, so do I. I shall not make too severe demands upon your loyalty."

"I am neither politician nor party woman, but I must be straight with you. You know my views on the Liquor Trade, upon Prison and Educational Reforms. I can not be false to my principles. Can I be true to them and to you?"

"I think so. You have practically a free hand in your own department, except that Cabinet must be consulted before any sweeping change is made. In other matters I promise never to ask you to vote against your conscience. Try it, Mrs Lewis; treat me with candour, as I know you will, and we shall get on."

"I should like to consult one or two of my leading supporters, and if these gentlemen think I can do this and be true to my election promises, I will try it."

Mrs Lewis went at once to her old friend and chairman, Mr Grant, and laid the position before him. He agreed to talk it over with her old committee, and let her know the result. After consultation, he again sought her with the judgment of her supporters.

"You went in," he said, "pledged to principles, not to party. The old Liberal Party is dead. We believe in you, believe that you will be true to your pledge. We would not like to take the responsibility of depriving the Dominion of so capable a Minister of these departments as you will make."

A Coalition Government was therefore formed, and for the first time under normal circumstances, portfolios were given to three members, not because they obeyed the crack of the party whip, but because they were each experts in the departments they were to be the Ministerial heads of.

Mrs Lewis took a hurried trip to Dunedin to consult with her son. Will heartily approved of his mother's new dignity.

"Mum, you've beaten me. Here have I been grinding for years exams, and now at one bound you land at the top of the Death Department, and no exam. required. Politics for me, every time," and he laughed gaily.

"Hurry up, my son, and become a fully qualified M.D., and then I can have the benefit of your knowledge."

So quietly Gipsy stepped into her new position, bringing to it the same care and attention as she gave to all her other duties.

Returning home from the House one evening, she found her brother and his daughter waiting to greet her.

"Tell me, Auntie," said Zeta, "how does it feel to be a Minister of the Crown?"

"It feels a great responsibility, and I am finding out fast how ignorant I am."

Her brother smiled. "Most politicians feel capable of running the universe. You must be quite an oddity among them."

"I'm going to do my best, Jack."

"You'll do all right, old girl. Why, bless me, you looked after my health and education, and see what a shining example of physical fitness and brain vigour I am."

And so in pleasant chat the evening wore away.

Alone in her room that night, Gipsy gazed on the photos of her loved ones, and murmured, "If only you were here to help and advise me."

Then kneeling, she committed herself and her cares to the keeping of that Father of whom it had been said, "He giveth wisdom to them that ask Him."

(To be continued.)

PERSONAL.

We are sure all our readers will regret to hear that owing to health reasons, we are to lose the services of Miss Weymouth for a time. In order to recuperate, Miss Weymouth is to leave New Zealand by the *Ruthine* at the end of this month, and will represent our Y Branches at the World's Convention. She hopes to return restored in health, early next year.

A pleasant voyage, a happy, restful We wish this indefatigable worker holiday a safe return, and renewed strength.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

In response to the appeal for the starving children of Europe we received the following amounts: F.W.R., £10; British Colonial, £3 12s; Special for Vienna children, £4 7s 3d.