

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. VIII.—No. 84. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

FEBRUARY 1, 1877.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by at once beginning to collect signatures for the petitions to be presented in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, at the opening of the next session of Parliament. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; or to the Secretary, Central Committee, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

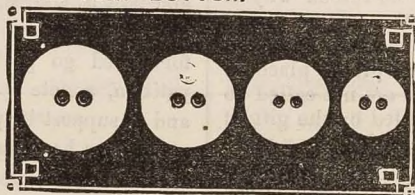
BIRMINGHAM.—A CONFERENCE and PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Town Hall, Birmingham, towards the end of March. Further particulars will be advertised in the next issue of the *Journal* and in local announcements.

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The Society is established for the purpose of giving special facilities for the thorough training and for the employment of girls and women in type-setting and other light branches of printing. Those who desire to assist in promoting this object are invited to take shares in the Society and to send orders for printing.

Full information may be obtained of the Secretary, Mrs. PATERSON, at the Office, 38, Castle-street, Holborn.

We believe that the creative faculty in women is not absent, but dormant, because it has had no occasion for development, but has, on the contrary, been crushed by the necessary business of feminine life. But that a thing has not existed in an earlier stage of social development is no reason why it should not come into existence now, when the necessities of life, and of feminine life in particular, are so much changed. All women cannot be married and fill their proper place in the social system, and amongst those who are not called to this duty there may be some who are called by the gift of genius to another kind of duty. We cannot for many years yet judge of the effect of the opening of artistic careers to women, and we quite admit that the faculty which we hope in time to see developed, may not be there. Of course, if we look upon art as being merely a matter of correct imitation of something set before one, a face, a figure in accurate "costume of the period," got up with archaeological accuracy, a landscape, or still life, the case becomes much simpler; but we wish to try our women by a high standard, and are speaking now of great, creative art, a thing almost lost sight of in modern exhibitions, and not always valued when there. Whether the seed is in the ground or not may remain for the time uncertain, but if it is there, we cannot expect it to grow through the complicated obstructions piled over it.—*Spectator.*

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PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. The following is the form recommended:—

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of Members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass the Bill entitled "A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed, extra sheets of paper may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise. Make up the petition as a book-post packet, open at the ends, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free. Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer.

Written headings, with full information, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester, or to the secretary of the Central Committee, 64, Berners Street, London, W.

A BRAVE INVENTOR.—A man came to the late Duke of Wellington with a patented article. "What have you got to offer?" "A bullet-proof jacket, your Grace." "Put it on." The inventor obeyed. The Duke rang a bell. An aide-de-camp presented himself. "Tell the captain of the guard to order one of his men to load with ball cartridge? The inventor disappeared, and was never seen again near the Horse Guards. No money was wasted in trying that invention.—*Herald of Peace.*

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THE Parliamentary session which begins on February the eighth brings with it a note of earnest preparation for the forthcoming debate and division on the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. All should unite to present an unbroken and determined front in the van of progress, and to furnish a demonstration of opinion and feeling which shall convince the country and the House of Commons that our demand for Parliamentary representation is no light and transitory outburst, but a sober, serious, and determined effort for political justice, which can be neither extinguished by levity nor crushed by opposition, but which will endure until right be done.

The date at which the Bill will come on for discussion cannot be determined until the opening of the session, and does not altogether depend on the will or discretion of the leader. Many more members usually desire to bring in Bills than there are days available for such Bills to be introduced with any certainty of securing a debate. The priority of choice is determined by lot, and it is only when a good number is drawn that a member in charge of a Bill has the opportunity of exercising his wisdom and discretion in selecting a day for the debate. Much depends on judgment in this, and a member new to the work might easily fail in the critical moment of choice to light on the most favourable day; but the friends of the Women's Suffrage Bill may rest satisfied in the knowledge that their interests are committed to skilful and experienced hands, and that all that is possible to be done will be done to secure the most safe and suitable period for the discussion of the measure.

It is possible that the debate may take place very early in the session; our friends must, therefore, be prepared for action as soon as they learn the date through the ordinary newspapers, for it will be three weeks after the day is fixed ere they can receive the intelligence through this *Journal*. Should the Bill come on before Easter, they will have but little time, and must make the best of the short period at their disposal. Should the date be after the Easter recess, they are urged to employ the interval industriously in petitioning, so that no day may pass without numbers of petitions being presented, and

no number of the *Times* appear without a long paragraph of its Parliamentary intelligence being devoted to the record of them.

We have on many previous occasions explained the great value and absolute need of petitions, and now, instead of repeating the exhortation in our own words, we will quote the following from an article entitled, "Inside the House of Commons," in the January number of *Blackwood's Magazine*:—"From what we have said, it might be thought that petitions are of no use. But this would be a great mistake. Although little attention is paid to them at the time of presentation, they become of great importance when the subject-matter to which they refer is embodied in a Bill, or a motion brought before the House. The number of petitions, and the number of signatures to them, for or against a particular measure, is generally dwelt upon with much force, as showing the state of feeling in the country on the question. It is amusing to see how this argument is met by those who are opposed to the views of the petitioners. They throw cold water upon the whole thing. They assert that nothing is easier than to get up petitions on any subject. They find out that several of the signatures are written in the same hand, and they have heard that paid canvassers have been employed to procure signatures. In short, they do all they can to minimise the effect. But still the fact remains, and if a vastly preponderating number of petitions and signatures appears to be in favour of a measure, it is impossible not to recognise the weight that is due to them."

In order that the petitions may have their full weight, they should be sent by the petitioners direct to the member for the constituency where they reside. Members of Parliament are usually most courteous in acknowledging and presenting all petitions sent them from their constituency, whether they agree with the prayer of the petition or not, and they attach much importance to opinions expressed in petitions from those whom they represent, whether the petitions come from voters or from those whom they think likely to influence the sentiments of the actual electors. We have heard more

than one member who was opposed declare that he should not feel justified in voting against the Bill in the face of a weighty petition in its favour from his constituency, and we beg of our friends to keep this in mind, and to remember that one hostile member kept out of the division lobby strengthens the relative proportion by one vote. There is no way so effective and proper to bring this about as by influential and numerous petitions.

We refer our friends to the notice in another column, for directions for preparing and for wording petitions. We have given a form which they may use, or they may vary at pleasure. All that is necessary is to take care that the superscription is accurately copied, and that the last clause, containing the prayer, be retained as it stands; but the first clause of the petition, setting forth the reasons which induce the petitioners to pray that the Bill may become law, may be worded as they please, and fresh reasons added, provided the general sense be preserved.

Again we say, let the weight which is due to a vastly preponderating number of petitions and signatures be felt in the present as in previous sessions, and with continuous, steady, and increasing pressure, the barrier must give way.

WE had occasion a short time ago to comment on some bold and startling assertions of "manly" rights, by prisoners charged with violent assaults on women. At the Bow-street Police Court, a man charged with kicking a woman alleged his right to kick her if he thought she deserved it, and gravely argued this point with Mr. FLOWERS, who, however, refused to concede it. At Lymm, a man who had beaten and kicked his wife with such violence as to cripple her, when apprehended observed to the officer that "it was a fine thing a man cannot do what he likes with his own wife." It is a sufficiently serious reflection that these sentiments should appear to have so wide a hold on the brutal and uneducated section of the people; and we may well shudder and sicken at the thought of the cruelties daily and hourly inflicted on the unfortunate victims of the dogma that a man may do what he likes with his own wife. But it is still more startling to find sentiments of this kind maintained in a court of justice, not by an ignorant delinquent of a low and brutal class, but by an authorised pleader in a court of law. Yet this was recently done at the Salford Borough Court. WILLIAM PRICE, a carter, was charged before Sir JOHN MANTELL with having assaulted his wife. She complained that on Monday night her husband pulled

her ears till they bled, and that he was constantly abusing her. On one occasion he expressed surprise that her constitution was able to endure it all. Mr. W. BENNET, who appeared for the defendant, urged in extenuation that the prosecutrix was neglectful of her household duties, and on the occasion in question went home some time after her husband had arrived. Sir JOHN MANTELL said he hoped Mr. BENNET did not mean to argue that even if a woman was negligent of her duties her husband had a right to lay hands upon her. Mr. BENNET said that was the law. Sir JOHN MANTELL said that if that were the law it was the very last sentiment he should lend any countenance to. Unhappily, a certain class of the inhabitants of Lancashire were too fond of using, not only their fists, but also their feet, upon their wives, and he should be astonished to see any magistrate or judge giving any encouragement to such a practice. Mr. BENNET said he should argue that a man was justified in correcting his wife by administering a certain amount of punishment. Sir JOHN MANTELL said he knew that in Lancashire it was a doctrine that a man had a right to "punce" his wife, but to that he did not subscribe, and was not going to lend encouragement to anything which could be so much abused. The defendant was ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for six months.

We do not know whether the advocate or the magistrate was in the right in his interpretation of the law, or whether a man is legally justified in administering to his wife a certain amount of corporal punishment which he would not be justified in administering to any other adult woman or man; but it is easy to see with Sir JOHN MANTELL the danger of giving legal encouragement to the practice of domestic chastisement of wives. If the law sanctions the practice, the sooner that law is amended the better; and we commend the subject to the attention of those members of Parliament who desire to prove to women that the Legislature is ready and willing to care for the interests of the unrepresented portion of the people.

THE need for some measure which shall counteract the demoralising influence of the notion of man's property in woman is constantly receiving illustration. One phase of this position is shown by men who beat women. Another, almost more degrading if less brutal, is exemplified in the transactions of sale or transfer of wives, which are not so uncommon as may be supposed by those who regard the belief of Frenchmen on the subject as a laughable superstition. Within the last month the papers have recorded

transactions of this nature, apparently conducted by the parties in perfectly good faith, and in the belief that they had the sanction of the law. At Leigh, in Lancashire, a man named JOSEPH HINDLEY deliberately made a present of his wife to one of his companions. HINDLEY is described as a young man of about 22, his wife, a prepossessing looking woman, who works as a weaver at a mill, being about 19, and there is a child, a year old, the issue of the marriage. She is spoken of by the neighbours as a well-conducted person, but the husband has frequently been heard to express regret at being married, and in the Millstone beerhouse on the night stated he offered to make a present of her to a single young man named PETER HAYES, a moulder. At length the arrangements were completed, which were that HAYES should have the wife, together with the household furniture in Thomas Street, besides two guns, the pigeon-cote and pigeons, and a sum of five shillings. At closing time HINDLEY took HAYES to his wife at home, duly introduced him to her as her new husband, and immediately left the place. HAYES, after the night's reflection, said he intended to abide by the agreement, with which he said he was satisfied. When HINDLEY handed over his wife to HAYES he signed a paper confirming his presentation of his wife to a friend. Mrs. HINDLEY readily consented to the transfer. The local paper from which we extract the particulars calls it an "amusing" affair. The use of such an epithet betrays the callousness of public feeling on the matter.

The *Echo*, in a recent issue, commented on an application made in the Police Court at Runcorn, Cheshire. It appears that a boatman named CARRINGTON bought for the sum of eighteen shillings one SARAH TYRER from another boatman with whom she had been living. CARRINGTON took his purchase home, but the next day she went back to her former lord and master to fetch her wardrobe. A reconciliation took place, and she refused to return to CARRINGTON, who consequently appealed to the police magistrate. Of course he was told that he had no assistance to expect from the law in so disgraceful a transaction; so he has to put up with the three-fold loss of his lady love, the money he paid for her, and a sum of money which he had given her for household expenses. These occurrences took place within three weeks in different parts of England. So long as the law denies to women human rights, it is not wonderful that ignorant men should regard them as articles of merchandise.

An alleged sale of a wife was reported from Crowle, in Lincolnshire. WILLIAM LEGGETT, pork butcher, was said

to have sold his wife for £40 to CHAPMAN PIDD, landlord of the Fishmongers' Arms. The articles of sale were said to be drawn up at a solicitor's office, the money paid, and the wife handed over. With reference to this allegation, Mr. W. LEGGETT writes to the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*: "Some time ago my wife deserted me and her child, and sought shelter under the roof of PIDD, who has lost his wife. Being indignant at this, I consulted my solicitors, and instructed them to proceed against the parties. PIDD then saw them, and desired to have an interview with me. Accordingly I met him, and he offered me £40 if I would not take any further proceedings in the matter. I consented to accept this offer, but reserved to myself the right to proceed for a divorce, if I felt disposed to do so; there was nothing whatever of a sale as reported." This transaction, if not a sale, appears to be a corrupt bargain to stay proceedings for damages; and it could hardly have happened in a land where the laws were equal and just as between man and wife. What would be said of a wife who consented to accept £40 from a woman for whom her husband had deserted her, on condition of staying proceedings and leaving her in peaceful possession of the article? But men reconcile themselves to conduct towards women which they would regard with horror and disgust if practised by women towards men.

MRS. SURR has already made her mark at the London School Board, with seemingly happy effect. She appears to have succeeded in impressing on the minds of her colleagues an increased sense of the value of time. In moving "that, for important reasons, the Boardroom clock be so placed as to be visible to the majority of the members," she said she wished to inquire whether the members were expected to get up and say something when they had nothing to say. For her part, she did not think that it was well even for those who were able to speak well to be always speaking. It had been observed that some rose three or four times in the course of one afternoon only to repeat with mere fluent verbosity what had been said by previous speakers. If the ladies spoke as much as the gentlemen of the Board, the debates would be protracted into a late period of the evening. In the discharge of her duties as a member of the Board, she felt bound to protest against this waste of valuable time." We learn from the reports that this little lecture was taken in good part, and, although the motion was seconded by a gentleman who is said to be one of the most talkative members of the Board, it was

withdrawn, from the feeling that the friendly admonitions of the lady had already sufficiently answered the purpose, and that there was no occasion to remove the clock.

We think this little episode may afford an explanation of the dismay manifested by some objectors to women's suffrage, lest it should lead to the possibility that by this means women may some time or other find their way into the House of Commons. "Fluent verbosity" is not unknown in other assemblies than the London School Board; and we can conceive the consternation which might be felt by some whose irrepressible eloquence had withstood the influences of a desert of empty benches, or the showers of impatient cries of "divide" in the contemplation of the possibility of being compelled to yield to the graceful remonstrances of a lady colleague, and to subside into unwonted quietude. On the other hand, we may assume that if this evil were the worst that could be anticipated from the introduction of the feminine element into the atmosphere of St. Stephen's, the country might reconcile themselves to the innovation without much disturbance of their equanimity.

MR. ROEBUCK, in speaking at the recent banquet to Miss HELEN TAYLOR, gave utterance to a somewhat curious, though not uncommon idea with men, that by a natural condition, a woman felt publicity to be a pain. Mr. ROEBUCK used this expression in reference to the duties devolving upon a member of a school board, which duties he said it was a pain to a woman to fulfil. It is with no desire to detract from the merits of the performance of those duties by competent women that we venture to dispute the assertion that they are necessarily attended with pain. On the contrary, we believe that they bring with them the same degree of pleasure and satisfaction to women as to men, and also that women who are engaged in them are so taken up with their work as to have no thoughts to waste on the morbid self-consciousness which would create a pain by dwelling on the fancy that the eyes of the world were on them. No doubt, while there are fewer women than men engaged in public duties, a woman is necessarily more conspicuous than a man engaged in the same pursuit, and so far she encounters more publicity; but as more women take part in such work this exceptional position will become less and less apparent. Actresses and "Queens of Song" encounter a much greater degree of personal publicity than falls to the lot of lady members of school boards, yet men do not feel it necessary in praising the gifts of HELEN FAUCIT or JENNY LIND to praise them for their "courage" in "putting

themselves forward" because they must feel "publicity to be a pain." If women have gifts which fit them to delight or instruct society, it is as natural for them to feel pleasure in the exercise of those gifts, as for the lark to feel joy as it soars aloft and carols on the wing, and the best and purest natures will be precisely those which will be least troubled by the pain of self-consciousness.

A friend once asked Mr. JOHN BRIGHT to define happiness. He soon replied, "A useful and agreeable pursuit, with a sense of progress." This is a kind of happiness which women are as fully capable of enjoying as men, and a kind which they need for the full development of their nature as much as it is needed by men. The work of promoting national education is a pursuit which comes within the definition of Mr. BRIGHT, and our satisfaction in the increasing number of women who are devoting themselves to it need not be disturbed by the fear that it is necessarily attended with pain.

REPLIES OF MEMBERS TO MEMORIALS.

LETTERS FROM THE RIGHT HON. RUSSELL GURNEY, M.P., SIR F. PERKINS, M.P., AND THE HON. W. COWPER TEMPLE, M.P.

Major-General Tryon has received the following replies in acknowledgment of the memorials adopted at the recent meeting at Southampton:—

8, Palace Gardens, W., 18th December.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial, which you have been kind enough to forward to me. I am very glad to learn that a measure so thoroughly just as that of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women has been approved of by a meeting such as that you describe of my constituents.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

RUSSELL GURNEY.

London, December 18th.

Dear Sir,—I am this day in receipt of the Memorial forwarded by you as chairman of a meeting held on the 14th inst. at Southampton.

I shall always have much pleasure in supporting the Bill for giving women the power of voting for members of Parliament, as they now possess municipally.—Very truly yours,

General Tryon. F. PERKINS.

Broadlands, January 23, 1877.

My dear General,—I am sorry to find that I inadvertently omitted to send you an acknowledgment of the Memorial you transmitted to me on the 16th December after the meeting in favour of Female Suffrage. I beg to assure you that none of the arguments urged against that extension of the suffrage have raised any doubts in my mind that it is right and politic to place women on an equality with men, in the choice of their representatives in Parliament.—Believe me, sincerely yours,

W. COWPER TEMPLE.

LEGAL DECISIONS ON LUNATIC, IDIOT, AND IMBECILE VOTERS.

Inasmuch as women are denied votes on the ground of want of understanding, it may be interesting to note the degree of understanding required by law from masculine electors. The following quotations from a legal text book, "Rogers on Elections," illustrate this point. The book was printed before the Ballot Act altered the mode of procedure, but the law as to the mental capacity required to constitute a good vote has not been touched by that Act.

"With regard to a lunatic who though for the most part he may have lost the sound exercise of his reason, yet sometimes has lucid intervals, it seems that the returning officer has only to decide whether at the moment of voting the candidate is sufficiently *compos mentis* to discriminate between the candidates and to answer the questions and take the oath (if required) in an intelligible manner.—Heryve Co. 260, Bulifer Castle 13, Jones 171, Oxfordshire 27, Jones 176.

"*Bridgewater*, 1 Peck, 108.—The voter's intellects were disordered, but he was not entirely unfit for business. His trade was for the most part carried on by his shopman; for he frequently lost his memory, his knowledge of accounts and of the value of money. He was very eager during the election of A and B, for whom he voted. Vote good.

"*Oakhampton*, 1 Fraser, 164.—The voter was 75 years old, paralytic, and much affected by the noise of the poll. He had no clear idea of the names of the candidates, but he had of the side on which he wished to vote. When ordinary questions were put to him he merely repeated them, but his answers to his wife were more rational. When undisturbed, it appeared that he was capable of performing any serious act. One witness declared that after the noise ceased he heard him name the sitting members in answer to the question for whom he voted, which was put a second time. A proposition was made to show him the names of the candidates in writing, but objected to. He said he voted for S. and L., and was rejected by the returning officer. Vote good.

"It seems difficult since the decision in the *Wigan* case, F. and F. 695, to determine what degree of drunkenness need be shown to disqualify a voter. See *Monmouth K. and O.*, 413. It is a question of fact for the returning officer to decide. See *infra* Lunacy.

"Persons deaf, dumb, and blind.—Although it is difficult to suppose that such persons should have understanding, still, if such a person can show by signs or otherwise that he knows the purpose for which he has come to the poll, and can also comprehend the obligation of an oath and the temporal dangers of perjury, it is conceived that a returning officer would not be justified in refusing his vote."

The way in which Mr. Rogers endeavours to prove the disqualification of "females" appears to us so great a curiosity of argumentation that we make no apology for presenting it to our readers:—"It is to be observed that the old Reform Act uses the word 'male persons,' whereas the late Act makes use of the term 'man.' This difference was probably adopted in consequence of the 13 and 14 Vic. cap. 21 having enacted that in all Acts words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females—unless the contrary as to gender is expressly provided. The term male persons, therefore, would clearly include females, unless the contrary was expressly provided. But the term 'man' being a generic term does not 'import' the masculine gender' any more than it does the feminine, so that the 13 and 14 Vic. cap. 21 would not apply. And as the two statutes are in *pari materia* and joined together (see sec. 59 of the late Act), it is clear that the word man must be construed to mean 'male person,' and that

females are not entitled." We apprehend that it will be new to many of our readers to find that the legal disabilities of women householders and ratepayers are supposed to rest on legal subtleties of this kind, which have to be used to override the plain and obvious meaning of our Acts of Parliament.

LADIES AND THE GALLERY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

During the session a formal attempt was made to abrogate the rule of the House of Commons by which ladies were excluded from their debates. Mr. G. Berkeley, member for Gloucester, moved (July 16) that a select committee should be appointed to consider the best means of setting apart and adapting a portion of the strangers' gallery for this purpose, and to consider also the means of making similar provision in reference to the intended new House of Commons. Mr. Berkeley's logic on the question was of this kind, that as by the constitution a female might wear the crown, there was no reason why females should not exercise political influence, and take an interest in political discussions. His precedents and examples were more applicable. It would be seen, he said, on reference to Hatsell, that ladies had been admitted to the debates in 1716, not only in the gallery, but in the lower part of the House. The practice had prevailed in the Irish parliament; it still existed in the French Chambers; and it was recognised in our House of Lords. He thought, too, that the character of the debates, which during the session had exhibited too many specimens of coarse personalities, would be improved by being carried on in the presence of a purer audience. There was a sort of competition among a number of members for the honour of seconding the motion; and although Lord John Russell met it with a direct and decided negative, it was carried by a majority of 153 over 104. The committee was named amid much mirth, containing, however, various grave and elderly gentlemen; and it was invested, amid still louder mirth, with the usual powers to send for persons as well as papers and records. On the 28th of July it presented its report, containing regulations by which ladies, not exceeding twenty-four in number, whose names were daily to be previously entered in a book, might be admitted into a portion of the gallery, not more than one-fourth of the whole, to be separated from the remainder for that purpose. On the 4th of August, however, when it was moved that the report should be approved of, the House decided in the negative by a majority of 86 to 83.—*Annual Register*, 1835.

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A WOMAN AS REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

At a meeting of the Northampton Board of Guardians, on December 27th, 1876, a letter was placed before the Board informing them of the death of Mr. Hurry, of Wollaston, the registrar of births and deaths for the Earl's Barton district. It informed the Board that during the latter part of the 35 years of his office, owing to his indisposition, he had received assistance from his, the writer's, daughter, who had thus become acquainted with the duties. The letter concluded with an application for the appointment.—The Chairman asked whether they could appoint a woman?—The Clerk did not know that there was anything in the Act of Parliament to prevent it. The appointment rested with the Board, subject to the approval of the Registrar-General.—Mr. Curtis remarked that the applicant had been to a great extent the supporter of her father. He did not see why she could not be appointed. At the next fortnightly meeting of the Board, the Clerk said

with reference to the appointment of Miss Hurry, as registrar of births and deaths for the Earl Barton district, a regulation had been made by the Registrar-General that no female could be appointed to that office.—The Chairman: Has he the power to make such a regulation?—The Clerk replied that he had, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board. He, however, wrote to him, to see whether he was inclined to make an exception in this case. The first letter he received was to the effect that, however competent Miss Hurry might be for the office, he (the Registrar-General) could not sanction Miss Hurry's appointment so long as the present rule remained in force. Knowing that he had the power to alter the rule, he the (Clerk) again wrote to him, asking him if he would alter it. His (the Registrar-General's) secretary replied, stating that he was not prepared to accede to the request.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS. LONDON.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Prof. and Mrs. Sheldon Amos, 27, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, on the 18th January. Prof. Amos addressed the meeting, followed by Miss Frances Power Cobbe, after which the discussion became general. A petition to the House of Commons was adopted. About 45 persons were present, mostly strangers to the question. We would remind our friends that they can find no better way of spreading interest in the question amongst the inhabitants of drawing-rooms than by promoting such meetings.

On Wednesday evening, 23rd January, Miss Rhoda Garrett gave an address on "Women's Need of the Suffrage," at the rooms of the Co-operative Shirt Makers' Company, 68, Dean Street, Soho, to an audience of working-women. The chair was taken by Mr. W. H. Ashurst. A petition from the meeting was unanimously adopted.

BRECHIN.

A very pleasant drawing-room meeting was held on January 19th, in the Royal Bankhouse. The meeting was called by request of Miss Hill Burton and her niece, Miss Ella Burton, daughter of the eminent historian. On the motion of Mr. James H. Lamb, Mr. James Guthrie was called to the chair, and made an interesting and racy address bearing on women's rights. Miss Ella Burton then read a very interesting paper, entitled "Woman's Sphere—an Historical Sketch." She divided the historical characters which women had represented into those of warriors in the days of heathenism, saints during the early church, dependants during the age of chivalry, rulers in the 16th century, beauties during the Pagan reaction of Charles II., martyrs in the days of the Scottish Covenant, and goddesses when in later days the worship of reason was inaugurated. In closing her paper Miss Burton stated that now, in this commonsense nineteenth century, the nations of Europe were surely sufficiently civilised to allow of the new, and it is to be hoped last, appearance of woman's sphere which claims for her the right to become what she was originally intended for—the helpmate of man—sharing his public and private life, his right to a voice in the government of the nation, as well as his right to home and hearth. Miss Hill Burton afterwards gave an interesting review of the Acts of Parliament for 1874, bearing on the subjects of interest to women. She said that as rational, thinking beings it was their duty to feel interested in whatever was for the welfare of the community. Politics and Acts of Parliament were not so formidable as ladies were often led to believe. She thought that single women and widows not otherwise represented should have a vote in Parliament, and presented a petition to that effect for signature. Nearly all present signed this petition.—Mr.

Guthrie said that it was a very curious fact, taking into account the size of Brechin, a very large number of very intelligent single women were proprietors, and had no way of representing themselves.—Mr. Thomson, S.S.C., moved a vote of thanks to the lady speakers.—The meeting was of a very interesting character, and before separating all partook of a cup of tea.—*Dundee Courier.*

DUBLIN.

The second of a series of drawing-room meetings to promote the cause of women's suffrage in Dublin, was held on January 11th at the house of Charles Eason, Esq., Kenilworth Square. Mrs. Eason having been moved into the chair, interesting papers on various aspects of the question were read by Mr. Eason and Mrs. Parker, and were followed by an animated discussion in which Serjeant Sherlock, M.P., the Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson, Rev. James Stevenson, Rev. R. S. D. Campbell, Mrs. O. L. Hatchet, and others took part. A petition to the House of Commons, in favour of the Bill for the enfranchisement of women ratepayers, was proposed and carried unanimously.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

CORK LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—At the weekly meeting on January 18th, the debate on the paper of Mr. Morgan on "Woman's Franchise" was resumed, and created considerable amusement on account of the widely different views expressed by the speakers on the subject. Mr. Green, supported by Mr. Keogh and Mr. L. Casey, strongly opposed woman's rights. The speakers argued that it would debase woman, and remove her from her proper sphere, and from the proud pedestal which she occupied in man's estimation, to arm her with the privileges which belong to man. Mr. Addey, Mr. Banks, Mr. Kirkman, and Mr. Ogilvie argued forcibly in favour of giving to women possessed of property the right to vote at Municipal and Parliamentary elections, in the same way as they voted at present in elections for Poor Law Guardians. Some good arguments were adduced in reference to the employment of women in the various departments of industry, and it was stated by Mr. Addey that in several of the large manufacturing towns in England female labour was discouraged in several branches by men, because it came into competition with their own. He held that women should be protected in this respect, and that whenever they showed a desire for the development of their talents in any department, whether of industry or science, they should be encouraged. The *Cork Daily Herald*, from which we extract the above, says, "though our own views may be opposed to those urged by the essayist, we are bound to state, in argument the women's franchise advocates seemed to have the best of last night's debate."

Miss Craigen has held meetings on December 28th, 1876, in the Friends' Meeting House, at DOWNHAM, Norfolk, Mr. William Bennet, junr, in the chair; and in the Temperance Hall, RINGSTEAD, Northampton, on January 19th, 1877, the Rev. Henry Jeffery Martin, Primitive Methodist minister, in the chair. Petitions were adopted at each of these meetings. Petitions to the same effect were also signed by numerous individual inhabitants in each place, which will be presented immediately on the opening of Parliament.

In Wyoming Territory the officers' wives and laundresses attached to the regiment can vote, not being "sworn into the United States service," but neither officers nor soldiers can do so.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

NORTHAMPTON.—The election for the School Board for Northampton took place on January 8th. Mrs. Manfield was returned, being second on the poll with 5,247 votes. We learn from the *Northampton Mercury* that a larger number of women voted this time than have done before; at least such was the impression of several officers presiding at the various stations. One of the latter, too, observed how neatly and carefully the ladies invariably fold up their ballot papers and drop them into the provided receptacle; whereas a large proportion of the rougher sex double and crumple them up anyhow, and "shove" them into the ballot box. After the declaration of the poll, a meeting of the Liberal and unsectarian party took place, at which the speakers expressed their satisfaction and congratulation on the success of their list, and the position in which Mrs. Manfield had been placed.—Mr. Alderman Manfield said the election had not been won without work. He thanked them for the proud position in which they had placed his wife, and said he was grateful to them that whilst they had placed her in the proud position she occupied, they had not done it at the expense of another of the six. The same paper, in a leading article on the election, says:—"Of the new candidates—*place aux dames*—Mrs. Manfield heads the list with 5,247 votes, only six hundred below Mr. Wetherell. The lady being placed on the liberal ticket secured a share of the liberal votes; but her special claims (which we specified last week) and feelings of gallantry must have affected the result; because at the first election, when her husband stood as the nominee of the Unitarians, he obtained only 1,236 votes."

BRIGHTON.—Miss Ricketts was for the third time returned at the head of the poll as a member of the Brighton School Board.

WORCESTER.—At a meeting of candidates at the Guildhall, on January 12th, convened by the sheriff with a view to make arrangements to avoid a contest, the candidates nominated being double the number of members of the board, the sheriff said there appeared to be a general feeling that the eight members of the old Board should be re-elected, with another to supply the place of the late Alderman Webb. He had heard opinions expressed that the election of Miss Lucy Westcombe would be satisfactory, and he should be happy to concur in such an arrangement. It appeared that all the other candidates expressed themselves as ready to retire in favour of Miss Westcombe, but not of any other candidate, and ultimately the following resolution was placed on record:—"That all gentlemen nominated having expressed their approval of the re-election of the present members of the Board in conjunction with Miss Westcombe (who during the past six years has rendered invaluable service as a School Board visitor), and their intention to retire in the event of that lady being willing to accept that position, it was moved by Alderman Willis, seconded by Mr. E. Webb, that Miss Westcombe be respectfully requested to accept a seat on the Board, in conjunction with the eight gentlemen who have previously been members."—The Sheriff was requested to communicate at once with Miss Westcombe, who accepted the nomination, and thus the necessity of a contest was avoided.

BRISTOL.—The election took place on January 22nd. Miss Helena Richardson, sister of Dr. B. W. Richardson, came forward as an independent candidate on temperance principles. In the course of her candidature, she stated that so far as she knew, no teetotaller had ever been summoned for not sending his children to school. She said she had no politics but sweeping the drink traffic from the land. Considerable opposition was given by some of the supporters of the six Liberal

candidates—the candidature of Miss Richardson—on the ground that it would endanger the seat of one of the Liberals, but the result proved these fears to have been unfounded, as the six Liberals were all returned above Miss Richardson, who was tenth on the poll. Miss Richardson is a member of the Church of England, and replaces a Wesleyan on the Board, but she declared herself an advocate of unsectarian education.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

BANQUET TO MISS HELEN TAYLOR.

On January 20th a banquet was held at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, to celebrate the election of Miss Helen Taylor, the stepdaughter of the late John Stuart Mill, as a member of the London School Board. The chair was occupied by Sir G. Campbell, M.P., who had on his right the guest of the evening. Among the company were Mr. Roebuck, M.P., Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., Mr. E. J. Reed, M.P., Mrs. Surr, Sir J. Bennett, Mr. G. Potter, Mr. Lucraft, Mr. Firth, Mr. Danby Seymour, and other members of the London School Board, Mr. J. Beal, Dr. Rendle, Mr. Chesson, and Mr. A. Dunn.

After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. Stansfeld, in responding for the Houses of Parliament, said: Speaking in the presence of Miss Taylor, he might, perhaps, be permitted to refer to the question of women suffrage. He would avoid the fault which was common to prophets of fixing a time for the fulfilment of their prophecies, but he would venture to say that in the logic of events the local privilege which had been already conferred upon women, and which enabled them to vote for Guardians, Town Councillors, and members of School Boards, would be extended in respect of the Parliamentary franchise. (Cheers.)

The toast of the evening was proposed by the Chairman, and supported by Mr. Roebuck, M.P., who said: In a system of national education, the children of the whole people, one half of whom were girls, required the knowledge, the capacity, the tenderness, and the inquisitive power of women. (Cheers.) He believed no Board of men could properly determine how girls should be educated unless women were mingled with them—(hear, hear)—and therefore he said of Miss Taylor that he hailed her appearance on the School Board with acclaim and thankfulness. Her personal claim recalled the days of his youth, for he recollected the man with whom she was connected, and the debts he owed to that great man. When hardly 21 years of age he had made the acquaintance of John Stuart Mill, who had been his guide in his political education. He owed to John Stuart Mill everything he had attained from that hour to the present. He had been his beloved friend, and to the hour of his death he had loved him as his brother. (Cheers.) Events had happened to estrange them for a time; but Mr. Mill, before his lamented death, was aware that Mr. Roebuck's feelings regarding him continued to be those of the warmest affection. Those memories had led him, old man as he was, to undertake the task of saying what he believed to be the truth of Miss Taylor.

Miss Helen Taylor said she desired to see the work of the School Board carried on with her whole heart and soul, for this reason, that an educated people will know how to assign their rights to every man, woman, and child amongst them. It struck her sometimes when she heard it said so emphatically that women may be upon school boards because they were in their place in the education of girls and infants, that they must be living in a different world to the world as she saw it. It seemed to her that if women were only of use to superintend the teaching of girls, women would be only the mothers of girls.

(Laughter and cheers.) What nature has done in this matter they need not be afraid to imitate. Injustice to the intellectual progress of woman would react upon themselves. If they retarded the education of the girls, they would not attain liberty in the next generation for the mass of the population of the country. It was upon the progress to be made through national education that she grounded her hopes of the progress of the country in the future, and it was to the mental progress of the mothers that she looked as the most potent influence on national, aye, and on human greatness, whether through the greater industrial skill of working men, whether through the great opportunities which would be given in the future for the intellectual development of the gifted amongst the boys; for, as she had said, not only were women mothers of boys, but they were the daughters of men, they were the sisters of men, and therefore she claimed that it is nothing unwomanly to be interested in the progress of boys, nothing unwomanly to turn their attention to the means by which they could give them the power of rising in the future to the highest class of education. It was not unwomanly to say that the men—aye, and the women—of old days left money for education; let us apply it to its true uses. (Cheers.) When all these things are done they would see a change in the whole institutions of the country, and a change which she for one should welcome.

Among the subsequent toasts were "The Ladies of the School Board," proposed by Sir J. Bennett, in a characteristic speech, and duly acknowledged by Mrs. Surr, the lady member for Finsbury.

ST. ANDREW'S UNIVERSITY AND LADY STUDENTS.—The *Glasgow Herald* says: "The University of St. Andrew's has just made an announcement which will be felt interesting and important by many ladies throughout the country. Hitherto those who wished to acquire a certificate higher than that obtainable at the ordinary local examinations, and who were unable to attend educational classes at a university seat, have had to betake themselves to Oxford, Cambridge, or London. But the want can now be met in Scotland. By passing in any one of the twenty literary and scientific subjects named in the St. Andrew's programme, a higher certificate will be secured. Those, again, who pass in four subjects, or take honours in one and pass in other two, will obtain a title, equivalent to a diploma, from the university. It need not be said how important the possession of such a title or diploma will be to those looking forward to teaching as a profession."

UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR WOMEN.—At a meeting of the Convocation of the London University it was resolved, by 22 to 16, "That it be referred to the Annual Committee to consider and report upon the best means of carrying into effect the desire of Convocation that the degrees of the University should be open to women."

The Fishmongers' Company have made a grant of a hundred guineas to the building fund of Girton College, Cambridge.

Horace Greeley said that whether woman was equal to man depended on who the man was and who the woman was.

One who half despaired of humanity took heart again when he remembered that the world was full of mothers.

The Colorado House of Representatives has a woman for engraving clerk.

Iowa women, by a recent supreme court decision, can hold any office in that State save judge of the superior court and member of the Legislature, in which cases only the State constitution says candidates must be male citizens.

THE SEX IN SESSION.

(From *Punch*.)

FIRST SITTING.

Subject of discussion—"A certain Male Superstition."

"A lord of the Creation . . . cannot disabuse himself of the antiquated notion that it is 'unfeminine' for a woman to eat enough to support nature. . . . In the exclusive presence of their own sex women eat rationally what they require, but have not generally the moral courage to set the opinion of their lords at defiance. . . . As a matter of common sense it is time that the idea of its being unfeminine for a woman to eat what she requires should be regarded as an effete superstition."—*The World*.

Laura. Like the *World's* impudence!

Georgie. Say, like its sense!

Women have appetites. Mine, I own, 's immense.

Julia. No need to tell us that, my dear.

Fanny. Still less

To let society know it.

Grace. I confess,

I fear dear Fred's amazement would be utter

To see his sylph demolish bread and butter,

As that same sylph can do.

Dora. Of course! And then

Such disillusion means disgust—in men!

Georgie. Absurd! The geese should know girls must have grub.

Muriel. Don't be so quite too vilely vulgar!

Eleanor. Rub.

The gilt off social gingerbread, my dear,

And fools won't buy it.

Blanche. Eleanor! So severe!

Her market's spoiled, you see. Don't be alarmed;

When a girl's *passée* she may eat.

Eleanor. You charmed

That poor aesthetic Curate by your zeal

For frequent fasting—after a full meal.

Lilian. Now, Girls, don't nag. No doubt the *World* is right

In its remarks on Women's appetite.

'That we suppress or hide it too is certain;

But then, dears, is it safe to lift the curtain?

Amy. No. Did ma'e artist ever paint a Venus

Munching her apple?

Lucy. It was gold.

Kate. Between us

I think the superstition's vastly stupid;

But Candour's always sacrificed to Cupid.

Bessie. Men are such muffs; they'd have us so ideal.

I'm sure my appetite is very real.

Marian. No doubt. You're as substantial as *Dudu*.

All girls are not material, though, like you;

And some men have a taste for the refined

And delicate—in body as in mind.

For me, I think that nothing could be harder

Than to imagine Venus in the larder.

Millicent. Precisely! Art and Love go hand-in-hand

In shunning kitchen *savants*.

Georgie. That sounds grand!

But, pray, will Art and Love, and their fine kin,

Keep us from feeling famished, growing thin?

In spite of P.R. painters and Burn Jones,

I cannot see much beauty in mere bones.

Helen. Of course not. But, my dears, you ought to know

Just as the kitchen region's kept below,

And out of sight, so eating, in the Sex,

Should be so nicely veiled as not to vex

Man's visionary views and fond illusions.

Eat, Girls; but eat *sub rosa*.

Georgie. Fine conclusions!

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

A remarkable suit has within the past few months singularly illustrated the position of English wives under the existing law. The case, a Chancery suit, heard on Tuesday, the 28th of November, was that of a husband, who three years ago married a lady possessed of a few thousand pounds. The settlement of the lady's property contained a power for the lady and her husband to appoint a sum of £2,000 to any person. In June, last year, the husband propounded a deed of appointment in his own favour of the sum in question. Two of the trustees refused their concurrence in raising the money until they should be satisfied that the lady was a free agent, and the husband brought the action to compel them to act upon the deed of appointment.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, is reported to have said that, "when he considered what the consequences would be to this unhappy lady if the court refused to let her husband have this sum of money, he felt that he ought to allow him to receive it if he could, but his judicial duty forbade him to do so. He had read the letters of the lady to her friends, and had no doubt whatever that she signed the deed under fear of the consequences of refusing to sign it. The lady had stated on oath that she signed the deed of her own account; but his Lordship felt satisfied from her demeanour in the witness-box that she was a person in that mental condition that she could be compelled to say she did that voluntarily which he was satisfied, on the evidence of her own letters, was obtained from her by an abuse of that authority which law as well as nature gave to the husband."

Yet surely it is not nature, but the law, which is responsible for every such abuse. The law which gives over the property of a wife to the power and control of her husband, is a device of purely human contrivance, and it is this unjust law which is now primarily responsible for the creation of that sordid selfishness which alone can make a man feel himself aggrieved when some portion of his wife's property is reserved to her own use, and escapes his control, a sordid selfishness, which, in the worst instances, may lead to conduct such as that which the Master of the Rolls took occasion severely to condemn. An evil law educates men to evil thoughts, and finally to evil deeds, and the true remedy, in this instance, lies in the abrogation of this law, and a restoration to every wife of her freedom to deal with her property as she pleases.—X. Y. Z.

REMARKABLE CHANCERY SUIT.

The case of *Nagle-Gillman v. Christopher* was before the Master of the Rolls on Tuesday. The plaintiff was a clergyman, who in May, 1873, married a lady much older than himself, and possessed of a few thousand pounds. The settlement of the lady's fortune contained a power for the lady and her husband to appoint a sum of £2,000 to any person. In June, 1875, the plaintiff propounded a deed of appointment in his own favour of the sum in question. Two of the trustees declined to concur with the third in raising the money until they should be satisfied by a personal interview or otherwise, that the lady was a free agent in the transaction; whereupon the plaintiff brought this action to compel them to act on the deed of appointment. They now submitted to concur in raising the money, provided the Court should be of opinion that the lady's signature to the deed of appointment had not been improperly obtained by Mr. Nagle-Gillman, whom they accused of coercion; and this was the issue tried. The trustees' case was that Mrs. Nagle-Gillman had been coerced into signing the deed by a systematic course of bullying or terrorism on the part of her husband; and they relied on letters written by her to her sister, her sister-

I only say, if any man supposes
I dine not only under, but on, roses,
I'd tell him frankly he is much mistaken,
And that my favourite diet is—fat bacon!

Chorus. Oh, Georgie!!!

Well, I hate such false pretence!

And if your Cupid can't stand common sense,

Or any appetite beyond a sparrow's,

I hope he'll never plague me with his arrows.

[General Flounce out.]

A QUAKER LADY AND THE TURK.

We learn from the *Echo* that Mary Fisher, one of the first Quakers, in 1690 went all the way to Adrianople, to give advice to "the Grand Turk." Her experience, as related in the annals of her sect, seems to have agreed in its minor features with that of the secular advisers who have since taken the Grand Turk in hand with a view to his general improvement. "When she had spoken that she had upon her mind, the Turks," says Miss Fisher's biographer, "listened to her with much attention and gravity till she had done; and then the Sultan asked her whether she had anything more to say? She asked him whether he understood what she had said? and he answered Yes, every word, and further said that what she had spoken was the truth." Whether any practical result followed this admission on the part of Mahomed IV. does not appear.

AN ANOMALY IN THE LAW.—A man named Robert Salisbury was charged at the Westminster police-court to-day with neglecting to maintain his family, who had in consequence become chargeable to the parish. The prisoner deserted his wife and family in 1874, and was heard of no more until he was recently apprehended at Leeds on another charge. In December, 1874, his wife's sister was sent for by one of the children, and she found the wife lying dead on the floor of her room. She had, it was said, taken to drinking. In the course of the proceedings it was stated that a man deserting his wife or family, and being apprehended within six months of the commission of the offence, is liable to three months' hard labour, but after six months the offence becomes "neglecting to maintain," and is only punishable by imprisonment for one month. Mr. Woolrych said he could only pass a sentence utterly inadequate to show his sense of the unmanly and unfeeling conduct of the prisoner, but owing to the lapse of time the law had by a strange anomaly reduced the gravity of the offence. He sentenced the prisoner to one month's hard labour.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Jan. 16, 1877.

A correspondent of the *Times*, commenting upon a recent speech of the Bishop of Manchester on the amusements of the working classes, makes some striking remarks on the oft repeated idea that the only way to prevent evil arising from the mixture of sexes is by keeping watch over the girls. The morals of one half of a class, says the writer, can never be very far in advance of the morals of the other. Parents should teach their sons to lead virtuous lives, and not think to keep them virtuous by the system of espionage over girls. He deprecates the mode of talking of women as "the wives and daughters of" such and such a class, as tending to encourage the tacit idea that a woman who has neither husband nor father by her side is a kind of lawful prey, and has no independence or status of her own.

in-law, and other persons, at and prior to the date of the deed, in support of the charge. There were other letters of hers to the same persons couched in very different language; but it was the theory of the defence that these were written at the dictation of Mr. Nagle-Gillman, and the Court apparently took the same view. It appeared that the deed of appointment was drawn by the solicitor who had the custody of the marriage-settlement, from instructions given to him by Mr. Nagle-Gillman only, and was by him sent down to Brighton, where the parties resided, for execution by them, without any draft being submitted to the lady, and his Lordship took occasion to observe during the hearing that the solicitor—the senior partner in an eminent West-end firm—ought to have communicated with the lady before preparing a deed which was meant to have the effect of giving the lady's own money to her husband, and was deserving of some censure for this want of caution, which really occasioned the suit. At the sitting of the Court on Tuesday morning an application was made that the case might be heard in private, owing to the painful nature of the enquiry; but his Lordship held, with regret, that a Judge of the High Court has no power to hear a case in private, even by consent of all parties, unless a ward of Court or a person of unsound mind is concerned, or the case is one such as an action to restrain the publication of private letters in which the object of justice would be defeated by publicity. The cause was accordingly heard as usual, and occupied some time.

Mr. Waller, Q.C., and Mr. J. D. Davenport appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Chitty, Q.C., and Mr. Bevir for the two trustees; and Mr. Reginald Hughes for the third trustee and Mrs. Nagle-Gillman.

Mrs. Nagle-Gillman was called on behalf of the plaintiff, who was in court during the trial, but did not put himself into the witness box.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said he was satisfied upon the evidence before him that the signature of the lady to the deed of appointment had been improperly obtained. A more scandalous and painful case had seldom come before him. The plaintiff, who, his Lordship regretted to say, was a clergyman of the Church of England, had thought it right to exercise a system of coercion in order to induce his wife to act in accordance with his wishes. This was what the plaintiff was accused of doing; yet, knowing the nature of the accusation, he had not dared to go into the witness box and answer the charge brought against him. When his Lordship considered what the consequence would be to this unhappy lady if the Court refused to let her husband have this sum of money, he felt that he ought to allow him to receive it if he could; but his judicial duty forbade him to do so. He had read the letters of the lady to her friends, and had no doubt whatever that she signed the deed under fear of the consequences of refusing to sign it. He would not give himself or his hearers the pain of going through the letters. He would merely say that he believed the lady's statement therein with respect to her husband's behaviour and language to be true, and he regretted that any man, and that man a clergyman, should have employed the language of Holy Writ, with which his sacred profession rendered him familiar, as an instrument to wrest from his wife this paltry sum of money. The lady had stated on oath that she signed the deed of her own accord; but his Lordship felt satisfied from her demeanour while in the witness box that she was a person in that mental condition that she could be compelled to say she did that voluntarily which he was satisfied on the evidence of her own letters was obtained from her by an abuse of that authority which law as well as nature gave to the husband. And then, the man who had dared so to oppress a woman was too much of a coward to go into the witness box and give his

own account of the transaction. His Lordship dismissed the action with costs; adding, that he considered the trustees had behaved with perfect propriety in refusing to act until satisfied by the lady herself that she was a free agent in the transaction. *Manchester Examiner*, Nov. 30, 1876.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

Secretary: Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton, Cheshire.
Treasurer: Mrs. Jacob Bright, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

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	£	s.	d.
Lady Goldsmid	5	0	0
Mrs. S. W. Brown	5	0	0
Mrs. Carroll	1	0	0
Mrs. Ann Snowden	0	15	0
Mrs. L. Collimore	0	10	0
R. P. H.	0	10	6
M. H.	0	2	6
S. E. G.	0	2	6

£13 0 6

URSULA M. BRIGHT, TREASURER.

The Committee have pleasure in announcing that Mr. George Anderson, M.P. for Glasgow, has undertaken the charge of a Bill to amend the law relating to the property rights of married women in Scotland.

All persons willing to help are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary, E. C. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY, Congleton, Cheshire, from whom petition forms (written and printed), leaflets, and full information may be obtained.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners Street, London, W., from November 21st, 1876, to January 20th, 1877.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Williams	10	0	0
Mrs. Glover	5	5	0
Mrs. Leon	5	0	0
Miss L. Ashworth	4	4	0
Miss Hall	2	2	0
Professor F. W. Newman	2	0	0
Miss E. L. M. Praed	2	0	0
Miss Babb	1	1	0
Miss Bostock	1	1	0
Mr. J. Boyd Kinnear	1	1	0
Mr. W. G. Lankester	1	1	0
Mr. Edwin Jones	1	1	0
Mr. Nicol	1	1	0
Mr. Owen Roberts	1	1	0
Mr. F. Storr	1	1	0
Mr. A. J. Williams	1	1	0
Mr. H. J. Buchan	1	0	0
Miss Thomas	0	10	6
Miss Dixon	0	10	0
Sir Roland Wilson	0	10	0
Miss Bird	0	5	0
Professor Leoni Levi	0	5	0
Mrs. Perrier	0	5	0
Mr. Benjamin Taylor	0	5	0
Mr. Connor	0	2	6
Miss S. E. Gay	0	2	6
Miss Heblethwhite	0	2	6
Mrs. Hood	0	2	6
Mr. Agate	0	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis	0	2	0
Mrs. Flint	0	2	0
Miss Knight	0	2	0
Mrs. Müller	0	1	0
Anonymous	0	1	0

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ALFRED W. BENNETT, TREASURER.

THE QUEEN AND HER COUNCILLORS.

The new number of the *Church Quarterly Review* on Mr. Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," contains an article attributed to the pen of Mr. Gladstone. The portion of it, says the *Times*, which discusses the relations between an English Sovereign and his or her private as well as Ministerial advisers cannot fail, even apart from the supposed authorship of the article, to attract attention. The writer says:—

"The public mind had for the moment lost its balance at the particular juncture when for the first time the intervention of the Prince in public affairs became a subject of animadversion. It was at the beginning of 1854, during the crisis of expectation before the Crimean War, the calm that precedes the hurricane. A very short time, and a single day of explanations from Lord Aberdeen and Lord Russell, then the leaders of the two Houses of Parliament, sufficed to set right a matter which we now wonder that any should have had the will or the power to set wrong. It was a matter of course that the Queen's husband should be more or less her political adviser; it would have been nothing less than a violence done to nature if, with his great powers and congenial will, any limits had been placed upon the relations of confidence between the two with respect to any public affairs whatsoever. Had he been an inferior person, his interference would doubtless have been limited by his capacity. But, he being, as he was, qualified to examine, comprehend, and give counsel, the two minds were thrown into common stock and worked as one. Nay, it does not even seem easy to limit the Sovereign's right of taking friendly counsel by any absolute rule to the case of a husband. If it is the Queen's duty to form judgment upon important proposals submitted to her by her Ministers, she has an indisputable right to the use of all instruments which will enable her to discharge that duty with effect; subject always, and subject only, to the one vital condition that they do not disturb the relation, on which the whole machinery of the constitution hinges, between those Ministers and the Queen. She cannot, therefore, as a rule, legitimately consult in private on political matters with the party in opposition to the Government of the day; but she will have copious public means, in common with the rest of the nation, for knowing their general views through Parliament and the press. She cannot consult at all, except in the strictest secrecy; for the doubts, the misgivings, the inquiries which accompany all impartial deliberation in the mind of a sovereign as well as of a subject, and which would transpire in the course of promiscuous conversation, are not matters fit for exhibition to the world. The dignity of the Crown requires that it should never come into contact with the public, or with the Cabinet, in mental *dishabille*; and that its words should be ripe, well-considered, few. For like reasons it is plain that the sovereign cannot legitimately be in confidential communication with many minds. Nor, again, with the representatives of classes or professions as such, for their views are commonly narrow and self-centred, not freely swayed, as they ought to be, by the paramount interests of the whole body politic. We have before us, in these pages, a truly normal example of a personal councillor of the Queen for public affairs in her husband; and another, hardly less normal, in Baron Stockmar. Both of them observed all along the essential condition, without which their action would have been not only most perilous, but most mischievous. That is to say, they never affected or set up any separate province or authority of their own; never aimed at standing as an opaque medium between the sovereign and her constitutional advisers. In their legitimate place, they took up their position behind the Queen; but not, so to speak, behind the throne; they assisted her in arriving at her conclusions, but

those conclusions when adopted were hers and hers alone; she, and she only, could be recognised by a minister as speaking for the Monarch's office. The Prince, lofty as was his position, and excellent as was his capacity, vanished as it were from view, and did not, and could not, carry, as towards them, a single ounce of ultimate authority. If he conferred with Lord Palmerston on matters of delicacy, belonging to the relation between the Sovereign and the Secretary of State, it could only be as the Queen's messenger, and no word spoken by him could be a final word. He was adjective, but the Queen the only substantive. As the adjective gives colour to the substantive, so he might influence the mind of the Queen; but only through that mind, only by informing that supreme free agency, could his influence legitimately act; and this doctrine, we apprehend, is not only a doctrine wholesome in itself, but also indisputable, nay, what is more, vital to the true balance of the English Monarchy. On the other hand, as the Queen deals with the Cabinet, just so the Cabinet deals with the Queen. The Sovereign is to know no more of any differing views of different Ministers than they are to know of any collateral representatives of the monarchical office; they are an unity before the Sovereign, and the Sovereign is an unity before them. All this, it will be observed, is not a description of matters of fact, but a setting forth of what the principles of our Monarchy pre-suppose; it is a study from the closet, not the forum or the court; and it would have been more convenient to use the masculine gender in speaking of an abstract occupant of the Throne but for the fact that we have become so thoroughly disused to it under the experience of 40 happy years."

Mr. Bright, speaking recently at Birmingham, of the condition of France, said: At the head of the Republic is a man in whom all men trust, and that is a great thing for the head of a State. I will not draw any comparisons—(laughter)—between the head of the French Republic and the head of the Administration in this country. Our true head of the State, I need not say, is as trustworthy as the head of the French Republic—(hear, hear)—or as the head of any Government or State of which we have any record in history.

VOICES FROM THE POETS.

SPENSER.

I.

Here have I cause in men just blame to find,
That in their proper praise too partial bee,
And not indifferent to woman kind,
To whom no share in arms and chevalree
They doe impart, ne maken memoree
Of their brave gestes and prowess martiall;
Scarce do they spare to one, or two, or three,
Roome in their writtes; yet the same writing small,
Does all their deedes deface, and dims their glories all.

II.

But by record of antique times I finde
That wemen wont in warres to beare most sway,
And to all great exploiters them selves inclind
Of which they still the garlond bore away;
Till envious Men, fearing their rules decay,
Gan coyne straight lawes to curb their liberty:
Yet sith they warlike armes have laide away
They have exceld in artes and pollicy,
That now we foolish men that prayse gin eke t' envy.

Faerie Queen, Book III., Canto 2.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1877.

Table listing names and amounts for subscriptions and donations received during January 1877. Includes names like Mrs. Stephenson Hunter, Mrs. Gell, Miss E. L. M. Praed, etc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS (continued).

Table listing names and amounts for subscriptions and donations, categorized by location: Brought forward, HUDDERSFIELD, HALIFAX, BLACKBURN, PRESTON.

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WOMEN'S UNION JOURNAL, published Monthly by the Women's Protective and Provident League, records the progress of the Women's Trade Union movement; and contains information, collected from reliable sources, about the wages, hours of work, and other conditions under which women are employed in various trades. The Journal also discusses all questions connected with the industrial position of women, such as the influence of Factory and Workshops' Legislation, Factory Inspection, the establishment of Co-operative Workshops, &c., &c. Its pages are open to correspondence.

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A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.—From a Lady in "the Gallery."—London: Printed by E. Matthews and Sons, 54, Berwick-street, and 377, Oxford-street, W. Price Threepence, to be had from the Secretary, 23, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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