

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. IX.—No 96. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

FEBRUARY 1, 1878.

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Contents :

Leading Articles :—The Introduction of the Bill; Bills before Parliament; The Proposed Abolition of the Action for Breach of Promise of Marriage; "Last Words on the County Franchise;" Earl Percy and Mr. Bright; Women and the Question of Peace or War; Another Wife Burnt Alive; Proposed Legislation respecting Wife Beating; University Education for Women; Mr. Henley's Retirement; Notes.

Election Intelligence :—Greenock, Leith, Perth.
Public Meetings :—South Shields, Morpeth, Bristol.
Drawing-room Meetings.
Westminster Democratic Club.
Debating Societies :—Westminster, Heckmondwike, Scotland.
Medical Degrees for Women.

Wife Torture.
A Woman's Thoughts on War.
Obituary.
Petitions.
Treasurers' Reports :—Manchester, Central Committee, Bristol.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures and promoting petitions in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. Written petitions, ready for signature, and full information will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; or to Miss THORNBURY, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Temperance Hall, Bishop Auckland, on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1878. Miss Becker and others will attend as a deputation. JOSEPH LINGFORD, Esq., will preside. The following gentlemen have promised to attend :—Messrs. N. Kilburn, jun., S. S. Lingford, M. Braithwaite, J. Moseley, C. Allan, J. Allan, and G. E. Briggs. To commence at eight o'clock. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Athenæum, West Hartlepool, on Thursday, February 14th, 1878. Miss Becker and Mrs. Oliver Scatterd will attend. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by the Worshipful the MAYOR of Hartlepool (Mr. Alderman James Groves, J.P.) Mr. Alderman G. Horsley, Mr. Alderman J. Bridges, Mr. Councillor J. J. Woodds, Commissioners C. Emerson, F. Furness, J. W. Cameron, Revs. T. Campbell and J. Barker, and Messrs. G. Steele, W. R. Owen, J. Robinson, R. Cochrane, J. Tweedy, C. L. Abrahams, T. Noddings, Thomas Hope, and other gentlemen have promised to attend. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each. Tickets at the doors.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—A PUBLIC MEETING in support of Mr. Courtney's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women will be held in the Borough Hall, Stockton-on-Tees, on Friday evening, February 15, 1878. Miss Becker, of Manchester, and Mrs. Oliver Scatterd will address the meeting. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by the Worshipful the MAYOR (Mr. Alderman Joseph Richardson). The following gentlemen have promised to attend :—Henry Wilson, Esq., Alderman G. F. Smith, Alderman T. Nelson, Councillor J. Alderson, C. J. Adams, T. H. Ainsworth, W. H. Bennington, J. Brown, J. F. Craggs, M. B. Dodds, W. Hardy, F. Sanderson, J. Settle, and T. Walton, and the Rev. W. Elliott. Admission free. Reserved Seats, 1s. Tickets at the doors.

LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.—The Course of Study includes all the Lectures required for the Medical Examinations and Clinical Instruction at the Royal Free Hospital.—For further particulars, apply to Mrs. THORNE, Hon. Sec., at the School, 30, Henrietta-street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

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[This Memorandum, which is in course of circulation, relates to the opening of one of several depôts about to be established under private management, with the distinct object of providing Commercial careers for ladies desirous of embarking in trade.]
January, 1878.

THE WOMAN'S GAZETTE; or, News about Work. Published Monthly, post free, 2½d., by Hatchards. Reviews topics of interest to women, and affords information and a means of Advertisement respecting the Employments open to them, both paid and unpaid.—Office: 42, Somerset-street, Portman Square.

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CONTENTS FOR JANUARY 15, 1878.

1. "Salary no Object."
2. Discharged Prisoners in Lausanne.
3. Coloured Women of America.
4. Can a Married Woman hold Property.

Record of Events.—Married Women's Property Act—Cambridge Honours Examination—Girton—Lectures to Ladies, King's College—Imperial Order of the Crown of India—University of London—Education of Women in Medical Profession—Employment—Vigilance Association—Poor Salaries for Women—Widows and Orphans—Suffrage—Meeting of Good Templars—New Club for Working Women—Boarding Out Poor Orphans—Inspection of Pauper Schools, &c. Foreign Notes and News.—Reviews.—Dr. Mercy B. Jackson.—Diamond Dust.—Paragraphs. Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

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The aim of this Society is to obtain the *utmost possible* protection for Animals liable to Vivisection. According to the terms of a resolution adopted unanimously by the Committee on the 24th January, 1877:—"The Act of Parliament which alone will satisfy the Committee will inflict heavy penalties on any physiologist convicted of performing on a vertebrate animal an operation naturally calculated to give such pain as would come under the meaning of the old Cruelty to Animals Act (c. 92, Vict. 12, 13), unless in cases wherein the physiologist is able, not merely to allege that he has exhibited anaesthetics, but to prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate, and on some other grounds than his own testimony, that the animal has been wholly and absolutely unconscious from the commencement of the experiment to its death or restoration to ease. And further, they will not be satisfied with any Act which does not provide by such machinery as may be deemed adequate, efficient guarantees against the performance of any physiological experiment whatever, except under conditions rendering approximately certain the detection of cruelty in any shape or degree."

We, the Secretaries of the above Society, desire earnestly now to appeal for support to every humane person who desires to see these aims realised, and who agrees with us that the infliction of torture on animals is a great moral offence and sin against God, and that the offence is not excused, much less justified, by appeals to the base and selfish hope of discovering remedies for our bodily diseases through such detestable means. If such persons wish for the maintenance of such a Society as ours—a Society thoroughly organised and officered, accomplishing a large amount of work, and headed by men whose names command respect throughout Europe, and lift the whole agitation above the imputation of unpractical sentimentalism—a Society, in short, whose very existence is a permanent threat to Vivisection—they must now give us such help as will enable us to carry on the contest in which we are engaged, and once for all establish our position.

While £50 or £100 are often freely given to heap stones on dead men's graves, we think that we may rightly ask our wealthier friends to entrust us with something approaching those sums to defend living brutes from torture, and to carry on our most arduous task of opposing the cruelties of modern science throughout the world.

FRANCES POWER COBBE,
GEORGE SHIRREFF BOWYEAR, } Hon. Secs.
B. DOUGLAS, Sec.

The Offices of the Society are, 1, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Cheques and Post Office Orders to be sent and made payable to Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, Clerk to the Society.
A subscription of 10s. constitutes membership; but donations of a larger or smaller amount are gratefully accepted.

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THE Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was, on January 18th, ordered to be brought in by Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, Mr. STANSFELD, and Mr. JACOB BRIGHT. It was read a first time, and the second reading fixed for Wednesday, the 19th of June. Notice of opposition to the Bill has been already given by Mr. HANBURY.

The chances of the ballot for a place have allotted the date of the second reading to a somewhat late period of the session; therefore, the friends of the measure have an unusually long interval in which to prepare and forward petitions. We trust that they will make the best use of this period, and that meetings, large and small, public and drawing-room assemblages will be held during the coming season, and that from each of them petitions will be forwarded in favour of Mr. COURTNEY'S Bill.

Several meetings have been held since Christmas. On January 22nd a crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Public Lecture Hall, South Shields, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman GLOVER, which was ably addressed by several of the leading political speakers of the district, and by Miss BECKER and Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD as a deputation from the Society. The petition was carried by a unanimous vote. The next day a meeting was held at Morpeth, presided over by the MAYOR, with a like result. The members for the borough and county had been invited to be present at the meeting, and Lord ESLINGTON, in writing to excuse his absence, said that he was quite unable, owing to other engagements, to attend the meeting, but he was by no means insensible to the just claims of women to a proper recognition of their status in society, whether social or political. Mr. BURT wrote that, whenever he had had the opportunity, he had voted in favour of Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S Bill, and that he would support the hon. member for Liskeard this year. It had always seemed to him that all the strongest arguments for an extended suffrage apply to women as well as to men.

The Bristol Society held their annual meeting on January 25th, and several drawing-room meetings have been held in Scotland since our last issue.

The question has also been discussed at several debating

and discussion societies during the month. The most notable of these discussions took place at the Westminster Debating Club, when the members of that society invited the members of the Ladies' Debating Club to attend and take part in the discussion. Mr. MITCHELL, the opener of the debate in the Westminster Club, maintained the proposition that the franchise should not be withheld merely on account of sex. Most of the gentlemen who followed spoke on the adverse side, while all the ladies who took part in the debate supported the proposition of the opener of the debate. The vote was limited to the members of the Westminster Club, and when the question was put Mr. MITCHELL'S proposition was carried by a majority of two to one. Thus it appears that, although the proceedings were conducted on the principle that men must vote and women must talk, the majority of the men did not vote for the continuance of this principle in guiding the affairs of the nation, of which both men and women form an integral and co-ordinate portion, and in which they are equally interested.

THE list of Bills to be discussed during the present Session of the House of Commons lies before us, and among them we find several which directly and especially concern women.

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to factories and workshops. This is a Government Bill, introduced by Mr. Secretary CROSS, and Sir HENRY SELWIN-IBBOTSON. Mr. TENNANT has given notice, on the second reading of this Bill, to move "That, in any measure for the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to factories and workshops, it is desirable, in the interests alike of employers and employed, that all trades and manufactures employing the same class of labour should be placed upon the same footing, and under the same protective and restrictive regulations." Therefore, should Mr. TENNANT'S proposal be adopted, working women will be restricted in every employment, except domestic service, in which they seek to gain a livelihood.

The Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Bill, introduced by

Major O'GORMAN, Sir JOSEPH M'KENNA, and Mr. RICHARD POWER, is to assimilate the municipal franchise of Ireland to that of England. Besides other differences as regards this franchise between the two countries there is that of sex—women ratepayers being voters in England and not in Ireland. Major O'GORMAN'S Bill will remove this distinction, and will, if carried, be another extension of the operation of women's suffrage.

The Bill to amend the law relating to the Queen's Colleges and Queen's Universities in Ireland may afford occasion for the friends of education to introduce proposals or extending to women the advantages afforded by these institutions.

The Real Estate Intestacy Bill, introduced by Mr. POTTER, deals with a rule of law which at present operates very unjustly towards women, and doubtless contains provisions to remedy this among other evils.

The Medical Act Amendment Bill, brought in by Dr. LUSH, will be watched with interest by all who are concerned in the medical education of women.

The Bill for the further protection of the property of married women in Scotland is brought in by Mr. ANDERSON, Sir ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, Mr. ORR EWING, Mr. M'LAREN, and Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR. It is doubtless identical in principle with the one which he failed to carry last session in its entirety. It is to be read a second time on Wednesday, the 8th of May.

The Bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister would, if carried, introduce a new inequality between men and women in the conditions of the marriage law, inasmuch as it would place a husband in a different status as regards affinity with his wife's relations from that of a wife as regards her husband's relations. The prohibited degrees of affinity are at present strictly equal and impartial as between husband and wife, and the attempt to alter them on one side only is another instance of men seeking to impose on women conditions of life which they are unwilling to submit to themselves.

A Bill to amend the Married Women's Property Act of 1870 is introduced by Mr. HIBBERT, Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN, Mr. GOLDNEY, and Sir CHARLES DILKE. It is similar to the one introduced in the House of Lords last session by Lord COLERIDGE. The second reading of Mr. HIBBERT'S Bill is fixed for the 24th of July.

Many other Bills have a special concern for women, and they are, of course, equally interested with men in Bills dealing with the general condition of the people; but the titles of those we have enumerated should suffice to prove

to the most obstinate and prejudiced of mankind the fallacy of the notion that women have no concern with politics.

AMONG the most noteworthy of the Bills directly affecting women which have been introduced this session, is one brought forward by Mr. HERSHELL, MR. RODWELL, and Mr. RYDER to abolish the action for breach of promise of marriage. Notice of opposition to this Bill has been given by Mr. FORSYTH and Mr. MORGAN LLOYD.

Although actions for breach of promise of marriage are in law maintainable by either a man or a woman, in practice they are generally instituted by women, and it is very rare for a man to obtain pecuniary damages against a woman, unless he has suffered some pecuniary loss or disappointment through her breach of contract.

The reason of this distinction is obvious and natural. Men are not supposed to marry for a maintenance, while marriage is regarded as the normal profession through which women obtain a maintenance in consideration of the performance of the duties of a wife. A woman is not free to enter on this profession unless her affections are free, and if she has given them to one man, they cannot be transferred to another without grievous pain and loss. No money damages can be properly a compensation for wounded feelings, but money may be properly awarded as compensation for the loss of the prospective maintenance, and the hindrance caused by the engagement and its breach to the entrance on an engagement elsewhere. The law very properly guards the rights of contracting parties by annexing penalties to breaches of contract, or by providing compensation when one of the parties suffers through the default of the other, and it would be highly injurious and inexpedient to impair the sense of the binding nature of a legal promise by permitting promises of marriage to be broken with impunity.

The law which it is proposed to abolish is in continual operation, and scarcely a week passes without a case of some woman obtaining redress for a grievance through it. The number of actions actually sustained by no means measures the amount of protection afforded to women by this law, for there can be no doubt that the risk of an action operates as a deterrent to men from trifling with the affections and honour of women. The removal of this safeguard would deprive that section of the people who are excluded from representation in the House of Commons of a protection they now enjoy against the wrongful acts of those who belong to the represented half of the nation

and would afford another illustration of the working of Mr. LEATHAM'S argument, that as "Beauty provoketh thieves as well as gold," the thieves should be trusted with a monopoly in making the law.

IN his article, "Last Words on the County Franchise," Mr. GLADSTONE puts forward those arguments on which the principle of women's suffrage chiefly rests with so much force, that many passages might have been written as last words on the extension of the franchise to women ratepayers, were women not expressly included among the exceptions.

Nevertheless, taking Mr. GLADSTONE'S words in the full sense in which no doubt their author would wish them to be taken, it becomes impossible to believe that in thus excepting women he has done more than state an actual fact. We ask those who would regard the exception as expressing a serious conviction on the part of the right honourable member to consider the following questions suggested by Mr. GLADSTONE'S text. Mr. GLADSTONE urges that "every class admitted to the franchise improves in some new respect the competency of Parliament." How, we ask, can it improve that competency, that the electoral law of Great Britain, while proclaiming that payment of rates is the test for an elector, should create a class which may be described as Ratepayers minus the status of Ratepayers?

When Mr. GLADSTONE tells us "that all who live in a country should take an interest in that country, should love that country, that the vote gives that sense of interest and fosters that love," he surely does not mean to tell us that it is necessary to create exceptions on whom exclusion from the franchise must operate in a contrary direction diminishing public spirit, in order to prove his rule? A little further on we read "that those who contribute to the purposes of a society should share its powers, is almost an axiom in the foundation of a voluntary institution; what I hold as to the larger combination of men in political society is, not that it is an axiom, but that there is a certain amount of presumption in its favour." Accordingly, there is a certain amount of presumption in favour of these excluded ratepayers; why should our actual practice depart from that law of nature which requires a like result to follow a like cause? The text continues, "Such a presumption is liable to be set aside by counterpleas, as in the case of *women*, minors, paupers, criminals, and so forth; but it exists and supplies

not the case, but the inception of the case for enfranchisement."

Let us examine the conditions which raise counterpleas. Minors are naturally under guidance and control from the inexperience of youth; paupers are a positive burden, and criminals an absolute evil to the State; whereas women paying rates stand alone, contribute to the burdens of the State, and obey its laws. Have not they good cause to demur at being thus treated as exceptions to the rule? Is it surprising that they fail to perceive how the sacrifice of a just uniformity in this radical instance can be useful in promoting a general harmonious uniformity in our national institutions, especially when they are conscious that this presumption of policy does not, to use Mr. GLADSTONE'S own words, "merely embrace what is due from the society to the individual, it contemplates quite as much what the individual can supply to the society in point of vigour and cohesion." Now, briefly stated, the duty of society to the individual is to ensure liberty and security, and that of the individual to society is to contribute to the corporate honour and general stability of the community. If to sever a portion from the rest and forbid that portion to show any sign of activity can promote general vigour and cohesion, that portion might indeed have no right to complain, but who will maintain such a contradiction? Rather in the words of our text we will say, "It surely seems difficult to deny that vigour and cohesion will be greater where all the parts can be thoroughly moulded into the working machinery, than where a proportion, and a large proportion, remaining outside are borne along by it, as so much dead weight. Augmentation of vital power in a State is what every wise and good citizen should desire. The more closely, the more largely the power of human will, affection, and understanding can be placed in association with the mainspring of the State, the greater will be that augmentation."

Who that accepts this teaching can maintain that to diminish the vital power of women can increase the total amount of vital power in the State, or think that it can assist this association of the power of will, affection and understanding, with the State, to command women religiously to lock up their own at home? H. B.

EARL PERCY, speaking as chairman of a recent meeting of the laity and clergy of the county of York on the Burials Bill, said that the question as to whom the churchyards of the kingdom belonged was one on which every

man and woman had a right to express an opinion, and on which every man, woman, and child had an interest.

Earl PERCY, like Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, has been an opponent of the general principle that the opinions of women should be represented in the Legislature; but he, like Mr. BRIGHT, when a question arises on which he has a strong personal feeling, is willing to appeal to the opinions of women as well as to those of men in support of his views.

Earl PERCY and Mr. BRIGHT have concurred in rejecting the votes or voices of women on matters of general politics, but Mr. BRIGHT says that on the question whether the might of England should be used to sustain the tyranny which rules at Constantinople, he would ask women as well as men to give an answer; and Earl PERCY says that on the question as to whom the churchyards belong, women as well as men have the right to express an opinion.

We may perhaps reasonably assume that this recognition on the part of Earl PERCY and MR. BRIGHT, of the right of women to express opinions on certain political questions, indicates a tendency to reconsider their former opposition to the proposal to give effect to those opinions through the suffrage. Lord BEACONSFIELD, in one of his novels, makes Count MIRABEL reply to a man who had expressed an opinion about the merits of a horse, and when asked whether he would like to take the odds, had answered that he did not want to bet, "You have an opinion that you will not back. That is a luxury, for certainly it is of no use. I would advise you to enjoy it." Unless Mr. BRIGHT and Earl PERCY are prepared to support Mr. COURTNEY'S Bill, we fear they must be supposed to regard the political opinions which they allow that women may express on certain special questions, in the light of luxuries, which women are advised to enjoy, because they are of no use.

ONE terrible issue submitted to the decision of the Legislature so overshadows in its extreme importance to every man, woman, and child in this land every other proposal that comes before the House of Commons, as to afford the most cogent reasons for admitting the voice of women to a share in deciding it. Peace or war hangs trembling in the balance. Have men a right to cast the issue without weighing in the scale the influence and the conscience of women? An unnecessary war is a national crime. Shall women be dragged into this crime against their consent? A war involves heavy and grinding taxation, which presses

with the greatest cruelty on those of small means, and notably on women. Shall women be compelled to pay a war tax without a voice in voting it? A war means bereavement and misery in thousands of English homes. Shall women, whose sphere is said to be home, be bidden to stand aside, bound and helpless, when such calamities threaten their homes and hearts? No—let the women of England say—No, these things concern us as well as men, and we claim the right to have our consciences and our voices heard in deciding them.

ANOTHER wife has been burnt alive—another victim sacrificed at the hideous fires of the domestic altar, where cruelties worse than those of Torquemada are practised without the poor excuse on which these were attempted to be justified. The priests of the Inquisition roasted the bodies of their victims for the presumed good of their souls. The husband-priest roasts his wife for no other end than the gratification of his fiendish passions. An inquest was lately held at Leicester on the body of ANNISE WHITE, whom it was alleged her husband had burnt to death. It appeared from the evidence that JAMES WOODFIELD, a neighbour, who was passing the house about eleven o'clock at night, heard the husband threaten to throw the lamp at his wife. Immediately afterwards he saw a large blaze of light through the crack of the door. He opened the door, and saw Mrs. WHITE in flames from head to foot. The husband stood with his back to the fire, with his hands behind him, and made no effort to put out the flames. WOODFIELD called for assistance, and got a bucket of water to throw over Mrs. WHITE. She was subsequently put under the water tap and the flames extinguished. The poor woman was fearfully burned; she was taken to the infirmary, where she died in great agony from the effects of the burns. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the husband, who was committed for trial.

The trial took place last month at the Leicester assizes, when the evidence given at the inquest was repeated. The jury reduced the crime to manslaughter, and the prisoner was sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude. Thus, according to the verdict of a British jury, it is not murder for a man to pour burning paraffin over his wife, and then stand with his hands behind his back coolly watching her burn to death.

When Mrs. BRAVO was supposed to have poisoned her husband, all England was astir about the imagined crime. No amount of public attention and execration could be too

much for a husband-murderer, if such a monster existed. But wives are murdered commonly, and no one is particularly startled or surprised by such an ordinary occurrence. Many wives die from violence and cruelty, and the husband escapes with "admonition" or "censure." When a more flagrant case occurs, which brings a penalty for the offender, a small paragraph in a local paper sufficiently marks the amount of attention excited for the moment. The evil laws which foster the crime are maintained, and the cries of victim after victim fall unheeded on the Legislature. How long shall this continue? Shall women ask in vain, How long? how long?

ALMOST at the same time as the man WHITE was sentenced at Leicester Assizes to *twenty* years' penal servitude for burning his wife to death, a man was sentenced at Worcester assizes to *twenty-five* years' penal servitude for attempting to murder and rob an innkeeper. Although in this case the victim's life was not sacrificed, the perpetrator of the assault received a heavier penalty than WHITE, but in his case there was an absence of the "extenuating circumstance" that the subject was the assailant's wife.

WE commend to the earnest consideration of our legislators the suggestions contained in an article by Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE, which originally appeared in a contemporary, and which will be found in another page. Although the light penalties inflicted for wife-torture are a scandal to the administration of justice which ought not to be permitted to continue, severe penalties can but deal with the symptoms, and do not touch the root of the evil. We believe that such crimes will continue to be practised on defenceless wives so long as the law gives direct encouragement to brutal men in the notion that their wives are their property, and that they may do what they like with their own, and that legislation based on some such principle as that indicated by Miss COBBE offers the only effectual and permanent remedy for the wrong. Were our legislators as desirous to protect women from violent assault as to restrict their hours of labour, we should not see the Government introducing a Factory and Workshop Bill, and leaving the other subject unnoticed as well as untouched.

F. W. HARPER, who dates from Selby Vicarage, writes a letter to the *Spectator*, in which he defends the policy of non-intervention in cases where husbands beat their wives.

He says:—"As to an Englishman's religion, it sets no limits either to the wife's obedience or to the husband's devotion and self-sacrifice;" and he says, "I make bold to believe that if ever I should turn into a wife I shall choose to be beaten by my husband to any extent (short of being slain outright) rather than it should be said a stranger came between us." As it is not possible, unless we admit the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, that the (presumably) reverend correspondent of the *Spectator* should bring his doctrine to a practical test, there is no means of disproving his assertion as to what his feelings and conduct would be under the circumstances he describes. This is a pity, for we confess to entertaining a lively curiosity as to the result of the experiment, supposing that his soul should be sent to animate the body of—let us pick out a case at random—and say of CATHERINE, wife of JOHN RADCLIFFE, who manifested "a husband's devotion and self-sacrifice" by exerting himself without even the stimulus of a provocation so far as to lift her on a chair by the hair of her head and then to proceed to kick her on the back and legs with such violence as to cripple her. When, in sacrilegious violation of the migrated soul's theory that there is *no* limit to the wife's obedience, the police apprehended the husband, the latter showed that he at least was sound in his doctrine by remarking, "It is a fine thing a man cannot do what he likes with his own wife." We have a shrewd suspicion that the theory would not stand the test of experience from the side of the subject, and that it is well for the writer's consistency that the experiment cannot be tried.

We regard it as a lamentable sign of the tone of popular opinion on this subject that such atrocious theories of the rights of husbands over their wives should be brought forward without shame by any man through the public press, and urged, if not in defence of brutal practices, at least in deprecation of any attempt to put a stop to them.

FEW persons would deny the fact that women of all classes are now far better educated than they used to be. This is to a great extent owing to the imperative selfishness of men. Men, being better educated than they were formerly, have begun to perceive that it is manifestly to their advantage to have educated wives; and consequently as marriage is considered in fashionable circles to be the end and object of a woman's life, they have begun to pay greater attention to the early training of women.

But a far wider and more important reform than this is in progress. Women are now beginning to be taught

subjects at the very mention of which by a woman our forefathers would have been horrified. At the foremost educational establishment for women in England—we mean Girton College, Cambridge—the lady students are instructed in the same subjects as the students of the University, and, which is more, excel in them. In the last Moral Science Tripos at Cambridge, Miss BORCHARDT, a student of Girton College, obtained a second class, having previously passed amongst the Senior Optimes in the Mathematical Tripos. Results such as these speak for themselves. Every Cambridge graduate knows well that to obtain even a second class in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos requires a very fair amount of ability, combined with considerable previous training. Men have opportunities from early boyhood of being trained in mathematics by the most skilful teachers at the least possible expense. Women's training commences with their college career. Can we, then, expect women, with this disadvantage, to take high places in the Mathematical Tripos? In the Moral Science Tripos, on the other hand, less inequality will be found. Moral Science being a subject not often taught at boys' and never at girls' schools, neither men nor women have usually much acquaintance with it when they enter upon their college course. We are, therefore, led to expect that women would succeed better in the Moral Science than in the Mathematical Tripos, and we find that this is the case. Out of twelve places that have already been taken by Girton students in the Cambridge Honour Examinations, four have been in Moral Science, four in Classics, two in Mathematics, and two in Natural Science. They have not so much chance of being able to pass so well for the present in subjects like classics and mathematics, merely from lack of previous training, and for no other reason.

We see, then, every reason why the lady students should feel greatly encouraged by the result of these examinations. They are succeeding better in these competitions than their most enthusiastic supporters expected of them. We would advise them not to be persuaded into thinking that mathematics or classics, or in fact any subject whatever, is necessarily too difficult for woman's penetration, and should be kept sacred to the intellects of men. Let them follow the example of women like Mrs. SOMERVILLE, and then they will be able to say to the men, "We find our brains are as good as yours, and we mean to use them."

L. F. E.

A DECISIVE step in advance on the question of the right of women to University education and degrees has been

taken by the University of London. The assent of Convocation has been asked to a proposal for a new charter to enable the University to admit women to all their examinations and degrees. After an animated debate, the proposal was carried by 242 to 132, being a majority of nearly two to one in favour of women.

The question is, however, not finally decided by this vote. A petition in favour of the new charter will be submitted to the Crown, but the granting of the charter rests entirely upon the decision of the Government, and it remains to be seen what course will be finally adopted by her MAJESTY'S advisers. This affords another illustration of the direct connection of the educational interests of women with the Parliamentary suffrage.

THE disappearance from the House of Commons of the venerable figure of Mr. HENLEY is noted with regret by men of all shades of political opinion. No man was more universally respected alike by political opponents and friends. A Conservative in politics, his Conservatism was neither blind nor bigoted, and his utterances were characterised by what has been called a "robust common sense," which always commanded the attention and respect of the House of Commons. We trust that he may long continue to enjoy in his retirement the esteem and affection of his countrymen and the repose which he has earned by protracted and honourable service.

We record with satisfaction that one of the last speeches he made in the House of Commons was in support of Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S Bill on the sixth of June last, and, as the considerations he then brought forward can never be too often impressed on the public mind, we reproduce them here:—

"Mr. HENLEY, in stating his reasons for supporting the principle of the Bill, said that many years ago the Legislature entrusted the women of England with the municipal franchise. As far as he recollected, this was done almost *mero motu* by the Legislature without any great amount of pressure from without. All the terrible results which the opponents of the present Bill anticipated had not occurred in consequence of the admission of women to the lower franchise. Not only did political feeling enter into all municipal contests as much as it did in Parliamentary elections, but with the former there were also mixed up local and personal considerations of the strongest kind. No proof whatever had been given in support of the assertion that if women had the Parliamentary franchise they would be taken out of their proper sphere of action. A

similar result must surely have been produced by giving them the municipal franchise, but no attempt had been made to prove that anything of the kind had occurred. As the Legislature had chosen to bring women into the turmoil of public life at municipal elections, which were annual, he saw no reason why they should not also be allowed to vote at elections for members of Parliament. For these reasons he should support the principle of the Bill."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

Several vacancies have occurred in the House of Commons since our last issue, the seats for Greenock, Leith, and Oxfordshire through resignation, and Perth and Marlborough through the election of the occupant to the peerage. The five members who have disappeared from the House of Commons Mr. Grieve, Mr. M'Gregor, Mr. Henley, Hon. A. Kinnaird, and Lord Ernest Bruce were all supporters of women suffrage, and we trust that their places may be filled by others who will follow their example in this respect. We give such information as to the views of candidates in the various districts as has reached us.

GREENOCK.

At a meeting where Mr. Stewart, one of the Liberal candidates, addressed the electors, Mr. Fairgrieve said it was understood that next session the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill would be introduced by the member for Liskeard, and he wished to know if Mr. Stewart would support it.

Mr. STEWART said he approved of ladies having a voice in the election of members of School Boards, but he was not very sure about them taking part in ordinary political work. When he found that ladies were anxious to secure the suffrage, he hoped he would be gallant enough not to refuse them.

Mr. Stewart has since been returned, and we trust that the ladies of Greenock will convince him that they desire the suffrage, and that he will follow the example of his predecessor in voting for the Bill.

LEITH.

A vacancy has occurred in Leith through the resignation of Mr. M'Gregor, who was a supporter of women's suffrage. Several candidates have been before the constituency, and have been questioned on that point by electors. There were three Liberal candidates in the field, Mr. M'Laren, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Bennet. All three declared themselves in favour of women's suffrage.

Mr. M'LAREN, in speaking at a meeting in the Iron Hall, Portobello, alluded to the question of women's suffrage, to which he said he was favourably inclined, and to the desirability of the law being amended in so far as it caused a woman on entering marriage to lose her right to separate property, mentioning in regard to the latter subject that Lord Cairns was understood to be favourable to reform.

Mr. GRANT appeared at a meeting in the Assembly Room, Leith, and, among other questions, Mr. Robert Robertson asked if Mr. Grant would vote for the extension of the franchise to women that were householders. Mr. Grant said the principle of the representation of women had already been acknowledged in the case of School Boards; and he thought that if the ladies would wait a little, their cause would gradually

so much progress that they should get their right of voting for members of Parliament also. (Hear, hear.)

At a meeting of electors addressed by Mr. James Lindsay Bennet, Provost Henderson, who presided, said Mr. Bennet was asked if he would vote for the extension of the franchise to women who were householders. (Applause.) Mr. Bennet: I have no hesitation in answering that question. A householder receives a vote because he is the possessor of a house and pays rates and taxes. Why the vote should be withheld because the possessor is a woman is something to me perfectly ridiculous. (Laughter and applause.)

PERTH.

Mr. Trayner, one of the Liberal candidates, in reply to a question, said with regard to women's rights he was in favour of single women who had the other qualifications necessary for the franchise being entitled to vote as well as men.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

On January 22nd a crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Free Library, South Shields, in support of the bill for conferring the Parliamentary suffrage upon women householders. The chair was occupied by Alderman Terot Glover, J.P., who was supported by Miss Becker, of Manchester; Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds (a deputation from the National Association for Women's Suffrage); Mrs. McPherson, Rev. J. McKenzie, Rev. S. M. M'Clelland, Rev. J. Parker, Rev. W. J. Taylor, Mrs. T. Glover, Rev. M. Gray, Rev. J. M. Russell, Mr. T. Hudson, Councillor Robson, Alderman James, Councillor Owen, Mr. G. Lyall, Mr. A. Scott, &c.—The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said he heartily supported the movement to give the franchise to women householders, holding as he did that women have as good heads on their shoulders as the men and a good deal better. (Laughter and applause.)—The Rev. J. McKenzie moved the usual resolution approving the principle.—Alderman Wm. James seconded the motion.—Mrs. Scatcherd and Professor Aldis, Newcastle, supported the resolution, which was carried with applause.—The Rev. S. M. M'Clelland moved the second resolution, as under:—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolutions, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that memorials to J. C. Stevenson, Esq., M.P., Sir George Elliot, M.P., and C. M. Palmer, Esq., M.P., members for the borough and the Northern Division of the county of Durham, requesting them to support the bill, and to remove the electoral disabilities of women, be signed by the chairman, and forwarded by him." He expressed his hearty sympathy with the movement.—Mr. Thomas Hudson seconded and Miss Becker and Councillor Owen also supported the resolution, which was also carried unanimously. A number of persons signed the petition, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

MORPETH.

On January 23rd a meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Morpeth, in support of women's suffrage. The attendance was good, and the proceedings altogether in favour of the movement. The chair was occupied by the Mayor (T. R. Miller, Esq.); and there were also on the platform the ex-Mayor (G. B. Grey, Esq.); Alderman Grey; Councillors J. Dixon, Thos. Hudson, R. Drake, and S. Relph; and the Revs. M. A. Drummond and J. M. Steven. Miss Becker, of Manchester, and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds, attended as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage.—The Chairman read the fol-

lowing letters from Lord Eslington, M.P., Mr. T. Burt, M.P., and introduced the subject with a few remarks:—

Stanleys, Lymington,
Hants, Jan. 20th.

Sir,—I am quite unable, owing to other engagements, to attend the meeting upon the "Rights of Women," to which you invite me on Jan. 23rd next; but I am by no means insensible to the just claims of women to a proper recognition of their status in society, whether social or political, and in order that those claims should receive due and respectful attention at the hands of the Legislature, it is necessary that they be confined to reasonable bounds.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Mr. Wm. Graham. ESINGTON.

35, Lovaine Crescent,
Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jan. 18th, 1878.

William Graham, Esq.

My dear Sir,—My engagements will not permit me to attend the meeting in Morpeth on the 23rd inst. On that date I have promised, if circumstances permit, to preside at a meeting of the United Kingdom Alliance to be held in this town.

Whenever I have had the opportunity I have voted in favour of the measure, promoted by Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P. and others, for the removal of the political disabilities of women. I much regret that ill health has compelled Mr. Bright to transfer his work to other hands. An abler and a worthier successor than Mr. Courtney could not, however, in my opinion, well have been found, and I shall, if possible, support the hon. member for Liskeard when he brings his Bill forward this year. It has always seemed to me that all the strongest arguments for an extended suffrage will apply to women as well as to men.

Wishing you a successful meeting.—I am, yours very truly,
THOS. BURT.

Councillor Grey moved, and Councillor Hudson seconded, a resolution affirming the principle, which was supported by Miss Becker, who took occasion to point out that Lord Eslington had voted with Mr. Mill in 1867, and that his name was to be found supporting the bill in every division that had taken place since.—The next resolution, adopting petition and memorials, was moved by the Rev. J. M. Steven, seconded by Alderman Grey, and supported by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd.—Both the resolutions were carried unanimously.—A vote of thanks to the ladies was proposed by Councillor Dixon, and seconded by Mr. A. Drussar, and after a similar compliment to the chairman the meeting separated.

BRISTOL.

The annual general meeting of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the office of the local secretary, 16, Park-street, on January 25th. In the absence of Dr. Caldicott, who had been announced to preside, the chair was taken by Mr. ALLAN GREENWELL, who, in opening the proceedings, remarked that as there was so much discussion going on as to extending the franchise to other classes, it seemed hard that women, who were quite capable of exercising the franchise, should be excluded altogether. He insisted upon the advantage to a Government of having the sympathy of all classes in regard to political questions, and said if this were true it was an argument in favour of giving voting power to women.

The statement of accounts showed that last year there was a balance due to the treasurer of £17. 19s. 4d. The total expenditure had been £492. 12s. 5d.; subscriptions and donations amounted to £422. 2s. 10d.; the balance due to the treasurer now being £44. 10s. 9d.

The SECRETARY (Mrs. Birt) read the annual report, of which the following is an abstract:—

The last annual report of this society was presented at a meeting which took place in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on the 8th March last. Lady Anna Gore-Langton occupied the chair, and the meeting was one of the largest ever held in this district. Your committee look back with a sense of satisfaction to the fact that among those who took part in the proceedings they may record the name of Mary Carpenter. This was probably one of the last, if not the last, great meeting she ever addressed. In moving a vote of thanks to the president, she said, "She very warmly sympathised in the principles of the society and wished it success." She was one of the vice-presidents of the society, and one of its most distinguished members, and your committee deeply deplore the loss the cause of women's suffrage, in common with so many other important movements in the direction of human progress, has sustained in her death. Although rather less than a year has elapsed since the issue of their last report, your committee consider that they have a satisfactory amount of work to record. A large meeting was held in the spring at Exeter, addressed by Lady Bowring, Mrs. Bright Clark, and Miss Tod. Meetings also were held by the friends and members of this society at Cheltenham, Worcester, and Frome. During the autumn there were two meetings in the rooms of the society, in Park Street, and a public meeting at Bedminster. Drawing-room meetings have been held at Stoke House, by invitation from Mrs. Budgett, and at Redland Hall, by invitation from the Misses Venning. At the former Miss Frances Power Cobbe took part, and over the latter Lady Anna Gore-Langton presided. Both drawing-rooms were crowded, and the meetings were characterised by animated discussions of the question. The committee desire to express their strong sense of the importance of these social meetings, and to mark their obligations to the ladies who have so kindly granted the use of their drawing-rooms. They would also express their acknowledgments of the valuable services rendered by many ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood who by their speeches have so largely contributed to the success of these meetings. An influential conference of the members of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at Birmingham, in May, which was attended by delegates sent from this society.

After referring to the parliamentary history and present position of the question, the report concluded by stating that the accounts for the year show a balance against the treasurer of £44. 10s. 9d., and to clear this deficit, as well as to provide for renewed and energetic action in promoting their enterprise, the committee ask for the liberal help of all who have that enterprise at heart.

Rev. A. C. MACPHERSON moved the first resolution, the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, and the appointment of the committee. The question, he said, was gathering strength, and he believed it would be carried in no long period of time.

Miss STURGE, in seconding the motion, thought they might congratulate themselves that during the past few years many disabilities had been removed from women.

Mr. JENNINGS, supporting the resolution, said that the granting of the parliamentary franchise to women would be a great mark in the history of the country.

The resolution was carried *nem. dis.*

Dr. CALDICOTT (who had arrived and taken his position as chairman) apologised for the delay which had occurred, and moved the next resolution, viz., "That the thanks of the meeting be heartily rendered to those members of Parliament who had supported the question in the House of Commons."

He remarked that the resolution was most opportune, for those gentlemen who spoke in favour of the question in the House of Commons had not to contend with ordinary argument, but the attitude taken by some of the opponents of the measure was most unfitting. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. LILIAS ASHWORTH HALLETT seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously agreed to.

Rev. URIJAH THOMAS afterwards briefly addressed the meeting, which separated with thanks to the chairman.

WESTMINSTER DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

Mr. Charles M'Laren lectured on women's suffrage at the Westminster Democratic Club, Chapter-street, Westminster, on the 20th January; Mr. W. Sadler in the chair. This was the first occasion on which the club had made use of their new premises; the audience, which included a large proportion of women, paid much attention to the lecturer, and at its close Mr D. Stanisby moved, Mr. W. Matkin seconded, that the chairman sign a petition to Parliament on behalf of this meeting, and forward the same to the members of the borough for presentation. This was carried with one accord, as also the vote of thanks to the lecturer, moved by Mr. F. Harper, seconded by Mr. J. Robinson.

DEAN.

A short address in favour of the women's suffrage movement was delivered in the schoolroom of Upper Dean, near Kimbalton, by Mr. Henry Dalton, chairman of the School Board, on the occasion of a children's musical performance on the 26th ult. On account of press of time and the novelty of such subjects in Dean, Mr. Dalton did not go beyond the usual simple arguments on the score of common justice to women. Twenty signatures to the petition were collected. The petition was presented by Col. Gilpin to the House of Commons.

Miss Craigen held a public meeting in the Methodist School, CRANSWICK, Yorkshire, on January 14th, Mr. David Leefe in the chair; petition passed unanimously.—On January 16th, a public meeting in the Temperance Hall, DRIFFIELD, Mr. Hardwick, chairman; petition unanimously passed.—Miss Craigen also held a meeting in the Shepherd's Hall, NAFFERTON, Yorkshire, on January 17th, 1878, Mr. Sheperdson in the chair; and at BEVERLY, in the Temperance Hall, on January 21st, Mr. George West occupied the chair; the petitions were as usual passed unanimously.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

A numerous meeting of ladies and gentlemen was held at Redland Hall, Bristol, Dec. 11th, 1877, by invitation of the Misses Venning. The chair was taken by Lady Anna Gore-Langton, who said it afforded her very great pleasure to forward this movement by every means in her power, for she was assured that the future welfare of women in this country depended on their energy, a good education, and on having the franchise.—Miss Sturge, Miss Mary Price, the Rev. A. Macpherson, the Rev. J. B. Spring having spoken in support of women's suffrage, the Rev. Mr. Davis rose to object to the proposal, and Major Baker answered him, followed by Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar, and the Rev. W. Hargreaves on the same side.—The Rev. U. R. Thomas said, had time allowed, he should much have liked to make a few remarks in reply to what the Rev. Mr. Davis had said about a sliding scale of voting power which he thought would be very desirable, but as it would apply equally to men and women, he could not allow that it was an objection to women's suffrage. He then

proposed a vote of thanks to Lady A. Gore-Langton for presiding, which was seconded by Dr. Davey. Mr. E. W. Cox moved a vote of thanks to the Misses Venning for so kindly convening the meeting, which was seconded by Miss Priestman. Mr. Venning having expressed the pleasure he and his sisters had felt in aiding in any way a cause they had so much at heart, the meeting then terminated.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

WESTMINSTER.

An invitation was sent by the Westminster Debating Club to the Ladies' Debating Club, asking its members to take part in their discussion on the 21st of January, when the subject of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was appropriately appointed for debate. The invitation was very readily responded to by the Ladies' Club, and the debate was carried on without intermission to a late hour.—The opener, Mr. Mitchell, argued for the proposition that the franchise should not be withheld merely on account of sex. He insisted that women were capable of having opinions of their own, and that to create two classes of ratepayers and then raise the objection that women were not a class was unreasonable. He touched on several of the principal objections; also the advantages to women, in legislation concerning their immediate interests, which would result from the possession of the franchise.—In the subsequent debate, Messrs. O'Donnell, Hill, Henry Cunningham, and several other gentlemen, all spoke more or less strongly on the adverse side, while all the ladies who spoke took the side of the opener. It should seem, however, that this division did not coincide with the real feeling of the Westminster Club, but only showed that the gentlemen who approved the women's cause left its defence in their hands, for on the vote (which is restricted to members) being taken, the proposition was carried by a majority of one-third.

HECKMONDWIKE.

On January 9th Women's Suffrage was the subject of a spirited discussion, conducted under the auspices of the Heckmondwike Debating Society, in the Temperance Hall. The president, Mr. Walter Kendrew, occupied the chair. Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, opened the debate, and advanced with her well-known ability the arguments on behalf of her sex, and she was supported by Mr. J. C. Atkinson, whilst the opposition was taken by Mr. George Howarth and Mr. Thomas Hardiman. A resolution was carried in favour of women's suffrage.

SCOTLAND.

On the 8th of January a successful drawing room meeting was held at the house of Miss Hunter, 5, Great Stuart-street. This meeting, which was held under the auspices of a lady householder, and in one of the most opulent and fashionable parts of the town, was well calculated to be useful in arousing interest among the ladies of Edinburgh. The meeting numbered about 30 ladies, there being also present the Rev. Dr. Walter Smith, of the Free High Church, who has for several years been favourable to the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. Mrs. Nichol, Huntly Lodge, having been voted into the chair, the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Duncan M'Laren, President of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, who in beautiful and touching language spoke of the high moral influence of women in the present day, and of the many improvements to be looked forward to in political matters in the event of the franchise being conferred on them.—Miss Ella Burton followed with a paper on "The

Political Women of History," in which she showed, by a rapid review of these renowned persons in days gone by, that much of the best public work in the world has been done by women.—Miss Eliza Vigham, Secretary to the Society, then proposed a resolution to the effect that it was injurious to the country that women ratepayers should be excluded from the rights of citizenship, and moved that a petition should be sent up to Parliament from the meeting.—Miss Louisa Stevenson seconded the resolution.—The petition was adopted, and numerous signed.

The ladies of Scotland interested in the progress are, as the winter advances, employing strenuous efforts to advance the cause of women's suffrage, and the consequence is that general interest therein is increasing throughout the country. Among those ladies themselves, whose indomitable perseverance has carried them through many years of patient unrewarded toil, there is certainly no falling off. One of them, a lady ratepayer, who has attained the venerable age of four score, and who is well known as a person of energy and influence may here be mentioned with pride. This lady has just evinced her determination once more to head a petition to Parliament in favour of women's suffrage, from the town in which she resides, declaring that she for one will not give in although she feels rather angry when she sees the indifference of some women to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

As a proof that it is becoming not uncommon for ladies in Scotland to take part in public affairs it may be mentioned that the other day during the contested elections for Leith one of the candidates was accompanied to the platform by several ladies. Furthermore, at a dinner lately given in Edinburgh by the Watt Club, in commemoration of the birth of James Watt, 60 ladies and gentlemen sat down to table, the ladies taking part in the speeches.

MEDICAL DEGREES FOR WOMEN.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The annual meeting of the Convocation of the University of London was held in the theatre of the University, in Burlington Gardens, on January 15th, when there was a large attendance. The principal question for discussion was that of the admission of women to medical and other degrees, raised by the proposal of a new supplemental charter submitted by the Senate to the Convocation, and in effect opening all the degrees of the University in arts, science, medicine, and laws to the competition of women on the same terms as those on which they are offered to men.

Dr. STORRAR, the chairman of Convocation, presided, and amongst those present were Mr. Stansfeld, M.P.; Mr. Herschell, M.P.; Sir William Gull, M.D.; Sir W. Jenner, M.D.; Sir H. Thompson, M.D.; Mr. H. Matthews, Q.C.; Mr. R. N. Fowler, Mr. A. Charles, Q.C.; Professor Jevons; Professor C. B. Upton, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that the principal business of the meeting would be to consider a message which had come down from the Senate, asking the Convocation to consider the proposed supplemental charter with a view to its acceptance in lieu of the one at present in operation in the University. What the meeting were asked to do at present was to concur with the Senate in surrendering the existing and approving of the draft of this new supplemental charter. If the draft should be approved, the course would be to petition the Crown to grant the new charter, and then it would be submitted for the formal acceptance of the Senate and the Convocation.

Mr. BOMPAS, Q.C., moved the adoption of the proposed supplemental charter, which declared that all the existing powers and provisions relating to the granting of degrees and certificates of proficiency in the University should henceforth be read and construed as applying to women as well as to men, but that no female graduate of the University should be a member of the Convocation without the consent of that body.

Mr. T. HENSMAN seconded the motion. Sir W. Jenner, Dr. Tilbury Fox, and Mr. Thomas Tyler opposed the motion; and Mr. Herschell, M.P., Mr. J. G. Fitch (one of the Government inspectors of schools), and Mr. Creak supported the motion.

Mr. HERSHELL pointed out that the adoption of the draft charter conferring the proposed powers did not necessarily involve the enforcement of those powers, which would depend on the will of the governing party.

After a lengthened discussion a show of hands was called for, and although that proved largely in favour of the motion a division was demanded, the result being that the motion was carried amid cheers by 242 against 132 votes, a majority of 110.

W I F E T O R T U R E .

In a recent number of *Truth* there is an article understood to be from the pen of Miss Frances Power Cobbe, from which we make the following extracts:—

When things come to the worst they mend, and we venture to imagine that wife-beating—or as it should better be called, wife-torturing, seeing that beating is only the initiatory process—must have so nearly reached that goal, that something like a remedy will be found for it ere long. Perhaps it has gone on its course thus far with little check, precisely because it is a matter so infinitely disgusting, that every man who can find an excuse for not noticing it turns his thoughts some other way; and the daily journals, which live by supplying the news which people wish to read, and which, accordingly, filled scores of their columns with the Bravo trial, know their business too well to give more than a small-type paragraph to those vulgar tragedies among their *Faits Divers*. Prior to experience, we should have supposed that half a dozen incidents of the last quarter were sufficiently remarkable and horrible to excite the appetite of the public for sensation, and to command, accordingly, all those arts of reporters with which we are so familiar. John Hayes, who poured hot Chili vinegar into his wife's mouth and eyes; William White, who threw a paraffin-lamp at his wife and quietly watched her enveloped in flames; Frederick Knight, who jumped with his hobnailed shoes on the face and eyes of his wife when she came to fetch away her month-old infant after he had turned her out of his house; Richard Mountain, who beat his wife and turned her out of her bed where she had just given birth to a child; Michael Scully, who knocked in the frontal bone of his wife's forehead; Alfred Cummins, who kicked out his wife's eye; John Harris, who pulled his wife out of bed, tore off her night-dress, and literally roasted her at the fire:—surely these stories, and a dozen like them, might have been thought worthy of a full record—perhaps even of a leading article! But, no! unless in the *Police News*, such crimes are merely noted in the briefest possible way, and three-fourths of the readers of the newspapers wherein they thus appear never so much as take in the idea of the simple facts, much less realise their horrible significance.

Another reason why wife-beating is comparatively so little noticed, is because the notion is deeply ingrained in our minds that the famous old Welsh verdict of "Serve her right" might generally, if we knew all the circumstances of each case, be

very fairly returned. We picture to ourselves that intolerable creature, the "nagging" wife, or the "common scold," whom our ancestors used to duck in the village horsepond, or the more modern drunken termagant, who pawns her children's clothes for gin, and meets her worn-out husband at the close of his day's labour with foul language and the revolting spectacle of her intoxication, and, in our minds, we measure the unhappy man's trials and misery against his sudden outburst of indignant passion, and pitifully condone the hasty blow, however direful may be its consequences. The worst of the matter is, however, that this is, if we may say so, only *ideal wife-beating*. The actual ordinary offence differs therefrom in two important particulars. It is *not* the bad wives who are most frequently assaulted; and it is *not* hasty blows which cause the greater number of serious results.

The wife-beater of real life is an animal as cowardly as he is cruel. He rarely, if ever, strikes the sturdy virago, who will return him curse for curse, and blow for blow, any more than he will use violence against that most provoking of beings, an impudent boy. It is the woman who is *most* womanly, the gentle, thrifty, timid, clinging creature, who resents nothing, and forgives everything again and again, whose covering frame receives his kicks, and into whose pleading eyes he thrusts his fists, or pours his Chili vinegar. Out of a list of three dozen cases, collected at random, and lying before us, we find only one in which the wife is accused of any fault at all, and in that instance she and her husband had been drinking together. The wife of William White, who was burnt to death by the help of his paraffin-lamp, was a hard-working, industrious woman. The wife of James Lawrence, whose face bore in court tokens of the most dreadful violence, said that her husband had for years done nothing for his livelihood, while she had bought a shop, and stocked it out of her own earnings. The wife of Richard Mountain had supported herself and her children. The wife of Alfred Etherington, who has been dangerously injured by her husband kicking and jumping on her, had been supporting him and their children. The wife of James Styles, who was beaten by her husband till she became insensible, had long provided for him and herself by charwork.

Then, as to the supposed excuse of hastiness, it would seem that the character of the injuries inflicted was rather that of deliberate ferocity, or (as has been well remarked) of savage *sport*, than of any outbreak of sudden rage, such as a man under provocation might indulge. Certainly, there could be no palliation from haste in the case of Coleman, who came home early in the morning, and almost killed his wife as she lay asleep in bed; nor of Charles Mills, who cut his wife's throat under the same circumstances; nor of John Hayes, who found his wife in bed, when he threw the vinegar in her eyes; nor of Harris, who dragged his wife from her bed, before he roasted her at the kitchen fire, as the reporters say, "like a piece of beef;" nor of any of the men who misused their wretched companions just after they had given birth to their children. And for the savage sport of the thing, rather than the supposed uncontrollable impulse of anger, there is only too much evidence in such cases as those we have just named, of the roasting, and the hot vinegar, and the paraffin lamp;—of Simon Marriott, who, after kicking-in the wretched woman's breast-bone, "jobbed" it with his elbow, after her return from the hospital, causing her excruciating pain; and of the men last year, one of whom gnawed a woman's arms, and the other set fire to a box of matches in the breast of a girl's dress.

What is to be the remedy for all this? We are very clearly of opinion that such relief and protection as it is possible to afford to the poor, trampled wives, cannot come by adding fresh penalties, floggings, or longer terms of imprisonment to the

sentences of the offenders. It is true the present rate of punishment is ludicrously inadequate—inadequate even on the usual false scale of English punishments for offences against the person, compared to offences against the purse. Of fourteen recent cases, taken at hazard, including several of those above quoted, we find that the average sentence was exactly four months' hard labour, while many of the very worst offenders escape with a "caution," or by being bound over to keep the peace. But, demoralising to the minds of the men of the classes where these crimes are rife, as are these trivial sentences, considered in the light of the educational influence of law, and well-calculated as they are to make them rank cruelty to a woman on a lower level than cruelty to a cat or a sheep, there are still reasons why the right remedy for the offence cannot be found by simply enhancing the penalty. That the miserable victims *dare* not bear testimony against their tyrants if those tyrants are ever to resume their marital power, and that thus the law is, to a great extent, a dead letter, is a fact which has been proved too conclusively to need further exemplification. And, in truth, it is to this cause—of the practical immunity of the offenders—that the frequency of the offence must in no small degree be attributed.

The principle of legislation which we should suggest, would be altogether of another kind. As our divorce laws recognise, that a woman (*who can afford to pay for it*) has a right to obtain a judicial separation (*divorce a mensa et thoro* not a *vinculo*) from her husband on the ground of cruelty, so the poorest women in the land, who are a hundredfold more exposed to such cruelty, should, in our opinion, have the same relief placed in their reach. The wife of a man convicted of an aggravated assault upon her (or of repeated brutal assaults) should be able to obtain from the magistrate who sentences her husband a protection order for life, which should have all the legal effects of a judicial separation. The husband would, thenceforth, lose all his rights over her, and, though neither he nor she would be enabled to marry again, the wife would be entirely freed from him at once and for ever. In addition to this (and, in our view, a most important feature of the legislation), the children of the separated couple should be given into the exclusive custody of the wife, and the husband should be ordered to pay her for their support such share of his weekly earnings as the magistrate may deem proper, as is done in the case of illegitimate children. This last proviso will be recognised by every one as absolutely just, in itself, and needful for the protection of the children, whose lives and limbs cannot be safe in the guardianship of a father capable of the violence supposed; and it is also indispensable to the working of any law intended to set free the wife, since very few mothers would avail themselves of any such liberty unless they might take their children along with them, and out of the hands of their husbands.

Should a Bill embodying these principles be presented to Parliament, we have little doubt it might be carried through this session; and were the Act once passed, its influence would, by degrees, be undoubtedly considerable. The poor creatures who now dare not come forward to witness to their own cruel wrongs lest their tyrants, after a brief punishment, should return upon them with fresh ferocity, would, unquestionably, in numberless cases, hasten to avail themselves of a final release which should give their children wholly to their care, and free both themselves and their babes from peril and misery. And, as time went on, the visible permanent disgrace of the separated husband, and the burden laid upon him of supporting his wife and children, without intruding on their home, would probably act more effectually as a deterrent among his neighbours than even the intelligence that he had been flogged in jail.

A WOMAN'S THOUGHTS ON WAR.

An Englishwoman writes as follows in the Christian World: Who pays for war? Why, the people, of course! we women among the rest; for I never knew the tax-gatherer yet who passed a house because the householder was a woman.

But let those in power say what they will, women have a great deal to do with war. The burden of suffering and taxation which war entails falls as heavily upon them as on any other class of the community, and it is unjust, that when the question is put to the country, Shall there be war or not?

There are mutterings of war in the air just now, low and long-drawn out. Everyone knows it. One cannot read the papers, or see what is going on in the country, or hear what is talked of in society, especially among its upper circles, without feeling that there is a very strong, though suppressed, desire in certain quarters to see England committed to a policy of war.

But what does war for England mean? It means that the mass of the people, those who labour and are heavy-laden as it is, shall themselves bear the burden, and shall pay the price of it in their own toil and suffering and blood.

A hundred millions of hard-earned money—money that women helped to earn—was the price of our last Russian war, and upon that, too, the grim blood-tax of a hundred thousand able-bodied men, scarce one of whom fell by slaughter or disease but some woman's heart strings cracked at home when the news was told.

As an Englishwoman I would plead with all who bear the

name to judge for themselves whether this be a righteous and a necessary war in which before long, if those in high places have their will, we may possibly be embroiled. If it be, let them take bravely their share of a great national calamity.

But if otherwise, if conscience urges not, and good sense forbids the frightful waste and misery of what we judge to be a needless war, then, as Englishwomen, let us do our best to make our thoughts and wishes known. Let us protest against the injustice of being involved in the consequences of a war to which our consent has been neither asked nor given.

PETITIONS.

FIRST REPORT. 17-22 January, 1878.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.—In favour.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Lists petitions from Manchester, Peterborough, Holloway, Lington, Grimsby, Bristol, Dean, Potteries, London, Darwen, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Total No. of Petitions 13—Signatures 3,679

Obituary.

With deep regret we record the death of Miss EMILY A. BAILEY, which occurred at her residence, 97, Varna Road, Birmingham, on January 3rd. She was an energetic member of the Womens' Suffrage Society, and the Womens' Liberal Association of Birmingham.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JAN., 1878.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester National Society. Includes Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Mrs. Mills, Rev. Alfred Dewes, D.D., The Dowager Countess of Buchan, Professor Newman, Mrs. de Hersant, Mrs. McCulloch, Mrs. M'Kinnel, Mr. G. Hinde Palmer, Mr. Henry Nicol, Mr. Thomas Dale, Mrs. Hunt, Mr. Dalby, Miss Shepherd, Mrs. Tewson, Mrs. Layton, Miss Atkinson, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Thos. Miller (Mayor of Morpeth), Mrs. Fisher, Miss Allan Olney, Mrs. Mylne, Mr. Glasspool, Miss Carter, Miss Borchardt, Miss M. E. Porter, Mrs. A. G. Watts, Miss E. Hibbert, Miss M. E. Cheetham, Mrs. R. Pesel, Mr. A. W. Pollard, Mr. Thos. Carpenter, Rev. J. Henry Smith, Rev. James Mackenzie, Mr. Alex. Scott, B.A., Mr. George Lyall, Mr. E. Turnbull, Miss Arnold, Mrs. Charles Mason (Illinois), Madame Emilie Lohner, A Friend (South Shields), Miss S. K. K. Emery, Mrs. Smith (Kettering), Mr. Fred Dowsett, Mr. J. D. Willis, Mrs. W. H. Kitchin, Mr. T. D. Ingham, Mr. W. James, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Councillor Dixon (Morpeth), Mr. Sanderson, Mrs. Ann Whiting, Mrs. Emma Hodgkiss, Mr. Hardwick, Mrs. Stabler, Mr. Joseph Atkinson, Mrs. Annie Wildon, Mr. John Oxtoby, Mr. John Pratt, Mr. John Shepherdson, Mr. George West, Mrs. Barras, Mr. Colbeck Ellis, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Ellis, Mrs. Abernethy, Mr. Hewison, Mr. John Taylor, Mrs. Eccles, Mrs. Unwin, 'Beta', 'J. S.', Mrs. Beddard, Miss F. T. Cobbe, Mrs. W. Fawcett, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hawkins.

Table listing names and amounts for Leeds. Includes Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Mrs. Oates, Mr. J. Barran, jun., Mr. Joseph Lupton, Mr. Ed. Baines, Mrs. John Marshall, Mrs. Ed. Carbutt, Mr. D. Lupton, Mrs. Buckton, Mr. J. R. Ford, Mrs. Ford, Miss Carbutt, Mr. J. O. March, Mr. Tatham, Mrs. Ed. Walker, Miss Carrie Walker, Mr. Mathers, Mr. E. A. Lupton, Miss Theodosia Marshall, Mrs. Lucecek, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Neville, Mr. Butler, Mr. Edward Pulleyn, Mrs. Hopkinson, Miss Girt, Miss M. Girt, Miss Barrows, Mrs. Burniston, Mrs. Bannister, Mrs. Eddison, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Henthwaite.

PRESTON.

Table listing names and amounts for Preston. Includes Mr. R. Benson, J.P., Mr. Alderman Myers, J.P., Mr. W. B. Roper, Mr. F. Thorpe, Miss Thompson, Mr. G. Garrett, Mr. E. Blackburn, Mr. Alston, Mr. Parkinson.

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS UP TO JAN. 20, 1878.

Table listing names and amounts for Central Committee. Includes A Friend to the cause, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Taylor, Miss C. Williams, The Lady R. L. Y. Grey, Mrs. Wm. Malleson, The Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. F. Malleson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Webb, Professor Newman, Dr. L. M. Aspland, Miss Babb, Mr. A. W. Bennett, Mr. Biggs, Miss A. Biggs, Miss C. A. Biggs, Mr. Galpin, Mrs. R. C. Jones, Mrs. Ramsay Laye, Mr. H. Nicol, Mr. Owen Roberts, Miss Astley, Mrs. Beddard, Miss F. T. Cobbe, Mrs. W. Fawcett, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hawkins.

Table listing names and amounts for The Misses Southall, Mrs. Tennant, Mrs. Barry, Miss Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Corfield, Mr. R. Deacon, Mr. W. Payne, Mrs. Perrier, Miss Raven, Mr. Benjamin Taylor, Mr. E. Upton, Miss Hardcastle, Mrs. Hood, Rev. A. Murray, Miss Slater, Mr. F. Smith, Mrs. Southey, Mr. Agate, Miss F. Davenport Hill, Miss Lewin, Mrs. Pettit, Miss Andrews, Mr. Williams.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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