

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester; Central Committee;

Bristol and West of England.

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Foreign Notes and News.

Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

ANSWER TO THE "TIMES" ON WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE (the physical force argument refuted), by Mme. Salès.—Address, Rose Cottage, Beulah Hill, London, S.E. Price 2d. post free, and 6d. a dozen post free for free distribution (12 pages).

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which may come on for discussion at an early date next session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Annual General Meeting to receive the Report, the Statement of Accounts, to appoint the Committee, and transact any other business which may arise, will be held in the Town Hall, Manchester, at Three o'clock, on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, 1883.

JOHN SLAGG, Esq., M.P.

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A. G. SYMONDS, Esq.

Dr. J. WATTS

Mr. Alderman WORTHINGTON.

And other ladies and gentlemen are expected to be present. The attendance of members and friends is invited. Admission free.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS: Being Articles and Extracts from the London and Provincial Press relating to the Discussion on Mr. Mason's Resolution in the House of Commons, on July 6, 1883.—29, Parliament-st., London, S.W.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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RADCLIFFE & PILKINGTON LIBERAL CLUB.—On Thursday, November 8th, Miss Becker will deliver a Lecture in the Co-operative Hall, Radcliffe, on the rights of women to the Parliamentary franchise in connection with the coming Reform Bill. The Chair to be taken at half-past Seven by Mr. EDWARD MAKIN, Jun. The public are invited.—Admission free.

MOSS SIDE LIBERAL CLUB.—On Nov. 3rd a lecture will be delivered by Miss Becker at the Moss Side Liberal Club, Alexandra Road, Manchester, on "Women's Suffrage in connection with the New Reform Bill." The chair will be taken at half-past seven by Mr. MAYALL, President of the Club. Admission free.

LECTURES.—Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, Member of the London School Board, author of "Readings in Social Economy," &c., has arranged to lecture on "Women and the New Reform Bill," at the following Metropolitan Workmen's Clubs:—Nov. 7th, North London Club, Collier-street, Pentonville—B. Lucraft, Esq., M.L.S.B., will preside; Nov. 18th, Fleusis Club, King's Road, Chelsea; Nov. 21st, Hackney Radical Club, Mare-street; Nov. 25th, Progressive Club, Johnson-street, Notting Hill; Dec. 3rd, Greenwich Liberal Club, Nelson-street; Dec. 16th, Cobden Club, Kensal Road; Dec. 20th, Bow Liberal Club. Further particulars in local announcements.

A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Price One Shilling. Published by J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol.

"It will be found a desirable acquisition by all who take a part in public matters affecting women, or who desire to know the principal topics which have or deserve attention. The legal elements of the book have been very carefully brought together and are fairly complete."—*Queen*, March 15, 1881.

"The amount of information compressed into a very small space is not more remarkable than the skill with which it is arranged and digested."—*Social Notes*, May 6, 1881.

"... Gives a brief account of the laws, enabling and disabling, which affect the condition of women. It is a useful summary."—*Spectator*, Jan 14, 1882.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions.

Write out the form given below on any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of foolscap or even note paper opened out will do.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SH EWETH,

That your petitioners possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary suffrage.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and signatures must be on the same piece of paper. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

A HINDOO WOMAN-DOCTOR.—One of the visitors to Philadelphia on the occasion of the opening of a Woman's Medical Congress there, was Mrs. Anandaibai Joshee, a Hindoo woman physician. Mrs. Joshee is eighteen years of age, the wife of a Brahmin, an employe of the Government at Senampore, India. It was supposed that she would lose caste and become unclean in crossing the sea, but in a recent letter she stated to a friend that she had as yet retained it. Arrangements were made for her so that she might prepare her own food, for, by eating from dishes that have been touched by those of a different caste, a Hindoo loses his or her caste. She also kept her national dress. She is spoken of as a young woman of remarkably fine intellect, and as determined to devote her life to the interests of her fellow-women in India.

LADIES IN THE CHURCH ARMY.—During the past month a series of services, in connection with the "Church Army" movement, has been held in the parish of St. John's, Longsight, Manchester. Addresses have been delivered by the Rector of Longsight, the Hon. Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Saxton, Captain Alfred Russell, Mr. John T. Lees, and other leaders in the movement.

At the fourteenth "annual convention" of the American Woman's Suffrage Association, held in the Academy of Music Brooklyn, the Rev. S. Alfred Steintal, of Manchester, gave the Association an insight of the woman's suffrage movement on this side of the Atlantic, and pointed out instances where good results had come from allowing the gentler sex the privilege of voting in municipal elections.

THE MANX LEGISLATURE.

The two branches of the Isle of Man Legislature met on October 18th. In the Legislative Council a Bill was read a first time having for its object the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and assimilating the law of the Isle of Man to that of England in that respect. A Bill empowering a company to make a railway from Foxdale to St. John's was finally passed. A measure giving self-government to the town of Peel also passed. The remainder of the sitting was occupied in considering a Bill transferring the jurisdiction of the Isle of Man ecclesiastical courts in testamentary, matrimonial, and bastardy matters to the temporal courts. In the House of Keys the first measure taken up was the Sanitary Bill. One of the members stated that since the House last met he had gone through the Bill clause by clause, and he found that in a clause which had been passed by both branches without discussion there were serious clerical errors. He suggested that a joint committee from both branches be appointed to go through the clauses and report, and that the Bill should then be considered. A deputation was sent up to the Council to ascertain whether or not they agreed with this. The Council refused to do so, referring the House to their amendment. The House then divided on the question whether they would throw out the Bill, but ultimately a committee was appointed to consider the clauses referred to. The Valuation of Real Estate Bill was part considered in Committee. Both branches adjourned to October 27th.

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ONE of the most remarkable manifestations of the advance of public opinion on the question of the immediate extension of the franchise to duly qualified women was afforded by the vote given in the great Conference of Liberal Associations held last month at Leeds to consider Parliamentary Reform. The Conference was arranged in pursuance of resolutions passed at a meeting of the National Liberal Federation in London on the 3rd May last. These resolutions were to the effect that the Government were placed in office in order that they might carry certain urgent measures of reform, among which the extension of the franchise to householders in counties occupied the first place. The invitation to co-operate in convening the Conference was cordially accepted by the National Reform Union; and the London and Counties Liberal Union also accepted the invitation. The importance of the gathering may be judged from the fact that Liberal organisations in all parts of the country, numbering in all 543, were represented. About 2,500 delegates had been appointed by these bodies, and about 1,600 attended, the Albert Hall, in which the Conference was held, being scarcely adequate for their accommodation. The National Liberal Association, the National Reform Union, and the London and Counties Liberal Union were represented.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY, M.P., presided at the Conference. The first resolution, which was moved by Dr. DALE, urged upon the Government the duty of introducing a bill dealing with the question of the extension of the franchise in the next session of Parliament. To this an amendment was moved by Mr. FIRTH, M.P., urging that a reform in the government of London and in county government should be introduced before dealing with the Parliamentary franchise. This amendment was defeated by a large majority, as was also another moved by Mr. W. BRIGHT, and the original resolution was carried.

The Rev. T. W. FOWLE then moved a resolution affirming the opinion that a measure for the extension of the franchise should confer on householders and lodgers in the counties the same electoral rights as those enjoyed by

householders and lodgers in Parliamentary boroughs, which was seconded by Mr. RICHARDS.

The Rev. Dr. CROSSKEY (Birmingham) proposed an addition to the former motion as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women, who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." Dr. CROSSKEY supported the proposal in an effective speech, and was ably supported by Mr. W. B. M'LAREN (West Riding, North Division, Liberal Association), Miss J. E. COBDEN (Midhurst Liberal Association), Mr. E. H. CARBUTT, M.P. (Newport, Mon., District Liberal Association), and Mrs. HELEN BRIGHT CLARK (Mid-Somerset Liberal Association). On being put to the vote the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority; a perfect forest of hands were held up in its favour, and only about thirty against it.

THE result of the Leeds Conference is a matter of great satisfaction. Next to the comparatively favourable division of last session it is, perhaps, the greatest step gained since women obtained the municipal and school board franchise. The vote of the conference may be expected to influence the attitude of the Government when the question of extending the franchise comes forward, as it probably may come forward, next session.

That women should have been appointed delegates by Liberal associations, some of which were ordinary men's Liberal Associations, and should have spoken in a great conference like that of Leeds on an equal footing with men, is a striking manifestation of the progress of opinion. That the daughters of COBDEN and BRIGHT should have pleaded the cause of political freedom for women in such a great and representative gathering of the party which proudly counts the names of their respective fathers among their leaders who have striven for freedom in the past adds an element of what may almost be called romantic political and historical interest to the scene. The

intrinsic justice of the resolution, and the great advance that has taken place in public opinion within the last few years, would doubtless have ensured the success of Dr. CROSSKEY'S proposal; but the appeal of these ladies fired assent with enthusiasm and turned the victory into a triumph.

THE recent vote at Leeds is the natural sequel to the earlier successful efforts that have been made to obtain the assent of representative conferences of Liberals to the principle of the enfranchisement of women.

In November, 1874, a Conference convened by the Electoral Reform Association was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, under the presidency of Mr. J. S. WRIGHT, of Birmingham. The first resolution was moved by Mr. NOBLE, and affirmed that it was the duty of all earnest reformers to secure the early enactment of certain measures. These included the equalisation of the borough and county franchise, and the relief of candidates from the legal expenses of elections. After the resolution had been moved and seconded, the Chairman announced that no amendments could be accepted which were not within the strict line of the resolution, and on that ground he refused to accept an amendment in favour of equal electoral districts.

Miss BECKER said she had an amendment to propose, which she contended was strictly in order, according to the principle on which they were informed amendments would be received. One of the objects stated in the programme was the assimilation of the borough and county franchise. The meaning she proposed to give it was one that would give votes to all householders.

The CHAIRMAN, however, ruled that the amendment could not be received, whereupon there was a long and stormy discussion, after which a division was taken as to the right of bringing on amendments, when it was decided to allow them.

Miss BECKER then brought forward her amendment, which was seconded by Mrs. HALLETT, then Miss LILIAS ASHWORTH. It was opposed by Captain MAXSE, and supported by Mr. CATRAL and Mrs. FENWICK MILLER. On a show of hands being taken the numbers were declared to be equal, but on a division being called for the amendment was carried.

The next occasion when the question was submitted to a representative Conference of Liberals was at the National Reform Union Conference, held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in December, 1876. The resolution propounded at the Conference recommended, as a subject for immediate legislation, "the extension of household suffrage

to the counties." Miss ELIZA STURGE, who appeared at the Conference as a delegate from the Women's Liberal Association, Birmingham, moved, as an amendment, the extension of the suffrage to all householders in counties with the intention of including women householders, and in this sense the amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority and afterwards unanimously adopted as a substantive resolution.

From that time the question became a part of the official programme of the National Reform Union, and as the principle was tacitly, if not explicitly recognised by the other Associations, a resolution directly affirming it could hardly fail of acceptance at a representative gathering of affiliated Associations such as that which has just been held at Leeds.

THE reply of Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE to the deputation of ladies whom he received at Belvoir Park, Belfast, may be taken as an indication of the probable attitude of Conservatives as soon as the question of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women comes before the Legislature as a part of a general measure for the establishment of household suffrage as the basis of the franchise throughout the country. In reply to the ladies, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE said that he had felt that as long as the representation and suffrage of this country has been based upon property, there was no substantial reason, when it was in the hands of women, why they should be disqualified from exercising their proper influence on the representation of the country any more than if it was in the hands of men. What he had felt of late years especially was that it was not desirable to disturb the principles of representation at present, but that if we were first to consider a re-arrangement of these principles and their application, the claim of the women is one that deserves the most serious consideration.

When we find the Liberal party, speaking with collective voice at Leeds, demanding by an overwhelming majority the inclusion of the women householders in the proposed extension of the franchise, and the leader of the Conservative party reiterating his conviction that when the extension of the franchise comes to be dealt with the claim of the women householders must be considered along with the others, we are justified in the assumption that the question is one which can no longer be put aside, but is brought within the range of immediate practical politics.

AT the recent meeting of the British Association, Pro-

fessor BRUNLEES, President of the Mechanical section, opened his presidential address in the following terms: "The British Association for the advancement of science admits to its annual gathering women as well as men, and I venture to think it does so wisely. Women now take their place regularly in the rank of several scientific professions, and though they have not shown any desire to enter that to which I belong, there has recently been an example of their capability in that direction which is noteworthy. It has been publicly stated that Colonel ROEBLING, the distinguished engineer of the Brooklyn suspension bridge, which is one of the most remarkable works of the age, was assisted during a long illness in carrying out his work by the talent, industry, and energy of his wife, who acquired theoretical and practical knowledge enough to and in seeing that her husband's design was properly carried out. I think this example is not unworthy of mention here as honourable to the individual woman and the energetic race to which she belongs, and to the better half of the human race."

We hail with great pleasure such a recognition of the ability of women to do good service in the world's work, and we trust it is an earnest of the day when the talent, industry, and energy stored in them may be allowed as free development for the benefit of the race as the same qualities when possessed by men.

THE application of a husband to a magistrate's court to grant a judicial separation from his wife on account of his own misconduct has a very odd sound, yet such an application seems to have been lately made at the police court in Accrington. On October 16th ELIZA ANN HIBBERT charged her husband with using threatening language to her on the Saturday night. Complainant said that her husband was in the habit of abusing her in every way, except in striking her, as he said she could do nothing at him if he kept his fingers off her. On Saturday night he said if she opened her mouth, he would have her life. He then seemed as if he was going to strike a boy who was in the house, which so frightened her that she fell down in a fit. When she recovered, he had gone out and left her to die or anything else, just as it might happen. He, however, came in again, and tried to turn the girl out. He also told his wife she had been twenty years in dying and was not dead yet. Corroborative evidence was given, in which it was stated that the boy had been so frightened by hearing his father say that he would throw him down stairs, that he climbed down the

waterspout. Prisoner, *who asked for a judicial separation*, was bound over, himself in £10 and another surety in £10, to keep the peace for six months; in default, one month's imprisonment, and was told to apply properly for a judicial separation if he wanted one. His best way would be to agree with his wife to live apart from her.

It does not appear from the newspaper reports on what grounds the husband could apply "properly" for a judicial separation, seeing that no misconduct was charged against the wife; nor are we aware that magistrates have any power to decree a separation, except on petition of the wife after showing reasonable ground for the belief that her future safety would be in peril by continuing to live with her husband.

A MORE reasonable application than that of ELIZA HIBBERT'S husband was made at the Manchester Police Court on the 29th ultimo. WILLIAM MORTON was charged with breaking his wife's arm with a poker. He also assaulted the police constable. The prisoner complained that he had been ill-treated by his wife, and that he only struck her "in a friendly manner." The magistrate granted the application of the wife for a judicial separation.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE IN BELFAST. RECEPTION OF DEPUTATIONS.

On October 5th two deputations waited on Sir Stafford Northcote at Belvoir Park, the seat of Sir Thomas Bateson, M.P., the first from the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and the second from the Women's Suffrage Association of Belfast. There were present in the hall where the deputations were received Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Thomas and Lady Bateson, the Marquis of Waterford, the Marquis of Hamilton, the Marquis of Headfort, Earl Kilmorey, Lady Longford, Lady Georgina Pakenham, the Bishop of Down and Connor, Lord and Lady Crichton, Lord Arthur Hill, M.P., Col. Tottenham, M.P., Sir J. McGarel Hogg, M.P., Col. King-Harman, M.P., &c.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

After the first deputation had retired, Sir Thomas Bateson introduced a deputation of ladies interested in the women's suffrage question. It consisted of Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Black, Mrs. W. J. Johnston, Mrs. R. Lindsay, Mrs. John Neill, Mrs. Hannay, Mrs. Foster Quinn, Mrs. Henry Thompson, Miss Otway, and Miss Hardy.

Mrs. HENRY THOMPSON, addressing Sir Stafford Northcote, said that the address was signed by several of the most influential ladies of Belfast, irrespective of politics, inasmuch as they consider that the claims of women to the electoral franchise are only just and fair. The address was as follows:—

"To the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P.—Sir,—Your presence in our town recalls to us, as women interested in moral and social reforms, and especially anxious to obtain what is just and fair for women, that you have been one of the first and most faithful Parliamentary supporters of the claim of duly qualified women to possess the electoral franchise. We cannot allow the opportunity to pass without thanking you for that support which has been of high value to us in the past, and we do not doubt will be so in the future. We do not doubt, amidst the many questions on which differences of opinion present themselves both in public and private, that it is a hopeful sign that social questions do often unite those who differ upon others, and it is with the most sincere satisfaction that, without distinction of political opinions, we offer our thanks to one who has not been afraid, both in and out of office,

to show his sympathy with women in reaching the place which they believe they ought to hold within the circle of the Constitution. Believing, as we do, that education and temperance, peace and morality, and every great human interest of the nation would be advanced by the responsible influence of women in public affairs, we feel that those to whom the true welfare of the people is dear, owe a debt of gratitude to those men who like you have upheld our claim during the time in which it was most unpopular. Now, when it is evident that success is not far off, we gladly pay the slight tribute of respect to one of our earliest friends."

The following signatures were attached:—Isabella Kelso Ewart, A. P. Blackwood, Margaret Byers, Sarah A. Thompson, Jane Ritchie, Jane Lindsay, Susan Mulligan, Isabella M. S. Tod, Bethia P. Corry, Anne Killen, Eliza Cochrane, Annie Hamilton, Eliza F. Macbeth, Madge Crawford, Mary A. Carson, Catherine Hughes, Catherine S. Ross, Louise McClelland, Mary Kildare, Mary MacKenzie, Harriet A. Gray, Grace J. Arnold, Ephemina Montgomery, Elizabeth S. Sinclair, Maria K. Murphy, L. M. Neill, Annie T. W. Taylor, Margaret R. Porter, Frances M. Burnside, Mary Otway, Eliza Sinclair, Margaret M. Neill, Mary E. Johnston, Sarah Bella Thompson, Sally Gordon, Margaret N. Watts, Eliza Scott, Susanna Black, Hester Annie Graham, Selina J. Barnett, Annie Ferguson, Lucinda Johnston, Minnie Macauley, Eleanor J. Johnston, Agnes Arbuthnot, Sarah J. Hamilton, Isabella Thompson, Margaret Hamilton, Sarah Macky, Annie C. Steen, Mary A. Calder, Jennie E. Calder, Hannah N. Hewitt, Mrs. Lockhart, Violet Boag, Emily R. Lindsay, Violet S. Gardiner, Catherine H. Lindsay, Emily Hannay, Annie J. Lindsay, Jane Scott, Catherine M. Hoey, Mary Stevenson, J. F. Green, E. H. Glass.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, replying to the address, said: Ladies, I must thank you very much for the kind words in which this address has been couched, and I can assure you that the question in which you are interested as so many ladies, and a great number of politicians also, have taken a very deep interest, is one which has long engaged my own attention, and upon which I have often had occasion to press my opinions. I have felt that as long as the representation and suffrage of this country has been based upon property that there was no substantial reason, when it was in the hands of women, why they should be disqualified from exercising its proper influence on the representation of the country any more than if it was in the hands of men, and I have always felt, as a matter of abstract argument, that that was a position which could not be questioned; but the opening of the franchise on other terms would be a very serious matter, and one which would require the gravest consideration; and I need not point out to you that in whatever may be done to advance the question of giving the franchise to women, great care must be taken that nothing should be done to weaken the just and proper influence which women exercise on social and political life, and sometimes with greater force from the very fact of their being outside that actual electoral body. What I have always felt myself, and of late years more especially, is that it is by no means desirable to disturb the principles of our representation at present; but that if we are forced to consider a rearrangement of those principles and their application, the claim of the women is one that deserves the most serious consideration. I will not now enter into all the large questions connected with it; I can only assure you that, as in the past so in the future. I shall always bear that principle in mind. I have never, of late years, found myself able to support the motions made because I have never thought it right to be a party to disturb the principles of representation; but I am quite certain that if the principles are to be disturbed they will have to be examined, and the examination will lead us very far and very wide, and in the discussion of any amendments that may be made no doubt the position of the women electors will be carefully considered. I will not do more now than to say that knowing and recognising the truth of what you say as to the importance which social questions will bear in the legislation of the future, I am most anxious that everything should be done to obtain the assistance of the female sex in that kind of legislation for which they are so eminently qualified to render service and assistance. I think we are indebted to them for much of what is valuable in English life, and I can only trust that in recognising their claims nothing will be done to weaken or injure that peculiar advantage and peculiar privilege of the sex which we all honour and which we all respect.

The deputation then retired.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM CONFERENCE AT LEEDS.

On Wednesday, October 17th, the Conference on Parliamentary Reform met at Leeds. The conference was convened by the London and Counties Union, the National Liberal Federation, and the National Reform Union. The proposal for the conference was warmly taken up by Liberal associations throughout the country, and no less than 2,500 delegates were appointed to attend the conference. Fully 2,000 were present at the first meeting, which was held in the Albert Hall, gallery, area, and platform being equally crowded. Mr. JOHN MORLEY, M.P., took the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr. H. H. Fowler, M.P., Mr. Heneage, M.P., Mr. A. Ilingworth, M.P., Mr. J. B. Firth, M.P., Sir Robert Cunliffe, M.P., Mr. Shield, M.P., Mr. H. Broadhurst, M.P., Mr. I. Holden, M.P., Mr. J. Barran, M.P., Mr. R. W. Dale, Sir Ed. Baines, Rev. T. W. Fowle, Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Mr. Alderman Kenrick, Mr. Chas. Crompton, Q.C., Miss Jane Cobden, Dr. E. R. Russell, Mr. W. L. Bright, Mr. R. Barlow (chairman of the Executive of the National Reform Union), Mr. R. C. Richards (honorary secretary of the Executive of the National Reform Union), Mr. John Kingsley, Mr. Arthur G. Symonds (secretary of the National Reform Union), Mr. F. Schnadhorst (secretary of the National Liberal Federation), and others.

Mr. MORLEY, in his opening address, said that the circumstances in which the Conference arose they were probably most of them acquainted with. In May last a meeting was held in London of the National Liberal Federation, and the first resolution, which, he believed, was moved by the honoured President of the Leeds Liberal Association, Mr. J. Kitson, jun.—(cheers)—was to the effect that "Her Majesty's Government were placed in office by the Liberal party in order that they might carry certain urgent measures of reform, amongst which the extension of the franchise to householders in counties occupied the first place." The meeting therefore "urged upon the Government the necessity of introducing in the next session of Parliament a bill extending to all sections of Her Majesty's subjects equal rights and qualifications as voters in elections for Members of Parliament." It was then resolved that in order to ascertain and formulate the opinions of the Liberal party on this question, a conference of representatives of all Liberal organisations throughout the country should be called, and to invite the co-operation of the Reform Union and the London and Counties Liberal Union; and this meeting was the result of that union and the action which was taken upon it.

Dr. R. W. DALE (Birmingham) moved: "That this conference, believing that the extension of the franchise is a matter of paramount and urgent importance, is of opinion that it is the duty of Her Majesty's Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the question in the next session of Parliament."

Mr. J. E. ELLIS (chairman of the North Notts Liberal Association) seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. F. B. FIRTH, M.P. for Chelsea, submitted the following amendment: "That this conference regards the extension of the franchise as a matter of paramount importance which should be dealt with during the present Parliament, but is of opinion that the first legislation of next session should deal with the reform of the government of London and of the counties."

Mr. E. H. PICKERSGILL (London) seconded the amendment, which, after considerable discussion, was lost by a very large majority.

Mr. W. BRIGHT (son of Mr. John Bright) moved a second amendment leaving it to the discretion of the Government as to which Bill should be first introduced.

Mr. J. DENT DENT seconded the amendment, which, however, was lost, and the original resolution was then carried unanimously.

EQUAL ELECTORAL RIGHTS IN COUNTIES AND BOROUGH AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Rev. T. W. FOWLE moved: "That, in order to meet the just expectations of the country, and to fulfil the pledges given at the last general election, this conference is of opinion that a measure for the extension of the franchise should confer on householders in the counties the same electoral rights as those enjoyed by householders in Parliamentary boroughs."

Mr. R. C. RICHARDS (hon. secretary of the National Reform Union) seconded the motion, which he intimated did not indicate

all that the Union wanted. They had heard speeches that day about hampering the Government; but he submitted that, as representing the Liberal party, they would fail in their duty if they did not let the Government know what they wanted. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Dr. CROSSKEY (Birmingham) proposed an addition to the former motion, as follows: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women, who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." (Cheers.) He trusted this would be accepted by a majority of the conference as a legitimate carrying out of the principle stated at its commencement, the object of which was to prevent the drawing of a hard line, by refusing the suffrage to householders under the same circumstances, and with the same qualifications in every respect. The conference would stultify itself if it rejected this addition. (Hear, hear, and "No.") There was no division of sexes in the summons to the conference, and ladies were present who had voted for the resolution. The burden of objection would therefore fall on those who opposed the admission of women to the Parliamentary suffrage. In the last debate on the subject in the Commons, it was stated that the universal practice of mankind in all ages was against it. This was purely a relative thing. There were times in history when it was the universal practice to slaughter prisoners taken in war, and there was scarcely a barbarous custom that had not been the common practice of some States. Again, it was said that women ought not to be plunged into the mire and filth of political elections. He would reply that men ought not to be so plunged. Grant the suffrage to women if for no other reason than that they would do something to save men from that mire and filth. (Cheers.) It was also stated that woman would be made a bad copy of the man. Did the man who advised as to the state of his home become thereby a bad copy of a woman? Woman had a place as a citizen as well as man had a place in the home, and the recognition of the proper position of each could be only right and just. During the course of the debate the Attorney-General said that woman could not discharge the duties of the State, and that to have a vote she must be able to do so. This ability on the part of woman was not founded on physical force, but on the exercise of justice and humanity. It was also urged that woman could contribute nothing of common knowledge that would be of advantage to Parliament. We had had enough of war, and it was to be hoped that the subjects of the future would be questions affecting the social welfare of the people. In such questions—in all questions relating to the comfort and education of the people—the advice and help of women would be most valuable. Their voices would always be on the side of justice and humanity. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. S. B. M'LAREN (delegate from the Central Liberal Association of the North-West Riding of Yorkshire) seconded the rider, and said that it was no new thing to bring this question before such a conference. In 1874 at a conference held in London, and in 1876 at one held in Manchester, convened by the National Reform Union, amendments were carried in favour of giving votes to women. During the last session of Parliament 110 Liberal members signed a memorial to Mr. Gladstone which stated that no measure for the extension of the franchise would be satisfactory unless it contained provisions for giving the suffrage to all persons, without distinction of sex, who possessed the necessary qualification. (Hear, hear.) That memorial was signed by John Morley, the member for Newcastle and president of this conference, and by almost every member of Parliament on the platform. Further, the claims of women had received the support of the Liberal Associations of Birmingham, Leeds, York, Newcastle, and many other places. They, therefore, needed no apology for bringing forward the rider at the present time. (Cheers.) What was the extent of the demand they now made? All they asked from the conference was to declare that those women who possessed three franchises should also possess the fourth; that those women who voted for town councils, school boards, or boards of guardians should also be allowed to vote for members of Parliament. That was the exact extent of their present demand, and they all knew who the women were who would be enfranchised. There were women delegates present at the conference. They had come not as mere supporters of this rider, but as Liberals, to take their share in the conference, and to do their best to obtain the extension of the franchise to the counties. When women were there trying to gain the suffrage for men, surely the men would not refuse the suffrage

to women. (Cheers.) This was not a cause for alarm. The extension they now asked for would only result in the proportion of about one woman to every seven male electors, and that was not much for the men of England to fear. (Cheers.) The cause was just in itself, and as Liberals he felt sure they would not refuse to grant what they felt to be right. (Cheers.)

Miss COBDEN (daughter of the late Richard Cobden) said she heartily supported the resolution. She begged of them, representing as they did the Liberal principles of all England, to give it their hearty support. They should recollect that this was no new struggle. It was only a continuation of the struggle in which Liberals had taken part during the last fifty years. Therefore she trusted that they would be true to their principles.

Mr. CARBUTT, M.P., asked that women should have votes in order that they might have some hand in the redressing of their own grievances.

Mrs. BRIGHT CLARK, of Street, Somersetshire (daughter of Mr. John Bright, M.P.), remarked that she was one of the delegates from a Liberal Association which comprised among its members a very few women. At its last meeting that association unanimously passed a resolution in favour of admitting women to the Parliamentary franchise, and therefore she thought she had a right to support the rider. There was in this country a considerable and an increasing number of earnest women of strong Liberal convictions, who felt keenly the total exclusion of their sex from the Parliamentary suffrage. Their hope and faith was, of course, in the Liberal party. The Liberal party was not all converted yet to true Liberalism. (Cheers.) The Liberal women would not rest satisfied until there was throughout the United Kingdom a real and an honest household suffrage. They knew that they were weak in the Cabinet, and they regretted to know that some of the most eminent leaders of the Liberal party were not in this matter wholly their friends. These leaders had fears which she thought the future would show to have been unfounded. But she could venture to say on behalf of the Liberal women of England that they were not unmindful of the past, and were not ungrateful for the services which these men had rendered and were prepared to render to their country. Women were grateful. They sympathised with the efforts of Liberal statesmen in the past, and they knew how faithfully and loyally to follow. But they felt that sometimes they must originate for themselves—(hear, hear)—and they dared not blindly and with absolute faith follow any man, however great, or however greatly, justly, and deeply beloved. (Cheers.) Further, she could say that, with the result of the high political teaching they had had in the past, they would endeavour faithfully, intelligently, and with what ability was given to them to uphold those great principles of justice and trust in the people, which, she believed, had made the Liberal party what it was, and which alone were capable of lifting it to the highest triumphs in the future. (Loud cheers.)

The PRESIDENT then put the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A show of hands was given for the resolution with the rider added, and this, too, was carried by a very large majority, and amid great cheering.

The conference then adjourned.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

A meeting of the general committee of the Newcastle Liberal Association was held on September 26th, at the Northumberland Hall. Dr. Spence Watson presided. Twenty gentlemen were appointed delegates to the Reform Conference to be held at Leeds on the 17th and 18th October. Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, attended on behalf of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. She asked the committee to instruct the delegates to support the extension of the franchise to women, or at all events to leave them unfettered on the question. Her speech on behalf of women was a highly successful effort, and she was warmly applauded. The delegates were instructed to support any proposal to give women the same rights as men in elections.—*Tyneside Echo*.

BIRMINGHAM.

A meeting of the General Committee of the Birmingham Liberal Association (the 800) was held on October 2nd, at the Assembly Room, Needles Alley, Birmingham; the PRESIDENT (Mr. George

Dixon) in the chair. Amongst those present were Alderman R. Chamberlain, Dr. Dale, Dr. Crosskey, Councillor J. Powell Williams, Dr. Langford, Rev. A. Jamson-Smith, M.A., F. Schnadhorst, A. C. Osler, Alderman Barrow; Councillors F. Wright, M. J. Hart, Rogers, Whateley, Lampard; Messrs. J. S. Manton, E. Townley, A. Holden, D. Hanson, J. Grice, T. Rose, W. Hearn, W. B. Vince, G. Cashmore, W. H. Ryland, E. Deakin, L.S.M., J. Allday, A. Harris, G. H. Phillips, W. B. Whitehead, Pinson, F. Mills, Chinn, F. W. Gosling, J. Buckley, Holder, N. Nathan, Hawkesford, C. B. Partridge, Bell, F. W. Staples, J. Buttress, T. H. Purcell, F. Goodwin, R. Waite, E. Gilbert, S. Greenway, Geo. Doowra, J. Wild, C. Baker, Widdowson, J. Hargreave.

After the transaction of ordinary business, Dr. CROSSKEY next moved: "That, in the measure extending the franchise to householders in the counties, the suffrage should be conferred on women who possessed the same qualifications as men." He hoped the Leeds conference would give this subject adequate consideration. The principle had already been passed by this association. He could see no reason that excluded women that would not also exclude men with similar qualifications. They bore the burdens of the State, they were interested as men were, they suffered from war and bad legislation as much as men, and they had as strong and deep interests in the sufferings of the State and all its misfortunes as men had. He therefore could not see any reason that would admit the one that should exclude the other. If women were admitted to the franchise many advantages would accrue. Social questions would have more prominence given to them. Women had proved their fitness by their services on school boards and boards of guardians to take part in the legislation of the land. Their influence would be, he felt sure, on the side of humanity, peace, and social reform. One great objection urged against them was that they would always vote Tory—(laughter)—that they were under the domination of the parson and the squire. But that argument would only be right if all Tories were disqualified. (Laughter and applause.) However, he had such confidence in Liberal principles, he had such an absolute belief that the principles advocated by this association were the principles of justice and righteousness, that he could trust it to make its claims known and supported by the women as well as the men. He instanced the vote of the women in our school board contests as proof of this. In conclusion, he hoped the Leeds conference would consider this resolution in connection with the reform programme that they were elaborating that night. (Applause.)

Mr. RYLAND seconded the resolution. Mr. DEAKIN, in supporting it, said he had found that the one great objection to the admission of women to the franchise among Liberals was the fear that they would vote Tory. He believed, however, that women were Conservatives only from ignorance of political questions, and that was because they had no voice in politics. Toryism was synonymous with political ignorance—(laughter and applause)—and when political ignorance was removed Toryism would be removed, but the ignorance among women would not be removed till they were given a position that excited sufficient interest in them to cause them to turn their attention to politics. Councillor ROGERS also supported the resolution, and it was then put to the meeting and carried, with only a very few dissentients.

The following gentlemen were then appointed to form the deputation to attend the conference at Leeds:—The Mayor (Alderman White), Aldermen Richard Chamberlain, Ellaway, and Barrows; Councillors W. H. Hart, Granger, Frank Wright, and Rogers; Drs. Foster and Crosskey; the Rev. Charles Leach; Messrs. Eli Bloor, W. J. Lancaster, J. T. Middlemore, W. Gosling, J. Fairfax, George Hanson, David Hanson, Arthur Holden, George Ingall, W. B. Vince, F. Goodwin, and Dr. Langford.

This concluded the business of the meeting.—*Birmingham Daily Post.*

BOLTON.

A special meeting of the members of the Council of the Bolton Liberal Association was held on October 3rd, under the presidency of Mr. W. F. Tillotson, to consider the prayer of a memorial to the Council, signed by a number of ladies, asking that the delegates to the Parliamentary Reform Conference at Leeds should be instructed to support the motion for the enfranchisement of women householders, which it was expected would be introduced at the Conference. After a discussion on the subject, the Council resolved not to send the representatives pledged on the question.

HANLEY.

A general meeting of members of the Liberal Council and Club was held on October 4th at the club-house, Pall Mall, to consider the subject of the extension of the county franchise and the proposed conference of the Liberal party to be held at Leeds during the present month. Councillor BANKS presided. The following resolution, moved by Mr. W. WOOD, seconded by Councillor HAMMERSLEY, and supported by Councillor BOULTON, was carried unanimously:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to the working classes residing outside the boundaries of boroughs is a measure of immediate urgency; and in justice to the large numbers of the people at present excluded from the exercise of political rights, this meeting asks Her Majesty's Ministers to bring in a measure extending the franchise to all householders in counties during the ensuing session of Parliament."

The official arrangements as to appointment of representatives to the Conference were submitted by Mr. W. K. Moston, secretary, and the following gentlemen were elected to represent the Liberals of the borough of Hanley:—Mr. Alderman Boothroyd, J.P., Mr. Alderman Gilman, Mr. John Ridgway, Mr. J. R. Cooke, Mr. T. W. Harrison, Mr. J. T. Harris, Mr. Ambrose Bevington, Mr. J. Goodson, Mr. W. Wood, Mr. A. B. Jones, and Mr. Hayes. After the appointment of delegates, Mr. GOODSON moved the following resolution:—"That in the measure extending the franchise to householders in the counties the suffrage should be extended to women who are householders and possess the same qualification as those on which it is exercised by men." Upon being seconded by Mr. W. L. EVANS, the resolution was carried by a unanimous vote. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—*Staffordshire Sentinel.*

LONGTON.

The Longton section of the Stoke-on-Trent Liberal Council, at their meeting on October 4th, resolved to send five delegates to the conference to be held at Leeds on the 17th and 18th inst., and among other things instructed them, by unanimous vote, to support the prayer of the memorial from the Women's Suffrage Association.

MANCHESTER.

A deputation from the Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, consisting of Mrs. Roby, Miss M. Atkinson, and Miss Becker, with Miss Backhouse, assistant secretary, was received by the executive committee of the Manchester Liberal Association at their meeting on October 9th. Miss Becker read a memorial in which the society expressed the hope that the delegates to the Leeds Conference would give favourable consideration to any proposal that might be made at the conference in favour of the extension of the franchise to women on the same conditions as it is or may be given to men, and concluded by a short address. The chairman, Mr. Beith, in reply, said the memorial would be handed to the delegates with a request that they would give the subject full consideration. A vote of thanks to the ladies for their attendance was moved by Mr. E. J. Broadfield, seconded by Mr. C. P. Scott, and carried unanimously. Miss Becker briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the deputation retired.

LEEDS.

On October 8th, a meeting of the Six Hundred of, and subscribers to, the Leeds Liberal Association was held at the Philosophical Hall to discuss the question of Parliamentary reform, and to elect twenty representatives to attend the Reform Conference to be held in Leeds. Mr. James Kitson (President of the Liberal Association) occupied the chair. Among those present were Mr. J. Barran, M.P., Ald. Tatham, Ald. Scarr, Mr. E. Butler, Mr. E. Tiffany, Mr. E. Wilson, Mr. J. W. Willans, Mr. T. Wemyss Reid, Mr. J. S. Mathers, Mr. James Buckley, Mr. J. R. Ford, Mr. S. Marshall, Mr. J. J. Cousins, Mr. E. M. Baines, Mr. Talbot Baines, the Rev. W. Heaton, Councillors Ward, Laycock, Baker, Batley, Kettlewell, and others.—In the course of the proceedings, Miss L. Carbutt proposed that the delegates from the Leeds Liberal Association be advised to bring forward the vote in favour of including women householders when the subject of the extension of the franchise is discussed at the Conference in the Albert Hall on Wednesday, the 17th instant.—Mr. Corker seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to.—*Leeds Mercury.*

MORLEY LIBERAL CLUB.—At a meeting of the committee of this club held on October 11th, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Mr. R. B.

Hopkins were appointed to represent the Club at the approaching Reform Conference to be held at Leeds next week.

BRISTOL.

A meeting of the general committee of this Association was held on October 12th, at the Colston Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Charles Townsend, the president, and among the gentlemen present were Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., Rev. U. R. Thomas, Rev. A. N. Blatchford; Messrs. Francis J. Fry, Edward P. Wills, M. Whitwill, E. G. Clarke, C. Wills, G. F. Powell, W. R. Barker, B. Bedell, C. W. Allen, J. Bartlett, H. Kingdon, W. H. Davies, T. Adams (secretary), G. F. Jones, J. D. Marshall, and other members of the committee. A memorial, numerously and influentially signed, from the committee of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, asking that any delegates sent to the Leeds Conference may be instructed to vote in favour of a motion to confer the electoral franchise on women on the same terms as on man, was read by the Chairman. The memorial led to considerable discussion, in the course of which its prayer was strongly advocated by the Rev. U. R. Thomas, the Rev. A. N. Blatchford, and others, whilst other speakers expressed grave doubts as to the expediency of mixing any other question up with that of Parliamentary reform, and contended that any representatives appointed to the conference should be left to the exercise of their own discretion. A resolution to the effect that the memorial be ordered to lie on the table was rejected by an overwhelming majority, and eventually it was almost unanimously resolved to leave the representatives to the conference at Leeds to act on their own discretion.

KETTERING.

A memorial from the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was laid before the executive committee of the Kettering Liberal Association at their meeting on October 6th, with the result that the secretary was instructed to request the delegates appointed by the association to attend the Leeds Conference to support its prayer at that conference.

TOWER HAMLETS.

The following letter has been received from the secretary of the Tower Hamlets Radical Club and Institute:—

"The memorial of your committee on the subject of women's suffrage has been laid before the political council of this club, and I am directed to assure you of the support of this club in your just claims to the franchise. Our delegate to Leeds has been instructed to press the claims of women to be placed on the register on the same terms as men. As Radicals, we can admit of no distinction as to class, creed, or sex, but on the contrary maintain the right of every person obeying the law to have a voice in making the same.—I am, ladies, yours faithfully,
"Thos. HUMPHRIES,
"National Society for Women's Suffrage."
"Hon. Political Secretary."

HACKNEY.

The political committee of the Hackney Radical Club have assented to the memorial sent on behalf of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and have instructed their delegates at Leeds to support such memorial at the Conference at Leeds.

WOMEN DELEGATES AT THE LEEDS CONFERENCE.

Mrs. HELEN BRIGHT CLARK, Mrs. TANNER, appointed by Mid-Somerset Liberal Association.
Miss EMILY STURGE, Miss EVA TRIBE, appointed by Bristol Women's Liberal Association.
Miss LUCAS, Miss MULLER, appointed by Darlington Women's Liberal Association.
Miss ANNA WILKINSON, appointed by York Women's Liberal Association.
Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, appointed by Morley Liberal Club.
Miss JANE COBDEN, appointed by Midhurst Liberal Association.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Western Times (Exeter), September 20.

The National Society for Women's Suffrage have an active branch at Bristol—the "Bristol and West of England Branch" thereof. As there is about to be a conference of Liberal associations at Leeds to discuss measures of Parliamentary reform, the Bristol branch appeal to the Exeter Liberal Association to instruct their delegate

whom they will send to Leeds, to vote for the enfranchisement of women who pay Queen's rates and taxes, in order that they may have a vote for a representative in Parliament. Women ratepayers have the municipal suffrage as an acknowledgment of their right to elect the representatives who will have to disburse the municipal rates and taxes. The same principle applies to Parliamentary rates and taxes. Taxation without representation is tyranny. This is the old time-honoured text of Radical sermonising, which used to be heard more frequently than it now is, because the men have made most of their representative rights in accordance with the principle. But now the women ask for the franchise they will not be allowed to ask in vain. There are objections to the reform. Some say that the women are all Tories. Well, why should they not be if the Liberals do not help them to representative rights? Others say that if you give the woman a vote she would not use it. Well, then, you would not in that case increase the Tory poll, as no one would think of dragging the dear souls out and compel them to vote against their will. We are going to have a more reasonable and quiet style of electioneering under the new Act than has hitherto prevailed. We have been let down gradually from the old time-honoured turbulence of the hustings fight, the guzzling and violent rows which made an election polling booth no place for a quiet woman. Women to be fitting companions of men must be brought into harmony with the intelligence of men. Women must see and feel the serious business of life, which they will do quite as fully as men when they are educated for it.

Glasgow News.

The advocates for the immediate extension of the franchise adopted in addition a rider to their resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women. This was a matter to which greater prominence might have been given, and had much the appearance of an afterthought. Certainly, if the present electorate is to be greatly extended, the claims of women should receive due consideration, and the whole question settled on one issue. Any Franchise Reform Bill would be incomplete which did not deal with female suffrage.

Western Daily Mercury (Plymouth), Oct. 18.

The conference has done the brave and proper thing in appealing to Mr. Gladstone to admit propertied spinsters to the exercise of the vote. The imputation that the supporters of female suffrage are crotcheteers is unworthy of an Opposition whose present leader was at one time amongst its most enthusiastic advocates, and whose distinguished predecessor considered that the deprivation of lady ratepayers was simply indefensible. There are some Liberals who fear that the women will be led by the priests. The women, like the men, will, however, be led by their political leaders. It may comfort vacillating Radicals to remember that the most eloquent exponents of the rights of the women to the franchise are those who are attached, in many cases by birth, and in all cases by conviction, to the party of progress and peace.

Liverpool Mercury, Oct. 17.

The second resolution is only an enlargement of the first, inasmuch as it defines the franchise extension as the conferring upon the counties of the electoral rights now enjoyed in the boroughs. There will be an addendum moved in favour of including those women who now vote at municipal elections, and probably no strenuous objection will be raised to its acceptance by the meeting.

Liverpool Mercury, Oct. 18.

As we ventured to anticipate yesterday, little opposition was offered to the proposal to include in the franchise women who are at present entitled to a place on the municipal register. So far, therefore, as the conference has spoken, it has spoken well and in agreement with the vast majority of the Liberal body of England.

Northern Whig (Belfast).

The Leeds Reform Conference terminated its sittings yesterday afternoon. On the previous evening the resolution in favour of allowing women householders to vote for members of Parliament was unanimously carried. This was, of course, to be expected. Household suffrage implies a suffrage based on the payment of rates and taxes. Women who, as independent householders, pay the same rates and taxes as men ought not to be denied, and cannot long be

denied, the same electoral privileges. In our columns it is no longer necessary to argue this question. We have expressed ourselves in favour of the principle for many years. To it Sir Stafford Northcote in Belfast fully gave in his adherence, as indeed he had previously done. We may be quite sure that when the next Reform Bill is brought in by the Government, whether it be merely a Franchise Bill or a measure both for extending the franchise and for a redistribution of seats, the claims of women householders to the franchise will not be forgotten. Mr. Disraeli expressed himself in the House of Commons as in favour of the women householders. When he was reminded that in the Reform Bill he at last introduced and carried in 1867 he had omitted the ladies, he stated, with his characteristic cynicism, that this was an oversight. "It was all a mistake," said Mr. Disraeli. We may depend upon it that when the new Reform Bill is brought in, whether in the next session or in the subsequent one, the claims of women to vote will not be overlooked. They have now enthusiastic advocates on the floor of the House itself, and their pretensions to exercise the franchise will be warmly discussed and perhaps strongly resisted. What is reasonable in the demands of the ladies will, sooner or later, be conceded. The supporters of women's suffrage have grounds for satisfaction at the decision of the Leeds conference.

East Sussex News.

The justice of the claim for the extension of the franchise to women cannot, we think, be gainsaid, and we are pleased to see that the monthly organ of the National Society, the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, affords gratifying proof of the advance of public opinion on the question throughout the country. The time assuredly must soon come when the franchise will be given to every ratepayer independent of sex. We notice that at the Liberal Conference at Leeds on Wednesday a resolution was passed approving the extension of the franchise to women properly qualified.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

CROYDON.

On October 12th a public meeting was held in the Small Public Hall, which was well filled, when addresses were delivered by Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Cooper, Mr. Garnett Mann, and others, on the subject of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women, on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men.

J. SPENCER BALFOUR, Esq., M.P. (Mayor of Croydon), occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings said that was the first occasion upon which he had had an opportunity of expressing his opinion as to the advisability of extending the franchise to women. Looking at the question on all sides he felt it his duty to study the matter with great care, and the conclusion he arrived at was that the arguments in favour of the extension were really unanswerable, and he was one of the supporters of Mr. Mason's motion. The exclusion of women from the poll was, in his opinion, nothing short of an injustice, unless good reasons could be given to the contrary. Since women had voted at borough elections no depreciation had been observed in them by reason of their power. They seemed to him as amiable and useful as they were before. Alluding to the anomalies of the present system, the honourable gentleman said that a woman might conduct a large business in a town, and her prosperity might affect the prosperity of a very large section of the inhabitants; and yet the man who served behind her counter, the man who swept out the office of a morning, and the man who drove her cart, no matter whether he was paid an hourly, daily, or weekly wage, he was entitled to exercise the franchise, while the woman who was at the head of affairs had not that power—and why? because she was a woman. There were many cases in which ladies who rode in their carriages ought to have a vote, but they had not, while their coachman had the privilege. It was stamping upon women the most practical mark of degradation. He had heard it remarked that Liberals were unwise in trying to give women the franchise. He knew some Conservative women and some Liberals, so he was not prepared to admit that all women would be Conservatives.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE proposed the first resolution, which was as follows: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifica-

tions which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." The speaker said the members of Parliament who are in favour of this resolution did their best to bring it forward last session. Although they had then a minority, that minority was sufficient to encourage them to persevere. The old arguments were brought up for and against the question. It is illogical to ask for what men have not got, they only ask to be put on an equality. It has also been said they advocate their cause on a public platform simply out of notoriety, but she thought they had now altered their opinion. In concluding, she had great pleasure in proposing the resolution.

Mr. W. MALLESON (chairman of the School Board) said he was there to express his deep sympathy with the movement, as he was in favour of the widest possible extension of the franchise. He thought women of late years had proved themselves thoroughly qualified to take up nearly every great question. He seconded the resolution.

Miss ISABEL COOPER, in supporting the resolution, thought the arguments brought against it were something beyond description: one was that women would make mistakes, possibly they would; do not men make mistakes? She contended that as women have a very deep interest in the welfare and rights of a nation, they should be entitled to a Parliamentary vote.

Miss CAROLINE BIGGS said they were working with double energy to get this measure passed. The members of Parliament who voted for this measure were not exclusively from one part of the House, but both—Liberals and Conservatives. Sir Stafford Northcote was to some extent in favour of it. Although the members for East Surrey had not yet made up their minds upon the subject, she hoped they soon would.

Councillor MITCHNER supported the resolution. Mr. GARNETT MANN said he had the good fortune to reside in a country where no restriction was put upon women, he meant Burma. He considered that as women pay direct taxes, it was a shame and a sin they should be debarred from giving a vote.

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, in a very able and eloquent address, said as Parliament was our great store house for justice, truth, and mercy, why should they not have voice at least in making our laws? That was all they asked. This is not an empty cry of a few women, but a large number. She hoped that unmarried women and widows might have a vote. She hoped men would not be cowards, but do right, and help to sweep away the injustice from them.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried with acclamation.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

LEWES.

A public meeting was held in the County Hall, Lewes, on October 26th. The Mayor of Lewes, D. R. Crosskey, presided, and the hall was full. The first resolution was moved by the Rev. A. F. Macdonald, seconded by Mr. Councillor Every, and supported by Mrs. Fenwick Miller, member of the London School Board, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." This was adopted with but one dissenter. The second resolution, forwarding petitions to Parliament, and a memorial to W. L. Christie, Esq., M.P. for Lewes, was proposed by Mr. Alderman Baxter (who was Mayor of Lewes last year), and seconded by Miss Caroline A. Biggs, and passed unanimously. A cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor was afterwards moved by Mr. Thorne, and seconded by Mr. Maton.

RYE.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Rye, on October 29th. Mr. A. M. Brookfield presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Miss Caroline A. Biggs, and others. The usual resolutions were adopted.

LEEDS.

At a public meeting held at the Victoria Hall, Leeds, on October 18th, Sir Wilfrid Lawson said: Yesterday, in the Conference, there was another great attack on privilege. The Conference decided that Parliament ought to take away disabilities from women. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Well, now, I only touched upon that very gingerly—(laughter)—because if I said much the Chairman would be down upon me and crush me to powder. (Renewed laughter.)

But I think it will do him good that vote. (Hear, hear.) I am reminded of a story which my friend Mr. Fowler told me to-day, which I think meets the case somewhat. There was an old gentleman somewhere who unfortunately got to be blind, and somebody was talking to his wife, and said, "How do you get on; how does he do about reading?" "Oh," said his wife, "I read the Bible to him every night, and many a bit I puts in for his good." (Loud laughter.) My opinion is, that the Conference put in that bit about women's suffrage for Mr. Bright's good. (Laughter.) I have alluded to all these cases of attack on privilege, and now this great Conference has said that we intend to broaden and strengthen the foundations of the Constitution by admitting the unfranchised masses, and to enlist hundreds and thousands more than we have ever enlisted before in defence of law and order and freedom in this country. And mark, I am thoroughly with you in what you did in the Conference.

At an overflow mass meeting held outside, in Victoria Square, addressed by speakers who came out from the Victoria Hall, Mr. Herbert Gladstone in concluding his speech said it was a difficult thing to speak to such a large audience, and he would be glad if any one would come forward and take his place. Perhaps one of those ladies who had been speaking on behalf of women's suffrage would come forward and address them for an hour in order to establish her claims as one capable of performing the duties of a politician. (Laughter.) At the conclusion of the proceedings, as if in acceptance of the challenge good-humouredly given by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Miss Cobden and Mrs. Scatcherd engaged the attention of the people for a few minutes, and succeeded without difficulty in passing a resolution in favour of women's suffrage.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

LEEDS.

On the afternoon of October 18th a meeting of the women delegates to the Conference of Liberals at Leeds and others was held at the house of Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd. There were present Mr. and Mrs. W. Clark, Mrs. Tanner, Miss E. Sturge, Miss Tribe, Miss Anna Wilkinson, Mrs. E. T. Wilkinson, Mrs. J. B. Wilkinson, The Misses Carbutt, Miss S. B. Anthony, U.S.A.; Miss Müller, M.L.S.B.; Miss Jane Cobden, Miss Tod. On the motion of Miss Sturge and Miss Wilkinson, Miss Cobden was unanimously desired to forward the following memorial to Mr. Gladstone on behalf of the meeting:—

"To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury.

"Memorial from ladies, delegates to the National Reform Conference, and others, met at 27, Virginia Road, Leeds, October 18, 1883.

"Sir,—The undersigned, representing a very large number of women throughout the kingdom, who hold liberal principles in politics, and who share in the work of organising and strengthening liberal opinion, beg leave to lay before you the expression of their conviction that the time has come when the admission of legally qualified women to the electoral franchise ought to form a portion of the immediate work of the Liberal party. In doing so, they wish to call your attention to the adoption of this principle at the meeting of the National Reform Conference on October 17 (yesterday); and they enclose a copy of the resolution, adopted by an overwhelming majority of the Conference composed of delegates from all parts of the country. Acknowledging with sincere gratitude the many and great services which you have rendered to the cause of justice under very varied circumstances, and in regard to very different classes of the community, they trust that you will add this also to your many claims upon our reverence, that you will admit those of your fellow-workers who are women to their rightful and responsible place within the circle of the constitution.—(Signed) Jane Cobden, Midhurst Liberal Association; Helen P. Bright Clark, Street, Somersetshire; Emily Sturge, Bristol Women's Liberal Association; Margaret A. Tanner, Mid-Somersetshire Liberal Association; Isabella M. S. Tod, Belfast; Eva Tribe, Bristol Women's Liberal Association; Susan B. Anthony, Vice-president National Women's Suffrage Association, U.S.A.; F. Henrietta Müller, delegate from Darlington Women's Liberal Association; Mary T. Wilkinson, Leeds; Louisa Carbutt, member of Leeds Board of Guardians; Anna M. Wilkinson, delegate from York Women's Liberal Association; Frances Carbutt, Treasurer Leeds Female Benefit Society;

Annie Wilkinson, Secretary York Women's Liberal Association; Alice Hurst, Head Mistress of Basinghall-street School, Leeds; Alice Scatcherd, delegate from Morley Liberal Club."

A spirited discussion took place as to the best means of utilising the interest shown by women in political questions. Miss Sturge and Mrs. E. D. Wilkinson thought the best plan at present was to form separate political associations for women only, as had been done in their own cities of Bristol and York. Others again were strongly in favour of women becoming members of the already existing political associations of men. Mrs. Scatcherd, after referring to the vote at the conference in favour of women's suffrage, strongly urged those present to advocate the claim before associations of men during the coming winter. The plan she herself was adopting was to write to the secretaries of different political associations, asking to be allowed to speak thereon at their annual meetings. So far her request had been most kindly granted, and she felt sure that this work was the most effective which could be undertaken at the present critical period. Miss Anthony gave a concise and interesting account of the different votes exercised by American women. The meeting of so many earnest workers from different parts was not only most enjoyable to all present, but was also most valuable from a practical point of view, each one feeling more than ever impressed with the importance of increased effort on behalf of the cause all had so deeply at heart.

ST. LEONARD'S-ON-SEA.

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 27th, a large and representative gathering of nearly one hundred ladies and gentlemen assembled by invitation of Miss Fricker Hall, at Bonham House, St. Leonard's. The hostess occupied the chair, and after an address by Miss Caroline A. Biggs, Mr. Cole moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting every extension of the Parliamentary franchise should include those women who now possess the vote in local government, and that petitions to both Houses of Parliament praying them to pass a measure to this effect, to be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting." The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Gant and carried unanimously. After a cordial vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Miss C. A. Biggs in the name of the society, the proceedings of a very pleasant afternoon were brought to a close.

LECTURES.

PLAISTOW.

Mrs. Fenwick Miller lectured on October 18th at the Cromwell Club, Plaistow, on "Women and the New Reform Bill," and remarked that the anomaly of excluding householders from the franchise because they were women was as unreasonable and more indefensible than excluding any because of the locality of the house. Upon every Liberal principle the franchise must be extended to women. There was no political question which did not concern women just as much and in the same way that it did men, and women needed the franchise just as men did, for the protection of their own interests. A resolution in favour of women's suffrage was unanimously carried.

BRIGHTON.

On October 25th Mrs. Fenwick Miller delivered a lecture in the Music-room of the Pavilion, Brighton, Sussex. Mr. F. Merrifield said the proposal they had to make was that householders should not be debarred from exercising the privileges of voting for the election of a member of Parliament, merely because they happened to be women as well as men. Mrs. Miller then delivered her address, which was received with applause. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Miller was unanimously accorded, on the motion of Mr. A. G. Henriques, who urged that the political disabilities of women would remain for a very short time longer. The usual recognition to the chairman brought the lecture to a close.

HYDE.

A lecture, arranged by the Hyde Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, was delivered by Miss Becker in the New Reform Club, Market-street, Hyde, Cheshire, on October 24th. Mr. Edmund W. Smith occupied the chair, and there were also on the platform Mrs. J. C. Hibbert, Mrs. E. W. Smith, Mrs. M'Cormick, Mrs. J. Rowcroft, Mrs. Moss, and Miss Elizabeth

Smith, Secretary. After an able address from the chairman, Miss Becker delivered her lecture, which was well received, and at the close a vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Mrs. Moss, seconded by Mrs. Rowcroft, and carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. Geo. North, seconded by Miss Becker, thanks were given to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

ACCRINGTON.

On October 17th the Rev. Robt. Morton, of London, delivered his popular oration on "Woman: her Place and Power," in the chapel connected with Mount Pleasant Wesleyan School. Mr. JOHN HAWORTH, of Moor End House, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. S. Fogg, Messrs. Henry Coupe, Wm. Haworth, and Garside (Accrington).

Mr. MORRIS, who was cheered on rising, said he did not propose to lecture women, but to lecture on "A Woman: her Place and Power." For his part he did not see why the women of England should not have the benefit of the franchise, nor why, in case her husband is deceased, a woman should suffer the disabilities thereby imposed, and inherit the obligations. Such provisions were a disgrace to the statute book. In conclusion, he passed a high eulogy upon our Gracious Queen, and hoped she might long live to be esteemed of her people and enjoy their allegiance.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

BATH.

At the Manners-street Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, on October 1st, Mr. Spear moved "That it is just to give women householders the Parliamentary franchise." Mr. Burke proposed as an amendment, "That the Parliamentary franchise is unequal for an unpolitic, and should not therefore be granted." Several speakers took part, and at the close the original motion was carried by a majority of thirteen. There was a good attendance.

WARMINSTER.

At a meeting of the Young Men's Society, held on October 4th at Common Close Schoolroom, Warminster, the subject of "Women's Suffrage" was taken for debate, Mr. W. G. Benham affirmative, and Mr. E. J. Bradfield negative. The chair was taken by Rev. H. G. Hastings, M.A., president. Messrs. Benham, E. J. Bradfield, Radford, E. J. Butcher, E. S. Beaven, W. Goodfellow, Bigwood, H. Mullin, A. W. Hastings, H. J. Maxfield, A. Lucas, J. Gibbs, and H. Edwards also took part in the debate, which was then drawn to a close. The voting afterwards resulted in favour of the amendment, by 17 to 16; Mr. Bradfield thus gaining a majority of one.

WAKEFIELD.

On Friday, October 5th, the question of the extension of the suffrage to female ratepayers was debated by the members of the Wesleyan West Parade Young Men's Society. Mr. James Hutchinson led in the affirmative, and was supported by Messrs. Miles, Nurse, Gravett, Nettleton, and R. Stead. The only speaker who opposed was Mr. F. Brown, and the voting showed ten for the claim, seven against. The thanks of friends are due to Mr. Hutchinson for his able advocacy of the cause.

CARNARVON.

The question "Should the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women" was the subject of a debate in the Young Men's Literary Society, Carnarvon, on October 26th. The subject was introduced by Mr. T. W. Fergus, and the affirmative was carried by a small majority.

OXFORD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

A new departure has just been taken in local politics at Oxford. The municipal elections are causing exceptional interest there this year, and the Liberal candidates in one of the more important wards convened a special "women's meeting." A large number of lady voters responded to the summons, Mrs. Max Müller took the chair, and the wife of one of the leading aldermen made an able and eloquent speech. At Oxford, as elsewhere, the female householders have not hitherto taken full advantage of the municipal franchise, but these women's meetings will no doubt serve to bring more of them to the poll.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

LORD CLIFFORD ON THE FRANCHISE.

On October 3rd, on the occasion of the opening of the Teignmouth Liberal Association, Lord Clifford, in an address on the franchise, said: Were they to have female suffrage? The arguments used at present for it, he thought, were faulty in principle. They did not state as a fact that every woman had a right to vote. But whether women had a right or not to a direct voice in the government of the country, he was assured that in most cases they would use their electoral voice as well and as honestly as the other sex, but at the same time he doubted if they would be the better if they had the forbidden fruit of political franchise extended to them. Man had placed woman on a pedestal far above the maddening crowd, from whence her gentle influence appealing to man's higher feelings and his more generous impulses gendered, and if it did not direct every action of his life, its influence no man failed to feel, and, feeling it, no man ever resented it. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) From this pedestal he would not say woman had no right to step down, but he simply asked the question in their wishing for the right were they wise in doing so? (Hear, hear.)

MR. OSBORNE MORGAN, M.P., ON THE COMING REFORM BILL.

The Right Hon. George Osborne Morgan, M.P., Judge Advocate-General, speaking at the annual meeting of the Brymbo and Broughton Liberal Association, on October 24th, said:—I make no doubt that you have taken an interest in the grand meeting at Leeds, where Sir Robert Cunliffe and Mr. Thomas Gee ably represented us. It carried an unanimous expression of approval on behalf of which, I trust, will be the great measure next session—I mean the extension of the franchise to every householder in counties; and I see that Sir Stafford Northcote does not say he is afraid of extending household suffrage, but he is afraid of what may come afterwards. At all events I sincerely hope that by the time this association holds its next annual gathering every man will—perhaps I may say every woman also (laughter)—certainly nearly every man whom I see before me—will be a county voter. (Applause.)

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE, M.P., AT ARMLEY.

Mr. Barran, M.P., and Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., addressed a large meeting of the Liberals of Armley and Wortley on Saturday night, at the Temperance Hall, Armley, Leeds.

After a speech from Mr. BARRAN, M.P., and the moving of a resolution of confidence in the Government,

Mrs. SUNLEY urged that the franchise should be extended to women householders. She pointed out that there were 8,000 such in Leeds, and while they were called upon with beautiful impartiality to pay taxes, they had neither voice in the levying nor in the administration of them. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then carried. The CHAIRMAN next moved: "That this meeting urges upon all Liberals the duty of organising for the furtherance of Liberal principles at both Parliamentary and municipal elections.

Mr. WM. HAWKYARD seconded the motion; and Mr. HERBERT GLADSTONE, M.P., in rising to support it, was very heartily cheered. Alluding to the remarks of Mrs. Sunley, he said he hoped the legitimate grievance which she had put before the meeting would be dealt with before long. If a resolution less exacting than that which was brought before Parliament last year were brought forward relating to women's rights, he should have pleasure in supporting it.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE IN CANADA.—The United Methodist Church of Canada, which with a total membership of 739,160 is the largest and most powerful Protestant denomination in the Dominion, has through its annual conference recorded its opinion that if women were allowed to vote more rapid progress would be made in dealing legislatively with the evils arising from the traffic in intoxicating drinks. The avowal coming from so influential a body is hailed with satisfaction by those in the Dominion who advocate the admission of women to the same electoral privileges as men.—*Daily News*.

CONGRESSES.

CHURCH CONGRESS.

READING.

On October 3rd the first section met in the Congress Hall, under the presidency of the BISHOP of WINCHESTER, and took up the consideration of "Women's Work," in four branches.

The Rev. Canon CARTER, in a paper on "Sisterhoods," pointed out that they were a revival of a long-established form of Church life, and that the self-devotion of women to the sisterly life arose out of Christ's teaching, and was recognised by St. Paul as existing in his time.

The DEAN of CHESTER read a paper on "Deaconesses," and drew attention to the progress made in public opinion and experiment on this subject since it was discussed at the Church Congress of 1862 at Oxford. Defining the thought underlying all this anxious desire for an organisation which the Church did not at present possess, except in a rudimentary form, Dean Howson said: The scheme as it presents itself to him was a very great and ambitious one. It was nothing less than an endeavour to restore to the Church what the Church has lost, what it was intended to have, what it did possess in the primitive age, and without which it is placed at a great disadvantage in the inevitable struggle against sin, ignorance, and sorrow. It seemed to him that the modern state of society—with its separation of rich and poor, its intricate and delicate problems, its strain upon thought and feeling—needed quite as much as any previous age, perhaps more than any, an authorised and well-organised ministry of women. It will be seen at once that this question is placed on strictly Church lines. It is a Church ministry, not a mere voluntary agency of any kind, which is demanded; and a great point is gained immediately by this mere statement of the case. All antagonism to anything else is put out of view. All questions connected with other methods of female agency for religious and philanthropic ends remain just what they were before. Feminine agency may be crystallised into the exact form of sisterhoods, or may be diluted into the free movement of district visitors. These are not the precise questions before us. What we want is the thing itself—an authorised official Diaconate of women as an integral part of our Church system—a body of deaconesses co-extensive with the Church itself, ready for service wherever they are needed—and the needs are very various—but appointed and directed by the Bishops, and serving under the parochial clergy.

Professor ACLAND, of Oxford, expatiated upon the work of "District Visitors," urging that nursing, especially amongst the poor, might tax the fullest endurance and powers of any woman, and arguing that if women desired to devote themselves to this work it was not necessary that they should be fully skilled as medical or surgical practitioners.

Mr. J. G. TALBOT, M.P. for Oxford University, spoke of "Mission Women," observing that the great feature of their organisation was that it gave an opportunity for the development of that which was one of the chief virtues of the poor, namely, their determination to help one another to the best of their ability in any distress, while it also enabled the energies of the poor to be devoted to the work of the Church.

Archdeacon EMERY, the permanent secretary of the Congress, stated that the ladies concerned in the general subject thought they should have been allowed to read papers on the subject, but the Bishop and the Committee had decided otherwise. Expressing the views of some of those who had thus been precluded from addressing the section, the Archdeacon dwelt on the usefulness of women as teachers of religion.

Earl NELSON predicted that organisations of diocesan deaconesses would be heartily encouraged by the sisterhoods.

Archdeacon DARBY, of Chester, was of opinion that they were all interested in aiding in the restoration of women's work to the Church, and were also in great need of it. Deaconesses' institutions ought to be established in every diocese under the control of the bishop.

The BISHOP of WINCHESTER remarked that if they were in doubt as to what the Scriptures and the writings of St. Paul meant on this subject a most admirable commentary upon them was supplied by the practice of the early Church. It was as clear that deaconesses were then working as that deacons were. With reference to Arch-

deacon Darby's wish that no woman should be induced to take vows before the age of 30, his Lordship reminded the meeting of the fact that a council of early times limited the age to 40. He had not time to enter into this difficult question, but he felt that they must be very careful before giving anything like a general Church sanction to vows of celibacy either by men or women. The Bishop, in conclusion, testified to the successful working of the deaconesses' institutions which he had been instrumental in founding, and asserted that all they wanted was a great extension of these organisations.

The second section, over which the Bishop of Oxford presided in the Town Hall, was fully occupied for three hours in listening to papers and discourses on "Purity" and "The prevention of the degradation of women and children" from the Rev. Dr. Ridding, the Hon. and Rev. A. T. Lyttelton, Canon Scott Holland, the Rev. A. G. Butler, Canon W. Butler, Admiral Ryder, Lord Brabazon, and Mr. W. H. Heaton. As ladies were not admitted to this meeting they formed the majority of the attendance in the Congress Hall.

Soon after two o'clock the large building again became crowded by an audience to consider the "marriage laws" with direct reference to the marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.

In the course of the discussion Mr. SCLATER BOOTH, M.P., said:—What is after all the most salient feature of freedom since the establishment of Christianity? Is it not emancipation of women, and is not the barrier which the marriage laws extend round the status of women the most significant sign and symbol of the emancipation? Miss Lydia Becker, an earnest and eloquent advocate for woman's rights, sees this with unerring instinct when she speaks of the proposed bill as "unequal as between husbands and wives to the advantage of the husbands," and again she points out most truly that it would "tend towards a reversion of the Oriental idea which would limit the relation of women to men to the marriageable relations," and therefore that "the relaxation of the law relating to marriages of affinity would tend to degrade women."

FREE SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

CONGRESS IN DUNDEE.

A Congress under the auspices of the Free Church Synod of Angus and Mearns was held last month in Free St. Paul's, Dundee. The Rev. Dr. BAXTER, Blairgowrie, presided.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE CHURCH.

Professor LINDSAY (Glasgow) spoke on this subject. He said the position of women in general was being widely discussed at present. Women were pressing forward in a variety of ways. They saw them on school boards, on parochial boards, as matrons of hospitals, and superintendents of nursing institutions. It had become a maxim that when any public committee had to do with women and children, there ought to be women associated with men in the management. In religious organisations outside the Church they saw women taking an active and powerful part. What would the Pearsall Smith movement have been without Mrs. Pearsall Smith? What would that wonderful organisation the Salvation Army be unless, as one of the hymns said, they "bring the women right out to the front?" What would our Evangelistic Associations, doing such noble work all over the country, be without the aid of that noble army of women, who did such wonderful quiet work in the after-meetings, and in the house-to-house visitations that followed. Yet, as far as giving any official recognition to woman's work, or making any organised use of it, or even encouraging it within the common ordinary lines of congregational work, the solid respectable Protestant Churches, and especially the Presbyterian Churches, were very much where they were fifty years ago. Was this for good or was it for harm? He was far from objecting to the conservative instincts of the Church; they were the elements of permanence. But the Church must assimilate new forces as well as conserve the old. If the Church refused to recognise and incorporate this rising force of woman's work in religious effort two evils must result. 1. The Church would lose much good work which would come out otherwise; for force was indestructible, and woman's work was a force and would find vent—if not inside the Church, then outside. 2. Woman's work would lose that benefit of Church control and Church organisation which was most important. Professor Lindsay went on to show that the Apostolic Church did a great deal for woman, and woman repaid it

with interest. In Pagan Greece and Rome no respectable woman had any place apart from some man—father or husband. Christianity taught the supreme value of the individual human soul, taught that men and women belonged first to God, and therefore had a personal life of their own, and a personal value altogether apart from their social positions and relations. And it gave this idea practical value by giving woman a place of work and position in the Apostolic Church. All down through the Middle Ages women maintained this position, and some of the leaders of the most notable religious revivals of the Middle Ages were saintly women. At the Reformation came a reaction, arising out of mediæval abuses, and the Church had suffered from it down to this day. The most thoroughgoing work done for Christ by women at present was done in religious associations outside the Church, and just because of this the question of woman's place in the Church was a wider question—the question of the possibility of doing such work inside congregations as these associations were doing outside. This could never be done unless the Church gave a much wider place to woman's work than it had yet done. Professor Lindsay concluded by pointing out some ways in which women could work in congregational Church life.

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.
HUDDERSFIELD.

On October 6th, the custody and guardianship of children was considered by the Jurisprudence Section. Mr. Auguste Baker, Her Majesty's Consul at Khartoum, sent a paper which was made the basis of some discussion. Mr. Baker thinks that both parents should be recognised during their lives as joint guardians, and that the survivor should be sole guardian, unfettered by anything prescribed by the deceased. He would also put into the hands of county court judges the power of summarily settling disputes. The section appeared to be of a mind as to the need for some reform of the law, and Mr. Baker's proposals met with pretty general support. Miss Alice Bewicke, the only lady who took part in the debate, thought it was so clear that the rights of the mother were as strong as those of the father that she wondered there was any discussion at all on the point. Mr. Commissioner Kerr argued that as bread-winner of the family, the husband should have the exclusive right to determine how his children were to be brought up. Mr. Barber, Q.C., the president of the Section, thought the wishes of a living mother were a better guide than the wishes or presumed wishes of a dead father. He did not see any reason why a widow should not have power to appoint a testamentary guardian.

CORRESPONDENCE IN THE "MORNING POST."

The following letters have recently appeared in the *Morning Post*—

FEMALE FRANCHISE.

To the Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Sir,—May I be permitted to call the attention of your readers to a danger which seriously threatens the peace and comfort of a large and harmless class who have very little idea of defending themselves? I refer to those women who are not "advanced," not "strong-minded," and who shrink with horror from having a most unwelcome responsibility thrust upon them, that of female franchise. I know a certain number of women clamour for it; but I feel sure that if the female population were polled fairly on the question for one who desires it there would be at least twenty who would reject it with disgust—that is, if they realised what it means. At present many imagine that if the franchise were extended to women, it would only be to those who are independent; and that they need not vote unless they liked. But that is not so. Now that the Married Women's Property Bill has passed it is obvious that married women will have votes as well as single ones, where they have the necessary qualifications; and it is equally obvious that if women are to have votes it must be on the same terms as men—i.e., on certain property. Do those who contemplate this measure in the least realise what is involved? It will lay on us all a most serious duty, for if we have votes it will clearly be a solemn duty to vote. Otherwise we shall leave the country to the mercy of those violent female reformers who are now clamouring for political power, and who will most certainly use it to the utmost.

We do not desire to enter the arena of politics; but we could not stand by in this case, and by our "silence give consent" to the revolutionary measures which would thus secure an overwhelming majority. If votes are laid upon us, vote we must, however hateful it is to us. But what does it involve? In many cases great family discord; for politics in these days include matters far too serious to be taken lightly. How many women have married, aye, and even will marry in spite of what may happen, men of opposite politics? As long as they need say nothing about it, it is a point that can be left in abeyance, and all goes well; but it will become a very different thing if they have to vote. They must then choose between their husband's convictions and their own, in an active, not merely a passive manner. I am not contemplating domestic coercion, though we all know that it would exist in many cases in the form of moral suasion, to say the least of it. In a really happy marriage it would be far more painful. What loving and loyal wife could bear the idea; least of all where she has been brought up with old-fashioned and conservative ideas of a wife's duty? And here the Conservatives would lose ground, in spite of the instinctive Conservatism of the sex, as a woman who had been brought up a Liberal and taught to "think for herself" would probably insist on doing so, even if she had married a Tory, and though it might be pain and grief to her. As to single women, though their troubles would be of a different kind, it is probable that they would lose far more than they would gain. Indeed, they have suffered already, if they are not above minding the withering contempt heaped upon them, as a class, by those who discuss the measure; "blunders of nature," "social failures," and the like, being the mildest terms thus applied. True, the noisy females who bring all this upon us are convicted out of their own mouths as being "social failures," when they talk of their want of political influence. As if any woman worthy the name had not far more "influence" in quiet conversation and every-day life than she would ever have if once she were thrust into a false position and made to enter the lists with men. As a woman she is, or ought to be, able to hold her own, and she is not forbidden to take an intelligent interest in public matters and express her opinions as opportunity offers. But as an imitation man she can only prove like all imitations—spurious. It is high time that the quiet women should awake to the danger before them and really try and assert themselves to prevent it, otherwise they will find themselves constituents with stern duties thrust upon them before they know where they are. Let every lady take care that all the M.P.'s of her acquaintance are made aware of her sentiments on this subject; let her, in society, lose no opportunity of making known how utterly she hates the idea of having to vote; though determined, at all costs, to do it as a duty if it is thrust upon her. And it would be very desirable to get up petitions against female franchise. In this case every lady ought to sign, though she may never have signed anything before. It would also be well if members of Parliament would take pains really to ascertain the deliberate opinions of ladies on this point, before deciding to lend themselves to a measure fraught with such serious results.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Oct. 4. A FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER.

To the Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Sir,—Though rather amused, I confess I was pained to read the letter that appeared in your impression of yesterday on female franchise, signed "A Female Householder." I, too, am one of that rapidly increasing class, I also am a Conservative in politics; but having a very large circle of lady friends and acquaintances with whose views on this subject I am pretty well acquainted, I must venture to doubt very strongly the assertion or conjecture of your correspondent when she says that "if the female population were polled fairly on the question, for one who desires it there would be at least twenty who would reject it with disgust." My experience and feelings on the subject are widely different; most women are said to be Conservatives at heart, and those of my acquaintances are so with few exceptions; and it appears to me, now that the franchise is being so widely distributed, that unless granted to a class who will help to stem the torrent a little, we shall soon be governed by mob law. It is quite possible that the most strenuous supporters of women's rights may belong to the so-called screaming sisterhood, but behind the more noisy agitators may be found many thousand quiet, domesticated, and sensible

women, who are far from wishing to court publicity, who would shrink from platform oratory, who would recoil from anything really unfeminine, but who feel that while nearly every other class, educated and uneducated, is represented in Parliament, they are left out in the cold. I am not speaking of married women. They are in a measure represented by their husbands, and it might possibly create discord in families if the vote were accorded to them. It is the taxpayer who should reasonably have the vote, and surely it is only common justice that so large a class as the taxpaying and householding women of Britain (about the quietest and best-conducted class of the community) should enjoy the franchise. Before making up their minds that women are not to be trusted with votes it would be well to see whether they have misused their privileges with regard to vestry, school board, and guardian questions. I think it will be found that they have voted quite as intelligently as the male ratepayers. "A Female Householder" seems to apprehend all sorts of dreadful things happening, on the presumption that the franchise would be given to married women; but unless I am much mistaken that is not asked for, unless by a few extreme Radicals. Those who are the real well-wishers of the extension of the franchise to women, only ask for it to be given to the widows and spinsters, who are householders and pay taxes to the State. Surely in this large and respectable class, which embraces many philanthropic and hard-working women, many artists, authors, and heads of educational establishments, there must be many thousands who are not "blunders of nature," or "social failures," and yet find it hard that they should be excluded from the privilege of choosing a representative in the legislature of their country. The vote is placed in the hands of the navy, the miner, and the ploughman; but the authoress, the lady artist, and the schoolmistress are denied it. In Italy the vote is given, I believe, without any distinction of sex, to all ratepayers, provided they can read and write. These certainly seem, in my poor judgment, the most sensible qualifications. No single woman should be compelled to vote. Give them the right to vote, and let them use it or not as they list. I am not aware of any law that compels unwilling male voters to go to the polling booths. Your correspondent need not feel so uneasy on that score then. Hoping I am not trespassing on your space, I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Oct. 10. ANOTHER FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER.

To the Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Sir,—A "Female Householder" who wrote a letter in your issue of the 9th inst. is distressed lest married ladies should be given the Parliamentary franchise against their will. I beg to say that there is no proposal for giving the franchise to married women, but only to widows and spinsters. The proposal is simply that the head of every qualified household should have a vote, whether the head be man or woman. If a lady had £10,000 income and married a gentleman with nothing, he would still be the head of the household and have the vote, and the lady would have none. If, however, the lady was not married she would have a vote, which she might or might not exercise, according to her own desire. It is not probable that giving votes to qualified women would affect the political position. Women do not appear to be specially Liberal or specially Conservative. Women are, I think, generally more opposed than men to alterations in the marriage laws. They have more dislike to marriages of affinity and to facilities for divorce than men have, and it would hardly be fair to make any changes in this respect without their consent. The "Female Householder" suggests that ladies should petition against "women's suffrage." This is a very good idea. All women should be asked to sign petitions on the subject, and the question should be decided by the majority of signatures.
Oct. 11. ANOTHER FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER.

[A third letter, signed "Justitia," advocating the franchise, also appeared, which we are unable to print for want of space.]

DEPARTURE OF MRS. SHEARER FOR NEW ZEALAND.—We regret to state that Mrs. Shearer, *née* Downing, who has so long and so earnestly laboured for the enfranchisement of women, is in so impaired a condition of health that an immediate voyage to New Zealand has been rendered necessary with a view to her restoration. She sailed on the 24th ultimo. Her friends will follow her on her lonely and distant voyage with their best wishes and cordial hopes for her happy return in renewed health and strength.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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Dr. Samuelson ..	1 1 0	Mr. Glasspool ..	0 3 0
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Mr. A. F. Astley ..	0 12 6	Mrs. J. Walsh ..	0 2 6
Mr. John Sutton ..	0 10 6	Miss Broughton ..	0 2 6
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Mrs. Whitehead ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Wolstenholme (Sheffield) ..	0 1 5
Mrs. Josephine Butler ..	0 10 0		
Mrs. Roby ..	0 10 0	CREWE (continued).	
Mrs. Richard Handley ..	0 10 0	Alderman Ainsworth ..	0 5 0
Mrs. Dixon ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Alderman Whittle ..	0 5 0
Miss Morrison ..	0 5 0	Mr. F. Cooke ..	0 5 0
Mr. F. E. Kitchener ..	0 5 0	Mr. J. Meakin ..	0 2 6
Mrs. F. E. Kitchener ..	0 5 0		
Dr. Watts ..	0 5 0	HYDE (continued).	
The Misses Cogan ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Joseph Oldham ..	0 2 6
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Mrs. Morgan Williams ..	1 1 0	Mrs. Andrew ..	0 5 0
Miss Weld ..	1 0 0	Mrs. Robson ..	0 4 0
Mr. Price Martin ..	1 0 0	Miss Vernon ..	0 2 0
Miss Beale ..	1 0 0		
Miss Slator ..	1 0 0		
Miss Ruth ..	0 10 0		£30 0 6

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Mrs. Graveley ..	0 5 0	Mrs. C. Lewis ..	0 1 0
Mrs. Goss ..	0 5 0		
Miss Lynton ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Price ..	0 6 6
Mrs. Hunt ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Brine ..	0 5 0
Miss Leatham ..	0 5 0	General Berthon ..	0 1 6
Mrs. Macpherson ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Cordes ..	0 1 6
Miss J. Venning ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Ord Marshall ..	0 1 6
Miss James (Cardigan) ..	0 4 0	Mrs. Parson ..	0 1 6
Miss Howard Taylor ..	0 3 0		
Miss Bowen (Newport, Pemb.) ..	0 2 6		£38 9 0

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, Cecil Road, Clifton.

PETITION FOR CUSTODY OF CHILD.

James Beattie, builder in Edinburgh, has presented a petition to the Court, in which he asks that his wife, Mrs. Ellen Eliza Watson or Beattie, only daughter of the late Thomas Watson, M.D., Glasgow, be ordained to deliver up to the petitioner his son, the only child of the marriage. Parties were married in October, 1881, and lived together till February, 1882, when Mrs. Beattie is said to have deserted her husband, and is now residing with her mother and brother at 6, St. Albans Terrace, Downhill, Glasgow. The child was born on 20th September, 1882, the only intimation of the fact received by petitioner being the advertisement thereof in the newspapers. He has requested his wife to deliver up the child, but she refuses to do so, or to return to him, though he has a suitable home. Though refusing to acquiesce in his wife's desertion, petitioner is willing to allow her access to the child at reasonable times. Intimation and answers in eight days were ordered.

Counsel for Petitioner—Mr. Dickson. Agents—Fyfe, Miller, Fyfe, and Ireland.—*Edinburgh Courant*, October 18.

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