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REPORT

OF THE

Bristol and West of England Society

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

1890,

*Presented at the Annual General Meeting, held in the Offices of
the Society, 69 Park Street, Bristol, Feb. 7th, 1891.*

FAWCETT COLLECTION

OBJECT.—TO OBTAIN FOR WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS AND RATEPAYERS
THE RIGHT OF VOTING FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

—
"Be just and fear not."
—

PAMPHLET

BRISTOL :

J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11 QUAY STREET.

324.623060423 BR1

CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC
FAWCETT COLLECTION

Calcutta House
Old Castle Street
London E1 7NT

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THE COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH.

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Mr. S. C. EVANS WILLIAMS, Rhayader
Mr. MARK WHITWILL, J.P., Durdham Park, Redland
Mr. J. REGINALD YORKE, Tewkesbury

Committee :

*Rev. E. S. Bayliffe, B.A.	Mrs. Jeffrey	Mrs. Walter Sturge
*Miss Beddoe	*Rev. A.C. Macpherson, M.A.	*Miss Caroline Sturge
Mrs. Benjamin	Miss Minnis	Mrs. Theobald
*Mr. John Fox	*Miss Pease	Mr. J. G. Thornton
*Rev. J. Temperley Grey	Rev. R. Hayes-Robinson	*Miss Eva Tribe
*Mr. T. G. P. Hallett, M.A.	Miss Spender	*Mr. Frank N. Tribe
*Mrs. Hale	*General Still	*Miss Watson
*Mrs. Harle		

Hon. Secretaries :—*Mrs. Liliash Ashworth Hallett, *Miss Sturge.

Treasurer :—Mrs. Hallett.

Bankers :—Messrs. Stuckey & Co., Promenade, Clifton.

Secretary :—Miss H. BLACKBURN.

Office :—69 PARK STREET, BRISTOL.

Those marked () form the Working Committee.*

REPORT FOR 1890.

"BE JUST AND FEAR NOT."

YOUR Committee are again in the position of having little to record of positive work.

For the fourth time a Session of Parliament has come and gone, and no advance has been made in obtaining a day for the discussion of the Bill for Extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women.

When the fate of the ballot, in February, 1890, gave no hope of a day for the Bill, the Parliamentary friends of the measure resolved on trying to introduce a Resolution. The result was that a Resolution was set down by Mr. McLaren on two successive dates, and on a third date by Mr. Caleb Wright. The Resolution was as follows :

"To call attention to the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise; and to move, That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in elections of members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, and contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of town and county councils, and other local representative bodies."

Notice of another Resolution was given by Baron Dimsdale, as follows :

"That in the opinion of this House it is injurious to the best interests of the country that women who are entitled to vote at municipal, parochial, school board, and county council elections should be disabled from voting at Parliamentary elections, though possessed of the necessary statutory qualification, and that it is desirable that this disability should be forthwith repealed."

Each date in turn, as the time drew near, had to give way before the many chances which beset the passage of a measure in the House of Commons which has not the direct interest of a strong body of actual electors at its back.

Nor does the session of 1891 present any very clear prospect at the time of writing. The result of the ballot has been to place the least unfavourable day drawn by any of the half-dozen Members who essayed the fortune of the ballot, in the hands of Mr. Woodall; but the day he has secured, though the best available (May 13th), is not by any means clear of danger. It may not indeed be crowded out by public business, but runs the risk of being crowded out by the Whitsuntide holidays, a catastrophe against which strong pressure of public opinion is the only safeguard. To that end, a memorial is now being prepared to Her Majesty's Ministers, signed by influential persons of all parties.

Under the circumstances above described, your Committee have found little occasion for active work, regarding it as wiser to husband their resources, and be ready at any moment to take up whatever point may arise to demand energetic action. They continue the arrangement of the joint Secretaryship with the Central Committee, Miss Blackburn attending the Committees in Bristol from time to time, at the office in Park Street.

The year that has just closed has been marked by the deeply lamented death of Miss Becker at Geneva, on July 18th. The feelings with which the fatal news was received by your Committee found expression in the following Resolution, passed at a Special Meeting:

“The Committee of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage desire to unite with all the other Committees in the expression of their deep regret at the death of Miss Becker, who devoted her life to the service of women, concentrating her unique powers on the cause of their political enfranchisement. They recognise the great loss of her ripe experience and wise judgment in the councils of the Society.”

Your Committee have to record, with sorrow, the death of two very early supporters of this Society in Bristol—Mr. W. Mills Baker, who had been always a generous donor to its funds; and Miss Julia Venning, one of its earliest members; also of Mr. E. W. Cox, who had been for many years a member of the Executive Committee.

In Lord Deramore a staunch friend has passed away. When member for Devizes, as Sir Thomas Bateson, he never failed to record his vote in favour of Women's Suffrage from the year 1870 until his elevation to the peerage in 1885. Mr. Coleridge Kennard, whose death took place on December 25th, was a warm supporter, and rendered much help to the cause when member for Salisbury and subsequently.

The active interest taken by women in political questions, first awakened by the agitation for the Suffrage, continues to increase. Women thus naturally become more eager for the franchise, and more prepared to appreciate its nature and responsibility. Your Committee therefore feel strong encouragement to press forward the special work of this Society, which lies outside mere “party” interests, and they trust that women of all classes and political parties will aid them in carrying it on to a successful issue.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY, 69 PARK STREET, BRISTOL,

FEBRUARY 7th, 1891.

MRS. BEDDOE IN THE CHAIR.

The Secretary read the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

RESOLUTION I.—*Moved by Col. HILL, M.P., seconded by Mrs. HALE, supported by Rev. URIJAH R. THOMAS,*

“That the Report and Statement of Accounts just read be adopted and printed for circulation.”

RESOLUTION II.—*Moved by Rev. A. C. MACPHERSON, seconded by Miss PRIESTMAN,*

“That the following persons form the Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number:—
Rev. E. S. Bayliffe, Mrs. Benjamin, Miss Beddoe, Mr. John Fox, Rev. J. Temperley Grey, Mrs. Hale, Mr. T. G. P. Hallett, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mrs. Harle, Mrs. Jeffrey, Rev. A. C. Macpherson, Miss Minnis, Miss Pease, Rev. R. Hayes Robinson, Miss Spender, General Still, Mrs. Walter Sturge, Miss Sturge, Miss Caroline Sturge, Mrs. Theobald, Mr. J. G. Thornton, Miss Tribe, Mr. F. N. Tribe, Miss Watson.

“That of these Mr. Bayliffe, Miss Beddoe, Mr. Temperley Grey, Mrs. Hale, Mr. Hallett, Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Harle, Mr. John Fox, Mr. Macpherson, Miss Pease, General

Still, Miss Sturge, Miss C. Sturge, Miss Tribe, Mr. F. N. Tribe, Miss Watson, Miss Mabel Hill (subject to her consent to serve), form the Working Committee. Three to form a quorum.”

RESOLUTION III.—*Moved by General STILL, seconded by Mrs. HALE, supported by Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT,*

“That, with a view to enable women-householders to be placed on the Parliamentary Register before the next General Election, it is of the utmost importance that the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill be brought forward this Session. This meeting therefore earnestly trusts that the Government will afford facilities for the second reading of the Bill.”

RESOLUTION IV.—*Moved by Miss STURGE,*

“That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mrs. Beddoe for presiding.”

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss Arnott	0	2	6	The Countess of Ports-			
Mr. Mills Baker (the late)	1	0	0	mouth (don.)	5	0	0
Mrs. Beddoe	1	1	0	Miss Parnall	0	5	0
Miss Beddoe	0	10	0	Miss Pedder, Clevedon ..	0	2	6
Mrs. Biddle, Wotton-				Mrs. Pierce	0	5	0
under-Edge	0	5	0	Miss C. Porter	0	5	0
Lady Bowring, Exeter...	0	10	0	Mr. C. H. Radford,			
Miss Bragg, Plymouth...	1	0	0	Yelverton	1	1	0
Mrs. Bridges, Gillingham	0	10	0	The Rev. J. Robberds,			
The Rev. T. E. Browne	1	1	0	Cheltenham... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. W. H. Budgett ...	0	10	6	Mrs. Reid, Swansea ...	0	2	6
Miss Butler, Kerry ...	0	10	0	Mr. Sommerville	4	0	0
Lady Carrington, Bath				Miss Shaw, Torrington	1	1	0
(don.)	0	10	0	Mrs. Southall, Leominster			
Miss Cave	0	10	0	(don.)	0	5	0
Miss Child, Wotton-				Miss Stokes, Hereford...	0	5	0
under-Edge... ..	0	10	0	Mrs. Sturge	0	5	0
Mrs. Clayton... ..	0	2	6	Miss Sturge	0	10	0
Mrs. Clinker	0	2	6	Miss Catherine Sturge	0	5	0
Mrs. W. H. Colby ...	0	5	0	Miss Helen Sturge ...	0	5	0
Mrs. Cordes, Dawlish...	0	2	6	Mr. C. W. A. Tait (two			
Miss Crawford, Bath ...	0	10	0	years)	1	1	0
Mrs. Crawshay (don.)...	1	1	0	Mrs. Charles Thomas ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Croggan	0	5	0	Mr. Herbert Thomas ...	2	2	0
Miss Crosland, Worcester	1	0	0	Mrs. F. T. Thompson,			
Mrs. Diplock, Penryn...	0	5	0	Bridgwater... ..	0	10	0
Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar ...	1	1	0	Miss Thompson, Bridg-			
Mr. Dyke, Bath	0	2	0	water	0	2	6
Miss Amelia B. Edwards	1	1	0	Mr. J. G. Thornton ...	0	5	0
Mrs. Spark Evans ...	1	1	0	Miss M. D. Tothill ...	0	5	0
Mrs. Forster	0	2	6	Mrs. Ward, Gloucester...	0	5	0
Mr. J. T. Grace	0	10	0	Mr. M. Weir... ..	0	5	0
Mr. W. H. Gwinnett,							
Cheltenham (don.) ...	1	1	0	£65	0	6	
Mrs. Hale	1	1	0	<i>Received since the books were</i>			
Mrs. Hallett (don.) ...	20	0	0	<i>made up:</i>			
Miss Hayward	0	5	0	Mrs. Macpherson... ..	0	5	0
Misses Marriott	0	10	0	Rev. A. C. Macpherson	0	5	0
Mrs. Emma Marshall ...	0	5	0	Miss Rooker (the late),			
Miss Minnis (two years)	0	4	0	per Miss M. Rooker,			
Professor F. W. Newman	1	0	0	Plymouth	0	5	0
				Miss M. Rooker	0	5	0

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS for the Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1890.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
By Balance on 1889	0	10	8	By Rent			
Subscriptions and Donations	65	0	6	Salary	20	0	0
Sale of Papers	0	10	0	Meetings	4	3	9
				Printing	5	13	11
				Stationery, Newspapers, &c.	2	5	6
				Women's Suffrage Journal ...	9	17	8
				Postage	6	3	0
				Secretary's Travelling Expenses...	4	15	8
				Balance in Bank... ..	£8	1	5
				Less Advance due to Treasurer	7	9	7
					0	11	10
				Cash in hand of Secretary ...	0	8	11
					£66	1	2

February 6th, 1891.—Audited and found correct,
WILBERFORCE TRIBE, F.C.A.

PAMPHLET