

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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VOL. VII.—No. 72. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

FEBRUARY 1, 1876.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

WITHIN a few days the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill will, in the ordinary course of events, have been read a first time in the House of Commons. The date of the second reading, on which the fortunes of the measure depend, will be determined immediately on the opening of the Session, and may arrive at an early period, possibly before another number of this *Journal* shall be issued. We exhort our friends to watch the newspaper reports for any announcements which may appear, and to be in readiness with their petitions and other demonstrations of support, in case the second reading should be fixed to take place during the month of February or March. All who have petitions already signed should forward them to their members as soon as possible after the opening of Parliament.

The most important public meetings that have taken place since the Christmas holidays have been held in Ireland. On January 17th, the annual meeting of the North of Ireland branch of the Society was held in Belfast, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr. BOAG. The report stated that petitions had been sent from almost every part of Ulster in support of Mr. FORSYTH'S Bill. Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said that he had been one of the oldest supporters of the movement in the North of Ireland, and it was very pleasing to him as one of the members for the borough, that the Mayor and Corporation of Belfast had last session unanimously adopted a petition in favour of the Bill. When so intelligent and influential a body is found unanimously in favour of the movement, it speaks trumpet-tongued that the intelligence and industry of the North of Ireland lend their support to the cause. It seemed a hard thing that women in Ireland should be deprived of privileges which their sisters in England enjoy with respect to the municipal franchise; and it seemed hard that the municipal franchise having been conferred on women, the parliamentary franchise should not be conferred also. A question of that sort should be viewed irrespective of party. The world was not made to stand still, and we do many things at present

that our forefathers did not do. It had been said that it was unwomanly to exercise the franchise; but it was not considered unwomanly of FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE to attend the hospitals at Scutari; and the only reason we could see why it was said to be unwomanly in one case, and not in the other, was that attendance at the hospitals at Scutari was for the benefit of men, and the exercise of the franchise would be for the benefit of women themselves. If there was one thing more painful than another to every right-thinking person, it must be to hear arguments professed to be drawn from Scripture used in opposition to the just demand of any section of our fellow-creatures. Efforts were being made to promote the higher education of women, and what was more important than that they should understand the subjects which tend to promote the well-being of the country in which they live?

Mr. DICKSON, M.P., said that any widening of the basis upon which our noble constitution exists was for its safety, and he trusted that the present Government would take, as they did before, a "leap in the dark," as it was called, and when the Prime Minister introduced, as he trusted he would, that Bill to equalize the franchise between boroughs and counties, he hoped they should have in that Bill the simple designation "householder" and that the word "male" should be omitted.

Miss TOD said that women did not begin to ask a share in electing members of Parliament until Parliament had begun to interfere with women in a way unusual until recently. The Legislature now interferes with the daily life of the people in a thousand things which used to be left to individual discretion. This might be right, and it is certainly well intended; but it could only be right if the Legislature had adequate information, and, as regards women, it has not got adequate information. It touches women as well as men, and often women more than men. From the earliest dawn of our history we find that the fundamental claim of the people was, that the law under which they were born was not to be altered except with their own consent. So we may now say to the Legislature; You are coming into our domain; you ought not

to do so without our consent; you cannot help making mistakes if you act there without our help, and you are breaking a law of the British constitution by endeavouring to do so. If Parliament attempts to legislate for little children, for school-girls, for female factory hands, milliners, and shopgirls, for the sick, for the aged, for the helpless poor, without any legal means of knowing the thoughts and convictions of women—of poor women, for themselves and their children; of educated women, for themselves and for all under their care or influence—it stands to reason that they must make mistakes.

Mr. BIGGAR, M.P., said that the ladies who were conducting this movement were doing so with great energy, judgment, and ability, and that he trusted they would meet with success.

The meeting in Dublin was held in the concert hall of the Exhibition building, under the presidency of Mr. MAURICE BROOKS, M.P., one of the members for the City. In opening the proceedings the CHAIRMAN said he felt it to be a duty and a privilege to be present and take part in a meeting, the object of which was to redress the grievances and disabilities under which women at present laboured. He had taken no part in the debate last session beyond recording his vote in favour of the measure.

Miss BECKER said the observation that women should take no part in politics was made last century to a witty Frenchwoman, who replied, "That in a country where women were liable to have their heads cut off for political reasons, they liked to know the reason why." We had discontinued in this country the practice of cutting off heads, but still people were liable to be imprisoned for political reasons; and women were just as liable to that imprisonment as men. She did not know whether there were at that moment, or had been lately, any Irishwomen imprisoned for political reasons, but there had been Irishmen; and had not Irishwomen the strongest interest in these unhappy conditions, which had brought the shadow of suffering into their midst, and thrown into prison their husbands and fathers, and brothers, and sons?

SERJEANT SHERLOCK, M.P., said that in this country they were more reasonable than in France, where, by the Salic law, women were excluded from the throne, and had not their gracious Queen ruled the realm with more dignity and more efficiency than any of the four sovereigns by whom she was preceded? He could understand a total exclusion of women from duties and privileges, but he could not understand the present anomaly, where duties were arbitrarily imposed and

privileges arbitrarily withheld, and he trusted that soon a radical and effectual improvement would be effected.

Miss LILIAS ASHWORTH said that before the introduction of the English common law into Ireland the rights of women, both married and single, were in many respects equal to those of men. Sir Henry Maine, in his "Early History of Institutions," remarks that the movement towards the emancipation and elevation of women is distinctly visible in Irish legal history, and it was owing to the introduction of the English common law that the position of the Irish wife was lowered. The influence of law is very great, and she was inclined to think that it was partly due to the excellent influence of ancient law in Ireland that the police reports on this side of the Channel are so rarely disfigured by cases of wife beating. That is a crime which appears to be peculiar to husbands on the other side of the water—to men who have gathered their morality from the English common law, which treats the wife as a chattel and not as a human being.

Miss STURGE said that many people opposed the extension of the franchise to women from a feeling that they were saved from great trouble and discomfort. That might be their reason, but how came it then that women ratepayers were not all saved from the obligation of paying taxation? She had never yet met with the woman who, if she got her choice, would not say that she preferred having a vote to paying taxation. The plain and evident fact that many thousands of women were calmly and persistently asking, year after year, that those among them who were duly qualified should have the Parliamentary franchise, was a note of progress as marked, unmistakable, and inefaceable as any other in the long line of gains to freedom, which

"Slowly broadens down
From precedent to precedent."

A meeting was held yesterday in York, as announced under the presidency of Lord HOUGHTON, a notice of which is necessarily deferred till our next issue.

In a recent speech at Huddersfield, Mr. LEATHAM referred to the question of the extension of the franchise in the counties, and, in support of his argument for the necessity of the measure, said, "It was required by a large, industrious, and competent class, which, unlike any other class in the community, was neither directly nor indirectly represented, and whose interests, therefore, suffered, to the common injury of all. We had bills, for example, for the improvement of the working-class dwellings in towns

Why had we no bills for the improvement of cottages in the country? Simply because everybody felt that such an enterprise would be Quixotic until it had something stronger than philanthropy behind it. Give these men votes, and we should see an instantaneous change." He then went on to say: "It served to show how illogical was the female mind that this very argument had been seized upon by some women in their advocacy of female suffrage. In no analogous sense could it be contended that women were an unrepresented class. For practical purposes they were already better represented by their sons and fathers, and brothers and sweethearts—if they had any—than they would be by themselves."

Women who feel the pressure of unjust laws, and who see that men obtain the attention of the Legislature to their condition when they are given votes, cannot perceive why it should be illogical to suppose that like results would follow from like causes in their own case. No doubt it is true that for some practical purposes women are well represented by the men of their own class. In the case of dwelling-houses, for example, if the men obtained better houses by the aid of the franchise, women would reap the benefit of the improvement. But further questions arise, such as the ownership and tenure of these houses, the maintenance of wives, and the recognition of the right of the wife to some legal co-proprietorship in the home and the household goods, earned through the joint industry of the couple. Then, again, we find such things as combinations of working men to prevent the women of their own class, who, on Mr. LEATHAM'S theory, are their mothers and wives, sisters and sweethearts, from engaging in lucrative handicrafts, such as type setting, weaving tapestry carpets at Kidderminster, or working the rotary stocking frames at Nottingham. In these and kindred matters, where the interests of women are not precisely the same as those of men, women require some direct representation. Men have not so keen a sense of the needs of women as of their own, even when they have needs in common; and they have scarcely any sense at all of the needs of women in those matters which, from their nature, affect women alone.

The theory that the disfranchised classes were virtually represented by those who had votes, was a favourite one with the opponents of Reform in the agitation which preceded the Act of 1832. In one of the novels, in which the late THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK graphically portrays and satirises the events and ideas current in his day, this argument is put into the mouth of one of the characters,

who may be described as the Mr. LEATHAM of the period. There has been an election for the ancient and honourable borough of Onevote, when the sole burgess has had the privilege of sending two members to the House of Commons. A crowd of people from the neighbouring city of Novote, which has 50,000 inhabitants, have assembled to witness the interesting ceremony, and are addressed in the following terms by Mr. SARCASTIC, one of the newly-elected members: "People of the city of Novote," proceeded Mr. SARCASTIC, "Some of you, I am informed, consider yourselves aggrieved that while your large and populous city has no share whatever in the formation of the Honourable House, the *plural unity* of Mr. CHRISTOPHER CORPORATE should be invested the privilege of double representation. But, gentlemen, representation is of two kinds, actual and virtual, an important distinction, and of great political consequence. The Honourable Baronet and myself, being the actual representatives of the fat burgess of Onevote, shall be the virtual representatives of the worthy citizens of Novote, and you may rely on it, gentlemen, (*with his hand on his heart*), that we shall always be deeply attentive to your interests when they happen, as no doubt they sometimes will, to be perfectly compatible with our own."

By a train of similar reasoning the Mr. SARCASTIC of to-day endeavours to persuade the sixteen millions of women who compose the nation of Novote, that they are virtually represented by the *plural unity* of the Onevote of men for themselves and women too.

A CURIOUS instance of the interposition of Government in that particular portion of what is supposed to be peculiarly woman's sphere, domestic service, is pointed out by a correspondent of the *Times*. It is forbidden to mistresses and maids, under a penalty of £20, to avail themselves of the services of an errand boy, or any individual of the privileged sex, in "cleaning boots, knives, or any work proper to domestic service," without having taken out a licence for a male servant. On this, a contemporary remarks, that, "if this is law, few persons are aware of the fact," and penalties of £20 are incurred every day by mistresses of households, who have not the least idea that they are defrauding the revenue. Members of Parliament profess to be desirous to save women from rough and laborious work, and yet they pass a law which ingeniously interposes obstacles to prevent them from obtaining assistance from men in the coarser and harder portions of domestic work. The mistress of a house-

hold of modest means will be obliged to dispense with the assistance of willing lads and men too old for full employment, in these odd jobs, which lighten the toil of the over-driven servant-of-all-work, or of her own hands, when she is unable to command the assistance of this humble functionary. If a boy is employed entirely by one person, and any portion of the work consists of domestic duties, the employer is liable to the tax. The shop boy may take down the shutters for his master, but may not carry a coalbox for his mistress without the intervention of the Board of Inland Revenue. The gardener's boy may sweep the gravel walk, but should his broom venture to cross the threshold, it brings upon the domicile a penalty of £20. Therefore we reiterate the warning,—Housekeepers beware! Maids-of-all-work, and mistresses who cannot afford maids-of-all-work, henceforward clean your own knives, black your own boots, and carry your coals upstairs yourselves, in consequence of the laws made by our chivalrous Parliament.

THE legal fiction that a husband and wife are one person, and that one, the husband, occasionally causes difficulty even to the one person in question. At the Salford police court, a woman was charged with assaulting her husband. After hearing the evidence, the judge said the case was extremely difficult to deal with, for if he bound the woman over to keep the peace, and if she failed to do so, the amount of her bond would have to be paid by her husband. The lawyer who appeared for the prosecutor agreed that such was the fact, and added that the result would be the same if a fine were imposed on her. Finally, the prisoner was discharged, after being cautioned to amend her behaviour, a caution which it is to be hoped will be observed so long as her punishment would be vicarious.

WE learn from the public papers that Chili has the honour of being the first nation in the world that has admitted women to the electoral franchise. Chilian law makes no distinction of sex, the only qualifications required for citizenship being the attainment of majority and the ability to read and write. It has, therefore, been decided to register women, and they will vote at the coming election.

The Republic of Chili is honourably distinguished among South American States for the order and stability of its institutions. It keeps faith with its creditors, its debt is comparatively moderate. It extends, coast-wise, from Bolivia to Cape Horn, and includes Patagonia. It is divided into sixteen provinces, with an aggregate

area of 126,000 square miles, and its population in 1872 was 2,074,000; including 70,000 Araucanien Indians. The standing army consists of 4,000 men, with a national guard of 54,000; and the navy of ten steam vessels, manned by 400 men. Vegetation and agriculture are very abundant, and the mineral wealth is extremely great. The exports to the United Kingdom, in 1874, were £4,700,510. From this it will be seen that Chili is a State of considerable size and value; and that it offers a fair field for the operation of the principle of the enfranchisement of women.

THE suppression of the *Société pour l'Amélioration du sort des Femmes* by a decree of the French Minister of the Interior, is one of those facts that like a flash of lurid lightning illuminates the chasm which still has to be filled up before the edifice of French liberty can rest upon a sure foundation. Only in the imagination of a comic pamphleteer could this *Journal* announce "with deep regret" that Mr. CROSS had prohibited the meetings of any of the Societies for promoting Women's Suffrage; but M. LEON RICHER, the editor of *L'Avenir des Femmes*, has to inform the *Rappel* that the *Société pour l'Amélioration du sort des Femmes* which was founded under the last Empire, and has been allowed to work ever since, has just been prohibited by M. BUFFET. Although, as M. RICHER pointed out, the Society had no directly political or religious mission, we cannot wonder that the tools of a reactionary Government should be jealous of its existence. It is, indeed, very questionable whether such a Government would be possible in the France of 1875, if the men of 1789 had not ignored the rights of women while establishing those of men. The omission of one half the race from the advantages of their programme has ever since—and at no time is this so evident as at present—entailed continual delays in the fruition of the best hopes of reformers, since the mental prostration of the women of a race is ever avenged upon the future of men. Thus the founders of French liberty gave woman no part in the freedom they wrung from their oppressors, and the son of the bondwoman, the Frenchman of the present day, builds costly shrines for miraculous Virgins, and is content to be governed by BUFFET. A. D.

Sir Henry Maine will begin a course of public lectures on Saturday, February 12th, at 2 p.m., in Corpus Christi Hall, Oxford. The subject of the lectures will be the "Salic Law," and that of the first "The origin of the so-called Salic rule of regal succession."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BELFAST.

The fourth annual meeting of the North of Ireland Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on January 17th in the Clarence Place Hall, Belfast. There was a numerous attendance, especially of ladies. Amongst the gentlemen present were—The Mayor (Mr. Robert Boag), Messrs. William Johnston, M.P.; T. E. Dickson, M.P.; Joseph G. Biggar, M.P.; Rev. Dr. Knox, Dr. Whitaker, Rev. Dr. Glasgow, Rev. Mr. Steel, Rev. Mr. M'Kee, Dr. Wilberforce Arnold, Messrs. John Rea, W. H. Patterson, J. R. Neill, John Greenhill, &c.

On the motion of Dr. ARNOLD, seconded by Rev. Mr. M'KEE, the chair was taken by the Mayor.

After some preliminary observations, the CHAIRMAN called on Miss TOD to read the report.

Miss TOD, in the first place, mentioned that letters expressive of sympathy with the movement, and of regret at absence, had been received from Mr. Dalway, M.P.; John S. Crawford, M.P.; Mr. John Hancock, J.P., Lurgan; and Rev. Dr. Scott, Methodist College, and then proceeded to read the report, which was the most encouraging one the committee had yet presented. After referring in some detail to the history of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, which was rejected on a second reading, in April last, by a majority of 35, the report went on to state:—"Each year we have had to deplore the removal by death of some of the great thinkers who first advocated our cause. But on no occasion has more profound regret been felt than we feel in alluding to the death of Professor Cairnes, almost whose last work was a defence of our aims and objects against an unjust attack. Your committee last spring, besides the annual meeting in Belfast, held very successful and crowded meetings in Lisburn and Enniskillen, and an influential drawing-room meeting in Londonderry, all of which were addressed by Miss Sturge, of Birmingham, and many local friends. Your committee has now many opportunities of conveying information and awakening interest on this important subject over the whole of Ulster, and is now able to see the results of former labours in this direction. But all such work, as well as the expenses of meetings, &c., requires an increase of pecuniary support from the friends of the cause. Petitions have been sent from almost every town in Ulster in support of the Bill."

Mr. JOHNSTON, M.P., moved the adoption of the report. He said, after some observations referring to the action of the Town Council: We are told from time to time that, if this instalment of justice was granted, other demands would be made, and that we would only open the door for further and preposterous claims. I hold that that is no reason why a just and right act should not be done. (Applause.) An act which is right and just in itself should be performed regardless of any fancied consequences—(hear, hear)—and it is certainly, I believe, both unjust and ungenerous to deny to the women ratepayers of the United Kingdom the enjoyment of the franchise, which they would possess otherwise than by the disqualification of their sex. (Hear, hear.) This, as has been said in the report, is not a party question, though it has been argued, indeed, as a party question on both sides. I have heard Liberal members of Parliament say they would not vote for the measure because the majority of the women enfranchised would be Conservatives; and I have heard Conservatives say, on the other hand, that they would not support it because it would give strength to the Liberal party. Now, a question of this sort should be viewed

irrespective of party. (Hear, hear.) If it is right and just—and I am prepared to uphold it is both—it should be conceded quite regardless of its effects upon political parties. (Applause.) There's an argument often used, and there's not much in it, that this thing has never been done, and therefore it ought not to be done. (Laughter.) Now, the world is not made to stand still, and we do many things at present that our forefathers did not do, but that is no reason why we should not uphold their justice and rectitude. (Hear, hear.) Another reason was sometimes given—that it would be unwomanly of women to exercise the franchise. As it has been well said, it was not considered unwomanly of Florence Nightingale and her associates to attend the hospitals at Scutari. The only reason that I can see why there should be unwomanliness in the one case and not in the other, is that the attendance in the hospitals at Scutari was for the benefit of men, and the exercise of the franchise would be for the benefit of women themselves. (Applause.) One sometimes is shocked to find Scripture used in opposition to such a just claim as this, or rather I should say, to find Scripture perverted; and if there is one thing more than another which must be painful to every right thinking person it is to hear Scripture arguments, or arguments professed to be drawn from Scripture, used in opposition to the just and right demands of any section of our fellow-creatures. (Hear, hear.) Women, it is said, should not meddle with politics. Efforts are now being made to promote the higher education of women, and what is more important than that they should properly understand the subjects which tend to promote the well-being of the country in which they live? (Hear, hear.) How can they properly govern households and take part in social questions unless they understand those questions, and if they understand social questions, why should they not have a voice in having those questions represented in the House of Commons and properly supported? (Hear, hear.) I am not prepared to-night, nor did I come here for the purpose of making a speech. I am anxious to hear the arguments of those ladies who on many a platform have so ably and well supported this measure; but I have come here to-night with Mrs. Johnston—(applause)—who has been with myself a member of the committee for a considerable number of years, to show that anxiety which is felt to impress upon all political parties the justice of these demands and the necessity for conceding these claims. It has been mentioned in the report that the Prime Minister supports the Women's Suffrage Bill, and that other leading members of the present Government and the late Cabinet approved of it; but I am not led away by great names. I am influenced by the justice of the cause, and not by the men who support it. (Hear, hear.) I have great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report. I have heard speeches made against the Bill. I believe I have never heard any argument that could not and will not probably be replied to and answered to-night; for a great deal of what I have heard has been composed of ribaldry and rhodomontade. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. DICKSON, M.P. moved a resolution affirming the principle, which was seconded by the Rev. Dr. KNOX, and carried.

Miss TOD moved the adoption of petitions to both Houses of Parliament in support of Mr. Forsyth's Bill.

Dr. WHITAKER seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. BIGGAR, M.P., and passed.

Mr. Greenhill was then called to the second chair, and,

On the motion of the Rev. Dr. GLASGOW, seconded by Mr. W. H. PATTERSON, a vote of thanks was conveyed to the Mayor for his kindness in presiding.

The MAYOR briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated.

DUBLIN.

A public meeting, was held on January 20th, in the large Concert Hall of the Exhibition Palace, Dublin. Mr. MAURICE BROOKS, M.P., presided. Among others present were—A. M. Sullivan, M.P.; C. J. Fay, M.P.; Sergeant Sherlock, M.P.; S. M. Greer, Q.C.; T. D. Sullivan, A. O'Neill, T.C.; Dr. H. H. Stewart, H. J. Allen, T. W. Russell, Mir Aulid Ali, A. Shackleton, A. Woods, H. Wallace, W. King, C. Matheson, B.L.; T. Wilde, R. Shackleton, T. E. Fannin, Alfred Webb, Thomas Harlam, Dr. Sibthorpe, Alex. Allen, J. Rogerson, J. Gough, Rev. W. Ground, R. B. Butt, W. F. Lawlor, J. R. Wigham, R. Booth. The ladies' deputation attending the meeting were—Miss Becker, Manchester; Miss Lilius Ashworth, Bath; Miss Sturge, Birmingham; and Miss L. M. Tod, Belfast.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, read a letter from the Lord Mayor, addressed to the hon. secretary of the society. It said, "Madam,—I am directed by the Lord Mayor to inform you that his lordship regrets extremely that he cannot be present at the Women's Suffrage meeting at the Exhibition Palace this evening. His lordship desires me to convey to you his best wishes for the cause, and hopes your meeting may be a successful one." That letter was signed by the secretary. The chairman, in continuation, regretted that some person better qualified had not been selected to fill the chair, but it was not only his privilege but his duty to be present at all assemblies where the claims and grievances of any section of the community were to be discussed. Though he took no part in the discussions on the subject during the last session of Parliament, still, most heartily did he give his vote in favour of the proposals of those ladies, and he would not now scruple to repeat many of the statements then made and many of the figures then used. In the House of Commons it was shown that the number of women employed in trades and other occupations—exclusive of those employed as domestic servants—was 2,500,000. All these were engaged in the production of articles of daily use. There were engaged in textile manufactures 517,000; a large number were engaged as school teachers; 18,000 were shopkeepers; and the number of female farmers and graziers was 24,838. In England all rated occupiers, male or female, enjoyed the municipal franchise; but Irishwomen were excluded from that privilege. (Hear, hear.)

Miss BECKER, Manchester, proposed the first resolution. After some general remarks, she said: There was a lady on the platform who was the largest ratepayer in the constituency of Galway, and yet she was deprived of the vote which the most illiterate of her tenants possessed. There were two other aspects in which the law was hard upon women. The law gave the man at the moment of marriage all the property which his wife possessed which was not legally secured to her; and she could not enforce a claim for maintenance without going into the workhouse. The law was even harder with regard to the custody of infants, which was vested solely in the father, and the mother was considered a stranger to her own child. (Applause.) In the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench, a few months ago, a case of this kind was tried, in which the father, a surgeon in the Madras Army, made a will, in which he left the care of his two children away from the mother to his own relations. The mother disputed the will, on the ground that it was obtained under the influence of drink. But Judge Fitzgerald overruled the objection; he ordered the mother at once to give up her girl, and allowed her to retain for a short time her boy, and thus she had passed a few months, embittered by the agony on approaching separation which must take place ere long, if she had not yet been forced to part with her boy—her only remaining child. Was there a mother present who would say this was a righteous thing? (Hear, hear.) Suppose it were

now the law that every Irishman were personally disqualified from voting, although taxes were levied alike from Irish and English. Suppose that Irishmen were deprived of the benefit of educational endowments originally intended for both nations, denied the right to enter lucrative and honourable professions, and whenever an Irishman and an Englishman went into partnership, the Englishman was held the sole legal representative of the firm. Would not every one say that such unequal laws were the result of a system of representation which gave one side only a voice in legislation? Until the year 1829 the vast majority of the Irish nation were by law incapable of voting at elections. They were disqualified on account of religious belief, and the result of the disfranchisement of Roman Catholics was the maintenance of atrocious penal laws. For the sake of political freedom the Irish Catholics were ready to brave civil war. To resist taxation without representation the American colonists did make a revolution. Women do not care less than men for personal freedom and political rights, because they do not resort to such desperate expedients to obtain them. They appeal not to force, but to reason and persuasion, not to men's fears, but their sense of justice. In days of old the Divine voice came, not in the fire, not in the earthquake, but in the still, small voice; and when such a voice spoke the words of truth, and appealed for justice to the conscience of a nation, they had faith that that appeal would not be in vain. (Loud applause.)

SERGEANT SHERLOCK seconded the resolution. He said that the measure they were advocating was one of justice, and recommended itself to the favourable consideration of all right-minded men. (Hear, hear.) Those opposed to it, when they were unable to find arguments to support their opposition, usually resorted to ridicule. (Hear, hear.) It had been represented that women sought to be ranked amongst soldiers and sailors; that they sought to be leaders of the House of Commons, and would ultimately ask for a seat on the bench of Bishops. (Laughter.) That all appeared very ridiculous and very amusing, but there was no foundation either in reason or common sense for such observations. Women did not seek to intrude on the legitimate province of men, but they were entitled to the representation which they sought. (Hear, hear.) If the Legislature imposed on them liabilities involved in the possession of property, it surely ought to give them a voice in the election of those who imposed and disposed of the public revenue. (Hear, hear.) He considered the anomaly of refusing women the right of voting for members of Parliament was exemplified in every possible phase of life. (Hear, hear.)

Miss LILIAS ASHWORTH supported the resolution. She said that at the last division on their bill fewer members voted against it and more voted for it than on the previous occasion. They were beaten only by a majority of 35 votes, and if they gave them a little more help in Ireland they might hope to pass the second reading next session. (Cheers.) In every case a majority of Irish members had voted for the bill, so that if they had Home Rule in Ireland they would have women's franchise as well. (Cheers.) But it was said that women suffered no practical disadvantage by this disqualification. That was not so. On estates women were frequently displaced to make room for votes, and in small boroughs when a husband died the widow had generally to leave her home. (Hear, hear.) In that country the position of a wife was lower than in any civilised country. Brougham said that if women were to get their rights there should be a total reconstruction. In the marriage service people said a variety of things. (Hear, and laughter.) Women are made to promise to obey their future husbands. (Hear, and laughter.) She was told by men whose conscientious opinions she had every reason to respect, that this meant

REPLIES TO ADMIRAL MAXSE.

The lecture against women's suffrage which has been published by Admiral Maxse, has called forth two admirable and forcible replies which we hope will fall into the hands of any who may have been influenced by the observations of one whom we may be excused for calling, for this occasion only, the *ungallant* Admiral. Miss Caroline Ashurst Biggs writes an able article in the current number of the *Englishwoman's Review*, from which we take the following extracts. We refer our readers to our advertising columns for information as to how they may obtain the *Review*, which is well worthy of the support of the friends of the cause.

"To our minds it is a question of right that every person shall have during his or her life a chance of self-government. A minor can become of age, a foreigner can be naturalised, a pauper may become a man of substance, a criminal may reform, an agricultural labourer (supposing the law unchanged) can emigrate to a town; it is in the possible future of all of these to become a voter—only women have the franchise put out of their reach for life. If we argue the question as one of expediency, we urge that it is expedient that educated, respectable, responsible householders should vote irrespective of sex. Admiral Maxse believes that sex is the one indispensable qualification. His alteration of the law would, we venture to think, be more violent than ours.

"On what grounds also does the Admiral assume that the feminine vote would all go one way? Are women apt to be so much more unanimous than men? To assume that women must necessarily be all of the same mind, is to concede far more than we claim; it is conceding that the evils and wrongs that women suffer are so universal and so crushing in their operation, that the whole sex will be banded together against their tyrants. Unanimity in the oppressed can only be obtained by extremity of oppression. Elsewhere he says, 'The whole theory of the value of the vote rests upon the supposition that that they will oppose male legislation.' We look forward to supplementing and helping men, not to opposition. 'Would women,' he further asks, 'make wise laws if they had equal political power with men?' He believes not, but that they 'fail to appreciate indirect causes, and only grasp the actual.' If it be true that a tendency to *detail* is observable in many women, it is equally true that many men overlook necessary minutiae in grasping the *whole* too roughly. Opticians tell us of two sorts of defective sight: that which can only see at a distance and blurs near objects, and that which is of the utmost delicacy near at hand, but can see nothing afar off. A perfect lens combines the good of both. A perfect government will have both manly breadth and womanly completeness of thought."

Miss Fenwick Miller delivered a lecture at the Eleusis Club, Chelsea, which is especially addressed to Radicals. We take the following extracts from the *Bee Hive* :—

"When we come to examine what are the qualifications of a voter in this country, we find that they are two in number; there is a property qualification, and a sex qualification. With regard to the first of these, the National Society for Women's Suffrage professes no opinion; some of its members are Conservatives, and some are also members of the Adult Suffrage League; but with regard to the second qualification, that of sex, they are all agreed; they all hold such a qualification to be arbitrary, founded upon no reasonable principle, and unworthy of the civilisation of this century of high culture of men and women alike. The object of the society and the Bill, then, is to abolish the sex qualification for the vote. What

nothing. (Hear and laughter.) But she knew that men said things that meant nothing. He said to his future wife—"With all my worldly wealth I thee endow," and immediately afterwards he left the church the proud possessor not only of his wife, but of her worldly possessions. (Hear, and laughter.) An Irish member of Parliament had said to her that women were represented in Parliament by their husbands, their fathers, and their brothers, and she asked him what about the women that had none of these? He made no reply. That view of the question appeared never to have occurred to him before—(laughter)—but next day he voted for their Bill. They heard a great deal, too, about woman's sphere; she could not ascertain precisely what that was, it seemed to be constantly changing. A century ago it was part of women's duty to knit stockings and make shirts for her near male relatives. Did women do that now. Men bought their shirts ready made, and she was told that some of them wore paper collars. (Hear, and laughter.) But other duties called for women's aid, and even outside their homes they could live lives of practical utility. (Hear, hear.) Many women, through carelessness, and it might be through ignorance, condemned the movement to please their partners in a waltz, or to gratify the whims of their next door neighbours. (Hear, hear.) They condemn the movement for woman's rights, and declare themselves satisfied with their position. It may be that God had given them the good things of the earth richly to enjoy, but they should not for this reason forget the less fortunate members of their own sex. (Hear, hear.) They should not forget what Mrs. Browning had so beautifully described—"The women weeping out of sight, because men made the laws"—(cheers)—and if the granting of the franchise taught those women to reflect more deeply and see more widely, it would have done substantial service. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then put, and declared by the Chairman to be carried unanimously. The second resolution, adopting a petition, was moved by Miss STURGE, seconded by Mr. R. ALLEN, supported by Miss TOD, and also carried.

The Recorder of Derry was called to the second chair; and, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

ENGLAND.

LAMBETH.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening, January 11th, in the Lambeth Baths. The Rev. George M. Murphy occupied the chair. On the platform were Mr. C. H. Hopwood, M.P., Mr. E. O. Greening, Miss Beedy, Miss Brown, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Downing, Mrs. Hallock, etc. Mr. Hopwood moved a resolution supporting the principle of the Bill, recapitulating all the arguments in favour of extending the franchise to women. The resolution was seconded by Miss Beedy, supported by Mr. Chesson. The meeting was further addressed by Mr. Greening, Miss Brown, and Miss Downing.

BRISTOL.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

A large and influential drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Beddoe's, Clifton, on Wednesday, January 12th. Professor F. W. Newman presided, and addresses were delivered by Miss Lilius Ashworth and Miss Beedy, M.A. A vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers was proposed by Sir Edward Strachey and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Johnstone.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Wednesday, the 19th of January, at Mrs. Tribe's, Redland, Bristol. The Rev. U. R. Thomas, presided. Addresses were delivered by Miss Priestman, Alan Greenwell, Esq., M.A., and Dr. Dunbar. Mrs. W. S. Clark, Mrs. Charles Thomas, and Miss Mary Price also took part in the meeting. Votes of thanks were proposed and seconded by Mrs. Beddoe and Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Greenwell and Miss Priestman.

other qualification there should be, women are not able at present to debate. They must first set at rest the question whether they are entitled to the franchise, upon any terms whatever, before they can consider what the terms should be. What the qualification ought to be is one point; whether women shall be denied the privilege on the ground of sex when they have the qualification is another point. And mistaken indeed would be the advocates of women's suffrage if they did not carefully keep these two essentially distinct things apart, even if they were themselves every one, as individuals, supporters of universal suffrage. For we can get the one thing *now*, while the friends of the other have a long time of waiting before them. What did we see only the other day? There was a conference at Manchester of the leading men of the Liberal party. They were consulting not about what they would like to demand, but about the legislative changes that they could work for with a hope of getting them. A resolution in support of household women's suffrage as a subject for immediate agitation was carried by a large majority; another in favour of at once working for manhood suffrage obtained only the support of its mover and seconder. But, indeed, I cannot conceive how any sane person who desires that women shall have the suffrage at all, can object to the Women's Disabilities Bill. The object which that measure would accomplish would be "to give the franchise to women upon the same terms on which it now is, or hereafter may be granted to men." It is perfectly true that the immediate effect of its passing into law would be to place only a comparatively small number of women on the electoral register. But the principle does not in any way depend on the actual number of women admitted to the exercise of the vote. All women would be enfranchised; sex would be removed from the list of disqualifications for electoral power for ever; no woman again could be denied the vote simply by reason of her womanhood.

"The principal definite charge against the character of women as possible voters which I find in Admiral Maxse's pamphlet, is the one that they are enslaved by clerical power much more so than are men. I am a little disposed to question that statement in the force which he gives it. It is, of course, natural that the clergy should have much power over those who hold a theological belief, as the immense majority of the people of this country do. And there are other considerations than this. In the very number of the *Bee Hives* in which Admiral Maxse's lecture was reported, there was copied a threat from a vicar in Warwick that the people who did not send their children to Sunday-school should not share in the distribution of beef and bread; and this argument was not addressed to women only. Ritualism is a church revival among the young men of England. If it is a bad thing that the priest should thus influence men and women by the earthly and heavenly powers at his command, does anyone suppose that the way to check this is to deny to women any active interest outside their own homes but the Church work? The women of England are the mothers and educators of the men of England. If you would have men capable of exercising complete freedom of judgment and will, you must give women some other object and work than that which leads them to yield themselves to the direction of a man like unto other men, but claiming supernatural sanction for his opinions. Do you suppose you are going to teach women that they are not capable of judging of the things of this world as you men are, and yet suppose that they will trust their own judgment before that of a man in matters which relate, directly or indirectly, to another world?

"But it behoves us to beware of rushing to extremes. I certainly have no exaggeratedly high opinion of the clergy as politicians or thinkers; I do not want to see our Legislature

handed over to their dictation; at the same time, I must say I am constrained to think that there *are* worse influences possible. You know the combination which was said to have carried our last general election 'The Bible and Beer.' Well, women might add to the first B.'s power, but they would certainly not help the last. A professional canvasser for one of the candidates for Middlesex told me that one evening he went into a public-house where eleven men were sitting round the tap-room table, drinking. He asked for their votes; but not one of them had the least notion of politics or parties. At last one of them said, 'Who was that 'ere bloke as wanted to shut the pubs up an hour earlier at night?' I need scarcely tell you that the canvasser at once assured them that it was his, opponent, and so secured the promise of every man's vote, backed by their names and addresses. Now, it does not seem to me that it would be a more painful thing than this to hear a woman-voter ask who was the man that wanted to disestablish the Church, and put down her name to vote against him. It may be a greater disqualification for electoral power to be given to pietism than to be devoted to alcohol; it may be worse to go to church daily than to get drunk every night: and it may be that those of us who cannot see that this is so, only lack Admiral Maxse's clear-sightedness.

"It has been said that 'physical force is the basis of law, and the physical force of the community is male; therefore the law must be made by men.' We are shown a dramatic scene of women making a law which men oppose, and men immediately revolting from 'the artificial yoke.' Surely this is speculation gone mad. In the first place it supposes that all women might be ranged on one side in a political question, and all men on the other; and this is impossible. But let us look at its fundamental proposition: 'Physical force is the basis of law.' I utterly deny this assumption. Physical force is not the basis of law: it cannot be the basis of anything; because by itself physical force has no existence. Our muscles do not and cannot act of themselves; they must first receive the bidding of the brain. If I move my arm, it is not because I have a muscle in my arm, but because my brain tells that muscle to move; if I should try to knock anyone down by that movement, I should not try to do so because I had physical force in my arm, but because my reason which resides in my brain told me that I ought to make the attempt. Physical force, then, waits upon the mind, and the body can never be used to resist any law except at the command of the mind. The contention must be, therefore, that women are wanting in the mental power to make laws suitable to the circumstances of their time and country, and this is altogether a different assertion to the one that they have less physical strength. So long as laws are made which are wise and suitable, so long they are obeyed; if the laws are unsuitable and foolish, sooner or later they will be resisted. But to say that wise laws will be resisted because the lawmakers are not so strong in physical force as those whom they govern is not sense. Notice Admiral Maxse's inconsistency. He tells us that at present twelve million adults pay taxes (and obey the laws), and only two millions are even nominally represented (and make the laws). Why do not the ten millions revolt against every law that the two millions make? The majority must possess the physical force. Simply because the two millions make laws that are fairly just and suitable, and hence the reason of the ten millions is satisfied, and their physical force never comes into action at all.

"The intellect of the country, which directs its Legislature, which writes its newspapers, and which teaches from its platforms, is generally not wedded to its physical force. Intellectually strong men are usually physically weak men; this has been shown by figures over and over again in countries where

there is conscription for the army. Yet it is our political thinkers, our newspaper writers, our platform orators, who would make a revolution if ever we have one; and in these ranks of thought, women have place beside men. Will Admiral Maxse venture to say that our navvies and carters will ever make a revolution in opposition to all the intellect of the land.

"Therefore, we must conclude that, theoretically, physical force is not the basis of law, because mental force is the motive power and the basis of physical force; and, practically, physical force is put in action both primarily and immediately by mental force, which women possess as well as men.

"Sir Henry Taylor says: 'The love of liberty is in almost all men, and in absolutely all classes of men, liable to pass into the love of power, to become blended with it, and ultimately to be absorbed by it. There is no corruption to which human nature is more subject than this.' But you believe in liberty, in freedom, in equality before the law; do not be seduced from your allegiance to them. It will be a sad prospect for the future if you are drawn aside from great principles to the shallow expediencies of weak eyes. For man cannot advance far alone. Either he must take with him the partner of his life, or be dragged back by her. Either you must let women love these grand principles and give them that direct work in politics which such love will prompt them to, or you must crush the love, and see your sons brought up as slaves by women to whom you refuse to grant freedom. If you wish for progress, above all, if you are Democrats in the true sense, break down the barrier between the lives of men and women, and let women become your helpmeets, not your hindrances."

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

At a meeting of Convocation in this University on January 18th, a debate arose on the admission of women to degrees in arts; Dr. Storer in the chair. Mr. A. P. Hensman, B.A., moved a resolution: "That it is desirable that a new charter should be granted to the University; and that no such charter will be acceptable to Convocation which does not enable the University to grant degrees in arts to women." With reference to the second part of the resolution, he said that a new class had been brought within the scope of the advantages of that University. In 1867 the Senate was empowered to grant certificates to women, and it was very noteworthy that since that time the examinations had been in precisely the same subjects as those which the other undergraduates of the University had been called upon to pass in. Now what had been the effect of that extension of examinations to women, and of similar extension in the University of Cambridge? Colleges for women were springing up in all parts of the country, and at University College, (London) the professors instructed a large number of young women. At Cambridge also the professors had courses on the very same subjects upon which they instructed the young men. In May, 1874, the House passed a resolution in favour of granting degrees generally to women. The Senate passed a resolution to the effect that that body was desirous to extend the scope of the education to women, but it was not prepared to receive a new charter giving power to admit women to the degrees. He trusted that, inasmuch as the sense and justice of the country had come to the conclusion that where a woman had fairly earned a reward she ought not to be deprived of it, that University would be the first in this country to act in accordance with that view, and proceed to grant degrees to women. (Applause). A long discussion ensued on an amendment moved by Mr. A. W. Bennett; but eventually the original motion was carried, with the omission of the words "in arts."

CORRESPONDENCE.

IMITATORS OF HAMPDEN.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—Admiral Maxse, in his lecture against women's suffrage, stigmatises as supremely ridiculous "those women who mimic Hampden by refusing to pay taxes." If a few thousand, or even a few hundred women householders would thus imitate Hampden, their earnest protest would probably cease to be ridiculous, even in Admiral Maxse's eyes, while it could not fail to convince men in general that they feel keenly the injustice of being excluded from all share in representative government, and are resolved to urge their claim until it be conceded. My answer to the demand of the tax collector will be this year as heretofore, "I decline to pay the Queen's taxes, because I am denied the Parliamentary suffrage, to which, as a householder, I am entitled."—Yours truly,

ROSE A. HALL.

Hendon, Middlesex, 17th Jan., 1876.

Obituary.

VISCOUNT AMBERLEY.—With deep regret we record the death, on January 10th, of Lord Amberley, eldest son of Earl Russell. He was a politician holding advanced views on several subjects; a Liberal in a very wide sense of the term; earnestly an advocate of civil and religious liberty; a deep thinker, too, on many social subjects; farther sighted than many of those who knew him believed him to be. A few intimate friends knew how studious, how true to his principles, how consistent to himself he was. Lord Amberley married a daughter of Lord Stanley of Alderley, and both he and his wife were prominent supporters of popular education, especially of the education of women. Lady Amberley, whose death has not long preceded her husband, was a warm friend of the movement for securing women's rights. She claimed for her sisterhood that all professions should be open to them; that political and social interest and work should be as available to them as to men; and that they were entitled to and ought to receive the franchise. These views were those of her husband also, and both Lord and Lady Amberley zealously advocated them in public and in the press. Lord Amberley was perhaps better known as a writer than as a speaker. His contributions to periodical literature, though they were not numerous, were striking both in subject and in style. The loss to the friends of progress generally, and to the enfranchisement of women in particular, of this gifted pair, whose illustrious lineage and high estate served as a pedestal for the manifestation of their excellent qualities cannot be estimated. The nation condole with Earl and Countess Russell on their grievous affliction, in which condolence we beg respectfully to join.

MR. W. R. CALLENDER, M.P.—We regret to record the death of the junior Conservative member for Manchester, which took place on January 22nd. Mr. Callender was a member of the Women's Suffrage Society, and recorded his vote for Mr. Forsyth's Bill, last April. He was brought forward by the Conservatives at the general election in opposition to Mr. Jacob Bright, whom he defeated, to the unspeakable loss of the friends of our cause. But this election was decided on party grounds, and the advocates of women's suffrage had reason for satisfaction in finding that his Conservative successor did his best to carry out on this question the principles with which Mr. Jacob Bright's name was identified.

THE FARMER'S WIDOW.

For two years and more he was laid on his back,
And suffered, dear man, as if stretched on the rack ;
Not a thought could he give to the stock or the land,

But when the time came that he knew he must go,
He said to me, " Alice, it saddens me so,
That you and the children must quit the old farm,

" But surely," I said, " the Squire will agree,
' Till John is grown up, to leave it with me.
He told me no farming was better than mine,

" Ah, no," he replied, " though your farming's first-rate,
They don't let you vote, it's the law of the state.
And the Squire he is bound to stand up for the blue,

Yet the voting they give it to many a fellow,
Who hardly can tell 'twixt the blue and the yellow.
But what man is fitter than you are to vote ?

He was laid with his fathers beneath the yew tree,
And sadly we mourned him, his children and me ;
And then came the terrible notice to quit,

And I and my bairns had to vanish and flit ;
And the stock and the chattels were auctioned and sold,
And the only employment a widow could hold,

And sickness and sorrow came down on us fast,
' Till all were immured in the workhouse at last ;
And I who had always paid poor rates before,

Surely all will admit that my story denotes
There are numbers of women who need to have votes. B. B.

MEDICAL DIPLOMAS FOR WOMEN.

The British Medical Journal states that the Council of the
Royal College of Surgeons of England has arrived at the
important decision to admit women to examination for its
licence in midwifery. This diploma will entitle them to a
place on the " Medical Register," and will give them a legally
recognised position in this country as practitioners in the
obstetric department of medicine and surgery.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Central Office : 1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds.
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED IN
JANUARY, 1876.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Mrs. Joseph Edmundson, Mr. Edward Baines, etc.

CELIA WALKER, Treasurer. £19 6 0

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST, 1875.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes An Irish Ratepayer who has no vote, Miss Smith, Mrs. Brown, etc.

ISABELLA M. S. TOD, Secretary. £54 4 6
8, Claremont-street, Belfast.

INFANT MORTALITY.—We are not in the habit of writing
in commendation of Patent Medicines generally, but as a safe
remedy for difficult teething, convulsions, flatulency, and affec-
tions of the bowels is frequently required, we earnestly call the
attention of Mothers to Atkinson and Barker's Royal Infants'
Preservative. Unlike those pernicious stupefactive which tend to
weaken and prevent the growth of children, this Preservative gradu-
ally improves the health and strengthens the constitution, and from
its simplicity, in no case can it do harm, indeed it may be given with
safety immediately after birth. For nearly a century this real Pre-
servative of Infants' Life has been recognised throughout the world
as the best Medicine for all disorders of Infants, and is sold by
Chemists everywhere, in 1s. 1½d. Bottles of the same quality as sup-
plied to Queen Victoria for the Royal Children.—[Advr.]

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

MARRIED WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.—THEIR RIGHTS OF PROPERTY AND CONTRACT.

In a pamphlet on "The Legal Condition of Women in
Massachusetts in 1875," the Hon. Samuel E. Sewall says: "The
last thirty years have done more to improve the law for married
women than the four hundred preceding." This is true, not
of Massachusetts alone, but of almost every State throughout
the Union. The following extract from the "Revised Statutes
of New Jersey, 1875," illustrates at once the great progress
which has been made, and the timidity with which men pro-
ceed to the full application of a just principle.

MARRIED WOMEN.

- 1. Her wages and earnings in any employment carried on separately from
her husband, or any investment of such wages shall be her sole and separate
property.
2. * She may bind herself by contract in the same manner and to the same
extent as if she were unmarried,—these contracts to be obligatory both in
Law and Equity, and to be enforced against her in her own name, apart
from her husband, but she may not become an endorser, or surety, or be
liable on any promise to pay the debt of another.
3. Any married woman whose husband is an idiot, lunatic, or of unsound
mind, or imprisoned in the State prison for crime, may, during the continu-
ance of any of these contingencies, release, transfer, or convey any interest
or right she may have in real estate as if sole; but this shall not affect any
right her husband may have in such property.
4. If she acquire real or personal property, she may give a valid receipt
for it, which may be recorded, if necessary.
5. She may, if of age, make a will, but she cannot affect her husband's
title to her real estate.
6. She may sue, and be sued, in her own name.
7. She cannot execute a conveyance or mortgage of her real estate with-
out her husband joining her, nor can she deprive him of his courtesy.

The Legislature of the same State (New Jersey), in 1871,
passed also the following measure, which recognises the natural
right of mothers to equal authority with fathers in the custody
of their children:—

A testamentary guardian cannot be appointed for a child without the
consent of the mother, given in writing, in the presence of witnesses, neither
can the child be bound by indenture without the mother's sanction; in a
divorce suit, the Court of Chancery now has the privilege of determining
which of the parents shall have the care of the minor children, and in case
of death of the parent in whose custody the children are they shall not
revert to the surviving parent without a decree of the court.

* The law of England still denies to a married woman the right to make any contract,
nor is any contract made by her of any legal obligation or value.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY 1876.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes Mrs. William Hargreaves, R. B. Kennett, Esq., Mrs. Peter Alfred Taylor, etc.

URSULA M. BRIGHT, Treasurer. £36 16 0

N.B.—Forms of petition in favour of Mr. Russell Gurney
and Mr. Shaw Lefevre's Bill, with leaflets and all information,
to be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy,
Congleton, Cheshire.

BATH BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR 1875.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes Lady Anna Gore Langton, Miss Solly, Mr. Wiltshire, Mr. and Mrs. Clibborn, etc.

ALICE B. LE GEYT, Treasurer. £39 14 6
Corston, near Bristol.

Baron Holmfeld informs us that several European nations,
more especially Russia, are in advance of England in allotting to
women those civil rights which justice demands. In Russia
he says, husbands have no right whatever to interfere with the
property of their wives, and married women can make legal
contracts.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1876.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomasson	50	0	0
Miss Edith Brooke	21	0	0
Mr. R. B. Kennett	10	0	0
Mrs. Stephenson Hunter	5	5	0
Mrs. Gell	5	0	0
Mrs. Abel Heywood	2	2	0
Miss Arabella Shore	2	2	0
Professor F. W. Newman	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Nicol	1	1	0
Mr. J. Hinde Palmer	1	1	0
Omega	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Dale	1	1	0
R. W.	1	1	0
Mrs. E. M. King	1	1	0
Mrs. de Hersant	1	0	0
Mrs. Stephenson	1	0	0
Miss E. C. Shepherd	1	0	0
Mrs. Layton	1	0	0
Mrs. Weiss	1	0	0
Mrs. Roberts (Pwllheli)	0	15	0
Mrs. Mills (Bowdon)	0	14	0
Miss M. H. Towle	0	10	0
Mrs. Bingham	0	10	0
Miss Maria Ann Thorne	0	5	0
Mrs. Kilmister	0	5	0
Mrs. Dawson	0	5	0
Mr. J. Glover	0	5	0
Miss Tootal	0	5	0
Mrs. J. Clarke (Headington)	0	5	0
Mrs. Mylne	0	5	0
Misses Oxley	0	5	0
Mrs. Meeke	0	5	0
Mrs. Sibthorpe	0	5	0
Mrs. Alfred Watts	0	5	0
Miss Mary Carter	0	5	0
Rev. J. Hirst	0	2	6
Miss Tod	0	2	6
Mr. Hugh Davies (Wrexham)	0	2	6
Mrs. Hinkle	0	2	6
Madame Emilie Lohner	0	2	6
Misses McRobie	0	2	6

BLACKBURN.

Mr. James Briggs	2	2	0
Mr. Eli Heyworth	1	1	0
Mr. Chambers	1	0	0
Mr. Thos. Higson	0	10	6
Mr. Wm. Taylor	0	10	6
Mrs. Hindle	0	10	0
Mrs. James Eccles	0	10	0
Mr. John Taylor	0	5	0
Mr. W. Baron	0	5	0
Mrs. Lawson	0	2	6
Mr. Giles Parkinson	0	2	6
Mr. J. Thompson	0	2	6
Mr. L. S. Walmsley	0	2	6
Mr. James Waugh	0	2	6
Beta	0	2	6
Mr. J. Whalley	0	1	0

PRESTON.

Mr. R. Benson	1	1	0
Mr. W. B. Roper	1	0	0
Mr. C. J. Taylor	0	10	6
Mr. F. Thorpe	0	10	0
Miss Thompson	0	10	0
Mr. J. J. Myers	0	10	0
Mr. J. S. Oliver	0	5	0
Mr. Geo. Garrett	0	5	0
Mr. E. H. Booth	0	5	0
Mr. W. Blackburn	0	5	0
Mr. W. Alston	0	1	0

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

£126 11 6

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at The Limes, Nelson-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

£5,000 FUND.

The object of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, is, to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women, on the same conditions as those on which it is or may be granted to men.

To support the Bill introduced by Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., Sir Robert Anstruther, Mr. Stansfeld and Mr. Russell Gurney, the Central Committee desires to raise at once a sum of £5,000. They therefore earnestly appeal to all who believe that sex should be no disqualification for the suffrage, to help them to carry on their rapidly extending work.

The Committee believe that many who sympathise with their object would gladly give them a donation if they knew how urgently it is needed to meet the heavy and increasing pressure on their resources.

Secretary, Miss Helen Blackburn.

Treasurer, Alfred W. Bennett, Esq., M.A., 6, Park Village East, Regent's Park.

Office of Central Committee, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

Bankers, London and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners Street, London, W., from December 21st, 1875, to January 20th, 1876.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. F. Pennington	20	0	0
Miss Williams	20	0	0
A Deceased Friend of the Cause, by Miss Hall	3	0	0
Miss Hall	2	2	0
Mr. Arthur Mills	2	2	0
Prof. F. W. Newman	2	0	0
Miss Babb	1	1	0
Mr. Nicol	1	1	0
Mr. Owen Roberts	1	1	0
Mr. Mark Marsden	1	0	0
The Countess of Oxford and Mortimer	1	0	0
Mrs. Burt (San Francisco)	0	16	8
Miss Butler	0	10	0
A Friend, by Mrs. Lynch	0	10	0
Mrs. Harrison	0	10	0
Mrs. Howitt	0	10	0
Mrs. Benham	0	5	0
Mr. Benj. Taylor	0	5	0
A Friend	0	2	6
Mrs. Hood	0	2	6
Rev. A. Murray	0	2	6
Mrs. Flint	0	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis	0	2	0
Mrs. Muller	0	1	0
Miss Obbinson	0	1	0

£58 7 2

ALFRED W. BENNETT, Treasurer.

A HUSBAND'S LIABILITY TO SUPPORT HIS WIFE.—A case was tried in the Salford County Court, on January 18th, in which the wife of a working man sought to recover alimony from her husband.—His Honour held that where a wife had by consent left her husband, and had been able to earn sufficient for her own maintenance, the fact that she had been so able to maintain herself nullified her claim for alimony. This was the suggestion in the judgment in the case of *Johnson v. Sumner*, and it was also his opinion of the law.—The plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited.—*Manchester Guardian*.